



Heritage Citation



Air Raid Shelter

Key details

Addresses	At 1 Mareeba Road, Ashgrove, Queensland 4060
Type of place	Air raid shelter
Period	World War II 1939-1945
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L180_RP18733
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — May 2011
Construction	Walls
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative

This privately built concrete air raid shelter was constructed during World War Two as a precaution against Japanese air attacks. Over 200 air raid shelters were constructed by the Brisbane City Council during the war but many residents took their own precautions by building shelters on their own property. This is one of only a few dozen surviving examples of a privately-built air-raid shelter situated in the front yard of a residence.

History

This small concrete structure was built as an air-raid shelter during World War Two as a protection against expected air raids by Japanese forces.

Fear of a military threat from the Japanese in the form of air attack or invasion increased dramatically after the bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941. Although Australians had been at war since 3 September 1939 and regarded Japan with suspicion, it was not until the entry of Japan into the war that Australians felt their homes and personal safety were seriously under threat, particularly so after the fall of Singapore and the bombing of Darwin in February 1942.

In Queensland, civil authorities, voluntary organisations and the general population prepared for the worst with evacuations, air raid drills, the closure of schools, and the digging of trenches. On 23 December 1941, "The Protection of Persons and Property Order No. 1" was issued by the Queensland Government. This stated that the owners of all buildings in Brisbane where more than 30 people were usually congregated were required to construct air raid shelters. More than 200 public shelters were constructed by the Brisbane City Council, many in parks or near railway stations. Only a few dozen of these survive. Many residents built shelters in their yards in readiness for an attack. In May 1942, over 20,000 civil defence personnel took part in Brisbane's first full scale

air raid practice. The threat lasted for another year before in June 1943 Prime Minister Curtin announced that the danger of invasion had passed.

A variety of methods and materials were used in the construction of air raid shelters, including poured concrete and masonry. Those air raid shelters privately built by residents were likely to range from simple covered trenches to more sophisticated shelters, such as this one in Mareeba Street, depending on the availability of materials and the owner's proficiency in building techniques.

This air raid shelter is significant as a rare surviving example of a private shelter built in the front yard of a residence. It provides evidence of a period in Brisbane's history when citizen's keenly felt the threat of invasion or attack from the Japanese.

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 it is evidence of the precautions taken by Brisbane residents against the threat of air raids by the Japanese during World War Two.

Rarity

CRITERION B

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

as it is one of only a few remaining privately-built air raid shelters 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 an example of a privately-built Brisbane domestic air raid shelter of the type constructed in Brisbane during the Second World War.

References

1. Beaumont, Joan, ed. *Australia's War, 1939-45*. St. Leonards, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 1996
 2. McBride, Frank and Helen Taylor. *Brisbane Remembers: The Home Front 1939-1945*
 3. Brisbane: Brisbane City Council 1995
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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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