

## Heritage



### 23 Junction Terrace, Annerley

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 23 Junction Terrace, Annerley, Queensland 4051
<b>Type of place</b>	House
<b>Period</b>	Victorian 1860-1890
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L71_RP37475
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Information — March 2011
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Face brick

This brick residence was built around 1890, during a period of increased urbanisation in Annerley following improvements in transport and civic services. The first owner of the house, John Olsen, played a prominent role

in Brisbane's churches, clubs and societies, including as a founder of the Queensland Musical, Literary and Self-aid Society for the Blind. The house was named 'Dorinda' after Olsen's wife and the property remained in the family until 1972.

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## History

John Cockerill purchased 25 acres in Yeerongpilly in 1859 (all of portion 104), most of which was sold as part of the Junction Park Estate in the 1880s and 1890s. Until this period Annerley had been a sparsely populated and largely rural area, despite its proximity to the central business district. The attraction of the area became more apparent after transport to the area improved and a number of local services were introduced, including a post office, churches and schools. Estate sales rose dramatically in the 1880s and 1890s, as single-family dwellings were constructed on sixteen-perch blocks.

Subdivision 71 (also sixteen perches) was purchased by John Olsen in 1889. The 1890 Post Office Directory lists four houses in the course of erection in Junction Terrace; 1891 lists the new occupants, including John Olsen.

Olsen was the owner from September 1889 to 1906, when the property was sold to his stepdaughter. Olsen was a blind basket weaver who 'was endowed with a character and personality out of the ordinary, and the sincere manner in which he worked for the betterment of his fellowmen endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.' He was a pioneer of the juvenile movement of Ancient Order of Foresters (which was later named 'Court John Olsen' in his honour), as well as the founder of the Queensland Musical, Literary and Self-aid Society for the Blind. He had been involved in Baptist and Christ Churches as preacher, teacher, elder, deacon and was librarian and teacher of Braille system. A memorial stone was laid in his honour in 1926 in the South Brisbane Cemetery, and a tablet in the blind rooms, on the corner of Vulture St and Stephens Rd. At the time of his death he was residing in 'Concord', Junction-terrace, Annerley.

Olsen's stepdaughter Agnes Mathieu owned the allotment until her death in 1936; the Mathieu family continued to own it until 1972.

The house was known as 'Dorinda', after John Olsen's wife, who lived with her daughter in the house after her husband's death, until she passed away in 1930.

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## References

1. *The Brisbane Courier* 29 October 1926 p3
2. *The Brisbane Courier* 12 January 1926 p4
3. *The Brisbane Courier*, 13 September 1930 p12
4. Queensland Places: Annerley (<http://queenslandplaces.com.au/annerley>), accessed 28 March 2011
5. Titles Office Records
6. 'Urban Development and Houses in Annerley' in *Annals of Annerley*

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**Note:** This information 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 information 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.

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