

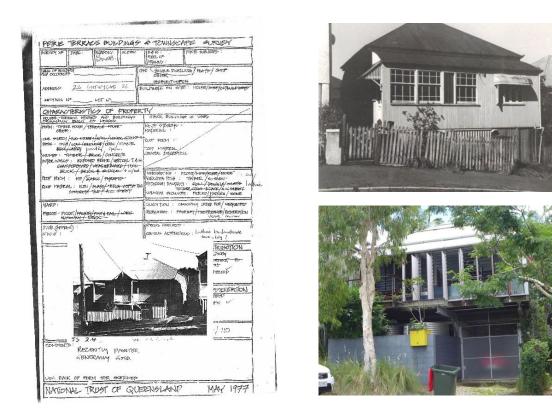
Part 1927 Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Plan DP 113 (Brisbane City Archives) and Google Maps

Sheriff Street

Petrie Terrace Housing Photo Study

Brisbane History Group

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This study relates to the area bounded by Hale Street, Musgrave Road, Petrie Terrace and Milton Road, and primarily the residential area behind the mixed commercial street frontages of Caxton Street and Petrie Terrace. City Plan 2014 has much of the area zoned CH1 Character Residential.

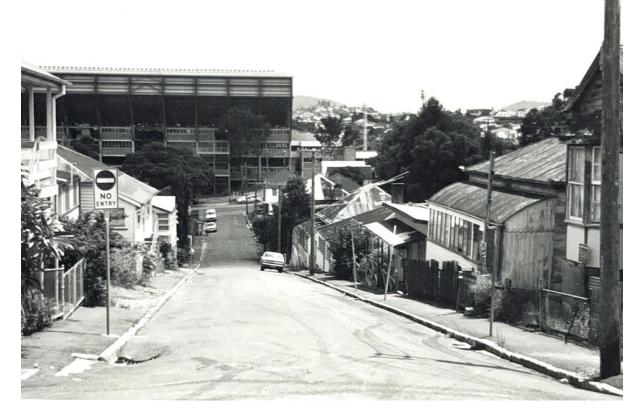
The area was the subject of a field study undertaken by the National Trust in 1977, suggesting they were active in designating this town planning/development constraint. The BHG Research Library has digitised copies of many of the worksheets for each individual property, and photographic prints of some of the buildings and houses from that time. Rod Fisher and his associates subsequently, during the 1980s, returned and photographed the buildings again.

Forty years later we decided it was time for an update, and this set of street albums provides a snapshot of how the houses, predominantly small lot timber cottages, have been adapted for current day living. The area was predominantly working class in the 1970s, however, as with other older city fringe suburbs this has changed over time. It will primarily be of interest to residents interested in the history of their home, and we would welcome feedback, particularly if you would like to share this information in future updates.

For the albums we have used scanned copies of photographic prints when available, photocopies when not, and digital images for current conditions. A number of the houses photographed in the 1980s included side and rear views which can be made available on request. There appears to have been some renumbering of properties over time – apologies in advance if we have erred.

Your comments and corrections will be appreciated.

Kaye Mobsby & Andrew Darbyshire bhgresearchlibrary@gmail.com





November 2023

Sheriff Street looking West



Part Drainage Contract Plans Nos D-5-8 (1885) and D-9-95 (1886) (Brisbane City Archives)

Brisbane History Group



c1983



November 2023

No 12 Sheriff Street

TUESDAY, APRIL 9. THREE THREE-ROOMED COTTAGES THREE THREE-ROOMED COTTAGES THREE THREE-ROOMED COTTAGES. SEXTON STREET SHERIFF STREET SHERIFF STREET SEXTON STREET SHERIFF STREET SEXFON STREET OFF PETRIE TERRACE OFF PETRIE TERBACE OFF PETRIE TERRACE IMPORTANT TO WORKING MAN. J. HOOKER has been favoured with instructions to sell by public auction, at the Albert Auction Mart, Albert Buildings, Albert street, on TUESDAY, April 9, at 11 o'clock, All those Pieces of Land described as Subdivisions 42 and 43 of Allotment 287, County of Stanley, Parish of North Brisbane, each containing an area of 9 PERCHES, and having frontages to SHERIFF STREET. On each allotment is erected a substantial THREE ROOMED WOOD COTTAGE, pleasantly situated, only three or four removes from PETRIE TERRACE, and within a few minutes' walk of QUEEN STREEF, along a good and level road, and having the additional advantage of A STATE SCHOOL within a stone's throw of the property.

