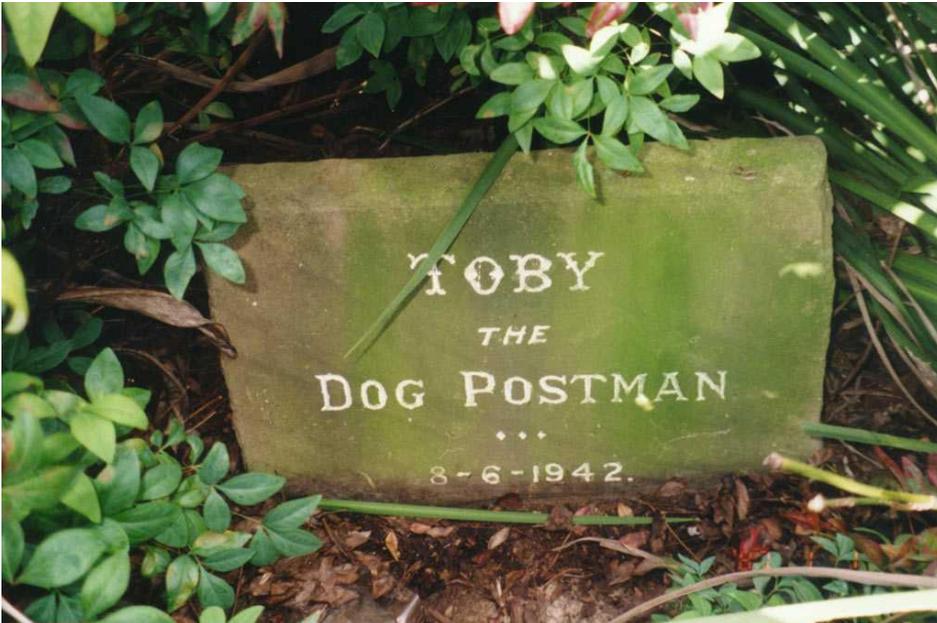


Heritage Citation



Toby the Dog Toowong Post Office memorial

Key details

Addresses	At 58 Ebor Street, Toowong, Queensland 4066
Type of place	Monument / memorial
Period	World War II 1939-1945
Lot plan	L20_RP882344
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — October 2006
Construction	Memorial: Masonry
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (G) Social

This memorial was erected in June 1942 to remember Toby, an honorary post dog who was killed in an automobile accident that same year. Toby was well known around the Toowong area as a keen companion of local postmen and would regularly accompany them on their morning and afternoon rounds. The memorial was erected by Toowong postal staff in the grounds of their original post office but was moved to the new site at Ebor St. in the early 1970s. It survives as a symbol of mateship and loyalty, and as a reminder of a small piece of Toowong's history.

History

A number of specific memorials have been erected around the world to honour special attributes, or in recognition, of an action an animal has completed, endured and/or demonstrated at some particular time. However, generally the action undertaken by an animal is normally associated with providing some aid or companionship to humanity.

This memorial was erected to honour a dog, which became known around the village of Toowong for his association with the local postmen. Local legend has it that this particular dog, Toby, would accompany only postmen who were doing their daily rounds. His companionship could be seen both on morning and afternoon deliveries.

Unfortunately an automobile accidentally killed the dog. A headstone with the words Toby the Dog Postman - 8 - 6 -1942" was paid for, and erected, by the postal staff. This headstone stood in the previous Toowong Post office grounds. When the Post office moved to their new site in the early 1970s the headstone was transferred and placed in the front garden.

The headstone provides an important insight into the thoughts and actions of an Australian local community during the period Australia was at war. The memorial to the dog embodies and represents the values that such a community held and these are the quintessential Australian cultural traits of mateship, loyalty, sacrifice and remembrance.

Description

This memorial is a rectangular slab of sandstone with incised lettering reading, TOBY THE DOG POSTMAN...8-6-1942.

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 headstone erected by the Toowong Postal Staff.

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
for its connection to the Toowong Postal Staff.

References

1. Drew, Richard Langer. This is the Village of Toowong, in *Postal Pioneers: A History of Post Offices in Queensland*. Vol.1. 1987. (Queensland: Australian Post. 1987)

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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 September 2020)



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