

Heritage

Banoon Railway Station

Key details

Addresses	At 120 Breton Street, Sunnybank, Queensland 4109
Type of place	Railway station
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Lot plan	L63_SP195490
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Information — October 2000

History

This station has been identified as a place of heritage significance in the *Queensland Railway Heritage Places Study*, produced in 1997 for Queensland Rail. This study describes the station as a 'A representative minor suburban station of the post-war period, demonstrating the continuing viability of pre-case concrete construction in the early post-war period and distinguished by the provision of 3 timber footbridges'.

Banoon Station is situated on the section of the railway line to Beenleigh which opened in 1885 (Yeerongpilly to Loganlea) to provide goods and services to developing areas south of Brisbane. However, until 1937, there was no formal stop at this point, which is half way between Coopers Plains and Sunnybank Stations. Passengers wishing to alight or leave the train here had to negotiate between the train and ground level. James Fordyce, who acquired over 2 acres of land close by in 1923, was one passenger who frequently left the train at this point. According to the Fordyce family, who still reside in the area, it was James Fordyce who suggested the name for the stop when one was provided in 1937. Banoon was thought to be an Aboriginal name meaning 'sweet water', associated with the nearby Stable Swamp Creek. Mr James Fordyce had established his home nearby and opened a motor mechanic business in Dyson Avenue in the 1940s. The family business with its accompanying sheds is still operating on the same site today. The property, which includes an interwar house, has retained its rural setting, and is a reminder of when the area was less developed before the years of World War II.

The precast concrete shelter shed and office at Banoon Station were built in 1949. In 1955, a stationmistress was appointed. A second shelter shed constructed from timber, a footbridge and a stationmaster's house were added in 1956. Two additional footbridges eventually followed.

Description

The station site includes 2 station buildings, 3 footbridges and a house (?). The QR report (cited below) describes the condition of the site as 'sound' and its integrity as 'high'. The following description is taken from the Queensland Rail study:

The upside station building is a standard E2a pre-cast concrete building, 12' x 28' with plain strutted brackets to the platform shade and a timber framed ladies room and toilet at the Beenleigh end of recent date. The down side building is an unsealed timber framed shelter shed with later w.c.

The footbridges are representative structures of their type.

References

1. Kerr, John. *Destination South Brisbane*. Australian Railway Historical Society, Brisbane, 1984
2. A.Ward *Queensland Railway Heritage Places Study: Stage 2 Vol.4*. April 1997
3. Information kindly provided by Mr Ian Fordyce. October 1998

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Note: This information 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 information 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.

prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised March 2023)



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