

Cook Terrace

249 Coronation Drive, Milton

Cook Terrace, also known as Milton Terrace or Gloralgar Flats, was constructed as a 2-storey row of 6 brick houses by Joseph Blain Cook. The Brisbane builder had purchased the land subdivisions 1–6 of Milton House Estate from squatter John Frederick McDougall. The architect is unknown, but the first house was erected in late 1888 and the row was completed in 1889.

Navigational hint: just before the CityCat arrives at the Milton ferry terminal, on the same side of the river look for a line of terrace houses with a distinctive row of chimneys.

The terraces were built as a single rental property because the Undue Subdivision of Land Prevention Act of 1885 prohibited the granting of individual titles for separate terrace houses. The Queensland Government introduced the legislation to prevent the crowded urban development seen in cities like Sydney and Melbourne.

The development reflected the economic optimism of the late 1880s, but within 2 years, Cook was declared insolvent and the terrace passed to his mortgagees. By 1895 the row was known as Milton Terrace. With its river views, breezes and proximity to the town centre, it mainly attracted professional and white-collar tenants and remained one of Brisbane's more prestigious rental addresses well into the 20th Century.

By 1920 each house had been subdivided into smaller flats and builder Simon Smith, who acquired the property in 1923, may have been responsible for removing the front parapet and installing dormer windows. In the 1930s the building became known as Gloralgar Flats.

It is believed that army authorities rented the flats as officer accommodation during the Second World War. After then, the verandahs were enclosed and the 6 houses were converted into 27 flats that were considered something of a bohemian retreat. Despite its decline, the building remained a visual landmark along Coronation Drive and in 1984 it was refurbished as offices and a restaurant.