Appendix A  Queensland Heritage Register Entry
Brisbane Exhibition Grounds

- Place ID: 601709
- 574 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills

General

Also known as
RNA Showgrounds; Royal Queensland Showgrounds; Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Exhibition Grounds/Show Grounds; National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Exhibition Grounds

Classification
State Heritage

Register status
Entered

Date entered
25 July 2003

Type
Social and community: Showground/exhibition grounds

Themes
2.4 Exploiting, utilising and transforming the land: Agricultural activities
8.5 Creating social and cultural institutions: Sport and recreation

Architects
Chambers, Claude William
2/13/2020

Gailey, Richard Jnr
Hodgen, William

Builders
Hornibrook, MR
Hutchinson, John
Walls & Juster

Construction periods
- 1876–1936, Dairy Cattle Pavilion (pre-1936)
- 1876–1936, Stock Pavilion (pre-1936, modified c1955-58)
- 1876–1936, Horse Stables (pre-1936, with later additions)
- 1876–1936, Sugar Hall (pre-1936)
- 1876–1936, Building No. 7 (pre-1936)
- 1876–1936, Commentator's Building (pre-1936)
- 1904–1917, John Reid Pavilion (former Austral Hall) (1904, moved to site in 1917)
- 1906, John MacDonald Stand
- 1910–1971, Gregory Terrace Entry Building (c1910, 1971 annexe)
- 1920–1939, Toilet Block, Southeast side of Show Ring No.2 (c1920-30s, interwar)
- 1920–1939, Bowen Park Entry Building (c1920-30s, interwar)
- 1920–1939, Toilet Block by RNA Workshop (1920-30s, interwar)
- 1922–1923, Ernest Baynes Stand
- 1923–1938, RNA Council Stand (c1923, extended c1938)
- 1924, Show Ring No.2 (c1924)
- 1925, RNA Workshop (c1925)
- 1925, John Reid Annexe (c1925)
- 1928–1939, Lady Forster Building (Creche) (1928, moved 1939)
- 1930–1939, Toilet Block near Stock Pavilion (1930s)
- 1936–1949, Buildings 8, 9, 10, 12, The Avenue (c1936-49)
- 1936, Stock Agent's Offices
- 1936, Stockman's Bar and Grill
- 1938–1939, Industrial Pavilion
- 1940–1949, Show Camp Building (1940s)
- 1949–1951, Building 11 (c1949-51)
- 1950–1959, Dairy Industry Hall (1950s)
- 1950–1959, Machinery Hill Stands (1950s)
- 1950–1959, Marshalling Yards and Stand (1950s)
- 1950, Beef Cattle Pavilion
- 1961–1964, Dairy Goat Pavilion (c1961-64)
- 1970–1979, Member's Stand (1970s)
- 1986, Exhibition Building
- 1988, Walter Burnett Building and Auditorium
- 1994, Stockman's Rest (redeveloped 1994)

Historical period

1870s–1890s Late 19th century

Style
Classicism

Location

Address
574 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills

LGA
Brisbane City Council

Coordinates
-27.45054212, 153.03245397

Map

- Enlarge map

Street view

Photography is provided by Google Street View and may include third-party images. Images show the vicinity of the heritage place which may not be visible.

Request a boundary map

A printable boundary map report can be emailed to you.
**Significance**

**Criterion A**
The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland’s history.

In use as a showground since 1876, the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds is significant for its long association with the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA), and has been important in furthering the expansion and development of agriculture and industry in Queensland since the 1870s. From the first Exhibition held in 1876, the objective has been to showcase the full range of Queensland’s agricultural, horticultural, pastoral and industrial resources.

**Criterion D**
The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places.

The Brisbane Exhibition Grounds is important as an example of a large operating exhibition grounds in a capital city, and as Queensland’s premier showgrounds. There is a dynamic to the place, the form and composition of which has been evolving since its inception. The principal elements of cultural heritage significance include: the spatial arrangement of buildings, structures, streets and green spaces; the two show rings; the grandstands including the John MacDonald Stand, Ernest Baynes Stand, Council Stand, Members’ Stand, Machinery Hill stands and Marshalling Yards Stand; interwar infrastructure such as toilet blocks, entrance gates, turnstiles, railway subway and perimeter walling; Sideshow Alley; the pavilions including the John Reid Pavilion, Industrial Pavilion, and Dairy Industry Hall; buildings such as the Stock Agents’ Office and Stockman’s Bar and Grill, the former Commonwealth Bank Building, and the Gregory Terrace Entry Building; the numerous cattle, horse, dairy and pig pavilions and stabling and marshalling areas; and the shade trees [mainly mature Weeping Fig trees (Ficus benjamina)] scattered throughout the grounds.

Buildings/structures important in illustrating the principal characteristics of their type include the John MacDonald Stand [1906, architect Claude William Chambers]; the Industrial Pavilion [1938-39, architect Richard Gailey jnr]; the Dairy Industry Hall [1950s]; and the interwar turnstiles, entry gates and toilet blocks.

**Criterion E**
The place is important because of its aesthetic significance.

The Industrial Pavilion and the John MacDonald Stand are important also for their aesthetic contribution to the site and landmark and/or streetscape value. The two show rings and their
surrounds also have aesthetic value.

**Criterion G**
The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The place has strong social significance for the generations of Queenslanders who have attended the annual exhibition, affectionately known as the 'Ekka', and the many other events that have taken place at the Exhibition Grounds. Sideshow Alley in particular has strong social significance.

**Criterion H**
The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in Queensland's history.

In use as a showground since 1876, the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds is significant for its long association with the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA), and has been important in furthering the expansion and development of agriculture and industry in Queensland since the 1870s. From the first Exhibition held in 1876, the objective has been to showcase the full range of Queensland's agricultural, horticultural, pastoral and industrial resources.

**History**
The history of exhibition on the site of the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds dates to August 1876, with the staging of the first Queensland Intercolonial Exhibition. None of the buildings extant in 1876 have survived, but the grounds have increased substantially from an original 12 acres, and contain a variety of structures and facilities associated with the annual August Exhibition, which date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries to the present. The site has been the venue for Queensland's principal agricultural, pastoral and industrial exhibitions for over 125 years. It remains the home of the annual Royal Queensland Show and is Queensland's premier showground. Since 1876 only two annual exhibitions on this site have been cancelled: the 1919 Exhibition due to the influenza epidemic, and in 1942 when the grounds were occupied by military personnel.

Prior to the establishment of the Exhibition Grounds in 1876, the site was part of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society's grounds. In July 1863 this Society, established in 1862 to promote the introduction, acclimatization, propagation and distribution in Queensland of economically useful plants and animals, was granted 33 acres of land bounded by Bowen Bridge Road, O'Connell Terrace, Brookes Street and Gregory Terrace. At the northwestern corner of the site, fronting Bowen Bridge Road and O'Connell Terrace, the Society established a public exhibition garden [Bowen Park]. The remainder of the site was used for experimentation purposes, growing and propagating plants and seeds sent from other parts of Queensland, other colonies, and around the world, and raising various introduced animals. The Society played an important role in the beginnings of commercial agriculture in Queensland, introducing or trialling crops and plants such as mango trees, ginger plants, sugar cane, olive trees and choko vines.
Queensland’s 1876 Intercolonial Exhibition was not the first competitive demonstration of agricultural and industrial progress in the colony. In 1854 squatters from the Darling Downs and Moreton Bay districts of New South Wales established the Northern Districts’ Agricultural and Pastoral Association, modelled on the Scottish Highland Agricultural Societies. They planned to hold exhibitions [mainly of pastoral produce] at Brisbane, Ipswich, Warwick, Drayton and Gayndah, in rotation, and some shows were held before the Association became immersed in more political activities. Nurseryman AJ Hackings was instrumental in holding horticultural shows in Brisbane from 1855. In the 1860s other regional agricultural and pastoral associations were formed, among the earliest being the Darling Downs Agricultural Society [based at Toowoomba] in 1860, the Drayton and Toowoomba Agricultural and Horticultural Society in 1864, the East Moreton Farmers Association [based at Ipswich] in 1866 and the Eastern Downs Horticultural and Agricultural Association [based at Warwick] in 1867. These Associations conducted annual exhibitions of agricultural, horticultural, and pastoral produce and farm machinery. Prizes were awarded for best exhibits. The object was to encourage the exchange of knowledge and to foster better farm practice. Associations such as these proliferated in Queensland during the second half of the 19th century, and each held an annual ‘show’.

