

## Heritage



**Grigson's Cottage**

### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 8 Clifton Street, Petrie Terrace, Queensland 4000
<b>Type of place</b>	House
<b>Period</b>	Victorian 1860-1890
<b>Lot plan</b>	L2_RP10649
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Information — April 2011
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

Grigson's Cottage was built circa 1877, probably by landowner and carpenter James J. Lovekin. The house is a variation on a 1860s-style workers' cottage, designed in response to the unusually small allotment size and shape, as well as the gradient of the site. The Grigson family owned and resided in the house from 1880-1961.

The house became the Wildlife House in 1980, before passing to its current owners.

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## History

Petrie Terrace was a high-density residential area early in Brisbane's history. Located within walking distance from the central business district made it highly attractive in the 1860s, when Brisbane was without mass public transport. Workers' cottages were erected close to their neighbours on small lots, while hotels, a school, the army barracks and a post office were added in the 1860s and 1870s. The area was so popular that the Petrie Terrace school, designed to accommodate 150 students, had just over 300 students enrolled on its inaugural day in 1868.

The lot on Clifton St was part of a portion of land reserved for a school, and sold as leftover land in the 1870s. James Lovekin was one of three purchasers of the land in 1872. Subsequently he and the other proprietors lost most of their land when it was resumed for the railway line to Ipswich (opened in 1875) and for road realignments. Lovekin's new lot was just over six and a half perches. Legislation passed in 1885 forbade allotments smaller than sixteen perches.

Lovekin, a carpenter, probably constructed the dwelling himself. Its shape is a variation on the standard 1860s-style workers' cottage, responding to the small lot size and shape, as well as the gradient of the land. Land resumptions and efforts to link Clifton St to Petrie Terrace, rather than Hale St (as it was originally) had given the street an unusual shape. The house was leased to a tenant and is listed as occupied in the 1878-79 *Queensland Post Office Directory*, by a railway labourer.

In 1880 Lovekin sold the house to Mary Ann Grigson, and the Grigson family took up residence. On the death of Mary Ann in 1890, the property was held in trust for her husband (John Marsh) and son (Edwin Henry). Edwin and his family continued to live in the property until his death in 1961. The house passed through subsequent owners, becoming the Wildlife House in 1980, before passing to its current owners.

This is an unusually-shaped gable roof nineteenth century cottage, surviving in one of Brisbane's earliest suburbs. It was featured as a heritage place in the 1988 book *Petrie Terrace Brisbane 1858-1988*.

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## References

1. Brisbane City Council, *Properties on the Web*, website
2. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
3. Brisbane City Council's Central Library, local history sheets
4. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
5. Woodcock, Steve & Fisher, Rod, *Petrie Terrace Brisbane 1858-1988*, (Brisbane: Boolarong Press, 1988)
6. John Oxley Library, Brisbane Suburbs – Estate Maps
7. *Queensland Post Office Directories*, 1868-1949
8. *The Brisbane Courier*, *The Queenslander*.
9. Queensland Places: Petrie Terrace (website)

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**Note:** This information 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 information 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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