

Heritage Citation



Mount Thompson Memorial Gardens & Crematorium: West Chapel, Columbarium No.1 & Area No. 1, Columbarium No. 2 & stairs,1 & Area No. 1, Columbarium No. 2 & stairs, 1946 Entrance road, 2 concrete storage bays

Key details

Addresses	At 329 Nursery Road, Holland Park, Queensland 4121
Type of place	Crematorium
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Brisbane Regional, Old English, Stripped Classical
Lot plan	L40_RP224283; L132_RP13270

Key dates Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004
Date of Citation — July 2011

People/associations Daphne Mayo (Sculptor);
William Bustard (Association)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (F) Technical; (G) Social; (H) Historical association

Mt. Thompson Crematorium opened in 1934 as Brisbane's first crematorium. Its placement in the farming district of Mt. Gravatt had been opposed by many local residents who did not want what they perceived as an unsightly facility located nearby. But the crematorium's design featured well-planned columbarium gardens and an ornate chapel featuring sculptures by Daphne Mayo and murals by William Bustard. The first cremation was on 10 September 1934. The crematorium has a War Memorial Wall plus memorial burial plaques to famous Australians – Prime Minister Arthur Fadden and Lieutenant General Sir John Lavarack.

History

The vacant land was purchased in 1933 from Hubert Clive Daniel.

The crematorium was a very long walk from the terminus of the Holland Park tramline, which was located opposite the Holland Park Hotel at the corner of Logan and Birdwood Roads. The owners Brisbane Crematorium Limited lobbied the Brisbane City Council to extend the tram service to the corner of Nursery and Logan Roads. They offered to pay Council one quarter of the cost of this extension but Council refused the offer.

The first cremation was of Neil Richmond Rose on 10 September 1934.

The East Chapel was added in 1962.

Around 3,000 cremations per annum were conducted at Mt. Thompson until 1990.

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 Brisbane's first crematorium.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage
as the only Interwar crematorium design in Brisbane.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

with its central cluster of pre-1946 crematorium buildings of various types plus gardens.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

particularly with its decorative features produced by prominent Brisbane artists ' sculptor Daphne Mayo and
painter William Bustard.

Technical

CRITERION F

The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular
period

reflecting 1930s crematorium design.

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

due to its community War Memorial Wall.

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

as the final resting places of former Prime Minister Arthur Fadden and former Queensland Governor Lieutenant General Sir John Lavarack.

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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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