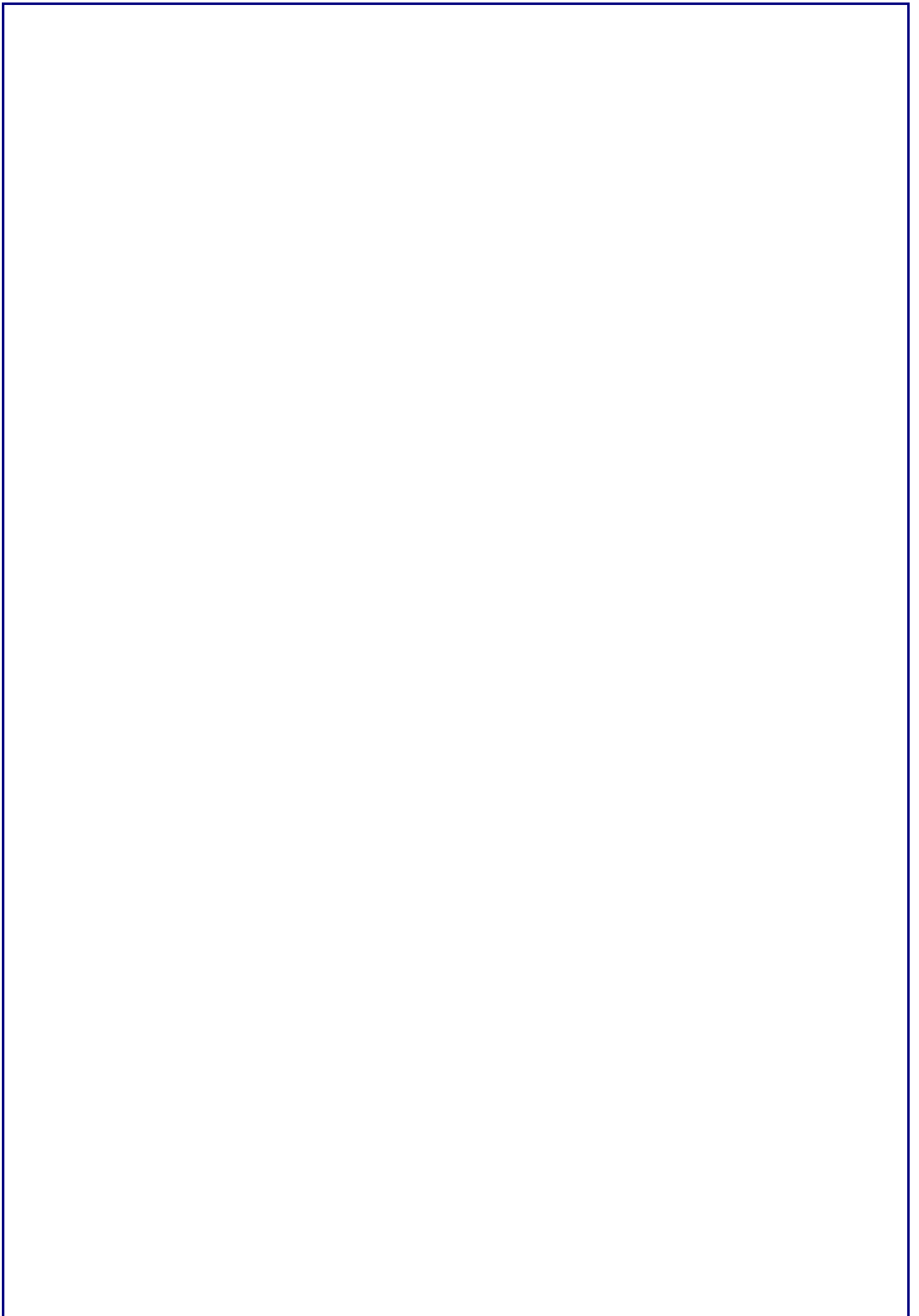


7 Noosa North Shore



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7.1 JAMES DUKE RESIDENCE 'RIVER HOUSE'

LOCATION	43 Noosa River Drive, Homeport Track, Noosa North Shore
TENURE	Freehold. 2RP92427
DATE	c. 1913
DESCRIPTION	The 'Federation' style, weatherboard house is high set on wooden stumps, is of timber construction and has a high pitched 'hail' roof of corrugated iron.



