

Nostalgic **STROLL THROUGH** **NUNDAH**



Outside
Pumfrey & Kyle,
Wholesale and
Retail Grocers,
Nundah ca.1906



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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MAP LEGEND

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Access for people with limited mobility:

-  Gradient between 1:20-1:14 (2.9-4.1 degrees)
-  Gradient in excess of 1:14 (>4.1 degrees)



INTRODUCTION

The *Nostalgic stroll through Nundah* heritage trail highlights some of Nundah's most important heritage places and historic sites.

Nundah is one of Brisbane's most historic suburbs. Long before the arrival of Europeans in the early 19th Century, this area was a main thoroughfare for the Aboriginal people. As a convergence point of major paths in the Moreton Bay region, it was an important meeting place.

The decision to establish a mission in what is now known as Nundah was directly due to this activity. In 1838 when the Moreton Bay convict settlement (established in 1824) was coming to a close, a small group of German Lutherans were given permission to build the mission along a freshwater creek. The intention was to bring Christianity to the Aboriginal people.



Prince of Wales Hotel, Nundah ca.1929,
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 1870

They named the mission Zion Hill and the area was soon known as German Station.

The mission was not a success and by 1850 the crown land had been surveyed and sold. Several of the original settlers bought land in the area and established their own farms. With the main road to Sandgate winding through the farming community, a small village developed and by 1865 there was a church, a hotel and a school.

The coming of the railway in 1882 heralded a wave of closer settlement in German Station. With a new railway station, the district's name was changed to Nundah, thought to be an



Aboriginal word for the area's string of waterholes. Further land subdivisions occurred at this time and the population of the fledgling suburb steadily grew.

The Toombul Divisional Board was formed in 1883 and initially encompassed the area from Northgate to Hamilton. This was reduced in 1890 when the area was divided in two, into the Toombul Divisional Board and the Hamilton Divisional Board. In 1891 the Toombul Shire Hall was built as a public hall and municipal offices for the Toombul Divisional Board.

By 1911 there were 1675 people living in Nundah. Further land subdivisions occurred in the 1920s and 1930s and in 1933 the population had reached 15,000. The commercial strip on Sandgate Road was booming at this time with a variety of businesses including two hotels, a picture theatre and a post office.

In the 1960s Toombul Shoppingtown was built on a large site beside Kedron Brook by successful Sydney business, Westfield, and swiftly became the district's shopping and civic centre. In 2001 the Queensland Government completed the Sandgate Road bypass, effectively redirecting heavy traffic away from the commercial strip, which today remains a bustling suburban centre.



Waiting at the Railway Station, Nundah ca.1910,
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 99234



TOOMBUL

Shire Hall

This beautifully designed building was constructed in 1891 as the Toombul Divisional Board's municipal offices as well as a public hall. The architectural firm commissioned for the project was John Hall and Son, who were responsible for designing some of Brisbane's most important and well-known buildings including Treasury Hotel in the city centre, South Brisbane Town Hall and Queen Alexandra Home in Coorparoo.

Over the years the hall has been used for many purposes including balls, political meetings, functions and election polling booths. The chambers continued to be the centre for municipal administration in the Toombul Shire until 1925 when 20 local councils were amalgamated into the Greater Brisbane City Council.

In 1926 the Nundah Progress Association lobbied the then Lord Mayor, Alderman William Jolly, for the establishment of a School of Arts in the former council chamber. Schools of Arts were traditionally established to provide adult education for the community and became very popular in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries in Australia. After discussions with the Lord Mayor it was agreed that a School of Arts with a reading room and library was a good solution for the disused chamber.



Nundah School of Arts, 1961, Brisbane City Council, BCC-B54-16305

In June 1926 the new School of Arts was officially opened. It was reported at the time that:

"...the Nundah Progress Association had started the School of Arts Movement. A committee had been formed, and the Council Chamber at the old Toombul Shire Council's office had been obtained as a reading room and library. In ten or twenty years they would realise that this was an historical event for Nundah" (*Brisbane Courier*, 24 June 1926).

Throughout the history of the shire hall it has played a large role in many Nundah residents' lives, and today it remains a well-used community facility.