In 1874 moves were initiated by Queensland's Chief Inspector of Stock, Patrick Robertson Gordon, to form a national agricultural society, to plan Brisbane’s first intercolonial exhibition. He was supported by Gresley Lukin, editor of the Brisbane Courier and the Queenslander, and agricultural agent John Fenwick. In May 1875 an inaugural meeting, presided over by the Governor, Sir William Wellington Cairns, was held to form the National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland. A constitution drafted by the headmaster of the Brisbane Grammar School, Thomas Harlin, was adopted in July, and the first meeting of the National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland was held at the Brisbane Town Hall on 13 August 1875. Arthur Hunter Palmer, later premier of Queensland, was elected to the chair and other founding members included Joshua Peter Bell, George Harris, George Gromes, Thomas Harlin, Charles Stewart Mein and William Hemmant. At this meeting use of part of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society’s grounds was discussed, and subsequently a lease of about 12 acres from the Society was arranged.

The alliance with the Acclimatisation Society was considered to be a sensible arrangement. There were common interests, the site was well supplied with water and convenient to the city, and it was thought at the time that many women and townspeople, who might have hesitated in visiting a purely utilitarian exhibition of produce, animals and farm machinery, may have been induced by the additional attraction of the Acclimatisation Society Gardens.

The Intercolonial Exhibition was intended to promote and showcase the agricultural, pastoral and industrial resources of the whole of Queensland. Whether it could be sustained beyond a single exhibition remained to be seen. The National Association did not wish to supplant regional agricultural societies and associations, but wished to encourage their organisation, and foster a spirit of friendly rivalry amongst them by holding a grand central exhibition for the competition of winners at minor shows [BC 25 October 1875]. To avoid clashing with local shows, and in
order to hold the exhibition during fine weather, before the shearing season, and when good feed would be found along the roads, it was decided to stage the Exhibition in August 1876.

The first exhibition building was a large timber hall with side aisles and a central clerestory. It was erected in 1876 along Gregory Terrace near the corner of Bowen Bridge Road, at a cost of £1254, and was a modification of a design prepared by Queensland Colonial Architect FDG Stanley. Sydney exhibitor Jules Joubert added a rectangular wing to the northern side to increase the extent of his exhibition. Cattle, sheep and horse stalls of hardwood framing with corrugated iron roofing were erected in the grounds, and a small showring was established north of the Exhibition Building.

The first Queensland Intercolonial Exhibition was declared open by Governor Cairns on Tuesday 22 August 1876, and ran until 28 August. It proved immensely popular, with a total of £1045 taken at the gate. Thereafter, the Exhibition became an annual event.

In the period 1876-1888, the National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland expended an estimated £7000 on the grounds. The main exhibition building was doubled in size for the 1877 exhibition, and another annexe was provided for horticultural exhibits.

In 1879, the National Association was awarded a lease of 23 acres of the 32 acre Acclimatisation Society grounds for a period of 50 years, for use as an exhibition ground. In 1881 the railway to Sandgate was constructed through the National Association and Acclimatisation Society grounds. [The line was later re-routed via Central Station, Brunswick Street and Bowen Hills, but the Exhibition Line still opens each year during the August show.] By 1882, the Exhibition Grounds comprised all the land south, southeast and east of the railway line and bounded by Bowen Bridge Road, Gregory Terrace, Brookes Street and O'Connell Terrace. A 1000 seat capacity grandstand, designed by Stanley, was erected in 1885 [not the first grandstand on the site]. In 1887 a timber residence designed by GHM Addison was constructed at the corner of O'Connell Terrace and Brookes Street for the Secretary of the National Association.

In 1887 the first exhibition building was destroyed by fire. The public called for it to be replaced with a masonry building, but the National Association was reluctant to commit to the necessary expenditure without more secure land tenure, against which they could borrow money for permanent exhibition buildings. In 1888 a temporary timber exhibition building was constructed for approximately £500, while the National Association called for competitive designs for a permanent exhibition building. Under the provisions of the National Association and Acclimatisation Society Act 1890, the land leased from the Queensland Acclimatisation Society for an exhibition ground was resumed and granted to the National Association as Trustees, who were also empowered under this act to borrow money from the Queensland Government to erect the new exhibition building.

The design competition was won by GHM Addison, the Brisbane partner of the Melbourne-based firm Oakden Addison and Kemp. In 1890 Addison amended his original design to a T-shape, incorporating a southern wing with a concert hall which could be rented out to offset repayments on the government loan. The new building was erected closer to the corner of
Bowen Bridge Road and Gregory Terrace than the original building. The foundation stone was laid on 25 April 1891 and the builder, John Quinn, was required to have a section of the building completed for the August 1891 exhibition, with the whole of the building to be completed within 12 months.

A plan of the Exhibition Grounds published in The Queenslander on 15 August 1891 shows the new exhibition building, several smaller pavilions, a show ring in the position of the present main show ring, the 1885 grandstand [where the Ernest Baynes Stand is now located], animal shelters along the boundaries, and the secretary's residence near Brookes Street.

The new exhibition building was completed in 1892 and a public holiday was declared for 10 August 1982 to mark the official opening of the Exhibition. Despite the economic depression, 32,000 people attended on the holiday and more than 66,000 over the four-day course of the Exhibition. However, the National Association did not escape the effects of the 1890s depression, struggling to repay the government loan on the exhibition building. In 1897 the colonial government resumed the building and liquidated the Association's debts. The Exhibition Concert Hall continued to serve as a concert venue but the remainder of the Exhibition Building was refurbished for the Queensland Museum, which moved to the building from William Street in 1899. At this time the museum grounds were resumed from the National Association's land as a separate reserve. The National Association struggled to maintain the viability of the remaining Exhibition Grounds until 1902-03, when the Queensland government took control of the Association's assets, leasing the Exhibition Grounds back to the Association at an annual rental.

In the early 1900s the Queensland economy revived, and the National Association's financial position firmed. Substantial improvements and re-arrangements of the Exhibition Grounds were made in 1906 in time for the August show. A fine new grandstand, designed by Brisbane architect Claude William Chambers, was erected at a cost of £6248. [In 1923, this stand was re-named the John MacDonald Stand in honour of a long-serving National Association councillor]. The side show booths which had been located on the hill to the north of the main ring, were moved to the valley on the northwest side of the railway, their place being taken by machinery exhibits. The hill has since been known as Machinery Hill, and the valley as Sideshow Alley.

In 1909, the year of the Jubilee Exhibition [celebrating 50 years since the separation of Queensland from New South Wales], the Exhibition Grounds were extended with the acquisition of Petty's Paddock, an adjacent 6 acres bounded by Gregory Terrace and Alexandria, Science and Water streets, purchased for £4500. About 1910 a two-storeyed timber building with pressed metal ceilings and a prominent roof flèche, was erected along the northern side of Gregory Terrace near the main entrance. A section of this building was utilized as a Post Office by August 1933.

During the First World War [1914-18], a military recruiting and training camp, completed with rifle range, was established at the Exhibition Grounds, but this did not prevent the annual Exhibition from proceeding.
In the 1910s Brisbane architects Richard Gailey snr and Richard Gailey jnr established a relationship with the National Association which was to last through the 1920s and 1930s. In May 1914 they called tenders for the construction of a sheep, pig and poultry pavilion, and fencing along Gregory Terrace, and in 1917 for timber dog and horse pavilions.

In 1917, Toowoomba's Austral Hall [designed by architect William Hodgen and erected in 1904] was purchased for £1500 and re-erected at the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds. It was the largest building of its type in Queensland. Reflecting the growing popularity of the motor car, the pavilion was occupied by representatives of the local automobile trade. It was the first Brisbane Exhibition pavilion to be dedicated solely to motor vehicle displays, automobile exhibits previously being located on Machinery Hill. In 1919 Austral Hall was renamed the John Reid Pavilion following the death that year of Brisbane merchant John Reid, a long-time supporter of the National Association.

Affleck House was completed by August 1918 for the showtime use of Stock Breeders' Association delegates. It was named after National Association councillor WL Affleck, who raised the finance for the construction.