The Telegraph 1 April 1889 (National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)

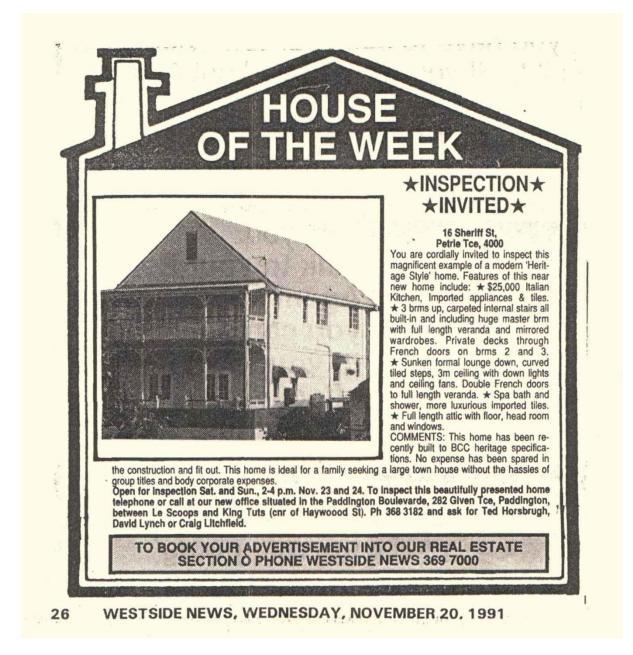
Believed to be Nos 16 and 20





November 2023 (built c1990 – aerial photos)

No 16 Sheriff Street







November 2023

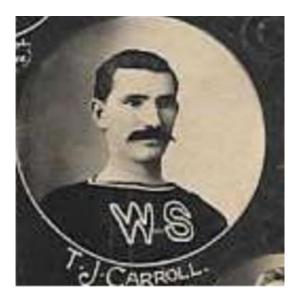
No 17 Sheriff Street

Courtesy Greg Curtis 2023 (whose ancestors resided in both 17 Sheriff Street and 13 Weetman Street)

Perhaps the first owner of the house at 17 Sheriff Street, corner of Weetman Street (which was formerly named Cathie Lane), was my 2nd great grandfather Robert Cathie after whom the Lane derived its name. Many years later the Council changed that name to Weetman Street.

I can only remember visiting 17 Sheriff Street with my Mum once, and on reflection it may have been after the death of John Francis Carroll (1969) as I would have been only nine years of age. I can't recall any details of the house except that there was a dirt floor downstairs and a large brick wall on the Weetman Street side which was probably a retaining wall for that street. I can recall seeing Eugene Carroll there and my Mum may have been helping him clean up the house.

The house at 13 Weetman Street, was also home to my great grandparent Thomas Joshua Carroll. By 1905 Robert and Sarah Cathie had moved to Wynnum and the Sheriff Street house was then occupied by their daughter Sarah who had married next door neighbour Thomas Carroll, who had resided there for several years. For over 60 years, members of the Carroll family continued to reside at No 17 Sheriff Street.