SANDGATE ROAD

“To the most timid and unenterprising citizen the prospect of a journey is deprived of half its terrors when he knows that Cobb goes there, for the very name is a convertible term for punctuality, safety, and despatch” (*Queenslander*, 15 October 1881).

From 1875 Cobb and Co. began running their coaches from Brisbane to Sandgate. The route chosen was along what is now Sandgate Road and through German Station.

Cobb and Co., the famous Australian coach company, was founded in Victoria in the 1850s. During the gold rushes Freeman Cobb, an American, envisaged the potential for a stage coach service to take passengers to and from the goldfields. The company quickly became a success, with their innovative coaches equipped with what was then modern suspension, which was lacking in other coaches at the time, as well as scheduled services. Along the routes, staging posts were established where horses were swapped to ensure faster travelling times. Staging posts were often located at a hotel or inn along the route where passengers were offered refreshments and accommodation if required.



Example of a Cobb and Co. carriage outside the Pimpama Hotel, ca1875, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 53938

The first Cobb & Co. service in Queensland began in 1866 between Brisbane and Ipswich, and soon the famous red coaches with yellow wheels were carrying passengers and mail throughout the state. In 1875 the Brisbane to Sandgate service travelled four times daily through German Station, twice travelling to Sandgate and twice returning to Brisbane. In 1900 there were 39 routes in Queensland with 9000 horses. By the 1920s the company was no longer profitable because of the large cost of maintaining horses and the advent of the motor car.

ROYAL HOTEL

The Royal Hotel was built in 1888 for publican John North at a time when Nundah was fast becoming a bustling township. Originally, a verandah with cast iron filigree wrapped around the first floor, but this has been removed over time.

In 1937 the hotel licence was transferred to Gerald Maloney, a former resident of Ipswich and Anzac veteran who had fought at Gallipoli.

In the early darkness of the winter morning on 10 June 1939, Maloney, his 17-year-old son, Gerald Vincent, and 10 friends set off from Breakfast Creek in a 45-foot motor vessel named *Nerita* for a three-day fishing adventure to Cape Moreton. Two days after the group were due back the families of the 12 fishermen raised the alarm as there had been no communication from the vessel. This triggered a major sea and air search involving the water police and the Royal Australian Air Force. Relatives and friends of the men also hired boats and small planes to assist in the search. After several days, however, there was still no sign of the missing vessel.



Royal Hotel, Nundah ca. 1929, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 1866

“Two Avro Anson bombers which participated in the search over 3000 square miles for the missing launch *Nerita* on Wednesday and Thursday were ordered to return to Richmond this morning as defence headquarters had been advised that further search was hopeless”

(Evening News, 17 June 1939).

Nerita's dinghy was found on 19 June, washed up on a Caloundra beach. The bodies of the 12 men were never found. Gerald Maloney left behind his wife, Hilma May, and his 11-year-old daughter.

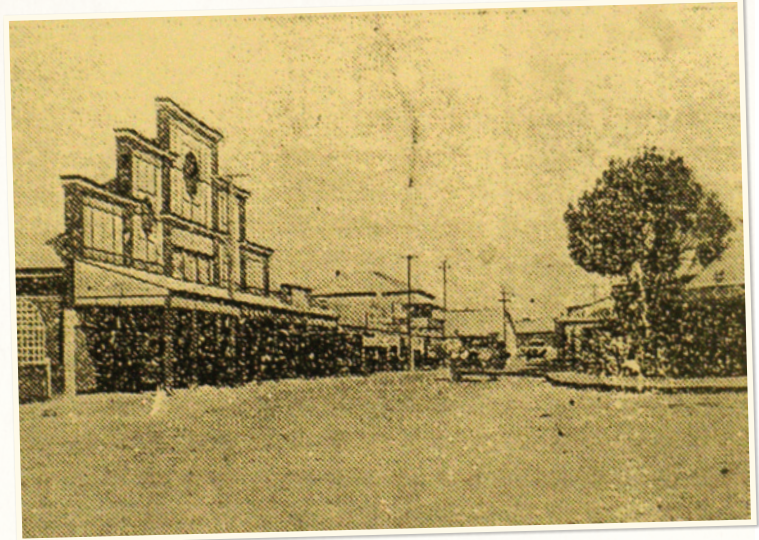
IMPERIAL

Picture Pavilion

This small masonry shop was built around 1924 by Charles and Florence Rose as a café for the Imperial Picture Pavilion, which they ran next door. The café provided refreshments to many Nundah residents who frequented the theatre.