During the influenza epidemic which swept Australia in 1919, following the return of service personnel from overseas at the end of the First World War, army huts were erected at the exhibition grounds as isolation wards for the nearby Brisbane General Hospital, and dining rooms were set up to feed and house the expected influx of seriously ill patients. Due to the threat of crowd contagion, and to save disturbing patients in the isolation wards, the Exhibition was cancelled that year.

In 1920 the Prince of Wales [later Edward VIII] visited the Exhibition, following which the Association moved to incorporate the word 'Royal' into its name as the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland, which over the years has been reduced, unofficially, to the Royal National Association [RNA]. In recent years the RNA has registered as its trademark the word 'Ekka' [a long-standing colloquial shortening of the work 'Exhibition'].

During the interwar years many improvements were made to the exhibition grounds, with various buildings erected or extended during this period. A timber show hall was erected c1921 between Gregory Terrace and Water Street, and a brick exhibition building, designed by architects Atkinson & Conrad, was constructed in 1923 for Lever Bros of Sydney.

In 1922-23 the Ernest Baynes Stand was erected on the site of the 1885 grandstand. Designed by architect Richard Gailey Jnr and constructed by John Hutchinson, the building had two tiers with a seating capacity of 5000 and a total capacity of 7000. It was constructed with a steel frame faced with brick, the larger steel sections being imported from Britain and the smaller sections made in Australia. The foundation stone of the new grandstand was laid by Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, in November 1922, and the stand was completed in time for the August 1923 Exhibition, at a cost of £26,884. The sub-floor contained a dining room which could accommodate 600 persons at a sitting, and a row of ten shops facing the lane at the rear of the structure.
A second show ring, intended principally for exhibiting dairy cattle, was established to the north of the railway line which transects the Exhibition Grounds, and was ready for the show of 1924. Its construction reflected the growing importance of the dairy industry to Queensland where, with Government encouragement, it became the State's second largest primary industry and sustained rural Queensland during the depression of the 1930s.

By 1925 the RNA Council Stand, located adjacent to the Ernest Baynes Stand overlooking the show ring, had been constructed. The Stand was originally two storeys. At some early period the northern end of the building was extended to incorporate an entrance to the seating in front of the stand. By 1938 a third storey had been added to the building, and later a two-storeyed extension facing Executive Street was constructed.

In 1927 legislation was enacted to grant the National Association perpetual lease of the grounds, at that time comprising just under 20 acres. There followed a burst of ground improvements, mostly designed by architect Richard Gailey jnr, including a dog pavilion, meat exhibition pavilion, more turnstiles, and a new lavatory block in 1927; and new horse and cattle stalls, and turnstiles at the corner of Costin Street and Gregory Terrace, in 1928. Also erected in 1928 were show pavilions for General Motors Pty Ltd, Brisbane Cars & Tractors Ltd, the Vacuum Oil Co. [concrete structure], and the Kodak Company Ltd, and a demonstration fibrous cement cottage designed by architect EP Trewern for James Hardie & Co.

At this period the RNA sought to make the grounds a first-class venue for cricket, football and other sports, but had limited success in attracting the big matches. The year 1928 was a high point for the Association's sporting ambitions, with the showground the venue for the first England versus Australia cricket test in Queensland, and the first in the 1928-29 series. Legendary Australian cricketer Donald Bradman made his Test debut at the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds in 1928. More successful than cricket or football was Exhibition Speedway, established in 1926.

A new Lady Forster Creche was opened in Costin Street, near the main entrance to the Exhibition Grounds, in time for the 1928 show. [Previously the creche was located on the main showgrounds north of Gregory Terrace.] The centre was operated by the Creche and Kindergarten Association and provided baby care while parents were enjoying the rounds of the show. In 1939 the Creche was removed to a new location near the Anglican dining hall, north of Gregory Terrace.

In 1929 the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, which since 1923 had been conducting a bank at the Exhibition Grounds during the annual show, constructed a purpose-designed bank building in the grounds, just to the south of the Council Stand. Although it was not uncommon for banks to establish agencies at showgrounds around Australia, this building is believed to be the only 'exhibition' bank building specifically constructed for the Commonwealth Bank. The northeast end of the building was extended in 1947.

Despite the severe economic depression of the early 1930s, the Exhibition continued to attract its strong annual August attendance. More land was acquired, including a further 2 acres 23
perches excised from Bowen Park in 1932, bringing the total Exhibition Grounds to about 40 acres. Improvements to the grounds at this period included more cattle stalls along O'Connell Terrace [architect Richard Gailey jnr] and a new show pavilion for Foggitt Jones Pty Ltd [architects Addison & MacDonald] in 1932; and a new dairy produce hall [architect Richard Gailey jnr] for the RNA in 1933.

As the economy recovered during the second half of the 1930s a number of substantial improvements were made to the RNA's exhibition facilities. In 1936 Gailey called tenders for a Wool Hall, additions to the pig and horse pavilions, new Stock & Station Agents' Offices and Dining Hall, and a new yearling sale ring. New concrete roads and additional seating accommodation were provided. The old Industrial Pavilion was demolished in 1938 and its replacement, designed by Richard Gailey jnr and covering an area of 3.5 acres, was completed along Gregory Terrace in June 1939 at a cost of £40,000. A new electricity hall at the corner of Gregory Terrace and Costin Street was also completed for the 1939 show - reputedly the first show pavilion in Australia dedicated entirely to electricity exhibits. [The Hall of Science, as it was later known, was demolished in 1986 to make way for a new Exhibition Building].

During the Second World War, the Exhibition Grounds were occupied from late 1939 to 1944 by military authorities as a venue for training, accommodation and embarkation of troops. [Showgrounds and racecourses with their ovals and existing toilet facilities were favoured places to temporarily accommodate service personnel.] Troops at the exhibition grounds slept in pig and cattle pens; the bars beneath the John MacDonald Stand became wet canteens; and troop trains departed from the railway platforms normally used by show patrons. In 1940 and again in 1941, the military vacated the grounds temporarily for the August Exhibition. Following the entry of Japan into the war in December 1941, American troops were stationed at the showgrounds and the Exhibition of 1942 was cancelled, but was renewed in a limited fashion in 1943 and 1944. Following the war the RNA purchased a number of buildings from the military, for use on the site.

The 1950s saw further improvements and works to the grounds with the construction of a Beef Cattle Pavilion in 1950, the work being carried out by MR Hornibrook Builders at a cost of £206,000, and the addition of seating around the main oval near Machinery Hill. Also constructed in the 1950s was a new Dairy Industry Hall, adjacent to the John Reid Pavilion, on the site of the 1933 dairy hall. By the late 1950s, the grounds comprised approximately 50 acres.

A number of new buildings were erected in the 1960s. In 1962 the RNA moved its offices from the Queensland Primary Producers Association building in Adelaide Street to the Exhibition Grounds, and in 1970 a purpose-built RNA Administration Building costing $111,584 was opened. In 1963, on land acquired along Constance Street, a double pavilion known as the Agricultural Hall and Douglas Wadley Pavilion was constructed. The Agricultural Hall housed district and junior farmer exhibits. The Douglas Wadley Pavilion, extended in 1968 and again in 1977, housed dogs, and is used regularly for exhibitions in addition to the annual August show. In 1968 the Ring Control and Broadcast building was enlarged. By 1970, the grounds comprised approximately 55 acres.
The first animal nursery was established by RNA councillor Frank Robertson at the 1964 show. It has proved one of the most popular and enduring of the show traditions, and has been copied by show societies throughout Australia. At the 1972 Exhibition a purpose-built facility for the animal nursery was opened, named in honour of Mr Robertson.

In the late 1960s the face of Sideshow Alley, traditionally home to the weird and wonderful, began to change. The tents and booths largely disappeared, to be replaced with high technology rides, tests of skill, and popular music entertainment.

Controversy was generated in 1971 when the Queensland Government declared a state of emergency from 13 July to 2 August, during the South African Springbok Rugby team tour, when demonstrations against apartheid were held in Brisbane and throughout Australia. The main show ring at the Exhibition Ground was commandeered to host the matches, as a safe distance could be maintained between spectators and would-be protesters. A two metre high chain wire fence was erected to separate spectators from players.

A new two-storeyed brick building for use by the police during the annual show was completed for the 1971 Exhibition. It was located inside the main entrance from Gregory Terrace, and replaced an earlier timber building. A new Members Stand was constructed in the 1970s.