Thomas Joshua Carroll





November 2023

No 19 Sheriff Street





November 2023

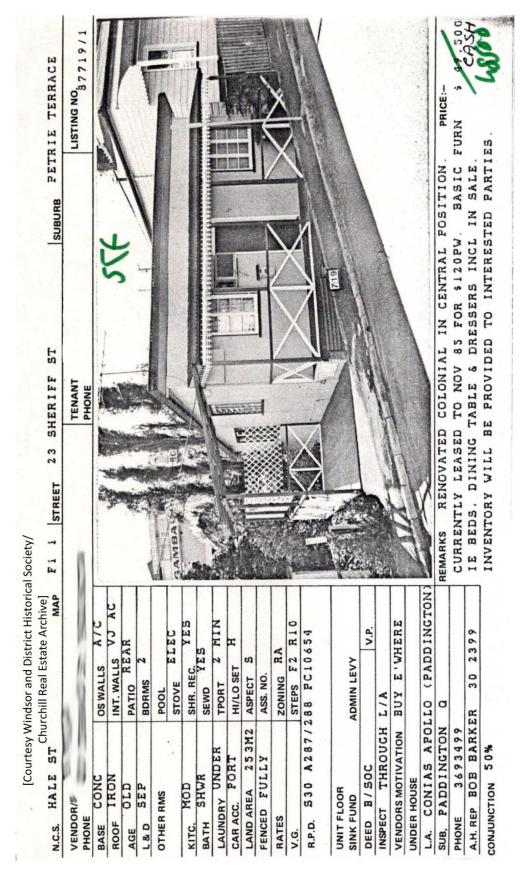
No 20 Sheriff Street





November 2023

No 23 Sheriff Street



August 1985





November 2023

No 24 Sheriff Street





November 2023

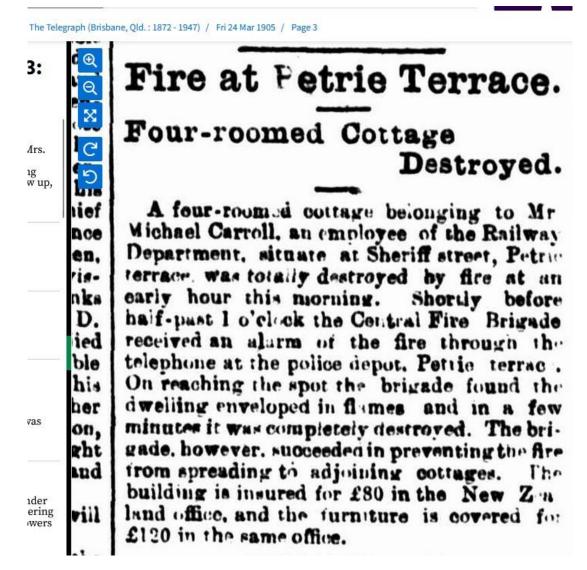
No 27 Sheriff Street





November 2023

No 28 Sheriff Street



The Telegraph 24 March 1905 (National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)

Michael Carroll was living at No 28 in 1905 (Queensland PO Directory 1905)





November 2023

No 31 Sheriff Street





November 2023

No 32 Sheriff Street

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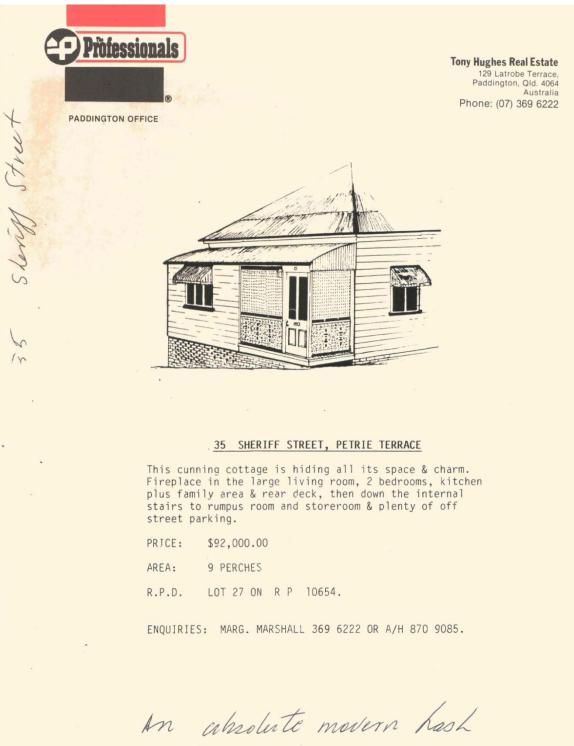


