



## Heritage Citation



### 29 Jack Street, Gordon Park

#### Key details

**Addresses** At 29 Jack Street, Gordon Park, Queensland 4031

**Type of place** House

**Period** Victorian 1860-1890

**Style** Queenslander

**Lot plan** L2\_RP112813

**Key dates** Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004  
Date of Citation — November 2010

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

**Criterion for listing**

(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (H) Historical association

This simple but elegant timber house is believed to have been built in the 1880s for Alexander Barron, a dairy farmer, and his wife, Amelia. The Barrons were one of the first European families to settle in what was to become Gordon Park and appear to have lived on the property from at least the late 1860s, although in a different house. The family, who also ran a dairy farm on the property, owned the land until 1917 when it was sold to developers and later subdivided. This substantially intact house survives as one of, if not the oldest, houses in Gordon Park.

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## History

In 1857, portion 6 of 83 acres was granted to Alexander Barron who had emigrated from Scotland with his wife, Amelia. This large parcel of land was bounded on the eastern side by Kedron Brook. The northern boundary was a road that became known as Happy Valley Road, and later, as Stafford Road.

Electoral rolls for the late 1860s record an Alexander Barron, freeholder, of "Kedron Brook". This suggests that Alexander Barron was at this time living on his property where he established a dairy. His children reportedly attended first the Normal School in the city before changing to the Bowen Bridge Road School after it opened in 1865. The location of any earlier residences on the property is not known.

Information regarding the history of 29 Jack Street and the Barron family has been passed down to family members and subsequent owners. According to one previous owner, this residence was built during the 1880s by the Barrons themselves, using timber which grew abundantly in the surrounding bushland, including silkyoak, cedar and pine. They named the house Forresville after Forres, their home in Scotland. Nearby streets are named Barron Street and Little Barron Street after the family.

After the death of Alexander Barron in 1872, allegedly from tetanus, the family dairy was taken over by the eldest son, John. By the 1880s, another son, James, had established a blacksmith's business on the corner of Stafford Rd and Gympie Rd. In 1892, some 6 acres of the property to the south were transferred to George Barron, another son of Alexander and Amelia. John Alexander's widow, Amelia, died in 1916, reportedly from a redback spider's bite.

In 1917, the Barrons' property was sold to developers Isles, Love and Co. who subdivided the land from 1920 for residential development. Three lots including the house at 29 Jack Street were purchased in 1923 by Daniel Martin who resided in the house until at least the 1940s. Information about the house passed down from the Martins to subsequent owners included that the area used to be a swamp and that Little Barron Road was cut into two sections by Stafford Road. During the 1920s, the Martins used horses and carts to turn the house which originally faced Kedron Brook. In its new position, the house now faced the newly constructed Jack Street. According to the Martins, stumps from the local Bowls Club were used for the house.

Since the 1980s, various owners of 29 Jack Street have undertaken work to renovate the house and restore original features, such as reinstating the u-shaped verandah that was previously enclosed. The house has retained its double hung windows onto the verandahs that wrap around three sides of the house. Other features include beaded tongue and groove walls, a separate bull nosed verandah roof and single skin walls.

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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 one of the earliest surviving dwellings in Gordon Park, providing evidence of the area's farming heritage.

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#### Rarity

##### CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a rare example of a nineteenth century residence in Gordon Park.

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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 home of the Barron family who were among the earliest European settlers in the area.

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## References

1. Bint, Vivien, Previous owner. Phone calls and site visit June-July 1998
  2. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895
  3. Queensland Certificates of Title
  4. Queensland Post Office Directories
  5. Teague, DR., *The History of Kedron*, Colonial Press, 1976
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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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