The Imperial Picture Pavilion was opened in 1918 and quickly became the social centre in Nundah. At the time of the theatre's opening, moving picture technology had become increasingly used in Australia and many other theatres were being established throughout the country. The flourishing film industry in both America and Australia assured the Nundah audience a variety of silent films.

Although screening movies was the theatre's primary use, there were also dances, fancy dress balls, political meetings, Anzac Day ceremonies and fundraising events for the local orphanage.



The Standard, 8 March, 1930

"In aid of the Tufnell Home ... a very successful children's fancy ball was held at the Imperial Picture Pavilion, Nundah, on Friday evening. The gathering included a large number of children in plain and fancy costumes ... Flags and pennants adorned the pavilion, and palms and greenery decked the stage, where a jazz orchestra was stationed"
(*Daily Standard*, 31 October 1927).

Charles Rose passed away in 1930. His wife, Florence, continued to run the theatre for several more decades until it was demolished in 1965.

FIRST FREE SETTLERS

Monument

“Nundah was all agog with excitement today for the opening of the centenary celebrations arranged to commemorate the arrival of the first free settlers in Queensland at Nundah”
(*Telegraph*, 23 April 1938).

This dignified stone cairn was unveiled by then Governor of Queensland, Sir Leslie Wilson, on 23 April 1938 at a ceremony attended by a large crowd. It honours the first free European settlers of Zion Hill: “His Excellency stated that the cairn commemorated not merely the arrival of pioneers, but was a tribute to their courage and tenacity” (*Truth*, 24 April 1938).

As the 100-year centenary of the arrival of the German missionaries approached, the First Free Settlers Committee was formed with the intention of appropriately commemorating the important historic event. Public fundraising, government lobbying and event organisation culminated in a week-long centenary celebration in Nundah from 23-30 April 1938.



First Free Settlers
Monument, 1938,
University of Queensland,
Image Number UQFL256

Following the unveiling of the cairn and the opening of an exhibition of historic artefacts at the state school, a ball was held at the Northgate School of Arts. On the Tuesday night a more formal ball was given at City Hall, attended by many dignitaries. A concert was held on the Wednesday night in the Toombul Shire Hall, and for Friday's festivities a sports carnival at the Nundah recreational reserve saw the district's rival state schools compete. That night a confetti carnival took place along Sandgate Road. On Saturday, 31 memorial trees were planted in Boyd Park in a ceremony attended by several of the descendants of the original pioneers and the Lord Mayor.

For the finale on Saturday night, 20,000 people lined the streets of Nundah for the 'cavalcade of progress'. A procession of historic wagons and vehicles, including a horse-drawn fire engine and a double-decker stage coach, were led by participants dressed in period costume. Overhead, an aeronautical show with eight aeroplanes entertained the crowd, contributing to the carnival atmosphere.

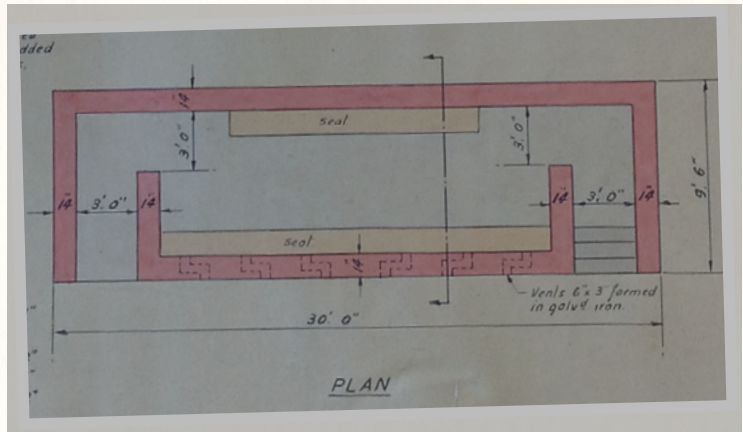
NUNDAH

Air Raid Shelter

This set of austere public toilets was originally constructed in 1942 as an air raid shelter. During World War II, Nundah was seen as a potential target for Japanese bombing raids due to the United States (US) Army Petroleum Warehouse being situated on Amelia Street, approximately one kilometre south-east of the Nundah Railway Station. The site consisted of a standard igloo structure with several adjacent auxiliary buildings.