7.1.1 BRIEF HISTORY

The timber industry had its beginnings in 1863 through the efforts of such men as Ebenezer Thorne, Scott and John Kinmond and William Pettigrew.¹ Logs were either processed at such places as Mill Point on Lake Cootharaba² or floated down the river to Tewantin and milled there from 1868 onwards or at Colloy, further downstream.³ From Tewantin the timber was then transhipped mainly by paddle steamers to Brisbane.⁴

One of the major early sawmills in the Tewantin area was that of Dath, Henderson and Bartholomew, situated on the north shore of the Noosa River, opposite Tewantin. The mill was equipped with up-to-date timber handling equipment and had its own wharf. It became important in the 1870s until its closure c.1892.⁵

From his home and an office at both Cooroy and Eumundi, James Duke managed the timber interests of Dath Henderson & Co. where he was involved in carrying logs from the pine scrubs of Doonan and district. Duke's logs were hauled, firstly to the Noosa River, punted across it to the sawmill, then processed and finally taken by ship to Brisbane aboard the paddle steamer *Adonis*, owned by the firm's partner, Bartholomew.

Ultimately the Dath Henderson mill had to close due to the paucity of viable timber close by and James Duke was asked to move across the river to live in the mill manager's house, acting as caretaker for the complex, which, besides the mill and machinery, included a grocery store and several mill workers' cottages.⁶

¹ Page, Ruth, *The History of Pomona Cooran Kin Kin Cootharaba Skyring Creek*, Unpublished, Compiled 1970, p.2.

² Adams, Rod, *Noosa and Gubbi Gubbi*, Ultreya Publications, Tewantin, 2000, p.110.

³ Monks, Colin, *Noosa The Way It Was The Way It Is Now*, Monks, Colin, Tewantin 2000, p.60.

⁴ Page, Ruth, p.3.

⁵ Tutt, Stan, *Pioneer Days Stories and Photographs of European settlement between the Pine and the Noosa Rivers, Queensland*, Caboolture Historical Society, Caboolture, 1974, p.87.

⁶ Sutton, op.cit., pp 10,11.

In 1901 Duke bought the Dath Henderson's Portion 1169 of 80 acres. In 1913 Duke, who had become the first Chairman of the Noosa Shire Council when it was established in 1910, built the residence which is the subject of this citation on its present site.⁷

The residence, now named 'River House', continues to be in excellent condition and is owned by Mr Richard and Mrs Dawn Farbach,⁸ Mr Farbach is a former well regarded jazz musician.

The block was subdivided in 1920 as subdivision 213 of 1 rood 39.7 perches and sold to Rosanna Walker, wife of Harry Walker M.L.A.⁹ It occupies a prime riverfront position and lies among other good quality homes to create an excellent precinct along the riverbank.

However, Council's consultant heritage architect provided the following advise in relation to the heritage value of this property:

"Duke's earlier association with the Dath, Henderson sawmill is not related to this house.....As a 1913 house, it is not exceptional and appears to be merely an ordinary example of its type such that it does not have architectural, creative, technical or aesthetic significance...."

7.1.2 HISTORICAL THEMES

This place illustrates the following Historical Themes in Noosa Shire based on the Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidelines for Historical & Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001:-

2(d) Developing rural economies - encouraging closer settlement and immigration: land subdivision (home site); and

7.1.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

This building is of considerable significance to the Tewantin area's heritage. It is an excellent example of its type and it is in good structural condition. It is also considered to be well maintained internally.

It is recommended that Noosa Council consider assessment criteria d for the Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidelines for Historical & Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001 as relevant to this place.