Improvements and new buildings in the 1980s included: the refurbishment of the John MacDonald Stand in 1985; the construction of a new Exhibition Building in 1986 on the site of the Hall of Science building, at a cost of $2.5 million [with State Government assistance]; removal of the top seating tier of the Ernest Baynes Stand in 1986, following the Bradford Stadium collapse in London that year; and the opening on 28 November 1988 of the Walter Burnett Building, designed by architects Hulme and Webster, adjacent to the Frank Nicklin Pavilion which accommodates fine arts exhibitions. The auditorium of the Walter Burnett Building seats 1000 people and is equipped with a stage and dance floor. Besides its importance to the annual Exhibition, the building is in constant use for all sorts of activities, including expositions, balls and conferences. It was also the venue for the first public airing of the Fitzgerald Inquiry Report on corruption in Queensland, on 3 July 1989.

In 2008, Bowen Hills – including the area of the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds – was declared an Urban Development Area under the Urban Land Development Act 2007 (replaced by the Economic Development Act 2012, with the term Priority Development Area superseding the term Urban Development Area).

The RNA launched a project to redevelop the showgrounds and in 2009, property and infrastructure company, Lend Lease, was selected as the RNA’s redevelopment partner. In 2010 the RNA and Lend Lease unveiled plans for the ‘Brisbane Showgrounds Regeneration Project’, a redevelopment of 5.5ha of the 22ha site; comprising an upgrade to the showgrounds’ facilities and the inclusion of new office, retail and residential spaces. This involved the demolition and clearing of various buildings and areas – mostly concentrated in the southeastern portion of the site (bounded by Alexandria Street, St Pauls Terrace, Costin Street, Constance Street and Gregory Terrace). Buildings and areas demolished or removed by 2015 included: the Frank
Nicklin Pavilion, Walter Burnett Building and Auditorium, Agricultural Hall and Douglas Wadley Pavilion, Frank Roberston Pavilion, Building No.4, Main Parade Food Stall and Show Time Snack Bar, Agricultural Street Bar, Machinery Street Fish Place, Agricultural Open Area, Industrial Open Area, Police Exhibit, and chairlift. The plans for the project were approved in 2010 and construction began in April 2011. The project is expected to take 15 years to complete, at a projected cost of $2.9 billion.

The association with regional Queensland and the rural tradition has been and will remain central to the character of the Brisbane Exhibition and the grounds in which it is held, but the RNA has incorporated new ideas and technology to meet the expectations of today's show patrons. In recent years new attractions at the Exhibition Grounds have included communications technology displays.

Description

The Brisbane Exhibition Grounds is located north of the Brisbane central business district, in Bowen Hills and Fortitude Valley. It is bounded on the north by O'Connell Terrace, on the west by Bowen Park and Bowen Bridge Road, on the south by Gregory Terrace and Costin Street, on the southeast by St Paul's Terrace, and on the east by Exhibition Street and Brookes Street. Gregory Terrace transects the grounds, but is closed to traffic during the annual August exhibition. A railway line and a recent road tunnel traverse the grounds in a southwest-northeast direction.

The Exhibition Grounds contain an extensive number of buildings and structures which, along with the layout of the grounds and plantings [including numerous mature Weeping Fig trees], contribute to the cultural heritage significance of the place. For the purpose of description, the showgrounds has been divided into eight areas. Individual building numbers are those identified in the Royal National Association Masterplan Report prepared by Bligh Voller Nield in 2000.

Area 1: The hub of the showground is the main show ring and surrounding grandstands located to the north of Gregory Terrace. Principal elements of cultural heritage significance include:

1. Show Ring No.1 [by 1891]

The main show ring, an oval-shaped grassed area with a perimeter gravel track, is located in the centre of the Exhibition Grounds, on the northwest side of Gregory Terrace. It is surrounded by tiered seating stands, both open and covered, the exception being at the northeast end, where the marshalling yards give livestock and vehicle access directly to the ring. At the southwest end are the Council Stand [c1923] and Ernest Baynes Stand [1923]; to the west the Members' Stand [1970s] and John MacDonald Stand [1906]; to the north the open-air Machinery Hill Stands[1950s]; to the northeast the Marshalling Yards and Stand [1950s]; to the east and southeast a narrow band of open-air seating; and to the south is Heritage Hill, a grassed, informal seating area. Between the Ernest Baynes and Members' stands is a concrete ceremonial platform at the edge of the ring.

4. RNA Council Stand [c1923]
The RNA Council Stand is located to the south of Show Ring No.1, adjacent to the Ernest Baynes Stand, overlooking the show ring. It is a three-storeyed brick building with a double hipped roof. There is also a small, hip-roofed tower at the southeast corner of the building. At some early period the northern end of the building has been extended to incorporate an entrance to the seating in front of the stand. There is a later two-storeyed extension on the southern side, fronting Executive Street. The three earlier facades retain their face brickwork with decorative rendered bands.

The building accommodates offices, meeting rooms, and Councillors' seating stand, with the main access to the stand being through the building, which is entered from Executive Street through a wide, centrally positioned entrance with a slate roof supported by double columns either side of the entrance. To the left of this entrance is a brass plaque bearing a dedication to military personnel stationed at the Exhibition Grounds during the first and second world wars. Because of the slope of the land, the Executive Street entrance gives access to the middle level of the building, which contains a number of offices, including that of the President of the RNA, and the Councillors' stand on the northern side of the building. This has timber seating tiers with timber seats, on the back rests of which are attached small metal ash trays at regular intervals. Cantilevered metal trusses carry the roof forward over the front seating. Photographic evidence suggests this is a replacement roof, the original being supported by front posts. The ceiling is lined with fibrous cement sheeting, sections of which have early timber cover-strips.

Internal stairs lead from the middle level to a lower floor where the RNA Council Meeting Room is located, overlooking the show ring. There is also access to open-air seating in front of the RNA Council Stand from this level. Another internal staircase, which is not original, leads from the entrance level to the upper floor, which contains offices. The interior has been refurbished.

5. Ernest Baynes Stand [1922-23]

The Ernest Baynes Stand is a substantial brick structure located to the southwest of Show Ring No.1, adjacent to the Council Stand. The Executive Street elevation is of face brickwork with decorative rendered panels along the parapet and in a broad band across the middle of the façade. At street level, offices open directly off the street. There is a later cantilevered awning with mock gabled roofs over the western end of this level. The eastern end is obscured by a set of concrete fire escape stairs with offices beneath. Cantilevered off the rear wall parapet are two small landings with later gabled roofs, which formerly serviced two rear staircases between the upper and lower seating tiers.

The building has a skillion roof clad with later metal sheeting, supported by early steel girders [both uprights and trusses], and is lined with sheets of ripple iron. The original gambrel roof has been removed, and the present roof follows the slope of the former upper seating tier, which has been removed. Along the ringside front of the roof are six mock dormers and a central pediment with the lettering: RNA EXHIBITION GROUNDS. Beneath this, at fascia level, is the lettering: ERNEST BAYNES STAND. Timber batten valances along the front and side of the roof are not original.
The stand now comprises only one level of timber tiered seating [originally two], with slatted timber benches and back rests, supported on steel frames bolted to the floor. The seating is accessed via three sets of brick and concrete stairs at the front of the stand. These are located at either end of the structure and in the middle, the central stair having a double staircase. Set into the front brick wall of each staircase is an inscribed stone plaque. That at the southeast end reads: This stone was laid by CE McDougall, President 18th Nov 1922 J Hutchinson, Builder. That in the centre stair reads: This stone was laid by His Excellency, Sir Matthew Nathan PC, GCMG, Governor of Queensland 18th Nov 1922 Richard Gailey Jnr FOIA, Architect. That on the northwest stair reads: This stone was laid by Ernest Baynes, Chairman, for and on behalf of the Council 18th Nov 1922. This stone also records the names of the 13 other RNA Councillors of the day, and the Secretary. The front and staircase balustrades are of decorative cast iron with timber handrails, but the side balustrades are a later metal grille. At the top of the seating, later fire-exit doors have been cut in the brick rear wall at either end - these lead to fire-escape stairs.