The bombing of the US Naval fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii on 7 December 1941 had an enormous impact on Australia, with a heightened threat of Japanese bombing raids over Queensland towns. In the same month, the Protection of Persons and Property Order No. 1 was introduced, requiring Brisbane City Council to construct 200 public air raid shelters around the city.

Not long after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the threat of enemy attack became a reality for Australia. On 19 February 1942 Japanese aircraft bombed Darwin resulting in 243 deaths. In the same year, Brisbane became the headquarters for military planning under US General Douglas MacArthur, Commander in Chief of the Allied Forces, South West Pacific. At the height of the conflict, approximately 75,000 American troops were stationed in Brisbane awaiting deployment to the conflict in the Pacific.



Floor plan of a Brisbane air raid shelter, 1941, Brisbane City Council Archives

A total of 235 air raid shelters were constructed around the city during wartime. Each followed a base design by City Architect, Frank G Costello. The shelters were designed to provide immediate protection from bombing raids and were intended to be converted into park shelters, bus stops and public toilets once the war had ended. Hostilities eventually ceased on 14 August 1945 with Japan's unconditional surrender. Remarkably, Brisbane escaped the Japanese bombing raids.

After the war many of the air raid shelters were demolished but a small number of these structures survive today, fulfilling their post-war function as park shelters, bus stops or public toilets, just as Costello had intended.

NUNDAH

Baby Clinic

From 1934 until well into the late 20th Century, this small timber building was the Nundah Baby Clinic and played a large role in the lives of many families in Nundah.

The inter-war period heralded major population and residential growth in the Nundah district. In 1921 the population in the area had reached 3870 people and by 1931 it was 15,831. This growth can be attributed to the sale and subdivision of many of the remaining surrounding farms.

Following the introduction of the Queensland Labor Government's *Maternity Act 1922*, the government sought to decrease infant and maternal mortality rates, increase the birth rate and educate mothers in the care of their children by providing improved maternity and baby health services. The policy was linked to the idea that a healthy society would lead to a strong economy.



Original Design for Nundah Baby Clinic, 1933, Queensland State Archives

From 1931, prior to the construction of the clinic on Chapel Street, a temporary baby clinic was servicing the community out of the Toombul Shire Hall. This, however, was not ideal and the community lobbied the Queensland Government for a permanent clinic.

Once completed, the clinic provided mothers not only free advice on the care of babies from qualified nurses, but also education on maternal and children's health:

"... to this want of knowledge can be traced most of the ailments of the young, and by education, especially by education of mothers, can this be prevented"

(Sunday Mail, 2 April 1933).

THE SALVATION ARMY Hall

This striking brick hall was the second hall built in Nundah for The Salvation Army. The foundation stone for the new hall was laid in March 1952 by then Lord Mayor, Sir John Chandler, and the official opening for the completed hall was held in August the same year.

The Salvation Army had a presence in Nundah from as early as 1889 and by the early 1890s operated from a hall that had been built beside the Royal Hotel on Sandgate Road. This important charitable organisation was first established in England in 1865 by Methodist minister, William Booth, in an effort to help the poor and those in need. By the 1880s, The Salvation Army had members throughout Queensland who played a vital role in alleviating the effects of poverty for many.

On 14 June 1948 a major cyclone hit the south-east corner of Queensland, leaving widespread destruction and heavy flooding throughout Brisbane. Nundah felt the brunt of the cyclone with major damage caused by the ferocious winds and flooding, and it was reported that: "Below Nundah cemetery, Brisbane, a sheet of water at least half a mile wide extended for miles" (*Queensland Times*, 16 June 1948).



