



## Heritage Citation



**Alpha Cottage**

## Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 127 Lambert Street, Kangaroo Point, Queensland 4169
<b>Type of place</b>	Cottage, House
<b>Period</b>	Victorian 1860-1890
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L1_RP56566; L2_SP211306
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — October 2010
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (D) Representative

This simple transverse gable cottage was constructed some time prior to 1883 and was probably used as a rental property for lower to middle class tenants. Now surrounded by modern development, the cottage stands as a reminder of Kangaroo Point's diverse residential development during the late nineteenth century.

## History

'Alpha Cottage' is located on land that was acquired by Queensland explorer, squatter and writer of Queensland's history, Henry Stuart Russell. Russell purchased the property in 1852, and completed the notable Kangaroo Point home of Shafston House, which had been started by the previous owner Robert Creyke.<sup>1</sup>

This particular allotment (then 1 rood) was purchased by Francis Blanchard in 1875.<sup>2</sup> It was one of a number of allotments (covering over 44 acres) that were offered for sale by the "Honourable" Louis Hope in December 1874.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Hope, was a MLC from 1862-82 and was "a major figure in establishing the colony's sugar industry."<sup>5</sup>

Blanchard took possession of the land in late 1875. However, the listing of the cottage did not appear in the Post Office Directories (PODs) until the 1883-84 edition.<sup>6</sup> Neither Blanchard or his wife appear to have ever lived in the cottage. Francis Blanchard is first listed in the PODs in 1889, where his occupation is supplied as Pilot. His address is listed as Cardwell. Blanchard's name then disappears from the Directory to reappear in 1901 where he is listed as "Magazine Keeper of Pinkenba."<sup>7</sup> In 1910 the cottage passed onto his widow, Emma Blanchard who is listed as living in Cornwall Street Woolloongabba.<sup>8</sup> The property was transferred to Katherine Nicholson and Florence Burrell in the following year.<sup>9</sup>

By the 1880s Kangaroo Point had a number of established industries and commercial premises.<sup>10</sup> The cottage appears to have been constructed as a rental house. Undoubtedly the cottage's setting, style, its proximity to the commercial hub of Kangaroo Point, the river (used as both transport and as a source of employment via the maritime industry) and the city, would offer a high occupancy rate. The first known occupant, Cecil Fison, validates this assumption.<sup>11</sup>

Under the title of "Marine Board" Fison held the positions of Examiner in "Seamanship and Navigation" and "Inspector of Oyster Fisheries" for which he received £100 per annum.<sup>12</sup> In comparison a "junior clerk" in the same period had an annual salary of £75.<sup>13</sup> This would place Fison within the lower range of middle class and provides a good indication of the rental clientele the cottage would attract, in a period which must be regarded as the early stages of the housing boom of the 1880s in Brisbane.<sup>14</sup>

Fison may be credited with the naming of the cottage, as in the 1885-86 POD the name Alpha Cottage appears beside his name.<sup>15</sup> The PODs of this date list three houses (including Alpha Cottage) along the West Side of Lambert Street, between O'Connell and King (now Castlebar) Streets. The listed occupants all three are shown as being employed, in various positions, by the Customs Department.<sup>16</sup> This also indicates that the Southern End of Lambert Street was reasonably well established by this stage.

By 1889 Fison held more senior positions in the Harbours and Rivers Dept.<sup>17</sup> He had moved out of Alpha Cottage to a larger house further along Lambert Street. His occupancy of Alpha Cottage was replaced by M. Small, a Marine Engineer.

Later occupants also reflected the cottage's position to the city and work conducted in the area. These include Herbert Crossely (1893) Skin and Hide Merchant, Charlotte Street, and F. Cullen (1897-99) who had his grocery store in Main Street, between Darragh and Ferry Streets.<sup>18</sup> In 1940 the land was divided into two portions, with Florence Burrell retaining the 20 perches that had Alpha Cottage located on it.<sup>19</sup>

The cottage is located on the high portion of the Kangaroo Point peninsula. This proximity to Kangaroo Point and the city has meant that many of the occupations of its occupants were directly linked to the development of the character of Kangaroo Point and the surrounding areas.

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## Description

This small 19th century timber framed cottage has a transverse gable roof clad in corrugated iron and front and rear enclosed verandahs with separate convex roofs. The building is clad in wide chamfer boards with louvred windows and narrower chamfer boards enclosing the front verandah. A short flight of stairs access a central door in the front verandah. Windows to the sides of the dwelling have hoods. Bargeboards to the main roof edges are scalloped. An attic opening sits within the gable wall visible from the street.

The building, which is set on low concrete stumps sits on a spacious site and terminates a vista in that section of Lambert Street. The front of the site is bounded by a low chainwire fence.

# 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 it reflects the residential land boom of the 1880s in the area and as an example of the diversity of early housing found in Kangaroo Point.

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### Representative

#### CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places as a good example of a nineteenth century, transverse gable, timber cottage.

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## References

1. Janet Hogan, *Historic Homes of Queensland*. (National Trust. 1987) "Shafston House."
2. *Ibid*
3. Photocopy of newspaper article in the National Trust files on Kangaroo Point. It is likely to be an article from the Telegraph from July 1929 or July 1939. Queensland Post Office Directories. 1868 - 1890
4. Certificates of Title.
5. *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. (Melbourne; Melbourne University Press. 1972). Vol. 4. 1851 – 1890. D – J. pp.418/419
6. *The Brisbane Post Office Directory and Country Guide for 1883-84*. P.67
7. Queensland Post Office Directories, 1883-1910

8. Queensland Post Office Directory, 1911-12. P.371
9. Certificates of Title.
10. *The Brisbane Post Office Directory and Country Guide for 1883-84*
11. *Ibid*, p. 67
12. *Queensland Blue Book for the Year 1883*. (Compiled from Official Returns in the Register General's Office. 1884). P.58 & 60
13. *Ibid*
14. Ronald Lawson, *Brisbane in the 1890s; a Study of an Australian Urban Society*. (St. Lucia; University of Queensland Press, 1973). Pp.53-54
15. *The Brisbane Post Office Directory and Country Guide for 1883-84*. P.67
16. *The Brisbane Post Office Directory and Country Guide for 1885-86*. P.87
17. *Ibid*
18. *Queensland Blue Book for the Year 1887*. P.94
19. Queensland Post Office Directories for the years 1883 – 1900
20. Certificates of Title.

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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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