The structure takes advantage of the sloping site to include a sub-floor dining room which runs the length of the stand beneath the front seating. This is accessed via stairs at the front which lead to a number of sets of entrance doors just below ground level. This dining room has been refurbished, with new entrance doors, new leadlight windows, and a false ceiling. Most of the original arched leadlight windows at each end have been sheeted over. Behind the dining room, cut into the slope of the land, is a long kitchen. At the southeast end of the kitchen is a store room and a steep timber stair leading up to the service entrance from Executive Street. There are also toilets at the sub-floor level, accessed externally. The men's toilet is located at the southeast end of the building and the women's at the northwest end.

6. Members' Stand [1970s]

The Members' Stand is located on the western side of Show Ring No.1, just past the Ernest Baynes Stand and the Parenting Room. It is concrete-framed structure with brick in-fill. The seating tiers are of formed concrete and seats are of formed plastic supported on metal framing. Steel framing supports a cantilevered awning roof. The roof and side and rear walls are clad with wide-profile metal sheeting. There is a metal sheeted balustrade along the sides and front. The seating is accessed from Station Street rather than from the ringside. The sub-floor contains a bar and other members facilities, also accessed from Station Street.

7. John MacDonald Stand [1906]

This is the earliest of the surviving ringside stands, located on the northwest side of Show Ring No.1. It is a substantial brick structure with a gambrel roof. In the centre of the roof is a large flèche with cupola and four-faced clock which can be seen from much of the showground. The roof of the stand, which has been re-clad with a recent corrugated metal sheeting, is supported on early light steel trusses and round cast metal columns with cast-iron brackets and valances along the front and sides. Between the arc of the central bay is a large sign with the lettering: JOHN MACDONALD STAND. The sides and front of the stand have a decorative cast-iron balustrading.
Timber tiers accommodate the seating, which is of slatted timber fixed on steel frames to the tiers. The seating is accessed from the front of the stand via three sets of brick and concrete steps, set symmetrically in the centre and toward either end, each of which has a double staircase. These have the same decorative iron balustrade as the main stand. Between the staircases at the front of the stand are concrete seating tiers with slatted timber benches. Behind the seating tiers the rear brick wall has arched openings with the same decorative metal balustrading as the stairs and front and sides of the stand. There is a rear promenade at this level, but several tiers of later timber seating have been installed here, restricting pedestrian circulation.

Because the land is flat and the stand is so high, there is a very tall rear arcaded promenade [trafficable to vehicles and pedestrians] running the length of the stand beneath the upper seats, and a huge sub-floor beneath the remainder of the stand. The brickwork in this section of the building is in red face brick, with decorative dark-glazed bricks to the arches along the arcade and supporting the upper seating tiers. An arcade on the northwest side of the promenade gives access to Station Street and the subway under the railway, which leads to Show Ring No.2.

The large sub-floor is divided into four main rooms, accessed mainly off the rear promenade. Each of these spaces has a ripple iron ceiling which follows the slope of the seating tiers above, a concrete floor a step or two below street level, and windows and doors opening both to the promenade and to the front of the stand overlooking the show ring. The northern room is utilised by the St John's Ambulance Service, and has been divided by sheeted partitions into cubicles. Facilities include an early iron-framed, wheeled ambulance stretcher. The southern room has been converted into an English-style pub, complete with appropriately decorated entry. There are toilets located at each end of the subfloor, accessed from the front - the men's toilet at the southern end and the women's at the northern end. The men's toilet retains an early leadlight fanlight above the entrance door, but both facilities have been remodelled internally.

8. Machinery Hill Stands [1950s]

These comprise a number of uncovered stands, curved around the northern perimeter of Show Ring No.1, between the northeast end of the John MacDonald Stand and the Marshalling Yards at the northeast end of the show ring. They are of concrete construction [concrete seating tiers supported on concrete piers], with brick or concrete in-fill to the sides. The seating comprises curved, slatted timber benches, and is accessed via subways beneath the stands, off Ring Road. The sub-floor beneath the northern-most stand provides kiosk space, with metal roller doors between the concrete piers opening to Ring Road. The sub-floor beneath the middle stand is utilised as the Cattleman's Bar. Sections of the seating on the northernmost of these open-air stands have been in-filled recently to provide access for horsemen entering the show ring for special display riding. There is a large sign at the back of the northern stand, with the lettering: MACHINERY HILL, which can be viewed from all over the show ring.

9. Marshalling Yards and Stand [1950s]
At the northeast side of Show Ring No.1 are the livestock marshalling yards. Above the yards is a substantial formed concrete stand with a raked, open-air seating area. Between the concrete piers which support this structure are sets of sheeted metal gates opening from the yards onto the ring, and to Ring Road to the east. At the back of the concrete stand is a small, detached, two-storeyed brick office building.

9a. Commentators' Building

[Radio Broadcast Studio, Doctor's Office and Ringmaster's Office]

At the southern end of the marshalling yards is another small, detached, two-storeyed brick building, which accommodates a radio broadcast studio on the upper floor and doctor's office and garage on the ground floor. This building appears to have been constructed in two stages. Attached to the southern end of this small building is a highset, steel-framed extension clad with fibrous cement boarding. This contains a number of offices, including that of the Ringmaster, accessed from a walkway at the rear.

42. Former Commonwealth Bank Building (Show Shop) [1929]

The Former Commonwealth Bank Building is located to the south of Show Ring No.1, adjacent to the Council Stand. It is a rectangular, single-storeyed rendered brick building with a hipped, terracotta-tile roof. There is an early arched entrance on the eastern side, flanked by tall, arched, steel-framed windows with decorative keystones and false balustrades. The present entrance is via a recent, single-storeyed metal and glass extension at the southern end of the building. The north elevation has been modified at some period, with its earlier arched windows removed.

Internally, the building comprises one main interior space [the former banking chamber], partitioned from a smaller space at the northern end, which is at a lower level, reflecting the slope of the land. There is also a later mezzanine storage area at the northern end. All bank fittings have been removed, and the building currently houses the Show Shop.

Other structures/sites in Area 1 include:

- Parenting Room [c1990s] - a small, single-storeyed, steel framed and metal clad building located between the Ernest Baynes and Members' stands;
- QCWA Refreshment Rooms [c1970s] - a small, single-storeyed brick structure with metal-clad skillion roof located between the Members' Stand and the John MacDonald Stand;
- Heritage Hill with its 'lychgate' - a recent, timber-framed, shingle-roofed structure resting on a foundation of rubble stone set in concrete.

Area 2:

This is the area to the southwest of the main show ring, bounded by the Ernest Baynes Stand, Gregory Terrace, the former Museum Reserve, and the railway line. The principal elements of cultural heritage significance in this area include:

The Industrial Pavilion, built in 1938-39 and later extended, is a large industrial structure, with external brick walls and a saw tooth roof. It occupies the southwest corner of the site, with its southeast wall fronting directly onto Gregory Terrace.

The external walls are red face brickwork with the main facade and the Gregory Terrace elevation designed with some of the characteristics of the stripped classical style. The main eastern façade and entrance to the building is from within the Exhibition grounds. This is a two-storeyed section which has food shops at ground level and offices and meeting rooms on the first floor level. The two principal entrances to the building are openings large enough to accommodate trucks and other vehicles. The entrances are emphasised by stylised columns, capitals and entablatures with balconies above. Sets of three French doors open onto the balconies. The food shops have metal security doors that open upwards. The first floor level is delineated on the façade by a rendered stringcourse. All the windows on the upper level have round headed windows containing steel framed eight pane casements. The panels below the windows contain a decorative pattern of brickwork. The building has been extended to the northwest and this extension is distinguished on the façade by mottled patterned brickwork, simplified detailing, large multi-paned window and corrugated metal sun shading.

The façade along Gregory Terrace is a decorative composition of stepped parapets, patterned brickwork and round-headed window openings. There are a number of large arched openings with stylised keystones, which contain doorways into the building. In the parapet there is raised lettering with the words 'INDUSTRIAL, ROYAL NATIONAL A & I ASSOCIATION, PAVILION'. The wall of the building forms part of the perimeter wall of the Exhibition Grounds.

Internally the building is one large open space with the saw-tooth roof supported by steel trusses on I-section columns. Twelve sets of large skylights run at 45 degrees across the space providing natural light. The ceiling is lined with sheet material and the floor is bitumen. The building is mechanically ventilated.