Sunday Mail, 24 August 1952, page 16

The Salvation Army hall on Sandgate Road was completely destroyed by the cyclone, as described in the newspapers at the time:

"One of the heaviest sufferers was the Salvation Army, which will have to rebuild its hall in Sandgate Road, Nundah. This hall, about 60 ft x 25 ft was resting on new concrete stumps when the wind lifted it. The crash was heard for blocks when it fell, smashing windows and forcing walls and roof out of alignment. The floor was pierced by some of the stumps."

(*The Courier-Mail*, 16 June 1948).

In response to this loss a fundraising appeal was undertaken and by 1952 the new brick hall had been completed. It was the first hall for The Salvation Army built in Queensland after World War II.

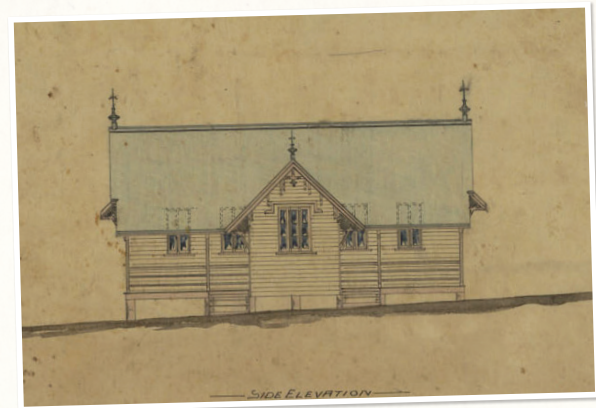


NUNDAH

State School

Nundah State School is one of Queensland's oldest schools and was established in 1865 as the German Station National School. Prior to this, English-speaking tutors had taught the children in an open shed and then in the chapel at the fledgling settlement. When first opened the school had approximately 30 students and by the late 1920s this had reached almost 1000. The school's name changed to Nundah State School in 1896.

As the Great Depression took hold of the economy from 1929, many local people found themselves out of work. In an attempt to create employment and stimulate the economy, the Queensland Government undertook a program of infrastructure construction and relief schemes. In 1932 there were 373 men in Nundah employed under the relief schemes.



German Station School, Plans, Undated, Queensland State Archives, Image Number 20722

Under these programs many of Brisbane's finest brick state school buildings were built, including the 1935 northern wing of the Nundah State School building:

"... an up-to-date brick and concrete school was now in course of construction at Nundah, and when completed, would be second to none in this metropolitan area ... [and] men who had despaired of ever getting it were given work" (*Daily Standard*, 10 May 1935).

This building replaced the earlier timber school. Today, Nundah State School continues to play an important role in the lives of the children who attend.



TUFNELL HOME

orphanage

"Never are they allowed to be humiliated because of their unfortunate position; on the contrary, they are taught that they are fully the equals of others" (*Brisbane Courier*, 25 July 1932).

This timber chapel was once part of the Tufnell Home orphanage. The home was established in 1901 by the Anglican Church, under the care of the Sisters of the Sacred Advent, as a memorial to Brisbane's first Anglican bishop, Edward Tufnell. The majority of the funds had been donated by his widow, Laura, after his death in 1896. The 1914 chapel is all that remains of the original orphanage.

For many, it is difficult to imagine growing up without the love and support of a family, but for the children sent to the home this was a sad fact. The orphanage became home to hundreds of children from infancy to their teenage years. When first opened 50 children lived there, and by the 1920s this had increased to 70 children.

The majority of the children were not in the true sense of the word 'orphans', that is, left without a mother or a father.



Telegraph,
18 June 1936

Rather, the admission of children to orphanages was often the result of poverty, desertion, a lack of government financial support, illegitimacy, neglect, or violence from one or both parents. The children at Tufnell Home depended on the care of the sisters to provide shelter, food, clothing and religious guidance. They attended the nearby Nundah State School for their education.

The sisters received little financial help from the Anglican Church and relied on donations. By the 1960s the institutionalisation of children in orphanages was increasingly seen as harmful to the child and of little benefit to the state. Foster care was seen as a kinder way to help disadvantaged children. The orphanage was permanently closed in the 1970s.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Catholic Church

"The most casual observer must admit it is a most unique church in many ways, the most striking feature of it being its stately dome, shining like burnished gold against the sky"

(Brisbane Courier, 19 November 1926).

