

Heritage Citation



Craigsmount

Key details

Addresses	At 33 Curlew Street, Toowong, Queensland 4066
Type of place	House
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L1_RP101873
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 November 2012 Date of Citation — May 2011
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

People/associations	Archdeacon Edward Castell Osborn (Occupant); Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Joseph Kimber (Occupant); Richard John Cottell (Occupant)
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Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (H) Historical association
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'Craigs Mount' was originally built by John Craig Gibson, Queensland Manager for the mercantile company, Robert Harper Co. Pty, in 1886/87. In 1897 the property was sold to Richard John Cottell, Alderman (1904-1911) and Mayor for the Toowong Shire Council and Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1908-1911. Cottell was an important political figure in the Toowong district and contributed to its progress. In 1922 'Craigs Mount' became home to Archdeacon Edward Castell Osborn until 1925. The house was then purchased by esteemed military Lieutenant-Colonel, Lewis Joseph Kimber, who resided in the house until his death in 1960. The large timber house has played a significant role from the late nineteenth century and throughout the twentieth century as home to some of the district's most important residents.

History

By the late nineteenth century Toowong had become one of Brisbane's elite outer-suburbs. Many large homes were built on the slopes that afforded river breezes and views. The suburb was relatively close to the inner-city and connected by what was then known as the 'River Road' (now Coronation Drive) as well as the railway. By 1903 an electric tram was servicing the suburb.

In 1885, John Craig Gibson purchased just over one rood of land at Toowong and in the same year took out a mortgage for £160. In 1887 Gibson was first listed at Burns Road, Toowong - the closest intersecting road to Curlew Street. The property was listed as 'Craigs Mount' and by 1888 was being listed at Curlew Street. 'Craigs Mount' was one of only two houses in Curlew Street at this time. As with many of the owners of the large houses built at Toowong in this period, Gibson was a member of the upper middle-class in Brisbane and worked as the manager for the mercantile company, Robert Harper and Co. Pty.

In 1897 Richard John Cottell and his wife Lily Theresa Cottell purchased the property. When first residing in 'Craigs Mount', Cottell was working as a conveyancer for the Supreme Court of Queensland; he continued to work in the Law throughout his life. In 1904 Cottell was elected as Alderman in the Toowong Shire Council. Brisbane at this time was made up of small local councils; it was not until the creation of the Greater Brisbane City Council under the *City of Brisbane Act* of 1925 that these shire councils were dissolved. In 1908 Cottell contested the seat of Toowong in the Legislative Assembly and was successful. In 1909 Cottell was elected as Mayor for the Toowong Shire Council, a position he held for one year. Cottell played a large role in the development of the Toowong district. Throughout his time in Toowong, Cottell resided in Craigs Mount. It was between 1900 and 1911 that Cottell built the current house at the front of the property. This is demonstrated by the design of the house. The original house may have been moved on the lot to accommodate the new house; it was joined to the new house. Alderman Richard John Cottell, M.L.A died in 1911.

In 1920 'Craigs Mount' was sold to Archdeacon Edward Castell Osborn. In this same year he was appointed Archdeacon by the Church of England. Osborn had first been ordained a priest and deacon in 1878 by the

Archbishop of Brisbane. He then served his curacy in Warwick until 1881, was then rector in St. Pauls, Roma from 1881 to 1886. In 1887 to 1889 he served in Gympie and then at St. Andrew's at Lutwyche. He remained at St. Andrew's for the next thirty years. In 1896 Osborn was appointed an honorary Canon. Archdeacon Osborn moved to Toowong in 1921 and retired in 1925. In 1926 Archdeacon Osborn died. He was remembered in an article in the *Queenslander* in February 1926, it stated that Archdeacon Osborn was "One of the best-loved and most revered dignitaries of the Church of England in Queensland...The late Archdeacon Osborn was ever ready, in addition to official duties, to take the place of a priest who was ill, to give counsel and advice, and to present their needs at headquarters...The late Archdeacon Osborn will be remembered most as a faithful pastor, who had an extraordinary gift in winning the affection of the members of his flock"¹. Archdeacon Osborn was an extremely well respected member of the Anglican Church and contributed to the welfare of many throughout his years serving the Church.

In 1926 'Craigs Mount' was sold to Lewis Joseph Kimber. Once again the house became home to an affluent, upper-middle class family. Lieutenant Colonel Kimber was a career soldier and from 1921 to 1939 served with the Australian Instructional Corp. at Victoria Barracks as Assistant Director of Supplies and Transport. Kimber served as an officer in the First World War initially mobilising troops in North Queensland, was appointed Captain of the 31st Battalion A.I.F in Egypt and in 1917 served in Bullecourt, France with the 46th Battalion. He was badly wounded in France and lost his leg. He returned to Australia that same year. After continuing to serve in the Army as Major until 1939, he retired from the military due to ill-health. At retirement he was given the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Even though he no longer served in the military Kimber continued to play a large role in both the Returned Services League and the Limbless Soldier Association until his death in 1960.

Throughout its history, 'Craigs Mount' has been home to some of Toowong's most respected residents. The house retains the detached kitchen at the rear of the property as well as the set of sweeping stairs with masonry balustrades at the front of the house.

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 home to several of Toowong's most respected residents throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it demonstrates the way in which Toowong became home to many of Brisbane's most affluent residents in the late nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries.

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 home of a succession of affluent Toowong residents including John Craig Gibson, Queensland Manager for the mercantile company, Robert Harper Co. Pty, Richard John Cottell, Alderman (1904-1911) and Mayor for the Toowong Shire Council and Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1908-1911, Richard John Cottell, Alderman (1904-1911) and Mayor for the Toowong Shire Council and Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1908-1911, Archdeacon Edward Castell Osborn and Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Joseph Kimber.

References

1. *The Queenslander*, Saturday 20 February 1926, p19
2. Judy Gale Rechner, *Brisbane House Styles 1880 to 1940: a guide to the affordable house*, Brisbane: Brisbane History Group Studies No. 2, 1998
3. Historic Titles, Department of Environment and Resource Management
4. Queensland Post Office Directories
5. *Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Survey Maps*
6. Queensland Electoral Rolls
7. *The Queenslander*, Saturday 20 February 1926, p19
8. *Cairns Post*, Wednesday 17 February 1926, p4
9. *The Queenslander*, Saturday 9 September 1911, p29
10. *The Brisbane Courier*, Wednesday 16 March 1910, p6
11. *The Brisbane Courier*, Wednesday 27 January 1909, p10
12. *The Courier Mail*, Friday 4 August 1939, p3
13. *Record of Officers' Services, Australian Imperial Force*, "Lieutenant L. J. Kimber," National Archives

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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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised June 2022)



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