

Heritage Citation

A.G.H. Rossiter House

Key details

Addresses	At 44 Rossiter Street, Morningside, Queensland 4170
Type of place	House
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L2_RP13320
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 November 2012 Date of Citation — September 2011
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
People/associations	Albin George Henden Rossiter (Occupant)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (H) Historical association

44 Rossiter St is important as it contributes to the understanding of the history of Morningside. The timber house was constructed in 1892 for Albin George Henden Rossiter, a member of the pioneering family, the Rossiters. He served as a member of the Balmoral Divisional Board from 1895 to 1901 and Chairman in 1898 to 1899. A.G.H. Rossiter resided in the house until his death in 1937. The timber house retains many of its original features and is important as it demonstrates the early settlement of Morningside in the late nineteenth century.

History

The Morningside area developed as a result of the extension of the rail line to Cleveland. The Bulimba Railway Station was constructed along the line where the present Morningside Railway Station is today. With an improved means of transport into and out of the City, the area was quickly subdivided into housing estates. The

Bulimba Railway Estate was situated on the south-east side of the station with land parcels being sold as early as 1888. By the turn of the century this area was still regarded as an outlying Brisbane suburb with fairly scattered residential development.

One of the earliest residents in Morningside was Edmund Rossiter who arrived in 1875, acquiring Portion 206 parish of Bulimba, containing fourteen acres, three roods and twenty perches of land. Prior to this Edmund Rossiter and his wife, Isobel had owned and operated the Enoggera Hotel on the Great Northern Road, Kelvin Grove in the 1860s and early 1870s.

Edmund's daughter, Elizabeth married Thomas Boasley in December 1874. 'Boasley Brothers' operated a tannery at Kelvin Grove 1885. In March 1880 the *Brisbane Courier* reported from Sydney that E. Rossiter of Bulimba had won third prize at the International Exhibition for rugs and mats made from marsupial skins. Rossiter was first mentioned in the *Post Office Directories* as carrying on a tannery in Cleveland Road in 1885-86. From 1891, the tannery appeared as the Keralgere Tannery, which was said to have been an Aboriginal word for the chain of waterholes on which it was built. From around 1892 Rossiter Brothers operated the Keralgere Tannery. Initially intended for marsupial skins, the business grew large enough to accept any hides. The tannery was very important in Morningside as one of the first established industries in the area.

In 1890, Edmund Rossiter subdivided the remaining property amongst his sons, George, Alfred, Charles and Robert, all of whom worked in the business, but retained the subdivision on which his house stands. In 1890 a one rood block of land was transferred to Edmund's son, A. G. H. Rossiter. By 1893 he was recorded in the *Electoral Rolls* on this portion of land, suggesting that the house was built between 1890 and 1892. A.G.H. Rossiter was listed as being a tanner.

A.G.H. Rossiter was an important member of the Morningside community and his Obituary, featured in the *Courier-Mail* in October 1937, stated "Mr. Albin George Henden Rossiter, one of Morningside's pioneer residents, died yesterday in his home in Rossiter Street...He was a foundation member of the Morningside Church of England and chairman and member of the old Balmoral Shire Council"¹. As chairman of the Balmoral Divisional Board from 1898 to 1899 and active member from 1895 to 1901, A.G.H. Rossiter played a role in the local governance of the district. He was the only Rossiter brother to remain on the original Rossiter estate after the destruction of the Keralgere tannery in 1906. The timber house retains many of its original features.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as the house of A.G.H. Rossiter, one of Morningside's pioneers, it is a reflection of the area's early development.

Historical association

CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as the home of A.G.H. Rossiter, a member of the pioneering family, the Rossiters, from 1892 until 1937.

References

1. *The Courier Mail*, Friday 29 October 1937, p20
2. Historic Titles, Department of Environment and Resource Management
3. Queensland Post Office Directories
4. *Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Survey Maps*
5. Queensland Electoral Rolls
6. *History of the Bulimba Electorate 1859 - 1959*, Bulimba Electorate Centenary Committee, 1959, pp.19-20
7. *The Brisbane Courier*, Friday 7 December 1906, p7
8. *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 20 December 1930, p19

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Note: This citation 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 citation 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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