The Corpus Christi Catholic Church is one of the finest examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in Queensland. Positioned high on a prominent hill, it is a historic landmark in the Nundah district. Archbishop James Duhig blessed and opened the grand church in November 1926.

Under Archbishop Duhig's leadership (1917-1965), the Catholic Church undertook an unprecedented amount of property acquisition and building across Brisbane. 'Duhig the builder', a term of endearment used by his contemporaries, was renowned for purchasing prime sites (often on the crest

of hills) on behalf of the Catholic Church for the construction of new churches, schools and hospitals. Throughout his career, Duhig was responsible for more than 400 major buildings in Brisbane.

Prior to the construction of this grand church, a smaller church had been established in Nundah, officially opening in June 1904. This was situated further down the hill on Buckland Road, but no longer survives. Today, Corpus Christi Catholic Church remains one of Brisbane's most distinctive church buildings.

*Sir James Duhig,
Archbishop of Brisbane,
undated, State Library of
Queensland, Negative
Number 195199*



NUNDAH

Memorial Park

On 12 November 1921 then Governor of Queensland, Sir Matthew Nathan, officially unveiled this war memorial. It is dedicated to all those from the district who fought in World War I. The Governor stated at the time,

“[To] those who were left ‘over there’ they must remember them and strive to make the country for which they died a foremost nation of the world, not only as regards strength and power, but also for the nobility of its purpose, and the high nature of its ideals” (*Daily Mail*, 14 November 1921).

The armistice that ended World War I was signed in France at 11am on 11 November 1918. On the other side of the world, Australians were mourning those who had lost their lives while serving their country. Almost 40% of Australian men aged between 18 and 44 had enlisted in the war.

By the end of the hostilities, Australia had the highest casualty rate of the Allied Forces at 68.5%, with a total of 60,000 troops killed and 152,000 wounded. Most of those killed were buried



Nundah Memorial Park, 1921, Brisbane City Council

overseas. Unable to lay their loved ones to rest at home, Australians expressed their grief by erecting war memorials.

The Krupp Field Gun, which had been captured by the 41st Australian Infantry Battalion from the German forces in 1918, was part of the original memorial. In 2002 its restoration was completed by the Nundah Northgate RSL Sub Branch.

The Milne Bay Memorial commemorates the first Allied land victory over the Japanese forces in World War II, in which Australia played a large role. The stump of the coconut palm is a replica of the first Allied memorial at the battle site in Papua New Guinea.

The stately World War II Memorial Wall commemorates those who served in this conflict.

NUNDAH

Fire Station

In the early 20th Century, most of the houses in Brisbane were constructed from timber, and Nundah was no exception. As more and more houses were built in the area, the community recognised the danger of fire and the need for a local fire brigade. In 1914 the Nundah Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed and its equipment was purchased with community donations. This followed the *Fire Brigades Act Amendment Act*, passed in 1902 to enable local authorities to establish their own voluntary fire brigades.

The first fire station in Nundah was built in 1917 on a property along Buckland Road. This was a very basic timber shed with a tall bell tower beside it. Before this, the brigade's equipment had been stored in the coach house at the Royal Hotel. Also in 1917, the first motorised fire engine, a converted Cadillac, arrived at the newly built station.

In 1936 the Queensland Government undertook a program of rebuilding and upgrading many of the state's older fire stations with modern and better equipped ones. The Nundah Fire Station was one of the first to be rebuilt under this program.

Fire Observation Tower at Nundah, undated, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 83896



On its opening, Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Edward Hanlon, stated,

"it was intended to replace all old stations with new equipment when the funds were available ... It was realised that to produce efficient work firemen must be adequately paid and comfortably housed" (*The Courier-Mail*, 12 December 1936).

As with other stations built at the time, the two-storey Nundah Fire Station consisted of the engine room, dormitory, kitchen, watch office and ablutions area on the ground floor, with the superintendent's residence on the first.

The Nundah Fire Brigade served the district until the station was decommissioned in 1990.

PINEAPPLES

“Nundah may be considered the birthplace of the pineapple industry in Queensland”

(Brisbane Courier, 30 July 1904).

