

BELMONT

11 Burnett Street, Sadlier's Crossing

History

Builder William Welsby bought the land in October 1863, and is believed to have built the house by 1865.



One of Welsby's sons was known for writing about Moreton Bay and history.

Draper Josiah Francis rented the house in 1871, and some time later he purchased the property. He was a former Mayor of Ipswich and is reported to have been a member of the first Queensland Parliament. When Francis died, the house was sold to coach builder Frederick William Johnson, who named it after the Battle of Belmont in the Boer War.

The Johnson's later made cars and the family name remains on the rear of former garage buildings in Brisbane Street.

The house sold in 1909 to Samuel and Eliza Hamill. Samuel and his son, Sam, were railway workers. Poet Thomas Shapcott and his wife, Margaret, bought the house in the 1960s.

Description

'Belmont' has a dominant position within the streetscape; it is opposite the Ipswich Boys Grammar School and its front verandahs align with the street pavement. 'Belmont 1863' is inscribed in the fanlight above the front door. The two-storey house is built from rough-hewn sandstone, 0.5m thick at the front wall.

The house has a corrugated iron, pyramid roof with a separate, slightly convex roof over verandahs on all sides. At both levels, the verandahs have cast iron balustrades and valances, and timber supports with moulded capitals. The lower level has double hung windows, either side of the front entry, and the upper level has french doors, with wooden louver doors.

The property has been extended and altered at the rear, but its street presence has not significantly changed.