

Heritage Citation



Sneyd Street Drain

Key details

Addresses Beneath Campbell Street, Bowen Hills, Queensland 4006

Type of place Drainage

Period Victorian 1860-1890

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

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (C) Scientific; (F) Technical

The Sneyd Street drain is significant in demonstrating the development of stormwater drainage in Brisbane during the latter part of the 19th century. The Sneyd Street drain was constructed in response to population growth and the concern about disease, and also the need to control flooding. The rapid growth of Brisbane in the 1880s created health problems, including the spread of contagious diseases and unsanitary conditions, in crowded urban areas such as Spring Hill and Fortitude Valley. The construction of the Sneyd Street drain and other drains was part of a wider program to improve the quality of urban life and improve public health.

History

In October 1885 the contract had been let for the construction “of a culvert 660ft in length and 8ft in diameter, through Bowen Hills from O’Connell Terrace to Campbell Street” and open channels lined with stone. The tunnel was to be lined with concrete. This became known as the Sneyd Street Drain. It was estimated that the £7000 cost would be offset by the sale of land in the vicinity. In 1886 it was reported that the rock in Bowen Hills had proved to be harder than anticipated. Fresh tenders were called and parts of the drain tunnel were eventually left unlined. The work was completed in 1887. The drain’s arched porphyry outlet and open drain lined with porphyry blocks have now been covered over by the Inner City Bypass (ICB).

The Sneyd Street drain is significant in demonstrating the evolution of drain technology and construction methods in the late 19th and early 20th century. The drain comprises five distinct sections that demonstrate the changing uses of materials, in particular from stone and brick to concrete and then reinforced concrete.

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 part of a 19th century drainage scheme in the Bowen Hills area.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a 19th century underground drainage system still in use.

Scientific

CRITERION C

The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the city's or local area's history

in demonstrating drain technology and construction methods in the late 19th.

Technical

CRITERION F

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

the Sneyd Street drain embodies the evolution of drain technology and construction methods of the late 19th and early 20th century.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit, Stone and Brickwork Drainage (Various Locations) Conservation Management Study Site Report, September 2002
2. Riddell Architecture, Cultural Heritage Assessment: Sneyd Street drain, January 2007

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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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