The pineapple has played a large role in Queensland’s agricultural history and has been one of the state’s most successful crops. It was the Zion Hill missionaries who first introduced the pineapple to the Moreton Bay settlement and began to cultivate the fruit as early as 1838. It grew well and following the closure of the mission and the sale of land in the area, pineapples continued to be planted on the district’s farms.

By the turn of the 19th Century, Nundah had become one of the state’s most prolific pineapple growing areas:

“... men could make a living off such small areas around Nundah. The land was poor, but persons, with thrift and energy, were able to make good livings”

(Telegraph, 10 February 1908).

In response to the very large amounts of pineapples grown in Nundah, local farmers and businessmen established the Queensland Co-Operative Fruit Preserving and Distributing



*Crop of Pineapples in Nundah, Brisbane, Queensland ca. 1895,
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number APO0-029-0001-0002*

Company and constructed a cannery beside the railway station in 1908. This followed similar ventures throughout Australia at the time, including other agricultural, credit union and retail co-operatives.

The philosophy behind any co-operative was for the business to be owned and run by members in a democratic way. All profits were to be distributed between the members, the local community and back into the business itself.

When the co-operative first opened it was hoped that canned pineapple would find a market overseas. As more people moved into the Nundah area, however, the pineapple farms were increasingly subdivided and sold for residential development, ultimately ending the venture.

ZION HILL

"... the place is admirable, the soil excellent; the water near our houses good and the climate very pleasant; in short, we can say that in every respect our lines [sic] have fallen upon pleasant places" (Reverend Schmidt, Zion's Hill, Moreton Bay, 1838)

This is the site of Queensland's first free European settlement, situated several kilometres north of the downgraded penal settlement of Moreton Bay. In 1838 a party of approximately 20 Lutheran missionaries from Germany settled along a nearby creek. With the assistance of Reverend Dr John Dunmore Lang, who had envisioned a Protestant settlement for both missionary and agricultural purposes for Moreton Bay, the colonial government granted the group 640 acres of land. Their voyage to the British colony from Berlin had not been a smooth one, however, with typhus taking the life of one of the missionaries, Moritz Schneider.

The purpose of the mission was to convert the Aboriginal people in the area to Christianity, and the settlers named the pocket of land on which they settled 'Zion Hill'. It had long been a thoroughfare for Aboriginal people and the German missionaries recognised this. As fresh water was essential for the success of the early settlement, it was situated beside a stream, now known as Kedron Brook.



Old missionary cottages on Zion's Hill, Nundah ca.1895, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number APE - 032 - 01 - 0001

Within a short space of time the settlement was constructed; 11 cottages were built, each with an enclosed yard, as well as kitchens and store houses. Crops were also planted and land cleared for stock grazing.

By the late 1840s it became clear that the mission on Zion Hill was a failure. The German missionaries had not managed to convert even one Aboriginal person to Christianity. The perceived value of the missionary's land became increasingly noticed by the colonial government and settlers wishing to establish farms in the area, and the government had also tired of assisting the missionaries with vital provisions. This led to the closure of the mission, the surveying of the land and its subsequent sale by 1848. The missionaries either moved to other missions around the country or purchased parcels of the newly available land to establish their own farms. The Zillman, Franz, Gerler, Rode, Wagner and Hartenstein families were some of those who remained in the area.

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

'A Chain Of Waterholes'

"... it lies at the great thoroughfare of the Aborigines, when proceeding either from the north or south along the sea-coast, as well as those coming from the interior"

(Reverend Eipper, German Mission, 1841).

It is thought the word 'Nundah' comes from an Aboriginal word meaning 'a chain of waterholes'. The creek we know today as Kedron Brook was once teeming with fish and eels, and in the surrounding woodlands an abundance of possums, goannas and snakes provided a constant source of fresh food for the many Aboriginal people travelling through the area on their way to other camp sites and hunting areas.

Before Europeans settled the area, several camps could be found in close proximity to the creek and one of these was situated on the land in and around this park and the cemetery. Positioned on a rise above the creek, the location of the camp was advantageous because it was shaded by mature trees and elevated to afford a view of the surrounding area – essential for hunting and protection from attack.



