

Heritage Citation



Melrose Park (includes stormwater drain)

Key details

Addresses At 76 Rose Street, Kalinga, Queensland 4030

Type of place Drainage

Period Federation 1890-1914

Lot plan	L1_SP252140
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — September 2002
Construction	Walls: Porphyry
People/associations	Toombul Shire Council (Builder)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (E) Aesthetic; (F) Technical

This arched concrete and porphyry stormwater culvert runs underneath Rose Street on the edge of Melrose Park into a creek at the southern edge of the park. The creek flows north to Kalinga Park where it enters Kedron Brook. The picturesque culvert was built by the Toombul Shire Council which was created from the Division of Nundah in 1883 and began extensive draining works in the area during the 1910s. The Shire Council acquired the land of Melrose Park prior to 1916 and it is likely that the drain was constructed between 1912 and 1936 when it appears on a Brisbane City Council plan.

History

Following the opening of Moreton Bay to free settlement, early migrants to this district came from Germany intending to convert the indigenous population to Christianity. From 1854 as the mission was less than successful and Aborigines continued their traditional ways, some original missionaries, particularly Wagner, Niquet and Goldner purchased town allotments, usually in lots of thirty to forty acres.

There was substantial speculative investment in the Clayfield/ Woolloowin area. Farms and large estates established in the 1870s-1880s were bought up and sub-divided for housing. From the 1870s, there were a number of large land holdings each with a grand house. They tended to be on high ground and most of them housed families who had a commercial undertakings nearby. (In the Albion area especially, John Petrie, James Little, James Campbell, Edwin Ford and William Hudson). In other areas, Thomas Melrose, Thomas Kob, Frank Mann and the Lethem families (who owned a claypit and brickworks on the corner of Franz Road and Bowley Streets).

The completion of Brisbane's first suburban rail line, which ran through the district to Sandgate in 1882, stimulated more suburban development in the area. As the population grew, local government became more localised. In 1883 when the population was about 3,000 in 640 dwellings, the parish of Toombul was severed from the Division of Nundah and became a separate area under the control of the Toombul Divisional Board. During 1890 the southern portion of the division passed to the Hamilton Divisional Board and in 1902 the Division of Toombul became the Shire of Toombul.

Speculators such as Charles Sheldon and T. Killikelly in the Kalinga/Kedron area were among the first to engage the services of noted architects to design and build several houses some for themselves, some for re-sale and others for rental. Thomas Melrose sub-divided his farm and orchard selling it as the Melrose Estate, and sold the

land for Melrose Park to the local council.

The family appears to have stayed in the area with a number of Melrose family members living in and around Thorroldtown that comprised about 48 acres south of Rose Street, bounded by Bonney Avenue, Stopford and Inwood Streets and Kedron Park Road. Carrington, a large house located in the subdivisions along the Rose Street boundary of the park, and Roseleigh in Kent Road are closely associated with the family.

By 1912 most of the district had a water supply connection with the exception of a small area along Kedron Brook. That year Toombul Shire Council began the task of draining Kalinga. After World War One the rapid expansion of the city into the inner suburbs and the freeing of loan moneys at the end of the war encouraged the local authorities to undertake drainage works. Toombul Shire Council carried out extensive drainage works at Kalinga, Clayfield, Hendra, Nundah and Northgate, while Hamilton Shire Council met most of the needs of the districts of Albion Heights, Hamilton and Ascot and parts of Clayfield and Doomben. It is likely that the culvert in Melrose Park dates from some time between 1912 and 1936 when it is clearly shown on the Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plan.

The timing of Council's acquisition of Melrose Park is not currently known but the named park appears in the 1916 Street Directory, thus placing it clearly in the hands of the Toombul Shire Council and predating the formation of Greater Brisbane in 1925.

Melrose Park has a long association with local sporting activities. In 1937 the Kedron Australian Rules Football Club was formed by amalgamating the Kedron and Woolloowin schools' past pupil football associations and was based at Melrose Park. In 1946, the Kalinga Bowling Club premises was opened in the park and they have retained a leasing agreement up to the present. The Northern Districts Rugby Football Club has also leased the park, as have the Brisbane Bears Softball Club (c.1983), Brisbane Women's Cricko Club (early 1980s) and the Trans Tasman Club which used the park for night training until a neighbour complained of the nuisance from the lights. There were also tennis courts near Roseleigh Street.

Description

Melrose Park is a large, almost rectangular, grassed open field to the corner of Roseleigh and Rose Streets with some perimeter planting to the north and west and scattered planting throughout the playground and to the creek edge in the southeast corner. The Kalinga Bowls Club facilities occupy the northeast corner, a playground with play equipment and sculptures occupies the southwest corner and the open field accommodates 2 cricket pitches. Cricket practice nets and a masonry toilet block are located to the north edge of the creek. An early concrete and stone stormwater culvert discharges into this creek at the south boundary of the park from beneath Rose Street and flows across the southeast corner of the park across to Kalinga Park and into Kedron Park Brook. Description of the Site View into drain tunnel looking south.

Stormwater Culvert

At the point of discharge beneath Rose Street the stormwater drain is striking as a picturesque feature in the landscape. The large tunnel mouth has a base of concrete and the sides and top to Rose Street are of cut and hammered porphyry stone. Further into the tunnel beneath Rose Street where the tunnel radius diminishes the tunnel is formed by a brick arch and concrete sides and base.

A brief visual inspection of the place reveals that the park is generally in good condition. The stormwater culvert appears to be in a satisfactory condition with some stone loss to the structure at Rose Street.

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 a component of the early drainage system for Brisbane.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a visible remnant of the early engineering projects undertaken by the Toombul Shire Council.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance as an example of the decorative treatment of a functional public works structure in a park landscape.

Technical

CRITERION F

The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular

period

surviving as an example of a major engineering project associated with drainage of early Brisbane.

References

1. Brisbane City Council - City Assets Branch *Conservation Management Study* Stage 1 Report. November 2002
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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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