

Heritage Citation



Brisbane Tramways Substation No. 4 (former)

Key details

Addresses	At 24 Petrie Terrace, Petrie Terrace, Queensland 4000
Type of place	Substation
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Free Classical
Lot plan	L48_RP221203
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — June 2011
Construction	Walls: Face brick

People/associations Frank Costello (Architect)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical

This brick substation was constructed in 1930 as part of the interwar expansion of Brisbane's tramway system. The three original power stations at Woolloongabba, Fortitude Valley and in Brisbane's CBD were unable to cope with the demand of the new system which meant that a number of new power stations, including this one, needed to be constructed by the Brisbane City Council. This substation helped to power the tramways until 1969 when the system ceased operation. It later functioned as a storeroom and carpentry workshop before being sold by the council in 1991 and converted into a private residence.

History

With the expansion of Brisbane's tramway system during the 1920s, the three original tram power stations that were built at Logan Road, Woolloongabba, Countess Street, Brisbane and Light Street, Fortitude Valley, proved inadequate to the task. A new system of strategic power substations, that could generate high voltage alternating power along the tramway system, was proposed. The first of these new substations was opened at Windsor in February 1927. The Brisbane City Council approved the erection of a substation on the vacant block of land between Sexton and Sheriff Streets on Petrie Terrace in 1927. The builder was Mr. J.G. Hobbs. Due to funding shortages, particularly after the outbreak of the Great Depression in 1929, the Petrie Terrace substation was not opened until 1930. It was designated Substation Number 4 and it was the first building to appear between Sexton and Sheriff Streets. It continued to provide power to the tramlines until Council closed its tram service on 13 April 1969. Thereafter, Substation Number 4 operated as a Council storeroom and later as a carpentry workshop and residence. On 19 January 1991, tenders were called for the disposal of Substation No. 4. It was subsequently converted into a residence.

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 expansion of Brisbane's tramway system and support infrastructure in the interwar period; and, as a remnant of Brisbane's once prominent tramway system.

Supporting images



Brisbane City Council,
'Brisbane Transport Substation No. 4 - Petrie Terrace -
1968',
Brisbane Images Collection, Brisbane City Council
Library Services.

References

1. Brisbane City Council, *Properties on the Web*, website
2. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
3. Brisbane City Council's Central Library, local history sheets
4. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
5. John Oxley Library, *Parish of Nundah, County of Stanley, L.A.D. of Brisbane map*, (1899 land grant map).
6. John Oxley Library, Brisbane Suburbs – Estate Maps
7. Queensland Government, *Queensland Pioneers Index 1829-1889*, (Brisbane: Department of Justice and Attorney General, 2000)
8. *Queensland Post Office Directories*, 1868-1949

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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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