

13 - BIRKDALE: School of Arts Hall

Street Address	101 Birkdale Road, Birkdale
GPS/RPD	Lot 130 on SL 319
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).



Birkdale School of Arts Hall, Birkdale (RCC, 2013).

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

Historical Context

The Birkdale School of Arts Hall was constructed by the Birkdale School of Arts Committee in the early 1920s. The Committee had been formed c.1915 and fundraised extensively in order to build the hall. Aimed at making education and technical training available to working classes, Schools of Arts were important in local communities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, providing spaces for libraries, meetings, public lectures and community events, including dances and fetes.[1]

During World War II, the Australian Women’s Land Army (formed to combat rising labour shortages) established a camp at the Birkdale School of Arts Hall, and the women worked at local farms.[2] The hall was used as the cook house, dining room and recreation hall. In 1947, a licence was granted to Nicholas Martoo to use the Birkdale School of Arts Hall as a picture theatre on Saturday nights.[3]

Since the hall opened, it has had a close association with the local community and also Birkdale State School and has hosted various balls, graduations and other school events.[4] The hall was even used as a classroom briefly in 1950. It continues to be used as a public hall operated by Redland City Council.

Physical Description

The Birkdale School of Arts Hall is a high set timber building with a double gable roof. It addresses Birkdale Road and is set behind a timber paling fence and low trees. The exterior walls are clad in chamfer boards and FC sheeting. The symmetrical front steps lead up to the gabled entry porch and timber battens enclose the subfloor. The building is set in a large lot with a carpark to the north. A range up upgrades are evident to the building, particular the later addition built on the northern elevation, however the general building footprint and setting is readily identified.

Statement of Significance

The Birkdale School of Arts Hall has historic and social values. It is surviving evidence of the School of Arts movement in the Redlands and its continuous function as a community hall for Birkdale. It is also significant for its association with Birkdale State School and its use by the Australian Women’s Land Army during World War II. While some original fabric remains, the integrity of the building has been affected by the various adaptations and changes over the years.

Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region’s history.
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 School of Arts has strong and unbroken association with the local community as a location for gatherings since the 1920s.	

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Primary Themes

8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions	8.03 Organisations and societies
9.0 Educating Queensland	9.03 Educating adults

References

- [1] The Brisbane Courier, 16 July 1924, p. 15; The Brisbane Courier, 22 June 1927, p. 19; The Brisbane Courier, 2 November 1927, p. 21.
- [2] "Timeline Birkdale and Thorneside," Redland City Council, 2006, p. 4.
- [3] The Telegraph, 31 May 1947, p. 10.
- [4] The Courier Mail, 28 September 1934, p. 21; The Courier Mail, 9 October 1937, p. 23.