

Heritage Citation



Teneriffe Park

Key details

Addresses	At 33 Teneriffe Drive, Teneriffe, Queensland 4005
Type of place	Park
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Lot plan	L22_RP9208; L3_RP43034; L23_RP9208; L24_RP9208; L25_RP9208; L2_RP66838; L65_RP9172; L64_RP9172
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — June 2001
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (E) Aesthetic

Teneriffe Park is important because it survives as a remnant of the development of the area during the latter half

of the nineteenth century. It is a highly visible area of natural bushland, largely untouched since the European settlement of Brisbane. It provides the people of Brisbane with a natural reserve, which is significant for its bird life and natural flora, and as a recreational reserve, in a densely populated area of Brisbane. As an adjunct of Teneriffe House it is significant as the setting for this historic 19th century villa.

History

Teneriffe Hill

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, the heights of Teneriffe Hill and Upper Bowen Terrace had become some of the preferred places for Brisbane's wealthy merchants and professionals to build their residences. Worker's cottages filled the cheaper land - the slopes and river flats in the New Farm area. In the early 1850's, James Gibbon, MLC, a wealthy investor, acquired the original deeds of grant for the two largest allotments in the area.

These incorporated the elevated ridges associated with Teneriffe Hill and Kingsholme Hill. Adjacent to these allotments was a holding that had been acquired by J.C. Wickham in 1848.

These holdings contain the area that forms the Teneriffe Hill and the Kingsholme precincts.

Teneriffe House

James Gibbon built his large hilltop residence, Teneriffe House, in 1865. The house was designed by Melbourne architect WH Ellerker, who had won the Queensland Parliament House competition, and who practiced briefly in Brisbane from 1864 – 1866. In 1882 Gibbon sold the house on just over 2.6 ha, to Robert Wilson.

In 1905 Reginald Hillcoat, a north Queensland grazier, acquired the property and his family resided there from 1919. The property was subdivided further in the mid-1920's.

By 1930, that part of the estate which included an orchard, had been resumed by the Brisbane City Council and survives as Teneriffe Park.

Description

Teneriffe Park is a steeply sloping area of parkland surrounded by Little Chester and MacKellar Streets, and Teneriffe Drive, Teneriffe. The Teneriffe Hill precinct is a well defined hill which overlooks and is highly visible from other parts of the suburb and surrounding areas. Its stock of fine houses, its elevated position and important views engender a distinct 'Dress Circle' quality that sets it apart from the surrounding suburbia. Adjacent to the site the historically important Teneriffe House adds to the heritage significance of the park.

Amenities in the park include a scout hall, some internal roads, fences and a children's playground.

The total area of the park is 30711 m², comprising:

Leased area 1007 m²
Picnic area 7900 m²
Natural bushland 2281 m²

The adjoining Teneriffe House site marks the top of the hill and from this area there are two short ridges. Teneriffe Park forms a natural amphitheatre down to the lower end of Beeston Street.

There are a number of significant trees in the park. The ring of mature trees near Little Chester Street is the remnant of a garden which once surrounded a substantial house on this site.

The retaining wall and fence that abuts Teneriffe House is significant as a remnant of part of the Teneriffe House Estate – one of the original houses in the area.

The park has shown little change since its purchase by the Brisbane City Council. It remains substantially intact in its form and vegetation.

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 remnants of the development of the area during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as an existing remnant of the original setting of historic Teneriffe House.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a green open space and relatively intact natural environment with extensive views to the Bulimba reach of the Brisbane River.

References

1. Brisbane City Council - City Assets Branch *Conservation Management Study* Stage 1 Report. November 2002

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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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