*Tree-lined Banks of Kedron Brook, Toombul, ca. 1910,
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 35707*

The sloped land helped with drainage, and as the camp was so close to the creek and nearby waterholes food and water could easily be found.

When the German settlers established their mission, the Aboriginal people in the area provided them with a supply of fresh fish, seafood, firewood and baskets. Relations between the two diverse cultural groups were initially congenial with residents of the nearby camp assisting the missionaries with farm work and other chores. By 1841 there were 59 Aboriginal children from the surrounding camps attending the school at the mission.

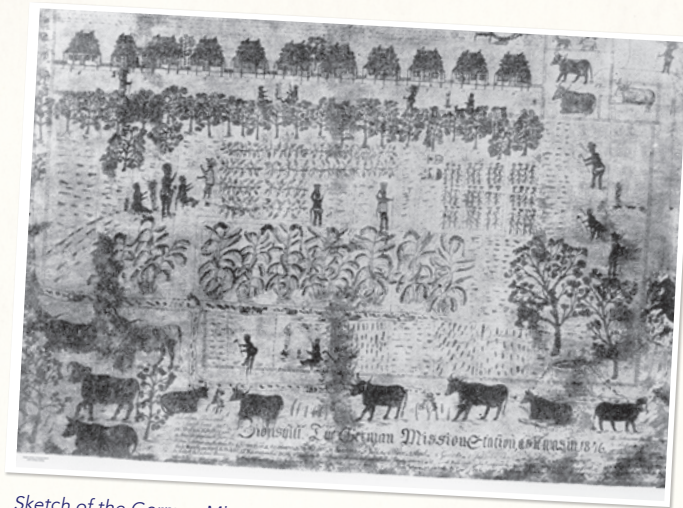
NUNDAH

Cemetery

"The missionaries lie in the quaint old cemetery of Nundah, their names on weather beaten tombstones, their upland farms, on which they cultivated grapes and the pineapple, converted into streets" (*Brisbane Courier*, 19 March 1927).

The Nundah Cemetery is Queensland's oldest surviving cemetery and was established by the Zion Hill missionaries in the 1840s. Despite the harsh, primitive and isolated conditions of the early settlement there were no European deaths during the first few years. In the early 1840s the youngest missionary, Ludwig Doge, died from natural causes and was the first to be buried on the small area of land situated slightly beyond the main settlement.

Sadly, the next burial was an 11-year-old girl followed by a three-month-old baby boy. A month later, a fire at the rear of one of the cottages killed a baby girl. The loss of the children would have had a heavy impact on the tightknit community. Each grave was marked by a simple timber cross.



Sketch of the German Mission Station at Nundah, Brisbane, 1846, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 67294

As the mission came to an end in the late 1840s, many of the missionaries established their own farms in the district and the community continued to lay their loved ones to rest in the cemetery. The earliest surviving headstone dates from 1855.

By the 1980s the cemetery had fallen into a state of neglect and vandals had badly damaged many of the headstones. In 1982, however, a group of concerned community members established the Nundah Cemetery Preservation Association and worked tirelessly to restore the cemetery.

TOOMBUL

shopping centre

In the post-war era the population of the Nundah district remained much the same as in the inter-war period. It was in the 1960s, however, when a major shopping development re-activated the district and made it a new civic centre.

A large parcel of land beside Kedron Brook in the vicinity of the original settlement was purchased by Westfield, with the view of building a 'drive-in shopping centre', a new and exciting way for Brisbane residents to shop.

A shift had occurred in Brisbane's retail habits in the late 1950s and into the 1960s. Prior to this time all the large retail centres were in the inner-city, Fortitude Valley and South Brisbane and could be accessed mainly by public transport. When the Chermside Drive-in Shopping Centre opened in 1957, however, it allowed shoppers to drive and park their cars with ease. This heralded a new way for Brisbane residents to do their shopping. Toombul Shoppingtown opened in 1967 and was the first shopping centre in Queensland to be built with air-conditioning.



*Toombul Shoppingtown, 1969,
Brisbane City Council, Negative Number BCC-T54-0477*



Brisbane City Council

Information

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