

## Heritage Citation



**Fig Tree**

### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	Outside 634 Logan Road, Greenslopes, Queensland 4120
<b>Type of place</b>	Tree/s
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Geolocation</b>	-27.508877 153.052237
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2003 Date of Citation — January 2011

**Criterion for listing**

(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social

This *Ficus Benjamina* (fig) tree is believed to have been planted around the 1920s when tree planting was being promoted as a means of street beautification by the then curator of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Ernest Walter Bick. Its age also coincides with extensive road improvement works on Logan Road, conducted in the mid 1920s by the fledgling Greater Brisbane Council. The large and prominent tree makes a significant contribution to the streetscape of Logan Road from its corner siting.

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## History

This *Ficus Benjamina* is estimated to be between sixty and eighty years old. Although its exact age is not known it is possible that its appearance on Logan Road coincided with extensive road improvements along Logan Road in the inter war years.

Walter Hill, Brisbane Botanical Gardens' longest serving curator, introduced many species of fig trees to Brisbane in the 1890s, of which the *Ficus Benjamina* is one. Many were used for the beautification of Brisbane streets. This was encouraged by local community groups and the Council during the interwar years. Evidence that this tree was planted to improve the visual amenity of Logan Road is indicated by the existence of another tree of the same species further along the road as well as its proximity to the kerb.

The curator of the Gardens in the interwar years, Ernest Walter Bick, used his position to influence to actively encourage tree planting projects by community groups and others around Brisbane suburbs. The existence of this tree is most probably an outcome of the higher profile that Bick gave to the planting of trees during his and curatorship.

This tree is a significant contribution to the Logan Road Streetscape. It was most likely planted at a time of rapid interwar growth in the Greenslopes district and is valued by the community.

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## Description

This is a beautiful fully mature and healthy *Ficus* species tree. It is a venerable specimen and its majestic appearance and size provide a great visual impact due to juxtaposition of the large scale, textures and colours.

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## 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:

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### 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 likely to have been planted during the interwar period when Greenslopes was undergoing a period of rapid growth and the Brisbane City Council was attempting to beautify the local streetscape.

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### Rarity

#### CRITERION B

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

as a Ficus species tree of this age in Brisbane.

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### Aesthetic

#### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a beautifully fully matured tree with the rounded canopy of this Ficus species that has a visual impact given by its textures and colours and landmark value.

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### 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 one of the most recognisable trees on Logan Road and for its social significance to the local community.

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## References

1. Sim, J. C. R. *Brisbane Botanic Gardens Conservation Study: Final Report. Vol 2.* 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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