

## Heritage Citation



**Annerley Library & Community Centre**

## Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	Annerley Civic Centre
<b>Addresses</b>	At 448 Ipswich Road, Annerley, Queensland 4051
<b>Type of place</b>	Library
<b>Period</b>	Postwar 1945-1960
<b>Style</b>	International
<b>Lot plan</b>	L312_SP260430; L1_SP260430
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — March 2011
<b>People/associations</b>	James Birrell (Architect)
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(E) Aesthetic; (G) Social; (H) Historical association

The Annerley Library, designed in 1956, is a surviving example of a purpose-built library designed by Brisbane City Council's distinguished architect, James Birrell. Together with the adjoining Community Centre and its landscaped setting, the library forms a tranquil, shaded corner in the otherwise hostile environs of Ipswich Road. The library has been a valued community resource since its opening in the 1950s. The adjoining Community Centre has augmented the community facilities on the site.

---

## History

Birrell designed three libraries for the Brisbane City Council – Annerley (1957), Chermside (1958) and Toowong. Chermside and Annerley were the first libraries built by the Council for more than 30 years. The Toowong Library was transferred from Birrell's building to Toowong Village shopping centre in 2001. The old library has been incorporated into a commercial development that includes the site of the former Toowong Pool (also designed by Birrell, now demolished). The Chermside Library was made redundant with the opening of a new purpose-built library nearby in 1997. The old library was sold and is now commercial premises. The Annerley Library is the only Birrell-designed, purpose-built functioning library remaining. Together with its setting, the library forms one of the few remaining examples of an integrated building and landscape, as conceived by Birrell.

The office extension of the library is leased by a branch of Alcoholics Anonymous. At the time of writing this report the history of the Community Centre building is not known.

# 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:

---

### Aesthetic

#### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an integrated development of buildings and landscape, that provides a tranquil, shaded corner on Ipswich Road.

---

### Social

#### CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

as a library and community facility since the 1950s.

---

### Historical association

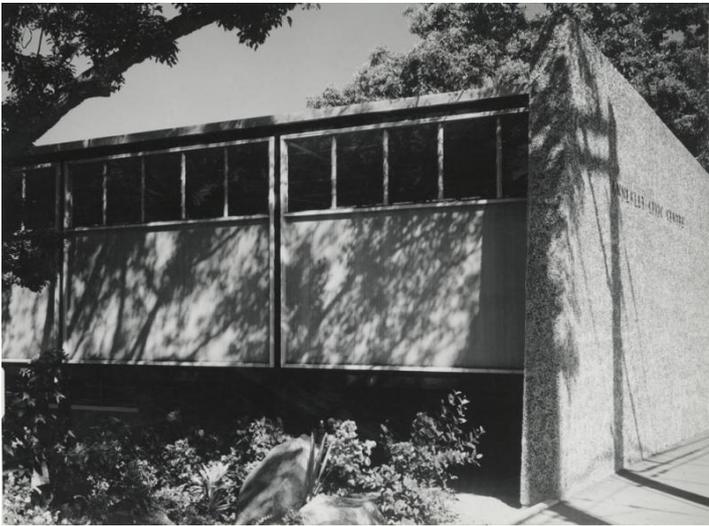
#### CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as the only remaining functional, purpose-built library and integral landscaped setting designed by the distinguished Brisbane City Council architect James Birrell.

---

## Supporting images



L. & D. Keen Pty. Ltd. (photographers) for the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Queensland Chapter), 'Annerley Civic Centre, Queensland', c.1955-1975, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland



Brisbane City Council Department of Works (photographer), 'View of the outside of the Annerley Municipal Library, Queensland, ca. 1957', John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

The photograph is stamped on the reverse "Brisbane City Council Dept. of Works Official Photograph". (Description supplied with photograph)



Brisbane City Council Department of Works  
(photographer),  
'Exterior view of the Annerley Library, Queensland, ca.  
1957',  
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

The photograph is stamped on the reverse "Brisbane  
City Council Dept. of Works Official Photograph".  
(Description supplied with photograph)



Brisbane City Council Department of Works  
(photographer),  
'Interior view of the Annerley Library, Queensland, ca.  
1957',  
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

The photograph is stamped on the reverse "Brisbane  
City Council Dept. of Works Official Photograph".

(Description supplied with photograph)

Interior view of the Annerley Library featuring the reading room, book shelves and reference desk. The Annerley Library was built in 1957 and featured the largest sheets of plywood veneer seen in Brisbane. It was the first municipal cultural building for Brisbane since 1930. (Description supplied with photograph)

---

## References

1. Annerley Library and Community Centre Conservation Management Study

---

## Copyright Brisbane City Council

**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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised June 2022)



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*