58. Gregory Terrace Entry Building [c1910]

The Gregory Terrace Entry Building is a two-storeyed timber building with a brick extension, which forms part of the perimeter wall of the Exhibition Grounds. The timber building has a gabled-hipped roof clad with corrugated metal sheet. It has undergone changes, in particular at the ground floor level, which is now used as a space to park cars. The northwest external wall has been removed and replaced with 3 steel posts. The area in which the cars are parked has a pressed metal ceiling. At the first floor level the northwest verandah has been enclosed and extended and the roofline has been altered. The first level contained one large room, which has been subdivided with partitions. This room has six sets of french doors, which open onto the enclosed verandah and six windows on the Gregory Terrace elevation. The room retains its pressed metal ceiling and fittings such as a row of coat hooks.

At the northeast end of the building is a two-storeyed cream brick annexe [erected 1971], which is used by the Police during the period of the Exhibition. The building has a flat roof, with a large fascia and aluminium window frames.
Other buildings in Area 2 include:

- **40. RNA Administration Building [c1970]** - a two-storeyed building constructed with a concrete frame and brick and sheet material infill panels. The building is designed as a series of vertical elements with a continuous band of windows at each level and a large projecting fascia concealing the roof. Internally the building contains offices.

- **41. RNA Function Room** - a single-storeyed brick building with a flat roof. On the eastern & southern elevations there are full-length glass windows, mosaic tiles on the columns and a deep fascia concealing the roof. Internally the building is one large room with attached kitchen facilities.

**Area 3:**

This encompasses the area to the west of the railway which traverses the Exhibition Grounds. The principal elements of cultural heritage significance in Area 3 include:

**2. Show Ring No.2 [c1924]**

Show Ring No.2 is located on the western side of the railway line, at the northeast end of the bitumen pavement to side show alley, and separates the amusement section of the site from the Dairy, Pig and Goat Pavilions. It is a circular grassed area surrounded by a concrete apron. Six mature fig trees pruned into cylindrical forms line the southern boundary of the show ring and one fig tree of a similar form is located to the north of the ring. Timber bench seats are located around the base of each tree.

**Toilet Block [interwar]**

Located on the southeast side of the show ring and set into the earth bank which rises up to the railway line is a toilet building. This houses female amenities and a baby change room. The walls are a combination of face brickwork and rendered masonry with high level fixed vent glass louvres. The roof is comprised of two intersecting gables and is clad with metal custom orb roof sheeting.

**13. Side Show Alley**

Side Show Alley is located in the northwest corner of the exhibition grounds and is bounded by Bowen Bridge Road on the west, Bowen Park on the northwest, Show Ring No.2 to the northeast, and the railway line to the southeast. The site is enclosed by a combination of fencing types which include timber framed fencing with corrugated iron cladding to Bowen Park and the railway boundaries, masonry to the Bowen Bridge Road frontage and new infill sections of metal fencing to other areas. The sense of enclosure to this part of the site is further heightened by its sunken level, relative its surrounds, and the close proximity of the Old Museum Building, the John MacDonald Grand Stand, the mature vegetation of Bowen Park and the towering structures of the neighbouring Royal Brisbane Hospital.
Visitor entry to Side Show Alley is via the Bowen Park Entry Building or if within the exhibition grounds through two subways beneath the railway line. That part of Side Show Alley used for rides and other amusements is comprised of a large expanse of open, level bitumen pavement. Set at regular intervals in the pavement are electrical services boxes used at show time to provide power to the various amusements. The only permanent fixtures within this space are the ferris wheel frame, the chair lift house, a food stall structure and a series of new toilet blocks.

**Bowen Park Entry Building [interwar]**

Located in the western corner of the site adjacent to Bowen Park the building is a single-storeyed structure comprised of two smaller elements separated by a vehicular access gate. The walls of the buildings are face brick and each has a hipped roof clad with metal custom orb sheeting. Recent additions to these structures appear to include the cement rendering of the brickwork to the Bowen Bridge Street facade and the installation of metal roller doors to the ticket issuing areas.

**30. Dairy Cattle Pavilion**

The Dairy Cattle Pavilion is located at the northern boundary of the exhibition grounds fronting O’Connell Terrace. It is timber framed single-storey structure, essentially comprised of two rectilinear building masses, which gently follow the slope of the site. A saw tooth roof structure, clad with corrugated iron, covers the full extent of the building. Externally the walls are clad with timber weatherboards while the individual ends to the skillion roof forms are clad with a combination of FC sheeting and timber lattice. A concrete apron surrounds the whole building.

Internally the building is broken up into a series of long narrow bays which follow the line of the saw tooth roof above. The high face of the saw tooth roof form in each bay is clad with timber lattice which allows the interior space to be naturally lit and ventilated. Entry to the pavilion is through chain wire gates located centrally at the end of each bay. In plan each of bays is very similar in that it consists of a central passage flanked by open cattle pen space on either side and storage accommodation enclosures to each end of the bay. These storage/accommodation enclosures are clad with a combination of FC cladding and timber weatherboards. Walls between the bays are timber framed and clad to half height with the upper portion being finished with timber battens. The floor surface throughout the pavilions is concrete and generally follows the gentle slope of the site.

**31. Dairy Goat Pavilion**

The Dairy Goat Pavilion is located to the south of the Dairy Cattle Pavilion and to the north of Show Ring No.2. It is an elevated two-storeyed structure with an associated open concrete deck which over looks the show ring and side show alley beyond. Storage areas and public amenities are located at the lower ground show ring level under the raised concrete deck whilst the structure itself is sited at the upper deck level. The building is of a simple rectilinear plan with a gable roof extending the full length of the building and being supported at its ends by concrete
and steel columns. Both the walls and roof are clad with metal corrugated custom orb sheeting. Lining the perimeter of the concrete deck are a series of shade structures.

**Area 4:**

East of the dairy pavilions and the railway line, in the area to the northeast of Show Ring No.1 and bounded by O'Connell Terrace, Brookes Street and Gregory Terrace, are located the main livestock facilities. The principal elements of cultural heritage significance in this area include:

### 32. Beef Cattle Pavilion [1950]

This is a large, rectangular, single-storeyed brick pavilion with sub-floor and a saw-tooth roof, located to the north of the Machinery Hill stands, with the rear wall erected along O'Connell Terrace. The front elevation, which faces south, has a centrally-positioned entrance with steel roller door on the upper level, accessed via a double stair. To either side of the front entrance are banks of hopper windows on both levels. The side and rear walls have less fenestration, and there is a large rear entrance [another steel roller door] to O'Connell Terrace.

### 33. Stock Pavilion

The Stock Pavilion abuts the eastern side of the Beef Cattle Pavilion. It has a series of skillion roofs set in a saw tooth pattern as the building follows the slope. They are clad with corrugated iron. The walls are weatherboard and the upper section is timber lattice. Doors on eastern side are sheet metal double doors, but two central doors now have steel roller doors.

The area along the wall of the building from the eastern side has a narrow corridor flanked by 'lockers' [small rooms with racks]. The corridor wall is vertical beaded board, floors are much patched concrete and the outer wall is concrete. The building appears to have been built in two stages, the eastern section has timber trusses and timber frames to the tethering area and looks older than the western end which has steel trusses and partition frames. The tethering area consists of low walls running parallel along the length of the building equipped with steel rings for tethering animals and hay racks for them above. When the place is occupied, rails are erected to separate each bay and sawdust and sand bedding is put down. Around most of the perimeter of the building are very basic sleeping quarters for people caring for the animals. There are a few animals pens under the women's sleeping quarters in the western section. These are for cows in calf or with new calves. In the northwest corner of the building is a room for preparing food used by those sleeping in the building. The building has a later brick extension.

### 10. Stockman's Rest

To the south of the Stock Pavilion is a small park known as The Stockman's Rest. It has topiared trees with slat benches around them. [On one of the benches is located a figure of a seated swagman from Expo 88]. Two modern telephone booths are situated across from the stockman's bar. There is a small pavilion which appears to be an earlier structure, with later cladding. It has had about a third of the area partitioned off by a wall towards the rear which has metal wall cladding made to look like weatherboard. The park is very popular for weddings and the
stockman’s bar is used for the reception. There is a small pond and fountain behind the pavilion and a plaque commemorating that the area was redeveloped as an initiative of the ground staff in 1994.

15. Exercise Yard

In the northeast corner of the site there is an open area which functions as an exercise yard.

