

4 - CLEVELAND: GJ Walter Park Reserve and Pine Promenade

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| Street Address | 240 Middle Street, Cleveland |
| GPS/RPD | L66 SP115554 |
| Place Type | Landscape |



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



GJ Walter Park, Cleveland (AHS, 2017).

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| Condition | Good | Integrity | Good |
| Statutory Listings | Local Heritage Place | | |
| Non-Statutory Listings | No current listing | | |
| Inspection Date | 24/04/2017 | | |

Historical Context

GJ Walter Park is a waterfront recreational reserve located at Cleveland. Originally Section 10 Town of Cleveland, it was proclaimed a reserve in March 1889.[1]

Many of the reserves in the Redland Shire were used for camping, and GJ Walter Park was one of three reserves in Cleveland used for this purpose over the course of many years. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Cleveland was a popular recreational area for Brisbane and country residents. Hunting, fishing and water sports were on offer at the three hotels on Cleveland Point. GJ Walter Park has some Moreton Bay figs that were planted before the late 1920s and some significant Norfolk pines that form the pine promenade.[2]

A sign near the pine promenade commemorates the landing place of Governor Gipps. Gipps landed at Cleveland in 1842, and his survey of the place's suitability as a port was hampered by the low tide as he was forced to wade through mud to reach the shore. It is believed that he landed along of the shoreline of the reserve.

The cricket pitch was installed at the reserve in 1911 and has been used as Cleveland's main cricket ground from at least the 1930s until the present.[3] It is not known when the reserve became known as GJ Walter Park. For many years it appears to have been referred to as the Cleveland cricket reserve.[4]

The park was named after George John Walter who was born on 28 October 1867, son of Cleveland butcher Tobias Walter and Christina Walter (nee Stubenrauch).[5] Their butcher's shop was on Shore Street, north of the Grand View Hotel. GJ Walter was a member of the Cleveland Shire Council from 1908 which he chaired for many years and had investments in the Cleveland region. He died in 1944 and is buried in the Cleveland Cemetery.

Physical Description

This is a flat, grassed site with a promenade of pine trees along the eastern foreshore. A barrier of timber log seats outlines the perimeter of the recreation reserve, and there are a number of picnic tables and shelters along the shoreline. There is a small public amenities building near the pine trees and an off leash dog park/beach. There is a commemorative sign identifying Governor Gipps' landing site, which extends from within the reserve.

Statement of Significance

G.J. Walter Park and the pine promenade is a locally significant place embodying historical and community heritage values. It was first created as a reserve in 1889 and has continues to provide a valuable recreational resource for local residents and visitors.

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| Criteria A | The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history. |
| Having been created as a reserve in 1889, the park is significant for its long association with the development of Cleveland, and its continued contribution to the Redlands district as a public recreation reserve. | |

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| Criteria G | The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons important to the region. |
| The park has long been associated with the recreational and sporting activities of the local community and is regularly utilised by locals and visitors alike for recreation, having impressive views across Moreton Bay and Islands to the north, south and east. | |

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| Primary Themes | |
| 2.0 Exploiting, Utilising and Transforming the Land | 2.09 Valuing and appreciating the environment and landscapes |
| 8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions | 8.05 Sport and recreation |

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| References | |
| <p>[1] QLD Government Gazette, 23 March 1889, p. 1079; CDB minutes, 6 April 1889, p. 309.</p> <p>[2] Redland Shire Council, <i>Register of Natural Features and Precincts</i>, 1992.</p> <p>[3] "G.J. Walter Park is 125 Years Old," Redlands2030, 2014, http://redlands2030.net/g-j-walter-park-is-125-years-old/.</p> <p>[4] A search of RSC minutes for 1959-62 suggests that it was called the Cleveland cricket reserve by the Council. However, local residents do not remember it being referred to as anything other than the cricket ground or just as the reserve.</p> <p>[5] QLD BDM consolidated index, births 1860s, p. 897.</p> | |