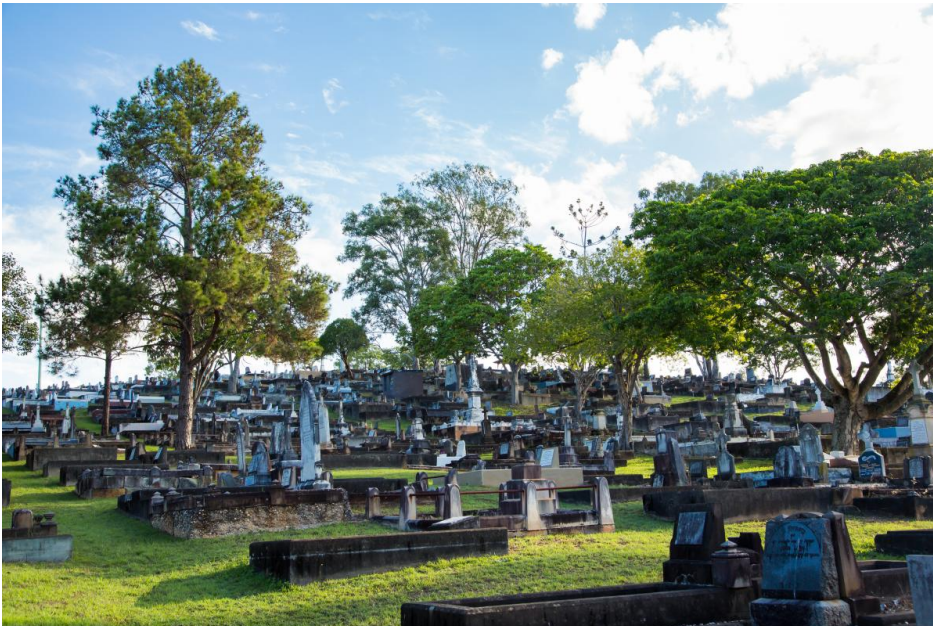


Heritage Citation



Balmoral Cemetery

Key details

Addresses	At 441 Wynnum Road, Morningside, Queensland 4170
Type of place	Cemetery
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Lot plan	L2_RP13274
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — November 2002
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social

Balmoral Cemetery is important because it survives as a remnant of the development of the area during the latter half of the nineteenth century. It is a highly visible cemetery/ park on the side of a hill in the middle of the suburb of Morningside. It is in the style of the Victorian period 'mortuary park' a particular type of cemetery

developed in the early nineteenth century throughout the western world¹.

The significance of Balmoral Cemetery lies primarily in the historical evidence of 19th century cemeteries generally, of which this is an example; and in its aesthetic qualities, and in its continued use by the public of Brisbane as a place of burial, contemplation and recreation.

History

This site was first gazetted as the Kangaroo Point Cemetery in July 1869. The first recorded burial did not take place in the Balmoral Cemetery until 1874.

On top of the hill is an elaborate monument to Frederick Wecker, an early landholder in the district. Also buried in the cemetery are former Mayors of Brisbane, James Hipwood and Thomas Rees. The founder of the Queensland Book Depot and former Wesleyan minister Frederick Brentnall, MLA, was also buried in Bulimba in 1925.

The original cemetery area of 55 acres was reduced to 50 acres 3 roods in 1891. The cemetery was administered by Trustees until July 1930, when responsibility for its operation was transferred to the Brisbane City Council.

Description

The cemetery occupies a site adjacent to Balmoral Park, on sloping ground east of the city. The site is a cemetery reserve held in trust by the Brisbane City Council.

The cemetery contains an area of 61,260 m².

The cemetery is similar to several other Victorian cemeteries in the city in its layout, which consists of curvilinear path and road patterns. Most gravesites are marked by headstones, or footstones, or both or a large horizontal stone slab covering the site. These differ according to individual taste, and financial circumstances of the individual or family concerned.

Porphyry gateposts and ornate timber gates mark the entrance to the cemetery.

Shelter sheds

The shelter shed is a typical tin and timber open sided shed. There are no seats – they may have been removed at some stage.

The cemetery is generally in good physical condition. There has been little vandalism, and the place is well maintained especially in terms of the grounds and weed control around graves. It shows little change since its transfer to the Brisbane City Council.

Several graves and headstones show signs of partial discoloration and the effects of ground movement, resulting in cracking and partial collapse.

Shelters remain largely in the state in which they were built, as does the external wall – part of which was dismantled and rebuilt for road widening in the early 1990's. Some repair work is needed on the roofing of the sheds.

The newer brick amenity shed which is adjacent to Wynnum Road disrupts the aesthetic of the cemetery at this point.

The fabric, setting & context of the site are all important, including the surrounding wall and gates, with the exception of newer brick amenities buildings.

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 district cemetery established in the mid-19th century.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a mid-Victorian era cemetery.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

places

as a cemetery in use for over 100 years.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as its layout and funerary furniture are indicative of 19th century cemeteries.

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 the family burial place for many of the district's citizens.

References

1. Allom Lovell. Toowong Cemetery A Conservation Plan. 2001. BCC
2. 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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



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