34. Horse Stables

Lining the perimeter walls to Brookes Street and Gregory Terrace are horse stables. The stables are in long timber buildings with skillion roofs clad with corrugated iron. The buildings comprise back to back stalls and are arranged with narrow ‘lanes’ between them. The holding capacity must be well over a hundred horses and the individual accommodation is fairly standard - each has a concrete floor, single door and window space filled with a metal grille. The concrete has been roughed up by stamping a rough lattice pattern into it over most areas. There is a horse washing area against the wall where the floor is rough concrete and pebble and the bays are divided by vertical corrugated metal panels.

46. Stock Agents’ Offices [1936]

The Stock Agents’ Offices is a single-storeyed, rectangular building with sub-floor, constructed in dark brick with stepped parapets. Three sides of the building are freestanding and these each have an entrance. The windows are casements in timber frames on the upper level. Panels of fixed timber louvres at ground level provide light and ventilation to the basement.

The interior has a raised timber floor with a central hall and offices leading off it on both sides. The interiors of these vary in size, finish and layout. Where original ceiling is visible it is A/C and coverstrips. There are several bench seats in silky oak in the hall and the walls have notice boards. The offices have long term lessees such as Primac/Elders and LJ Hooker Rural. The Department of Primary Industries is present at every event where there are animals - this includes dairy and horse shows. Sales agents also have offices at the grounds for the yearling sales.

The sub-floor has toilets and is mainly used for storing the props used for equestrian ring events such as hurdles, poles and jumps. It is known as the ‘carriage' and has brick walls, a concrete floor and a low ceiling of A/C.

48. Stockman’s Bar and Grille [1936]

The Stockman's Bar and Grill abuts the Stock Agents’ Offices. It is a brick structure with a sawtooth roof in three bays which run at right angles to the street. The facade has been painted and the roof is concealed at the front by a very plain stepped brick parapet. In the centre of the front elevation is a large roller door flanked by two similar smaller doors on the left hand side and a standard sized door and a pair of triple projecting windows on the right hand side. These are supported on small brackets and are shaded by sun hoods. A timber verandah has been added to
the rear of the building on the upper section and has a wheelchair access ramp. The verandah roof is supported on timber posts and has a timber handrail and dowel balustrading. The wall to the rear of the verandah is clad with weatherboards and there is a door leading to the horse doctor's office.

The rear is also accessed through a door at ground level which leads into a large room with concrete floor and brick walls. This leads into a large modern bar opening onto an outdoor area through several large steel roller doors. This area has an auxiliary bar and servery and looks onto the Stockman's Rest park. It is floored with brick pavers and shaded by a roof of corrugated steel supported on steel trusses. This is lined with a modern timber-look sheeting. The perimeter of this area has sections of heavy post and rails, some of which are decorated with cattle brands. A gateway also formed of heavy posts frames steps leading from the corner of the area down to the street.

55. Lady Forster Building [1928]

Located east of the Marshalling Yards is the Lady Forster Building, originally a crèche erected in 1928 in Costin Street, and moved in 1939 to its present position. It is a rectangular, high-set, timber framed, gable-roofed building with transverse gables at the southeast end. The roof is clad with corrugated iron and the exterior walls with fibrous-cement sheeting and cover-strips and weatherboards to dado height on part of the southwest elevation. There is a row of timber hopper windows high in the southwest, northwest and southeast walls. Because of the slope of the land, the northeast side of the building is at ground level and has a number of sliding aluminium doors, and a skillion-roofed extension over cement paving. There is a small yard to the northeast of the building, with three mature Moreton Bay fig trees shading the whole of the yard. The sub-floor has been in-filled with brick and contains male and female toilets and a small electricity sub-station.

The interior is lined with fibrous-cement sheeting and molded cover strips, and is divided into numerous small rooms by fibrous-cement or later ply-wood sheeted partitions, only some of which are to full height. Some of these small rooms have early tongue-and-groove 'stable' doors. The floor at the northwest end is of concrete and is higher than the timber floor of the southeast end of the building - probably to accommodate the men's toilets below.

Toilet block

There is a c1930s toilet block between the gate to O'Connell Terrace and the Stock Pavilion. It is constructed of brick and concrete and has a rough stucco finish in places. The roof is gabled and is clad with corrugated iron. There are square panels of fixed timber louvres in pairs under the eaves [similar to the louvred panels set at ground level in the Stock Agents' Offices].

Other structures in Area 4 include:

- **57. Affleck House** [not the 1918 building] - a two-storied, light-coloured brick building adjacent to the railway line, housing a café at the southwest end;
- Brick toilet block attached to the southwest end of Affleck House;
Area 5:

A large number of pavilions are located to the southeast of Gregory Terrace. The principal elements of cultural heritage significance in the area bounded by Gregory Terrace, Exhibition Street, St Paul's Terrace and Alexandria Street include:

26 & 27. Buildings Nos. 8-12 'The Avenue'

These buildings together create a long rectangular exhibition pavilion extending between Gregory and St Paul's terraces, with the front elevation to Alexandria Street. It is a single-storeyed structure comprised of adjoined buildings from different periods and constructed from different materials. All the buildings are connected internally, allowing free passage through the length of the structure.

The entrances to each building are from Alexandria Street. The entrances to Buildings Nos.8-10 have a recently constructed gabled portico with signage identifying the building. The entrance to Building No.11 is slightly obscured behind a recently constructed restaurant that extends from the front of the building towards Alexandria Street. Building No 12 is located closest to St Paul's Terrace and access is gained by a concrete ramp leading to a large steel roller door. There are numerous mature trees situated along Alexandria Street directly in front of the building.

The building closest to Gregory Terrace is referred to as 'No.8 The Avenue'. Its frontage to Gregory Terrace consists of a face brick wall with rectangular casements of narrow metal louvre ventilators and a large central steel roller door providing access from the street. The gabled roof structure is visible from Gregory Terrace. The gable nearest Alexandria Street is of a different design to the two gables at the rear and possibly constitutes the earliest part of the building, the outer part being an addition. The earliest part of the building most probably dates from the late 1920s. There is evidence of this earlier smaller timber structure in the timber wall separating Buildings Nos.8 and 9 that only extends across half the breadth of the current interior space. The rear of this building is clad with metal sheeting with the same casements of narrow metal louvres. The interior is a large space with numerous supporting posts and exposed roof trusses. There are entrances from the rear, the side and front and a through way in the dividing wall between this building and the adjacent Building No.9. Building No.8 is wider than the other buildings.

Buildings Nos.9 and 10 are of the same construction and comprise the mid section of the entire structure. The commencement of Building No.9 is evidenced by the stepped-back join between it and Building No.8. Buildings Nos.9 & 10 are clad in weatherboard with a front and rear entrance to each. At the rear of these buildings is a weatherboard toilet structure. Internally the buildings are divided by a wall with a large opening for through passage.

Building No.11 is another weatherboard structure. It is set at an angle between Building No.10 and Building No.12, most likely built after the two adjoining buildings to fit into the prescribed space.
Building No.12 is a large rectangular warehouse structure clad in weatherboard with rectangular ventilation openings in all walls just beneath the eaves. The interior is notably different to the other buildings, possibly due to an earlier construction date. The internal space is punctuated by many slender timber support posts with the roof supported by timber framework. At the southeast end (closest to St Paul's Terrace) is a small timber stand with a timber counter and corrugated iron awning. It appears to have been constructed as a ticket box or display or drinks stand.

56. Show Camp Building [c1940s?]

This building is located adjacent to Expo Place along Exhibition Street, and is used for dormitory style accommodation for rural school children. It is a single-storeyed, 'L-shaped' timber building, high-set on square concrete pillars, with an enclosed undercroft. The building has a corrugated iron gabled roof with a projecting gable at the northwest end. The exterior is clad in weatherboard with no verandahs. The front elevation displays symmetrically-spaced, small, rectangular window openings with glass louvres and a centrally placed door accessed by a set of stairs. There is another stair at the southeast end of the building and another to the transverse wing at the northwest end. The undercroft has been enclosed to accommodate male and female toilets, a bathroom and several other rooms. The interior of the upper floor is lined with fibrous cement sheeting and is divided by partitions into three main sections as well as smaller sections within these for adult accommodation.

