

Heritage Citation



Wilston Railway Station

Key details

Addresses	At 339A Newmarket Road, Newmarket, Queensland 4051
Type of place	Railway station
Period	Victorian 1860-1890, Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Arts and Crafts
Lot plan	L43_CP827250
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — September 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls

Wilston Railway Station was established in 1899 when the Enoggera railway line was first opened. Its construction had a significant impact on the residential growth and development of the area in the early twentieth century and Wilston experienced some of the highest traffic of all stations on that line. Around 1921, when the line was duplicated and an island platform installed, the current shelter shed was built. The pedestrian tunnel was built in 1935, replacing an earlier timber pedestrian bridge.

History

The Wilston Railway Station is located along the line which now terminates at the Ferny Grove Terminus. Between the initial opening in 1899 and late 1920 this line was extended from Mayne through to Dayboro via Enoggera, Ferny Grove and Samford. After the route had been determined and surveying was completed, the construction contract was let on 24 November 1897 to Valley and Bowser for £19,049. The first stage of the line concluded at Enoggera and was opened 5 February, 1899.

From the outset, the Windsor Shire Council and the Enoggera Divisional Board committed ratepayers' funds to ensure this scheme would succeed. Unfortunately this agreement also required that rate payers were obliged to pay an annual share of the deficit for running the railway. This was not well received within the area when the railway ran at a loss.

Wilston was the second stop along the Enoggera line and dates from the opening of the line. It was envisaged that the Saleyard at Newmarket would provide the most important paying traffic for the railway. However, records indicate that passenger usage was also high. In the first year of operation (1900) 11,691 passengers used the railway at Wilston. The years 1910 (49,674) and 1920 (185,293) saw a steady increase in passenger numbers. The heaviest usage, up until 1963, occurred during the war and immediate post war years when the annual figure was in excess of 400,000 and 500,000 passengers. This large passenger usage, the highest station along the Enoggera line, provides evidence of the development of Wilston and its relevance as an inner city commuter suburb.

The station has been classified as a gate type 'meaning it had a stationmistress in charge.' With the duplication of the line in 1921 an island platform was installed. The Detail Plan from 1935 indicate that a pedestrian tunnel has replaced an earlier timber pedestrian bridge. Evidence indicates that the 'shelter shed' (railway station building) constructed of precast concrete panel, is of the type utilised by the railway during the inter war period, and would have been erected around 1921. It replaced an earlier "shelter shed" at the station.

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 evidence of the arrival of the train line in 1899 which played a vital role in the development of Wilston as a residential suburb in the early years of the 20th century.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as it contains an example of a precast concrete interwar railway station building, a construction type utilised throughout Queensland by the railway during the interwar period.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Detail Plan No: 581
2. Brisbane City Council Heritage. *Moorooka District Character Study*. (1996)
3. Kerr, John. *Notes on Queensland Railways*. (1966-1972)
4. Kerr, J 1988, *Brunswick Street, Bowen Hills and Beyond: the Railways of the Northern suburbs of Brisbane*, Australian Railway Historical Society, Brisbane

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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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