

Heritage Citation



Mount Gravatt Cemetery: Portions 2A, 3A, 3F, 4A, 4B, 4E, 4F, Anzac sections

Key details

Addresses	At 640 Mains Road, Nathan, Queensland 4111
Type of place	Cemetery
Period	World War II 1939-1945
Lot plan	L2_SP137378
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — February 2011
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (C) Scientific; (H) Historical association

In 1913, this site was resumed from local pioneers, the Toohey family, by the state government. It was declared

a cemetery reserve and Mt Gravatt Cemetery opened 1918. It includes pioneer James Toohey's graves and others from Toohey Family Private Cemetery which had its internments removed to Mt Gravatt Cemetery in 1940. Members of the pioneer Klump family, prominent Aboriginal socialist Yabu Bilyana and local identity and homeless man 'Happy Jack' are buried there. A special Anzac Cemetery Section opened in 1962.

History

In 1913, Lot 392 of grazing land owned by the local pioneers, the Toohey family, was resumed by the Queensland Government for the non-payment of back taxes. The entire 262 hectares of land was declared a cemetery reserve. Mt Gravatt Cemetery opened in 1918 with a monumental section (Portion 3A). It was managed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the state government.

The Cemetery was arranged into separate sections for religious denominations as well as some General Sections.

Portion 2A is the Muslim Section and contains graves dating from 1926-1930s.

Portion 3A is a General Section and contains graves dating from 1919-1940.

Portion 3F is a Catholic Section and contains graves dating from the 1940s.

Portion 4A is the Russian Orthodox Section and contains graves dating from 1940 onwards.

Portion 4B is another Catholic Section and contains graves dating from 1920.

Portion 4E is the Anglican Section and contains graves dating from 1925-1940.

Portion 4F is another Catholic Section and it also contains the Toohey Family graves with the earliest headstone dating from 1914.

In 1930, the Brisbane City Council, using the City of Brisbane Act 1924 assumed control of all public cemeteries, including Mt Gravatt Cemetery, falling within its boundaries. Council purchased the site outright from the state government under the provisions of The Sale to Local Authorities Land Act 1882 on 23 October 1937.

Irish migrant and district pioneer James Toohey died on 22 November 1883 and had been buried at the South Brisbane Cemetery, Dutton Park. After his wife Ann (nee Doherty) died on 26 December 1901, the family established a private cemetery on a rocky ridge of their 'Mount Galway' property in the Mt Gravatt District. James Toohey's remains were removed from Dutton Park and reinterred beside his wife. The Toohey Family Private Cemetery was moved from the family's land in what is now Toohey Forest Park. The private cemetery's eight graves were relocated to Portion 4F of the Mt Gravatt Cemetery and reinterred there on 16 May 1940.

There are three ANZAC Cemetery sections planned in the post-war lawn cemetery style. The first section of the ANZAC Cemetery was blessed and opened on 19 June 1962.

In 1972, a Lawn Section was opened, reflecting the changing style of burials developed in the post-war period. In 1985, the Brisbane City Council announced that a new, separate section for burials from the Chinese community would be established. Among the prominent burials at the Cemetery are various members of the pioneering Klump Family, local identity and homeless man 'Happy Jack' and Yabu Bilyana (Jim Tyson) who was the first Aboriginal Australian to join the Committee of the Fourth (Socialist) International.

Section 4C is the Jewish and Greek Orthodox Section and contains a Jewish Chapel and a Holocaust Memorial.

There was a Heritage Unit site inspection on 6 August 2003.

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

seized in 1913 from the Toohey family's large grazing land holdings and declared a cemetery reserve by the Queensland Government.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage with individual graves of prominent local identities and a separate, designated ANZAC Section.

Scientific

CRITERION C

The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the city's or local area's history

as a genealogical reference source.

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

containing the graves of district pioneer James Toohey, other members of the Toohey family and members of the pioneering Klump family.

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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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