



Heritage Citation



Dent's Cottage

Key details

Addresses At 136 Warry Street, Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006

Type of place Cottage, House

Period Victorian 1860-1890

Style Queenslander

Lot plan L1_RP74243

Key dates Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004
Date of Citation — April 2012

Construction Roof: Corrugated iron;
Walls: Timber

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (C) Scientific

This rare brick and timber cottage, with its separate detached kitchen, was built circa 1875 for William Dent. The cottage dates from the early stages of the development of Fortitude Valley and Spring Hill as satellites of the fledgling township of Brisbane.

History

Following the opening of the Moreton Bay penal colony to free settlement in 1842, land to the north of the fledgling township was still dense bush and swamp land. On 20 January 1849, the ship 'Fortitude' brought Presbyterian Minister Dr John Dunmore Lang and 256 free immigrants to the colony. These immigrants made their homes in the district which they named Fortitude Valley. Between 1850 and 1880 land in the area was cleared, sub-divided and sold.

In May 1860 land speculators Alexander Raff and William Rawlins bought adjoining city lots totalling 5 acres. These were sold 5 years later to Richard Warry (recorded in the street's name) and Robert Davidson. These two entrepreneurs subdivided and sold the land in allotments ranging from half an acre to three perches from February 1865. After passing through the hands of John Cook and Betty Parker, subdivision 26 of Warry and Davidson's land was registered to William Dent on 4 January 1870. This rare brick and timber cottage, with its separate detached kitchen, was built circa 1875 for William Dent.

Dent's occupation is not currently known but he was receiving mail at this address from 1876. By this time, Fortitude Valley was entering into a period of rapid development. The township, separated from Brisbane by hilly terrain, was developing as a small commercial and residential hub, with grocers, bakers, drapers, hotels, schools and churches established by the time of Dent's occupancy. As the nineteenth century progressed, Spring Hill and Fortitude Valley continued to develop. At the other end of Warry Street Keating's Bread Factory became one of the major bread suppliers in Brisbane. Dent was fined for allowing his horses to escape and enter a nearby schoolyard in 1898.

Dent held the property until his death on 17 July 1925. His heir, also named William Dent secured a mortgage on the property in December 1925 and lived nearby at 124 Warry Street until his death in 1939.

Dent's transverse gable timber cottage with detached kitchen is a relatively rare example of the modest early timber residential buildings in 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 one of the earliest cottages remaining in Fortitude Valley.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a timber and brick transverse gabled cottage with detached kitchen.

Scientific

CRITERION C

The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the city's or local area's history as a cottage remaining extant and relatively unaltered from its establishment in mid-1870.

References

1. Brisbane City Council, *Properties on the Web*, website
2. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
3. Brisbane City Council, Heritage Register Database
4. Department of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland Certificates of title and other records
5. John Oxley Library, Brisbane Suburbs – Estate Maps
6. National Library Australia digitised newspapers online <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>
7. *Queensland Post Office Directories, 1868-1949*

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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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