c1983



November 2023

No 35 Sheriff Street



An absolute movern hash Sfanow house - no original Feature or form simaningmade CONSULT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFESSIONAL DELICES THEOLIGHOUT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND 9/71

Petrie Terrace Photo Study –Sheriff Street vFebruary 2025

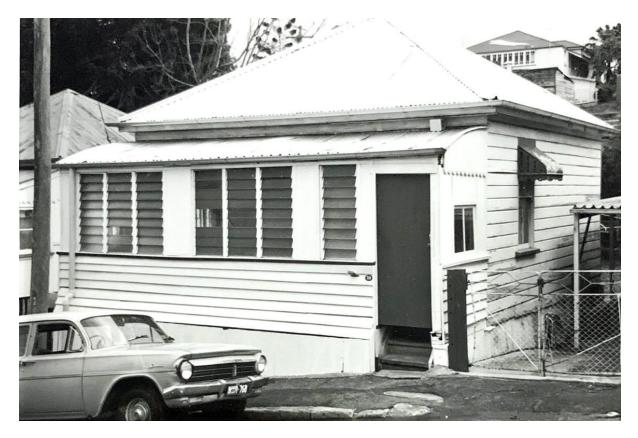
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November 2023

No 36 Sheriff Street





November 2023

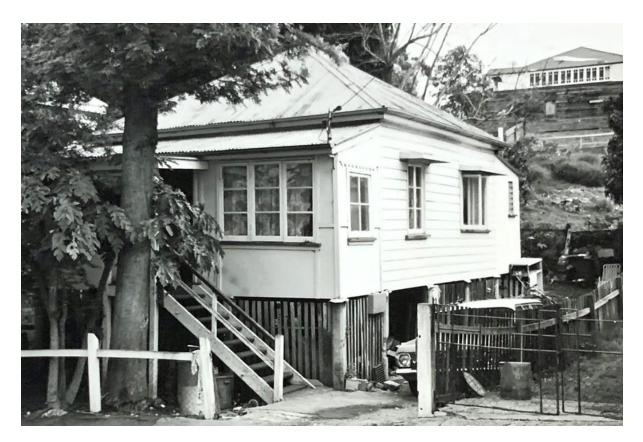
No 39 Sheriff Street





November 2023

No 40 Sheriff Street





November 2023

No 43 Sheriff Street





November 2023

No 44 Sheriff Street





November 2023

No 47 Sheriff Street



JOHNSTON'S HOUSE c 1887 – 47 Sheriff Street

During the 1880s the four-square, light-framed, pyramid-roofed workers dwelling became the dominant housing type in Petrie Terrace, as it did throughout Brisbane at large. This was a brilliant, though evolutionary solution, to the problem of providing cheap, durable, compact and aesthetic accommodation, especially during the expansive 1880s.

For more space, an old two-roomed cottage could be doubled in area and surmounted by a new pyramid roof. Or if someone had the capital to begin with, why not build two floors, using the ground level for either residential or business purposes. Moreover a ground level house could be turned into two storeys, as seen at Johnston's house at No 47 Sheriff Street.

Here an earlier dwelling was raised high on stumps, the chimney re-bricked, a flight of steps built into the front and back verandahs, the sub-floor lined as rooms, and a low picket fence with a gate run along the lower verandah posts. Judging by the newer joinery and street directories, this was completed around 1910, probably for sub-rental or family purposes.