Other buildings/structures in Area 5 include:

- 36. Expo Place Pavilions [1988 & later] - a large exhibition space sheltered by two late 20th century, open-air pavilions. It is bounded by Gregory Terrace to the west, Exhibition Street to the north, the Show Camp Building to the east and the pavilion referred to as "No.8 The Avenue" to the south. A set of gates accesses this area from Gregory Terrace and there are three mature fig trees on the northern side of these gates, on the footpath.

The northern-most structure was constructed in honour of "World Expo '88". It is a steel-framed structure with two roof sections; one stepped back from the other forming an 'L'-shape. The roof is supported by cylindrical reinforced concrete pillars with space-frames and triangulated steel trusses. There is no ground cover underneath the shelter and there are no walls.

On the eastern side of the 1988 structure is a later steel-framed structure with a multi-gabled, corrugated iron roof. There is one long, rectangular gable roof along the length of the structure, at the rear, with four gable roofs at the front, at right-angles to the main roof. These four interconnected structures are staggered in length creating a tiered effect along the front elevation.

The structure is supported on cylindrical reinforced concrete pillars. The gabled roofs surmount convex, corrugated iron awnings running the lengths and breadths of the shelter. There is a gallery at the rear, accessed by a set of stairs on the eastern side. The ground is covered in bitumen.
Area 6:

The principal elements of cultural heritage significance in the area bounded by Gregory Terrace, Alexandria Street, St Paul's Terrace and Main Parade include:

22. John Reid Pavilion [erected 1904 in Toowoomba, moved to Exhibition Grounds in 1917]

The John Reid Pavilion consists internally of a large central space with a gable roof, surrounded on three sides by subsidiary aisles under lower skillion roofs. The main roof has iron roof trusses with a small gable-roofed central clerestory. The clerestory windows have been covered and clear roof panels have been inserted into the main and aisle roofs. Louvres have been added to the wall between the aisle roof and the main roof. Iron columns, stamped with the words "Toowoomba foundry", divide the main space from the aisles. The wall to Alexandria Street is constructed of timber with loading docks accessible from the street. The other side wall of brick, with openings that have been filled in, abuts the Dairy Industry Hall. The front wall to Gregory Terrace has been reconstructed in concrete to match the Commerce Building and Meat Hall fronting Main Parade. A steel framed awning has also been added to the Gregory Terrace facade.

The John Reid Pavilion forms part of a complex of buildings, which have been joined together over time. These buildings include the John Reid Annexe, the Sugar Hall, and Building No.7. These pavilions have been sited so that the public can move freely from one to another. The adjacent Dairy Industry Hall also forms part of the complex, but has been designed as a separate entity and is inaccessible from the other pavilions. The TAB building is situated at the front of the John Reid Pavilion and is also utilised as a separate structure.

22A. John Reid Annexe [by 1925]

The John Reid Annexe is situated directly behind the John Reid Pavilion with the ridge of the Annexe roof at 90 degrees to the main ridge of the John Reid Pavilion. The Annexe is of single-skin timber construction, clad externally with chamferboards, with horizontal boarding on some interior walls up to dado height. It has a corrugated iron gable roof supported by hardwood timber trusses. The Annexe can be accessed at both ends via steel roller doors and doors lead through to the John Reid Pavilion to the northwest and Building No.7 to the southeast.

23. Dairy Industry Hall [1950s]

The Dairy Industry Hall is a long, narrow, two-storey building constructed along the southwest side of the John Reid Pavilion. The facade to Gregory Terrace is of face brick with the words "Dairy Industry Hall" in steel lettering. The most noticeable features of the building include the zigzag roof structure and glazed south wall. The building consists of three solid walls with the remaining long side-wall completely glazed to allow southern light to flood the internal spaces. This glazed wall is protected by the roof extending to form an arcade along the side. The structural system of the building is expressed, with the concrete structural beams and columns painted externally and in-filled with panels of face brick. The steel roof beams are exposed on the upper floor ceiling.
The ground floor consists of one open space with access provided by a series of recent aluminium-framed doors with fixed glass panels in between. These doors open onto the arcade adjacent to Agriculture street. Stairs lead up to the first floor at each end of the building. These stairs incorporate heavy timber treads and fine steel sections, which run vertically from floor to ceiling, and act as a screen and a support for the balustrade. The end of one of the staircases is expressed to form a decorative zigzag pattern. The first floor ceiling lining follows the zigzag line of the roof, exposing the steel roof structure. This floor contains the original steel framed hopper windows and fixed glass panels along the south wall. The flooring is of mixed hardwood. An elevated link joins this building to the neighbouring Commerce Building and Meat Hall.

24. Sugar Hall

The Sugar Hall is located between the Dairy Industry Hall and the John Reid Pavilion Annexe. It is a small timber-framed building with a rendered masonry facade. A footpath awning is located on Agriculture Street and the building is entered from this street. A roller door joins this building to the John Reid Annexe.

25. Building No.7

Building No.7 is a larger pavilion which runs parallel to the John Reid Annexe. It also is of single-skin timber construction with chamferboard cladding. The southern side wall has diagonal timber lattice at the top, which has been covered in fibrous-cement sheeting. Some internal walls have horizontal boarding to dado height. The gable roof is corrugated iron supported on hardwood rafters. A single line of square timber columns runs down the centre of the building. It has an early roof construction.

At the rear of the John Reid Pavilion complex, to the east along Alexandria Street, is the RNA Workshop (Bdg No.43) with an early brick toilet block (Bdg No.43A) situated at the front.

43. RNA Workshop [earliest sections possibly by 1925]

This building operates as a workshop and is used to store supplies and machinery. It is a combination of three buildings, with the largest single-storeyed building at the rear of the complex with two smaller single-storeyed, gable roofed buildings set at 90 degrees to it at the front. The front facades of the two smaller buildings are clad in weatherboards, with the side and rear walls of all buildings clad in corrugated iron. Mezzanines have been inserted in parts of the building and there have been many changes to most internal areas.

43A. Brick toilet block [interwar?]

This is one of a series of brick toilet blocks located throughout the site. It has been refurbished, extended to the rear and none of the original fittings remain. The female toilets are housed partly in a concrete block extension and the male toilets are located in the original low-set brick building. The original part of the building contains glazed face-brick walls with feature panels of roughcast render. Set symmetrically above the rendered panels are fixed timber louvres for
ventilation. The roof is hipped, clad in short sheets of corrugated iron. Screen walls of concrete block and ribbed steel, with a skillion roof above, have been added to the front of the building.

11. Gregory Rest and Gregory Terrace Fig Trees

Addressing Gregory Terrace is Gregory Rest, a grassed area shaded by three large Weeping Fig trees which have been trimmed to a formal shape. This area also contains the School Band Stand, a modern steel structure with twin semi-circular roofs. The fig trees and the continued use of this site for school band performances are significant.

Other structures in Area 6 include:

- **21. Commerce Building and Meat Hall** - a recent two-storeyed concrete building with twin gable roofs;
- **37. Building No.6** - a recent concrete block structure with a flat roof;
- **45. TAB Building [c1970s]** - a small, single-storey concrete building constructed in the Brutalist style, located at the front of the John Reid Pavilion on Gregory Terrace;
- **49. Royal Snack Bar** - a recently constructed food outlet, located at the side of the Information Technology Building;
- **54. Industry Street Food Bar** - a fibrous-cement clad addition at the rear of Building No.7.

**Area 7:**

The principal elements of cultural heritage significance in the area between Costin Street and Main Parade, to the south of Gregory Terrace, include:

17. **Exhibition Building [1986]**

The Exhibition Building is a two-storeyed, concrete block building, with steel framed windows with large panes of glass. The main entrance is located at the corner of Gregory Terrace and Costin Street. The ground floor is a large, open space with concrete floors and concrete piers supporting the concrete floor above. The first floor has a two-storey volume space and numerous skylights. The building has a suspended ceiling which houses a ducted air-conditioning system.

**Area 8:**

This comprises the railway corridor through the Exhibition Grounds. The principal elements of cultural heritage significance in Area 8 include:

- the Railway Corridor - which dates to 1881;
- the stone cuttings on the northwest side of the line, near Side Show Alley;
- the bridge/sub-way giving access from the John MacDonald Stand to Show Ring No.2, and associated masonry viaduct.

**Image gallery**
Location

Google Map data ©2020 Google

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