7.1.4 INTEGRITY

The house is totally in keeping with the image of a prosperous home set in a lush semi-tropical environment. It has its own jetty, has wide, cool verandahs and is covered by a 'hail roof' of corrugated iron.

The home is most attractive in appearance with decorative battens beneath it and elaborate 'broom stick' verandah supports. Its verandah posts are of squared and bevelled timber and there is extensive iron 'lace work' to embellish the top joints of the posts. Its interior is also said to be immaculate. In all, the building has quite outstanding integrity. It is of great merit.

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ Pers. comm., Leon Lascelles, 2000.

⁹ Member for Wide Bay from 1907 to 1912, and Cooroora from 1912 to 1947.

7.2 “ROSEHILL”

LOCATION	27 Maximilian Road, Noosa North Shore
TENURE	Freehold. 1RP176545 ¹⁰
DATE	c. 1892
DESCRIPTION	The house is of timber construction with a high pitched ‘hail’ roof of corrugated iron. The floor plan is basically square, originally with wide verandahs to all sides and the house was built on thirty-six wooden stumps. The bathroom was originally on ground level, under the house. There were no windows as such within the structure of the house, French windows being preferred to allow better control of ventilation and wind diversion.



“Rosehill”

7.2.1 BRIEF HISTORY

The house was originally built circa 1896, on land purchased from the then Colony of Queensland by Edward Thomas Smith on 5th January 1887.¹¹ The land on which “Rosehill” was built came into the ownership of the Atkinson family on 20 December 1894, the house itself having been built some two years later. The timber which was used in its building was originally part of a barn that stood in Gympie, the stumps having been of Turpentine wood, but which were subsequently replaced with ‘Gum and Bloodwoods sawn from the property itself’.

Subsequent owners of the property were Samuel Rento from 11 May 1916, Gordon Henry Golding from 20 May 1917 and James Wood, 20 March 1918. Further purchasers followed, the property finally being bought by Gino Knezic in 1989 at which time the house was removed from its original site on the riverbank to where it is now, to make way for the owner’s new house.

The land on which the house was built originally consisted of some 73 ha (180 acres) but it was periodically sold off in 0.3 ha (three quarters of an acre) allotments to assist with rates payments and running expenses.

7.2.2 HISTORICAL THEMES

This place illustrates the following historical themes in Noosa Shire based on the Environmental Protection Agency’s *Guidelines for Historical & Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001:-

¹⁰ Noosa Council Survey Plan.

¹¹ Information received from National Trust Sunshine Coast. (The majority of information in this citation is from this source and observations of the author. The date of the construction is uncertain and is likely to have been after the turn of the century.)

7.2.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The house is a very old one, a pioneering house on the North Shore in every respect, even though it has been moved from its original prominent riverside position. Furthermore the Atkinson family are still represented in the Tewanin area by at least one member, Norma Horton, a granddaughter of Emma Atkinson and her husband John William Atkinson.

It is recommended that Noosa Council consider assessment criteria b and h under the Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidelines for Historical and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001 as relevant to this place.

7.2.4 INTEGRITY

For the first eighty years of 'Rosehill's' life it remained virtually unchanged. The downstairs bathroom was relocated to the rear verandah in 1945 and the toilet was also placed there at about the same time, in preference to the separated one previously located in the grounds of the house, some distance from it.

'Rosehill' as it currently stands: in elegant seclusion, carefully restored and with yet a fleeting glimpse of the river.

As it stands on its new site, the house represents a quite outstanding example of what careful restoration can achieve. The building is resplendent in a pleasant green coat of paint, its beautifully high-pitched hail roof is shown off to excellent effect and the house can well be said to stand in elegant seclusion. Indeed, a neighbouring resident remarked that the present condition of the house is nothing short of a transformation since, prior to its restoration by the present owner, it was in a very poor state of repair.

Although not now having as much visual contact with the Noosa River as it had formerly, the house still retains a closeness to the water and it is surrounded on three sides by lush wet sclerophyll forest: a most aesthetic situation.