

Heritage Citation



Rossiter's House

Key details

Also known as	Keralgere
Addresses	At 50 Rossiter Street, Morningside, Queensland 4170
Type of place	House
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Free Gothic
Lot plan	L1_SP214871
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2011 Date of Citation — January 2002
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

This house was constructed in the nineteenth century by Edmund Rossiter, who developed a successful tannery and whose son was active on the Balmoral Divisional Board. Built by one of the founding families of the district, it was recorded as the oldest house in Morningside in 1959.

History

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. Rossiter is said to have begun a tannery in Bulimba with his son-in-law Thomas Boasley around 1876. '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 is first mentioned in the Post Office Directories as carrying on a tannery in Cleveland Road in 1885-86. In 1889 the Commissioner for Railways resumed some of Rossiter's land for the new line connecting Brisbane and Cleveland. Although the proximity of the railway was expected to be advantageous in the future, Rossiter claimed compensation for both the value of land resumed and the damage to the remaining land. The proposed line traversed Rossiter's property and damaged his tanning business by severing the land and diverting the road.

In 1890, Edmund Rossiter subdivided the remaining property amongst his sons, George, Alfred, Charles and Robert, all of whom who worked in the business, but retained the subdivision on which the house stands. It is likely the house was already erected on the property at that time. Rossiter is said to have built the earliest house in the district at the corner of Bridgewater and Rossiter Street, and although he held the land from 1875 it is difficult to determine exactly when the house was built.

From 1891, the tannery appears as the Keralgere Tannery, which was said to have been an Aboriginal word for the chain of waterholes on which it was built. That year, in the marriage notice for Edmund's second son, A.W.A.H. Rossiter, his father is identified as "of Keralgere, Bulimba" suggesting that it may also have been the name of the house. From around 1892 Rossiter Brothers operated the Keralgere Tannery. Initially intended for marsupial skins, the business grew large enough to accept any hides. Edmund's son, Albion George Hending Rossiter sat on the Balmoral Divisional Board from 1895 to 1901, being Chairman in 1898 and 1899.

Edmund Rossiter died in 1895, and the house property passed to his widow Isabella and daughter Elizabeth Boasley as executors. A large portion of the Keralgere Tannery burnt down in 1900 and does not appear to have recovered. The house property remained in family ownership until 1924.

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 the earliest houses in Morningside, possibly built in the 1880s.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage
as one of the earliest houses in Morningside, possibly built in the 1880s.

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 one of the earliest houses in Morningside, possibly built in the 1880s.

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 house built by one of the earliest residents of the area.

References

1. Post Office Directories.
2. Queensland Certificates of Title
3. *Brisbane Courier* <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/titles?state=Queensland>
4. *History of the Bulimba Electorate 1859 - 1959*, Bulimba Electorate Centenary Committee, 1959, pp.19-20

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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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