



Heritage Citation



Substation No. 58

Key details

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| Addresses | At 133 Montague Road, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101 |
| Type of place | Substation |
| Period | World War II 1939-1945 |
| Style | Art Deco |
| Lot plan | L2_RP65330; L10_RP73327; L2_SP223966 |
| Key dates | Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — September 2011 |
| Construction | Walls: Face brick |
| Criterion for listing | (A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association |

This electrical substation was completed in 1940. It was built privately, on land owned by the adjacent Australian Glass Manufacturers' (AGM) factory. Unlike most substations, this one makes extensive use of glass tile bricks. These would have been made at the AGM glass factory and incorporated into the Substation No.58 design as a means to advertise the company's products. Although built privately, the substation was operated by the City Electric Light Company and now by ENERGEX. It is one of four industry-related structures built in the South Brisbane end of Montague Road during the 1930-40s, when that area completed its conversion from nineteenth century residential to twentieth century industrial precinct.

History

Substation No. 58 was first operation 31 October 1940.¹ It was constructed by the Australian Glass Manufacturers Company on its property fronting Montague Road. The substation's role was to house a bank of switches and transformers that serviced AGM's specific electricity demands. Australian Glass Manufacturers may have been attempting to promote or utilise its products by incorporating glass tile bricks in the front façade of the building.

When it was first commissioned, the City Electric Light (CEL) Company, Brisbane's first electricity supplier, ran the sub-station. In 1953, CEL was taken over by the Southern Electricity Authority (SEA). The SEA was rationalised in 1963 and the substation was brought under the authority of the Brisbane City Council. In 1977, the Queensland Government delegated the South East Queensland Electricity Board (SEQEB) with the authority over Brisbane's electricity supply and the substation is became serviced by that body.¹ SEQEB later became a part of ENERGEX. The site is now owned by Australian Consolidated Industries (ACI) Operations Pty Ltd.

Description

This single story brick building has clerestory lighting to the rear portion of the roof, with the front section concealed behind a flat rendered parapet. The parapet is capped with a simple mould and has a narrow cantilevered horizontal concrete window hood along its bottom edge.

The walls are mottled red face brick but have been painted on one elevation. Honeycomb brickwork panels and louvre windows provide ventilation. Natural light is admitted by two panels of glass bricks, one of which contains a vertical rendered panel with simple mouldings and vertical raised serif lettering 'Substation No. 58'.

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

being one of four industrial structures that completed the area's transformation into an industrial precinct during the 1930s-40s; and as one of the last substations built in the early stages of World War Two before local construction switched to military priorities.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as an electrical substation built by and for a private company and incorporating that company's product in its design features.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an electrical substation with unusual glass brick elements in the façade.

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

being a privately built substation constructed by and specifically designed for the major Brisbane company of Australian Glass Manufacturers.

References

1. SEQEB Files
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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 June 2022)



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