The original house was possibly built by Stephen Ashley, a Sheriff Street carpenter, for William Blanchard, a commission agent of nearby Paddington, in 1887. In the next year, Mrs Johnston, laundress, was the householder listed and then John Johnston, labourer, until he vanishes from the directories in 1929. Blanchard was evidently a victim of the disastrous nineties, as Johnston gained a legal caveat forbidding the registration of any land dealings in 1892, followed by a Supreme Court order vesting the property in his name. The title was transferred to his wife Mary in 1894, who was the householder listed from 1930 until her death thirteen years later.

In 1888 their neighbours included Emil Jurich, his thirty-year-old wife Elizabeth and their two young children. She had been unwell for several days, but instead of visiting a doctor she obtained a painkiller from the local chemist, and vomited for another couple of days. On returning from the gasworks in town, Jurich found his wife lying dead upon the bed, and the half full bottle on the table. In one of those strange quirks of history, Jurich is next sighted in 1889 as a bottle-O of Fortitude Valley. Until then he does not even appear in the street directories.

In comparison the Johnstons lived at Sheriff Street for 55 years and the next owner for 37 more. Nothing is known about them personally, but they bequeathed to posterity a most unusual house. Its exterior had hardly seen a drop of paint this side of the nineteenth century, and its interior, never – a common feature of early timber housing. All of its original elements were still intact – the absolute envy of any would-be restorer.

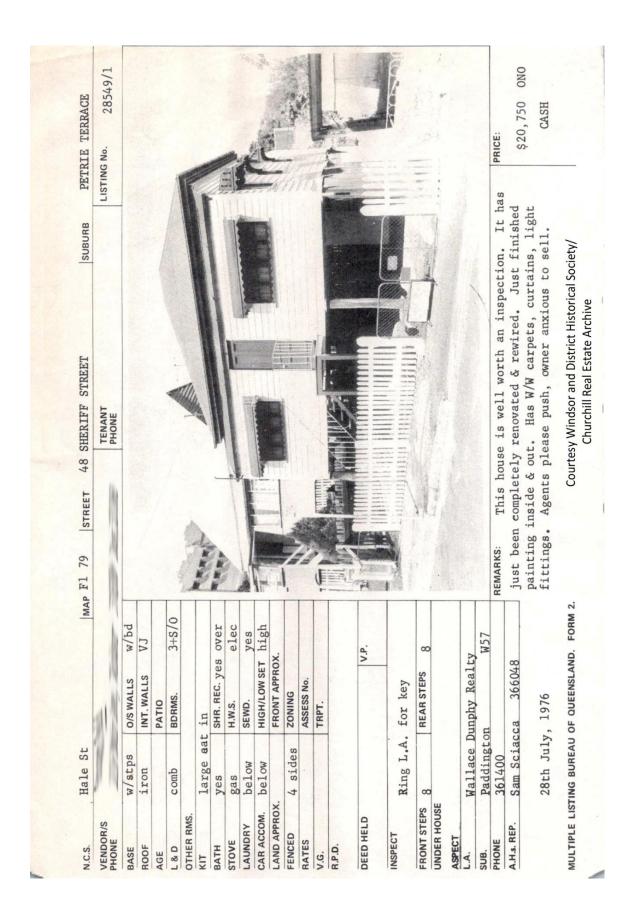
Petrie Terrace Brisbane 1858-1988; 'Its ups and downs' by Steve Woolcock & Rod Fisher





November 2023

No 48 Sheriff Street



Petrie Terrace Photo Study –Sheriff Street vFebruary 2025





November 2023

No 49a and 49b Sheriff Street

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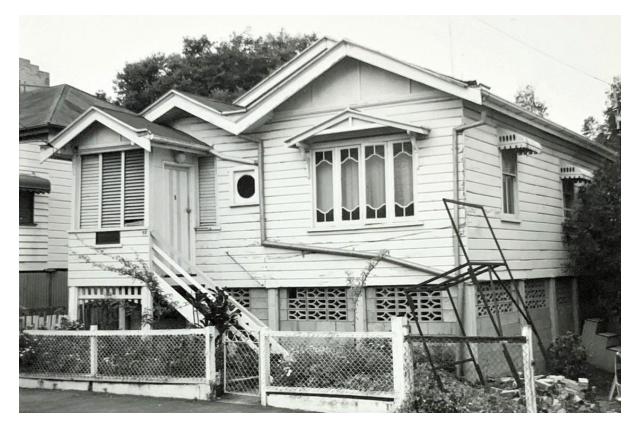


