

## Heritage Citation



**Police Station (former)**

### Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	Mitchelton Police Station
<b>Addresses</b>	At 543 Samford Road, Mitchelton, Queensland 4053
<b>Type of place</b>	Work residence, Police station / building
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L1405_S151821
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — April 2000
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

<b>People/associations</b>	Harold James Parr (Architect)
----------------------------	-------------------------------

<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association
------------------------------	---

This former police station was built in 1935 to provide a permanent office and work residence for the Mitchelton Police Force. It originally contained a three-bedroom sergeant's residence, an office, garage, and two earth closets (lavatories). In 1937, the building was extended to provide additional office space for a relief clerk who assisted with the distribution of rations and organising intermittent relief work for the unemployed, which was a significant part of the role of the police force at the time. Two additional residences were built on the site in 1948 (only one of which survives), and additional office space was added in 1950, reflecting the changing requirements of the police force in the twentieth century as a result of rapid residential growth and development in the area.

---

## History

The Mitchelton Police Station was constructed during 1935 and officially occupied in December of that year. Previously the police had operated as a sub-station in leased premises on the opposite side of Samford Road.

The land for the new police station was purchased from Archbishop James Duhig for £350, and the station buildings completed at a total cost of £1221. In 1935 the complex comprised the police station (a three bedroom sergeant's residence with office at front), garage, two earth closets plus front and side fences. Although at the time the police relied on troop horse "Hammer" for transport, the acquisition of a vehicle was evidently anticipated. In 1936 the station was provided with a motorcycle, and in 1946 with a jeep.

The police had a significant role to play in distributing rations, and coordinating evacuation and air raid plans. Combined with the increase in the size of the force under Police Commissioner Carroll, the increased accommodation requirements at Mitchelton resulted in extensions to the station only a year after completion. The additional office space built in 1937 housed the relief clerk who was engaged in dealing with "the large number of people on Rations and Intermittent Relief Work", nine hours a day, five days a week.

The Mitchelton establishment further increased over the war years, and in 1948 two constable's residences (both of a standard plan, type S643) were built along the Kedron Avenue frontage. In 1950 additional office space was built, resulting in the bricked-under section on the corner of the building. "Residence B" remains today, furthest from the station, whilst "Residence A" has been demolished or removed. The arrangement of perimeter fence and gates, and public access gate, steps and path at the corner of Samford Road and Kedron Avenue remains as it existed in 1948.

---

## 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 police station established in the 1930s it demonstrates the level of development in the district at that time.

---

### Rarity

#### CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage  
as an example of combined police station and residence which are being replaced by large district offices and 'shop fronts' it provides evidence of forms of policing no longer practised in suburban Brisbane.

---

### Aesthetic

#### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance  
as the base of the diverse range of police activities undertaken during the depression, World War II and postwar periods.

---

### 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 an example of the work of Harold James Parr, Assistant Supervising Architect, Public Works Department.

---

## References

1. Queensland Post Office Directories
2. Detail plan 1577, 7 October 1954
3. Margaret Pullar, Historical Reports on Ambulance, Fire and Police Buildings Throughout Metropolitan Brisbane, BCC Heritage Unit, 1995, pp. 10, 66-7
4. QSA A/67932-3, Works Department, Batch files C series, Mitchelton Police Station, 1932-63

---

## 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 June 2022)



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*