

Heritage Citation



21 Light Street, Fortitude Valley

Key details

Addresses	At 21 Light Street, Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006
Type of place	Cottage
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L2_RP10007
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — August 1995
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

This timber workers residence was built circa 1887 for butcher Henry Charles Rosetta and may have been intended as a rental property. It was built at a time when Brisbane was experiencing rapid population growth and Fortitude Valley proved to be a popular area for working and middle class residents for its emerging shopping precinct and proximity to the CBD. The house survives as one of few remaining late nineteenth century workers residences in Fortitude Valley due to its intensive redevelopment in the twentieth century.

History

Research indicates that the dwelling was constructed by or for Henry Charles Rosetta during the period 1886-1888.

The Rosetta family, likely Charles' father, acquired just over thirteen acres and two roods over portions 116, 117, 126 and 125 in 1863. The title deeds disclose that the Rosetta's disposed of just over one acre and two roods in 1867. However in 1878 Henry Charles Rosetta and Edward George Rosetta acquired part of this disposed land as an undivided moiety.

The land was transferred solely into the name of Henry Charles Rosetta in 1882. From 1884 onwards Henry Charles Rosetta subdivided the land. This is likely the land that runs northern along Prospect Street and included Scanlan Street. (Scanlan Street was originally called Henry Street). The property remained in the ownership of Henry Charles Rosetta until 1903 when the subject property was subdivided further into the ownership of Percy Simpson.

Evidence thus far indicates that Charles Henry Rosetta had the dwelling constructed as a rental property during the 1886-1888 period. The entry in the Post Office Directory (PODs) for 1888 lists a dwelling on the corner of Light and Prospect Street as being "unoccupied." However the first title deed/POD entry concurrence occurs under the ownership of Simpson in the 1906. Charles Henry Rosetta worked locally. The PODs of c1888 disclose he was a butcher located in Montpellier Road, Bowen Hills.

Mass immigration in the 1880s caused enormous growth in Brisbane's population, increasing from 37 000 to 100 000 in the ten years to 1891. This served to intensify settlement in the inner core of suburbs, including Fortitude Valley.

The Fortitude Valley area was among the first settled by Europeans after the closure of the Moreton Bay penal settlement of Moreton Bay in the early 1840s. By the mid 1880s the Valley housed a large proportion of Brisbane's residents. It was a heterogenous area, and it was not uncommon for houses to have motor garages, factories, churches and even hotels as neighbours. Houses occupied many of the streets away from the main commercial sector centred on Brunswick Street. Most of these houses have been lost to redevelopment during this century.

Description

This dwelling presents as a small late c19th timber residence of the colonial style with an enclosed veranda. The roof is of corrugated iron and is a short-ridge pyramid type. The building is low set.

A later addition has occurred to the rear of the dwelling.

This dwelling forms one of a number of late c19th – early c20th dwellings in the Light-Prospect Street precinct that represents the early residential development of this area of Fortitude Valley.

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 modest, late nineteenth century dwelling built in Fortitude Valley when the area was still predominantly residential and appealed to working and middle class residents.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as one of few remaining examples of an 1880s timber workers residence in Fortitude Valley; and, as a late nineteenth century dwelling which forms part of an existing precinct of nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings in the Fortitude Valley area.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Building Cards
 2. Certificates of Title.
 3. Queensland Electoral Rolls
 4. Fortitude Valley Character and Heritage Study. Vol.2. (Heritage Unit, Brisbane City Council. 1995)
 5. Post Office Directories.
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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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