

The Chestnuts

c1885

The opportunity to own this property
may never be repeated 'in your lifetime'.
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In 1885 as quoted in the Queensland Times - "This house possesses an aspect of snugness which would appeal powerfully to the sensibilities of any person who has a proper conception of the meaning of the word home".





Kitchen feels of 'Grandma's good ole kitchen' with fully restored Aga stove within original stove recess framed with cedar mantelpiece.

Warmth and romance is the mood set in the master bedroom once past the Victorian panelled cedar door with porcelain door knobs and pushplates.

Like something out of a British period film, the historic Ipswich home 'The Chestnuts' c1885, has long been a feature of the Denmark Hill landscape of Ipswich. Former Qld. National Trust Chairman, Allen Cooper and his wife Linda bought the house in 1993. The couple have an extensive history conserving and restoring historical Ipswich and Brisbane homes. "With every house we restore, a large part of us goes into the house," Mr Cooper said. "We will be particularly sad to move on from The Chestnuts, it's a home we particularly love. "We have restored and lived in some fabulous houses in Ipswich and each time you start with a new one it becomes your 'baby' to nurture."

The three-level brick house was built in 1885 for Thomas Brew Lyons. It was later purchased in November of the same year by Mary Darnley Morrison and became a private academy for young ladies, with Mrs Morrison conducting lessons and running dance classes at the property until her death in 1928. Mrs Cooper said that since taking on the project, the couple had faithfully restored 'The Chestnuts', which now features antique hand basins and toilet fixtures from England, cedar stairs to an attic, cast iron spiral stairs leading from the conservatory to the library and bedroom areas. "We jumped at the chance to buy this rare and pretty house," she said "as we had already restored the exterior for the previous owners".

The couple also further added a three-storey extension in 1996, as well as a walled garden with eight-foot high brick walls and a Sandstone Summer house. Josephine Gillespie QT

Antique toilet suite, claw foot bath and marble floors finish the main bathroom and marble floors and walls highlight the ensuite.

Extensive use of Flame and Fiddleback Queensland cedar is used in the cut string staircase linking the attic and first floor.



- Triple brick ground floor walls, with double brick upper
- Extensive use of flame and fiddleback Queensland red cedar
- Antique cast iron spiral stairway
- English antique high level W. C. suite with calico interior to pan & stoneware fluted hand basin to powder room
- Antique W. C. suite, claw foot bath & marble floor to bathroom
- Marble floor & walls to ensuite
- English imported wallpapers
- English styled panelled conservatory
- Eat in kitchen with restored Aga stove, walls marble; French provincial style
- Floor marble & terracotta
- Fire place to master bedroom
- Polished cedar cutstring staircase to full height attic rooms with gothic windows
- Reverse cycle air conditioning to lounge & bedroom
- Secure front verandah with cast iron panels & lattice
- Rear verandah with cast iron posts & panels with views across Ipswich to Brisbane
- Detached laundry & sewing room
- Detached garage with remote controlled door
- Monitored back to base security system
- Exterior security lighting
- Iron security grills to all accessible windows
- Hard wired synchronised smoke detectors to all levels
- Sandstone summer house with slate roof nestled in two metre high rear walled garden
- Timber pitched roof potting & gardeners shed
- Terraced front gardens landscaped with sandstone paving and retaining walls
- Victorian terracotta garden edge tiles

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