

BOOVAL HOUSE

14 Cothill Road, Booval

History

The land was originally owned by extensive land owner, Mr C.V. Daveney. Ipswich's Bank of Australasia manager George Faircloth contracted William Hancock to build the house in the late 1850s. Queensland's first Governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen, stopped at 'Booval House' on his first visit to Ipswich in 1859.



The house was surrounded by cotton in the 1860s, when the Ipswich Cotton Company started a 20ha plantation. In the late 1870s, Booval House was bought by John Ferrett, who later passed the property to his nephew, Harry Ferrett. The house was purchased by the Catholic Church for £900 around 1921, but was then empty for several years.

The house was occupied by the Sisters of Mercy, after Archbishop Duhig, laid a foundation stone and blessed the convent of St Gabriel's and its new convent school.

Architects, Hennessy & Hennessy were responsible for renovations at this time. In 1946, problems with white ants led to the timber verandahs being replaced with cement supported by brick piers. The verandahs were enclosed with slatted blinds, but these were later replaced by glass. A brick extension was added beside the building in 1969.

Description

Booval House is a two storey, brick building, with a steeply pitched, corrugated iron roof, and a separate straight roof over three verandahs. The verandahs were enclosed for many years but have been reopened by the present owners. Four main rooms make up the core of the house, which has french doors leading to the verandah. At the rear of the house is both a one storey, hip roofed kitchen wing and a two storey, gable roofed structure. The house offers expansive views from the upper level. Plantings include a line of mature palms.

Restoration of this colonial Georgian home as a residence commenced in 1998.