

Heritage Citation



Albion Drill Hall (former)

Key details

Addresses	At 86 Mcdonald Road, Windsor, Queensland 4030
Type of place	Defence site
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L3_RP179550
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — May 2013
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
People/associations	John Kelsall (Builder)

The former Albion Drill Hall was constructed in 1914 following the 1911 introduction of compulsory military training in Australia. Having served as a training locale through both world wars, the Albion Drill Hall continued in Australian Defence Force service until 1988, when it was acquired by private owners. It has since been used as a community hall.

History

Following the introduction of compulsory military training in Australia in July 1911, all males between the ages of 18 and 20 (with few exclusions) were to undertake a specified amount of drills per year. Compulsory cadet corps were also established for youths 12 to 18. The small number of drill halls, which had been erected in various suburbs and towns during the late nineteenth century to aid the training of volunteer and militia forces, were inadequate. A program of drill hall construction was undertaken, intensifying during the World War I years. The drill halls, although often used as recruiting bases for the AIF, were not used to train the Australians volunteering for overseas service. They continued to be used for the training of the citizen militia.

The various State Governments undertook the construction of drill halls on behalf of the Commonwealth, and in 1914 the Queensland Government let the contract on the Albion drill hall and offices. The drill hall, which included offices and an earth closet block, was built by John Kelsall for a contract price of £1383. Based on a design used for the drill hall at Ayr, the hall was wooden framed and sheeted with iron. It covered an area of approximately 101 feet by 68 feet. This included a drill area of 100 feet by 50 feet, the remainder being taken up with offices. Steel trusses supported the roof, and a continuous ventilator ran along its ridge.

After World War I the citizen military forces were re-established to reflect the divisional organisation of the original AIF. The compulsory training provisions of the defence act were also watered down after the war, though a voluntary militia continued. Over the years and usually around the time of a major international conflict, compulsory military training has been re-introduced. A corresponding growth was experienced in the militia, known after WWII as the Citizens Military Forces and lately as the Army Reserve. Evidence suggests that work was carried out to the premises in 1924, 1948 and 1965.

During World War Two, the drill hall was used initially as the Australian Army Albion Training Depot. Later in the war, it accommodated the Army's 4th Advanced Base Stores Depot (ABSD).

With the establishment of larger Reserve training centres within Brisbane, the Albion training depot was surplus to Defence requirements. The property containing the drill shed was sold by the Commonwealth of Australia in 1988 to the Peace, Social Justice and Development Centre Incorporated. As "The Albion Peace Centre" it was home of the Australian Peace Committee – Brisbane Branch, Brisbane Organic Growers Inc, Community Aid Abroad, Global Learning centre, People for Nuclear Disarmament and the Youth Enterprise Trust.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as its construction reflects the priorities and attitudes of the community in the years leading up to, and during, World War I.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as it is a rare example of a World War I infantry drill hall in Brisbane.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as it is largely intact World War I period drill hall.

References

1. *Queensland Government Gazette*, Vol CII, 1914
2. *Queensland Parliamentary Papers*, Vol III, 1914
3. Series BP 378, Property Plans, Department of Army, Australian Archives

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Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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