

Heritage Citation



Morningside School of Arts

Key details

Addresses	At 590 Wynnum Road, Morningside, Queensland 4170
Type of place	Hall
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Arts and Crafts
Lot plan	L792_SL9030
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — August 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Face brick
People/associations	Allan Young (Architect); Charles Crowther and Sons (Builder)

This former School of Arts building was constructed in 1926 when Morningside was experiencing rapid residential growth and development after World War I. The brick hall, designed by architect Allan Young, contains a stage and meeting room, and initially held a library - a feature of Schools of Arts eventually taken up by the Brisbane City Council. As the first dedicated public meeting place in Morningside, the building was frequently used for church services, group meetings, and social functions. Although the building is no longer a School of Arts, it has continued to operate as a public venue for the local community.

History (previous revision)

The land on which the Morningside School of Arts is situated, was originally set aside as a recreation reserve and had been purchased by public subscription. The rapid development of the Morningside district in the post war period of the first World War created an urgent need for accommodation for public meetings etc. The Trustees of the reserve agreed to the use of the site for a School of Arts, and the community organised to raise funds and a loan. The Commonwealth Bank in Sydney ultimately loaned 1500 after local lenders were hesitant.

The architect of the building was Allan Young. The tender for the construction of the building was let to Charles Crowther and Sons, a local building company. The cavity brick hall, with stage, meeting room and library was built at a total cost of ?2000. It was opened in 1926 by Lieutenant-Governor the Hon William Lennon.

Immediately the hall was in demand by wide sections of the community, and many religious denominations held their first services in the hall. ?The institution has proved to be of great value to the district in providing the necessary accommodation for the various public organisations, and is in constant demand for social functions records the author of the "History of the Bulimba Electorate 1859-1959". By 1959 the loan had been cleared and the lending library had over 4500 books.

The School of Arts no longer maintains a library, this function having been taken over by the Brisbane City Council. The hall remains in constant use by the growing community, and forms an important focus in community recreation.

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 post-World War I development of the suburb of Morningside.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as a community centre which has been in constant use since its construction in 1926.

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

for its value as a recreational venue for diverse community groups.

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 April 2024)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane