

Heritage Citation

Fell's Cottage

Key details

Addresses	At 588 Boundary Street, Spring Hill, Queensland 4000
Type of place	Cottage, House
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L1_SP280751; L2_SP280751; L3_SP280751; L4_SP280751; L5_SP280751; L6_SP280751; L7_SP280751; L8_SP280751; L9_SP280751; L10_SP280751; L11_SP280751; L12_SP280751; L13_SP280751; L14_SP280751; L15_SP280751; L16_SP280751; L17_SP280751; L18_SP280751; L19_SP280751; L20_SP280751; L21_SP280751; L22_SP280751; L23_SP280751; L24_SP280751; L25_SP280751; L26_SP280751; L27_SP280751; L28_SP280751; L29_SP280751; L30_SP280751; L31_SP280751
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — January 2016
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (C) Scientific; (D) Representative

This timber cottage was built circa 1878 for bricklayer Edmund William Fell. Fell probably laid the fireplace and chimney in his home. Being accessed via a narrow (Dark) street this small, workers cottage is representative of the development in Spring Hill during the 1870s. Fell placed his home at the rear of his block, possibly in the hope that its Boundary Street frontage might accommodate a future commercial building. Fell's cottage is a rare example of a double-gabled, brick and timber nineteenth century workers cottage.

History

Patrick Bradley of Brisbane purchased suburban Portion 216 on 23 January 1861. He paid ?176.2s.9d for 1 acre, 1 rood and 31 perches of land at Spring Hollow (Spring Hill). John George Brown bought Portion 216 on 15 December 1865. Brown subdivided the land into smaller housing allotments and he conducted a land sale commencing in January 1866. On 22 November 1872, John Crowther acquired 1 rood and 24.5 perches of land described as subdivisions 7, 8 and 9 of Portion 216.

The National Trust of Queensland described the development of Spring Hill, one of Brisbane's earliest suburbs, thus:

*"By the 1860's many leading businessmen established their homes along the ridges, and the area became known as a prestige address. From 1870 to the turn of the century, land in the hollow of Spring Hill was subdivided into small allotments, separated by narrow streets, and many timber workers' dwellings were constructed."*¹

The cottage built at 584 Boundary Street fits this pattern of development.

The ridgeline streets, in particular, are Gregory Terrace, Leichhardt Street (including the section that later became St Paul's Terrace), Wickham Terrace and that section of Boundary Street from Little Edward Street to Wickham Terrace. The section of Boundary Street that includes No.584 Boundary Street, had a downhill slope leading from the Gregory Terrace ridgeline (the site of the Boy's Grammar School) before gradually rising up to the intersection of Little Edward Street. Spring Hill had a small commercial precinct centred around the hotels that lined Boundary Road, such as the nearby Diggers' Arms Hotel at 525 Boundary Street.

Edmund William Fell purchased subdivision 8 on 20 September 1873. Fell was a bricklayer and he first appears as a resident of Boundary Street, Spring Hill in the 1878-79 edition of the Queensland Post Office Directories. As the research for these directories was compiled in the year prior to publication, then it is assumed that Fell's Cottage was built c1878. Edmund Fell probably built the brick components (eg the fireplace & chimney) of his cottage. Unusually, Fell chose to have his home built at the rear slope of his block of land so that it fronted Farmer's Lane (now Dark Street and Lane), rather than building it close to the main thoroughfare of Boundary Road. Perhaps Fell had hoped to have another building, of a commercial nature, constructed at the Boundary Street end of his block. As a timber worker's dwelling built on a small allotment fronting a narrow street, Fell's Cottage is a surviving example of Spring Hill's 1870s building trend.

On 15 May 1876, Edmund Fell divided ownership of his 21.5 perch block of land with a relative Thomas Fell. But Thomas Fell then died on 15 July 1876, his share of the property passed to his widow Ellen Fell. When Ellen Fell died on 11 June 1879, Edmund Fell regained sole ownership of his house and land. In 1902, the property was transferred to Edmund's wife Annie Fell. The cottage remained in the hands of the Fell family for more than 135 years.

Fell's Cottage has the alternative address of 12 Dark Street.

Description

This is a double-gabled brick and timber, nineteenth century cottage.

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 a representative of the 1870s building trend in Spring Hill.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage
being a double-gabled, brick and timber, nineteenth century workers cottage.

Scientific

CRITERION C

The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the city's or local area's history
as a 21-perch inner-city residential block that has remained unaltered and under the same family ownership since 1878 until 2011.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as a 1870s Spring Hill worker's cottage pushed against a narrow back street.

References

1. National Trust of Queensland, *Spring Hill....Revisited*, (Brisbane: National Trust of QLD, c1982)
 2. Brisbane City Council, *Properties on the Web*, website
 3. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
 4. Brisbane City Council's Central Library, local history sheets
 5. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
 6. John Oxley Library, *Parish of Nundah, County of Stanley, L.A.D. of Brisbane map*, (1899 land grant map).
 7. John Oxley Library, Brisbane Suburbs – Estate Maps
 8. Queensland Government, *Queensland Pioneers Index 1829-1889*, (Brisbane: Department of Justice and Attorney General, 2000)
 9. *Queensland Post Office Directories*, 1868-1949
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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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