

## Heritage Citation



1 Clouston Lane, Toowong

### Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	Sylvania
<b>Addresses</b>	At 1 Clouston Lane, Toowong, Queensland 4066
<b>Type of place</b>	House
<b>Period</b>	Victorian 1860-1890
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L2_RP63720
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — October 2006

**Construction** Roof: Corrugated iron;  
Walls: Timber

**People/associations** Rev William Richer (Occupant)

**Criterion for listing** (A) Historical; (H) Historical association

This residence appears to have been constructed circa 1888 during Toowong's early residential development. A notable owner/occupier of the house was one of the founding members of the Toowong Baptist Church, the Rev William Richer. Although the house has been considerably altered, it still retains most of its original nineteenth century core.

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## History

The Deed of Grant was issued on this property on 23 December 1853 to Michael O'Neil. At this time the grant was in nineteen acres, one rood, and 23 perches in size. The property was gradually subdivided during the period from 1863 through to 1879 by the then owner John Kingsford. The land was then purchased by John Lawry in July 1879. Lawry owned the land for a short period before transferring the ownership into the hands of Francis Gill in October 1887.

Gill took out a loan for £1000 and further advances repayable with interest' on the same day as purchase. In April 1888 Gill subdivided just over 37 perches off the property and disposed of it to Jans Sorensen. Sorensen, at the time of purchase, had taken a mortgage for £200 payable at £8 per quarter to the eventual next owner of the property, Richard Warren Weedon, 'gentleman', of Oxley. It is likely that Sorensen, or Weedon or a combination of both were involved in the construction of the house.

Current evidence indicates that Sorensen worked on Weedon's property at Simpson's Road Enoggera. (At the time of death (December 1894) Weedon owned land which bounded Simpson's Road). The property may have been an inducement, or condition of employment, for Sorensen to work for Weedon. The Simpson's Road property is not too distant from Clouston Lane to allow daily commuting to work.

In March 1894 Sorensen transferred ownership to Weedon. Following Weedon's death the property then passed on to one of the beneficiaries, Stephen Weedon, Civil Engineer, of Sydney. Weedon may have rented the property out before it was transferred into the name of Sarah Richer, wife of William Richer.

The Rev William Richer was a founding member of the Toowong Baptist Church in the early 1880s and served on the first Toowong Council in 1881. The 1880s were a period of expansion for the Baptist congregation and Richer held the position of pastor on two lengthy occasions, with illness intervening between the two. At the time he was resident on this property when he was pastor for the second time. It is likely the house, during the Richer's occupancy, would have been one of the focal points for the congregation.

The later name given to the house was Melrose. However, under the ownership of the Richer's the house was named Sylvania. The dwelling has changed ownership a number of times before the current owners acquired the property in 1983.

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## Description

An elevated house supported on brick piers with a recessed lower level. The upper floor has encircling verandahs with a separate pyramidal roof over the main core. Verandah balustrading is cast iron with modern balustrading differentiating the recent additions of skillion-roofed deck and new front stairs.

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## 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:

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### Historical

#### CRITERION A

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

as a late nineteenth century residence that demonstrates the residential growth and development of Toowong at this time.

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### 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 former residence of Rev William Richer, a founding member of the Toowong Baptist Church and a prominent local identity.

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## References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plans
2. *Brisbane Centenary Official Historical Souvenir*. 1823-1923. August 1924
3. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
4. Environmental Protection Agency
5. Helen Gregory (ed). Fewings, J.B. *Arcadian Simplicity* (Brisbane: Library Board of Qld. 1990)
6. JOL Estate Map Collection and photographic collection
7. BCC Heritage Unit. *A Heritage Study Brisbane Places of Worship. Pre 1940*. Vol.1 1996
8. Parker, D. (ed). *The Gregory History of Queensland Baptists: Documents in Queensland Baptist History No. 1*. Brisbane: Baptist Historical Society of Queensland, 1995
9. Post Office Directories
10. Queensland Government Gazette. 31 August 1895. p.549
11. Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the Nineteenth Century*, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994

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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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