



Heritage Citation



Kate O'Driscoll's Residence

Key details

Addresses	At 25 Twine Street, Spring Hill, Queensland 4000
Type of place	House
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L5_RP10224
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — January 2009
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic

This traditional timber and tin worker's cottage dates from the 1870s or possibly earlier and was a rental property for Kate O'Driscoll, the wife of a Brisbane policeman. It demonstrates the pattern of social stratification and residential development in Spring Hill during the mid-late nineteenth century which saw fine homes built by the wealthy along the ridges of Spring Hill while the lower streets were occupied by the working classes in modest cottages on small allotments.

History

This cottage dates from around the 1870s. It was built on an allotment of just over 17 perches owned by Kate O'Driscoll, from 1879 to 1908.

Both sides of Twine Street were subdivided from the original portions into small allotments in the early 1860s soon after the land was granted to its first European owners. The street was well established by 1876 when postal records list 14 households.

Twine Street is slightly higher along the rise of Wickham Terrace and the cottages at nos. 21 and 25 are more substantial homes than the tiny cottages in neighbouring Lilley Street. The occupants of Twine Street often had more skilled occupations which had a higher social status and income, such as printer, master mariner, bootmaker, confectioner, shipwright, accountant and Courier reporter. Those of wealth and social standing for example, Sir Charles Lilley, a Queensland judge and premier, established more elite residences along the fashionable ridge top thoroughfares of Spring Hill such as Wickham Terrace.

Kate's husband, Andrew, a police sergeant, owned the neighbouring property at 21 Twine Street (then no 6

Twine St). Although the O'Driscolls lived at 21 Twine Street in the mid-1870s, it appears that both cottages were subsequently let. At this time, the cottage at 25 Twine Street (then no. 8) was occupied by Hugh Roberts, a drayman. A procession of other tenants followed including a draper's assistant and mariner in the 1880s and a charwoman in the early 1900s. During the late 19th century, it appears that the house may have been used as a boarding house.

By 1905, Andrew O'Driscoll had been promoted to Inspector of Police and was living in Maryborough. He returned to Brisbane within a couple of years and took up residence with his wife, Kate, in Cordelia Street, South Brisbane. The O'Driscolls sold no. 21 Twine Street in 1907 and no. 25 in 1908.

No 25 was purchased by Anna McNae, the wife of a gardener who lived on the opposite side of the street. She sold it in 1923 to a spinster, Jane Mills, also a resident of Twine Street. After the death of Jane Mills in 1949, the cottage remained in the Mills family until 1970.

This house is significant as one of a pair of c 1870s cottages in Spring Hill which demonstrate the historical pattern of development in Spring Hill, one of Brisbane's earliest suburbs, in the mid-to-late 19th century. This pattern saw elite residences constructed along the ridges while the middle and working classes built or rented modest homes on often tiny allotments in the back streets and on the slopes of the hills.

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 one of pair of 1870s cottages which demonstrate the pattern of social stratification and residential development in Spring Hill during the mid-late nineteenth century.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as good example of a modest traditional timber and tin workers' cottage.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an attractive traditional cottage with simple detailing and pleasing symmetrical proportions.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Building Cards
 2. Brisbane City Council Detail Plans
 3. Commonwealth Electoral Rolls. Subdivision of Maryborough 1905, Subdivision of Brisbane South 1908
 4. Department of Natural Resources, titles records
 5. Lawson, Ronald 1973, *Brisbane in the 1890s: A Study of an Australian Urban Society*, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia
 6. Queensland Post Office Directories
 7. Rechner, Judy. *Spring Hill Heritage Tour Wickham Terrace*. Brisbane: Playground & Recreation Association of Qld in association with Brisbane History Group and Applied History Centre, U of Q
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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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