

Street Address	Cannes Avenue, Russell Island
GPS/RPD	Lot 76 RP130935
Place Type	Built, Landscape



Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).



Mrs Fischer's Grave and Memorial Garden, Russell Island (AHS, 2017).

Condition	Good	Integrity	Good
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	20/01/2017		

Historical Context

Mrs Fischer’s Grave is a memorial garden site located on Russell Island. Gwendolyn Adelaide Fischer, nee Jones, moved to the Island in the early twentieth century. In 1905 she married James Johann Leonidas (Jay) Fischer at his family home in Zillmere, and they took up land on Russell Island the following year.[1] Their farm encompassed 200 acres between Waikiki Beach Rd, Flinders and Leigh Crescent on the southern end of the island, and was named “Rehcsif”, Fischer spelt backwards.[2]

The Fischers had a large family of 13 children, and established agricultural activities on Russell Island. The original farmhouse was split logs while the farm produced fruit and vegetables, and they had a pineapple pulping factory where jam conserve was made.[3] Jay and Gwendolyn were forced to declare bankruptcy in 1929 after their farm was struck by a series of bad seasons, including the spreading of disease that attacked their pineapple crops.[4]

The family subsequently moved to Brisbane. Jay died in 1930 and was buried at Lutwyche Cemetery.[5] Gwendolyn died in 1943. At the time she was living in Milton, and was cremated at Mt Thompson Crematorium.[6] Her ashes were brought to Russell Island and placed in a memorial on her family land, near the end of Cannes Street. The ashes and her favourite greenstone brooch were placed in the headstone behind a glass panel, however, some years later the stone mound were accidentally bulldozed. The family rebuilt the stone monument but the brooch and the urn with her ashes were lost.

Physical Description

The monument to Gwendolyn Fishcer is a stone cairn, situated at the back of a memorial garden. The monument is surrounded on three sides and above by a log fence, and includes a small plaque. The garden is bordered by a timber fence, and includes reflection chairs, numerous planting, including lillies likely planted by Gwendolyn Fischer and former farming equipment. The plaque on the monument notes that she is resting among her ‘beloved ferns’.

Statement of Significance

The stone monument is a locally significant memorial which embodies aesthetic and associative value, as a monument to an early settler on the Island. While the original cairn and contents have been lost, the current monument and its surrounding setting commemorate Gwendolyn Fischer as a pioneering woman of Russell Island.

Criteria E	The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance.
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 place has a special association with Gwendolyn Fischer, an early resident of Russell Island.	

Primary Themes

1.0 Peopling Places

1.04 Family and marking the phases of life

References

- [1] *The Brisbane Courier*, 14 September, 1905, p. 4.
- [2] RPS Redland City Council, "Mrs Fischer's Grave", 2012.
- [3] *Ibid.*
- [4] *The Telegraph*, 7 February, 1929, p. 3.
- [5] *The Brisbane Courier*, 24 September, 1930, p. 12.
- [5] *The Telegraph*, 17 June, 1943, p. 6.



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