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November 2023

No 51 Sheriff Street





November 2023

No 52 Sheriff Street

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c1983

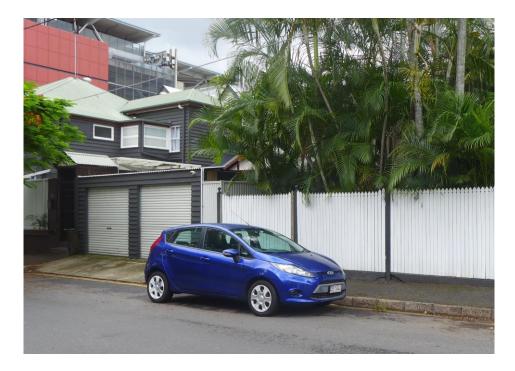


November 2023

No 53 Sheriff Street



c1983 ('rear' No 57 Hale Street)



November 2023

By the side of the gate entry to the left of the garage doors in this photograph is the number '55', however, we have not at this stage been able to work out what No 55 consists of, a separate subdivision, building or residential component of the adjacent properties ?

No 55 Sheriff Street ?

No earlier image (constructed 2013 – 2015?)



November 2023

No 56 Sheriff Street



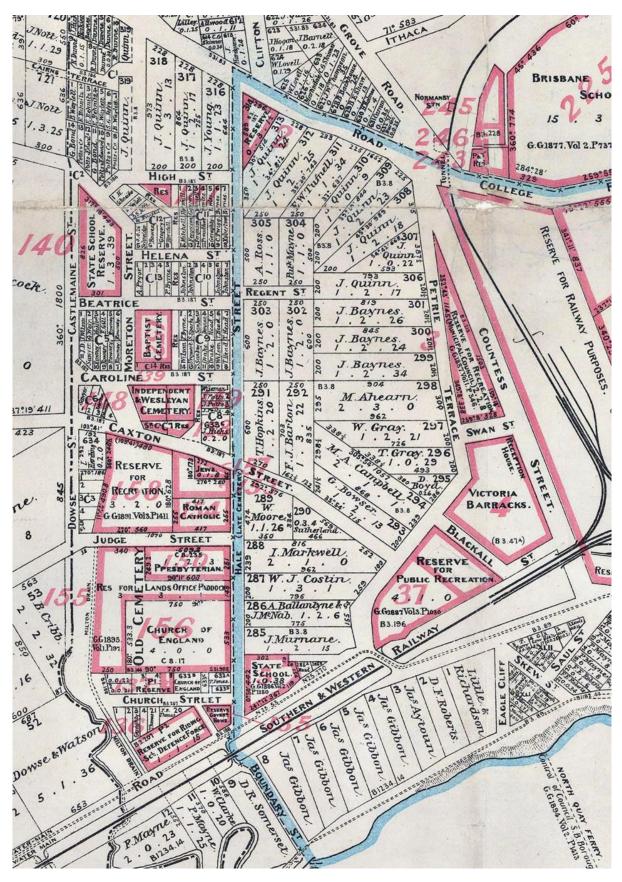


November 2023

Sheriff Street looking East



1921 Electric Street Lighting Plan I -13-469 of Petrie Terrace (Brisbane City Archives)



July 1900 Plan of City of Brisbane & Suburbs according to the original land grants (Surveyor General's Office –State Library of Queensland)



1951 Part aerial photograph BCC 000539333 (Queensland Government -QImagery)