

## Heritage Citation



### Runcorn State School

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 646 Beenleigh Road, Sunnybank, Queensland 4109
<b>Type of place</b>	State school
<b>Period</b>	Federation 1890-1914
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L1001_SL10492
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — March 2011
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
<b>People/associations</b>	J. Lather (Builder)

The Runcorn State School opened as a provisional school with 26 pupils on 8 July 1901. At this time, the Runcorn/Sunnybank district was a farming, mostly fruit growing, district. The contract for building the original, modest, timber school was won by J. Lather. Today, this building is known as "A" Wing. In 1909, the school was awarded state school status. The school grounds contain many mature shade trees, some of which were planted by pupils in the early years of the twentieth century as part of Arbor Day celebrations. The school became a focus of community life, with the grounds utilised by local groups such as the Runcorn Tennis Club from the early 1900s.

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## History

The Runcorn Provisional School No. 968 opened on this site with 26 pupils on 8 July 1901 thanks to the efforts of the Runcorn Provisional School's Building Committee. At this time, the area was a rural district and most students were from farming families, particularly fruit growers. A three acre site was purchased by the Department of Public Instruction and the land cleared by volunteer labour. The Department paid four fifths of the cost of constructing the modest timber school building, known today as "A" Wing. The tender for the school's construction was won by J. Lather. In 1909, the school became Runcorn State School.

The school grounds contain many mature shade trees, some of which were planted by pupils as part of Arbor Day celebrations. According to historical records, the trees include 18 shade trees planted in 1908 and six trees planted for Arbor Day in July 1915. Mature trees in the grounds include several jacarandas.

The school was a focus of community life in the district. For example, the first school tennis court, built in 1904, was used by the Runcorn Tennis Club.

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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

for the evidence it provides of the provision of public education in the farming district of Runcorn/Sunnybank in 1901.

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## **Aesthetic**

### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

for the visual qualities provided by the variety of foliage and branch forms of the many mature trees within the school grounds.

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## **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 school which has served the Runcorn/Sunnybank community for many generations since 1901.

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## **References**

1. *Brisbane Courier*. 12 July 1901, 13 July 1915
2. Parents and Citizens' Centenary Committee of Runcorn State School. 1901 Runcorn State School 2001. Qld: Erinport, 2000

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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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