

Heritage Citation



Nudgee School of Arts & Row of Trees

Key details

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| Addresses | At 61 Hayden Street, Nudgee, Queensland 4014 |
| Type of place | Hall, Tree/s |
| Period | World War I 1914-1918 |
| Style | Queenslander |
| Lot plan | L50_SL543 |
| Key dates | Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2003 Date of Citation — June 2001 |
| Construction | Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber |

Criterion for listing

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

The Nudgee School of Arts is important because of its role in the social life of the local community. Since 1914 the hall has, at different times, provided a venue for receptions, dances and classes. The setting of this simple weatherboard shed in a large park, beside mature trees evokes the area's rural past.

History

The School of Arts building was constructed in 1914. The Hall was used for a range of community purposes. Wedding receptions, weekly dances, and weekend activities such as table tennis, quoits and euchre were very common. While dances waned with the construction of Cloudland, they were re-instated during the 1960s. This School of Arts, in common with many others, operated a lending library in the Hall. The property was retained in the ownership of the State Government, and for a time was rented to a number of local organisations. It was transferred to Brisbane City Council in 1988.

The School of Arts was in a state of disrepair when Brisbane City Council took over the building in 1988. Its demolition was recommended, but the local community particularly valued the site. The Nundah and Districts Youth Club, with other organisations, began a 5 month restoration project which included restumping, re-roofing and the installation of a ceiling.

Description

The Nudgee School of Arts is a single-storey timber framed, iron-roofed hall, set in parkland near the corner of Hayden and Penhill Streets. The building's main entry is on Hayden Street, and features a gabled foyer projecting from the main volume of the hall space. Photos of the School of Arts shortly after its construction in 1914 show that this entry structure was not part of the original structure. The photos reveal a simple gabled structure devoid of ornamentation save for a curved barge board and timber finial, both of which remain. Other additions to the original building include a lean-to extension along the hall's northern side and a concrete block amenities building abutting the rear of the building.

The building is supported on low concrete stumps. These are infilled with timber battens along the halls front and two sides and with sheet metal along the rear. The building is clad with painted timber weatherboards. The roof features two rotating ventilators along the ridge and two smaller vents on the lean-to roof.

It appears that the original timber double-hung windows remain on the building's original external walls. However all openings are heavily screened with steel mesh grilles, indicating that the structure is prone to vandalism.

A brief visual inspection of the building reveals it to be in generally good physical condition, but susceptible to vandalism.

The window grilles visually detract from the School of Arts and allude to a tougher environment than is otherwise suggested by the hall's peaceful parkland setting. Nevertheless the School of Arts, together with the large fig trees beside it, remains an important part of the neighbourhood landscape, evoking the area's rural past through the shed-like simplicity and honesty of its form.

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 a structure built as a community facility in 1914.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a former School of Arts library and hall.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance as a community structure in a park setting, that evokes the materials and simple forms of the area's rural past.

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 a community hall.

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 a building commissioned by the School of Arts movement.

References

1. Brisbane City Council - City Assets Branch *Conservation Management Study* Stage 1 Report. November 2002
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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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