

BANKFOOT HOUSE



'Friends of Bankfoot House' is a volunteer community group assisting the Sunshine Coast Council to preserve this historic residence.

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Where is Bankfoot House?

1998 Old Gympie Rd Glass House Mountains.

Bankfoot House, is situated 3 kms southwest of the Glass House Mountains township in the hinterland of Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

The present house faces the Old Gympie Road, just as the original Bankfoot House faced the 'new' Gympie Road back in 1868.

When was it built?

The original house was constructed in 1868 to service the steady stream of individuals and coach traffic heading north to the Gympie gold fields. Gold was first discovered in Gympie in October 1867. The accommodation house was extended in 1878 to provide separate family living quarters. The original 1868 house was dismantled in 1930 and the separate family living quarters was expanded into the present day house. The core of the current house therefore dates back to 1878.

How did it get its name?

Bankfoot House was built by William Grigor, a Scot who emigrated to Australia in 1855. In 1863 William married a Scottish lass, Mary Fenwick, in Brisbane. It is believed the couple, with their growing family, moved to the Glass House Mountains from Mooloolah in 1868. Bankfoot House was given its name from the place of Mary's birth, ie Bankfoot in Perthshire, Scotland.

Who lived at Bankfoot House?

For over 130 years, Bankfoot House was owned and occupied by the Grigor family and their descendants. William's daughter, Clementina, married William Smith Burgess and the Burgess family took responsibility for the house. When Clementina's daughter Mary and her husband Jack Ferris moved into Bankfoot House they became devoted custodians of the historic house. Following the death of Jack Ferris in 2002 (at the age of 101), the Caloundra City Council purchased the house from the Ferris family, and took responsibility for Bankfoot from 2004.

What will happen to the house?

The central section of Bankfoot House, dating from 1878, is the oldest surviving building in the Glass House Mountains district. The house is associated with the Grigor, Burgess and Ferris families, whose members have made a significant contribution to the development of the region.

The Council wishes to preserve the history of these families through the Bankfoot House site and its collection. In due course it is intended the house be open for public inspection and the resource be made available to researchers and to school students. It will take some time to bring the house to the point where safe and secure public access can be offered routinely.