

## Heritage Citation



### Police lock-up (former)

### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 301 Main Street, Kangaroo Point, Queensland 4169
<b>Type of place</b>	Police station / building, Prison / gaol
<b>Period</b>	Federation 1890-1914
<b>Lot plan</b>	L1_SP103164; L3_SP103164; L4_SP103164; L2_SP103164
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — June 2014
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
<b>People/associations</b>	T. Hooper (Builder)

This former police lock-up was constructed circa 1910 and was built as an addition to the original lock-up and police station/residence which had been built by John Petrie circa 1872. The original lock-up was converted into offices and this small timber and tin building, which contained two cells, became the primary lock-up for the station. When the new station was built in 1929, these cells became redundant and from then on were mainly used for storage purposes. In 1976 the police station and residence were demolished to make way for the riverside expressway, however this building was retained. In 1996, the former lock-up was set for demolition, however a public appeal saw it saved and retained as a heritage building.

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## History

Although a constable had been stationed at Kangaroo Point in rented premises, it was not until 1872 that tenders were called to erect a lockup in the area. A lockup was requested, as the constable had no secure building to lodge the drunkards who wandered the streets at night annoying the local residents.<sup>1</sup>

It was the combination of a need for a lockup and the prospect of the area growing in population, that lead to tenders being called in August 1872 for the erection of a "Lock-up, Kangaroo Point".<sup>2</sup> The successful tenderer was John Petrie, who at the same time was awarded the tender for "additions to Government House".<sup>3</sup> Plans were changed just prior to the construction so as to include accommodation for the constable. This timber and brick building originally contained an area for one large cell, but this was later divided so that two cells were created. Small alterations were carried out over the years to make the building more habitable for the resident constables and their families.<sup>4</sup>

In August 1910 tenders were called for "New Cells, additions, and alterations, Police Station, Kangaroo Point".<sup>5</sup> The work included the addition of verandahs to the lockup and the two cells converted into offices. Two further cells were constructed external to the building. These two cells are the existing lockup. The successful tenderer for this job was a Mr. T Hooper, who, for the sum of £216 completed the work.<sup>6</sup> As a cost cutting measure it appears that the original cell doors were reused in the new cells.

By 1927 Petrie's timber and brick building had become inadequate for its purposes. The Sub-Inspector, after inspecting the police station, wrote to the Inspector of Police;

*...I am quite satisfied that the building at present housing the Acting Sergeant with his wife and family is not suited for that purpose and that a new building is imperative.*<sup>7</sup>

Other factors were also given consideration within the letter; the viability to renovate rather than demolish the old station; the ideal location of the station with the "probability of a new bridge being erected over the water in the near future;" value of the land to the Government as an asset; and the need to have a police station in close proximity to the population of Kangaroo Point, which was described as being "estimated at 20,000 – and increasing".<sup>8</sup>

Eventually it was decided to demolish the old station (that was constructed in 1872) and rebuild - retaining the cells constructed in 1910. The old station was vacated in July 1928, and the police used a temporary site in

Carter Street, Kangaroo Point. The station was demolished and a new reinforced-concrete structure was erected.

The cellblock remained intact, and from 1928 was basically used for storage purposes. The new station, which included an expanded residence, was occupied in 1929 and continued in service until 1964. The detached twin cell structure although built in 1910 is constructed to an earlier design. Examples also constructed in Cairns (1884) and Clifton (1897).<sup>10</sup>

Woven wire grills were placed over the ventilator bars of the two cells circa 1948.<sup>11</sup> At one stage the cell block had a lavatory added to the verandah, (now removed). A 1951 police report indicates it was for the use of the constables at the station and the public.<sup>12</sup> A carport was added in the 1940s but was later removed.

With the redefining of the Police districts in 1964 and as an indication of the changing circumstances of the Kangaroo Point, the station was no longer required, its duties being absorbed by the Woolloongabba station. The building continued in use only as a residence for the local constables until 1976. In that year part of the site was resumed for the Story Bridge Expressway and the Station and residence were demolished.<sup>13</sup> The cell building remained on site, but was sold not long after to the proprietor of the Story Bridge Hotel for removal. However, the cellblock was never removed from the site.

In 1996 it was announced that the cellblock was to be moved on the site and renovated to accommodate development of the property. Such is the sentiment and historic importance attached to this building that its alterations caused a mixed response within the local community. While some approved of the retention and incorporation of the cellblock into the new complex, other residents described the situation as if “the historic building had been raped”.<sup>14</sup> The building is now used as a reception area.

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## Description

This tiny timber framed building contains two small cells with a verandah to one side. It is clad in weatherboards and has a corrugated iron gable roof, which extends over the verandah. The building is lowset on timber stumps and has a timber floor.

The building’s verandah is supported by timber posts with a simple hand and midrail balustrade in between. It is partially enclosed with lattice above the handrail.

The heavy tongue and groove timber doors of the cells still have their original bolts and peepholes. An opening above each door and within the opposite wall of the cells is secured with iron bars to provide ventilation.

The building is located close to the corner alignment with Thornton and Main Streets and has been incorporated into a recently built office building. The two are connected by a glazed link. A doorway has been punched into the rear wall of the building. A toilet, which was once located on the verandah, partially enclosing it, has been removed.

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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 evidence of the residential development of Kangaroo Point in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century; and, as evidence of early twentieth century methods of policing in Brisbane.

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### 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 police lock-up built in 1910 as an addition to the police station established on the site in 1872, but demolished in 1976.

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## References

1. Brisbane City Council Heritage Files. Police Lock-Up. Notes By B Rough
2. *Queensland Government Gazette*. 1872, Vol. XIII. p.1061
3. *Queensland Government Gazette*. 1872, Vol. XIII. p.1539
4. Brisbane City Council Heritage Files. Police Lock-Up. Notes By B Rough
5. *Queensland Government Gazette*. 1910, Vol. XCV. p. 44
6. Department of Works Files, held at Police Museum. Copies held in Brisbane City Council Heritage Files – Police Lock-Up
7. "Police Dept of Queensland", Letter from Sub Inspector to Inspector of Police. Dated 13 December 1927.
8. *Ibid*
9. "Police Dept of Queensland", Memo from Inspector of Police. Dated 9 July 1928.

10. Brisbane City Council Heritage Files. Police Lock-Up. Notes By B Rough
  11. *Ibid*
  12. "Police Dept of Queensland". Letter to the Inspector of Police, South Coast District from W.C. Bramley Sergeant, South Coast District, Kangaroo Point. Dated 7 October 1951.
  13. "Queensland Police Department". Letter to the Inspector of Police from Sub Inspector". Dated 27 February 1967.
  14. *The Sunday Mail*. 16 June 1996. p.46
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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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



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