



*Old Normanby Hotel (on right) pre 1890
From an original watercolour by A Sinclair (SLQ)*

Musgrave Road

Petrie Terrace Housing Photo Study

Brisbane History Group

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1883 Land Auction plan of Bishop's Hill, Petrie Terrace (SLQ)

Petrie Terrace west of Fiveways would subsequently be renamed Musgrave Road and the north-south Gov't Road, initially Cemetery Road, would be extended through Portion 315 and become Hale Street

'Bishop's Hill' was an appropriate name for this locale, James Quinn the RC Bishop of Brisbane purchased seven of the Portions fronting Petrie Terrace stretching from Regent Street to Hale Street. He missed out on Portion 311 which was purchased by Edward Wyndham Tufnell, C of E Bishop of Brisbane.



1984



August 2023

Musgrave Road looking west

AN ITHACA NUISANCE.—Grave complaints reach us of the ill doings of a lot of loafing larrikins, varying in ages from 15 years up to 20, who haunt the corner of the Musgrave-road and Petrie Terrace, and are banded together in a society which they designate a “push,” and whose aims and objects are to indulge in obscene and blasphemous language and insult inoffensive pedestrians. On Friday evening a lady who was minus a chaperon happened to pass by, and was subjected to their blackguardly conduct. A policeman in plain clothes detailed to watch these larrikins would have a beneficial effect, as the youths are well aware of the time at which Senior-Constable Fahey pays that part of his beat a visit in uniform, and they accordingly scoot. That officer is about as good as they make them, but he is only one man, and seeing that he has charge by himself of the large district extending from the Normanby Bridge to the Normanby Hotel, and equally broad in proportion, it is utterly impossible he can be everywhere, and the Commissioner would do well to provide him with a mate.

Moreton Mail 25 Oct 1889

(National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)



c1940s



August 2023

No 1 Musgrave Road



c1890 (State Library of Queensland)

Queensland Government Heritage Register

The original Normanby Hotel opened in 1872. The first owner and publican, Matthew Burton, purchased land on the corner of Musgrave and Kelvin Grove Roads in 1865. In December 1871 Burton (originally a carpenter) gave notice of his intention to apply for a publican's licence for the Normanby Hotel, which was granted in January 1872. The original hotel, a two storey timber building was oriented towards Kelvin Grove Rd.

Following the death of Matthew Burton in 1873, the property and lease of the hotel was transferred to his wife Elizabeth Sophia Burton, who continued to operate the hotel. The lease was transferred a number of times from the mid-1880s until William Valentine signed a lease in 1888 for 14 years.

In late 1889, architect John Beauchamp Nicholson, engaged by leaseholder William Valentine, called for tenders for pulling down and rebuilding the Normanby Hotel. Nicholson formally went into partnership with Dutch-trained English-born architect Alfred Wright in early 1890 and Wright is considered to be responsible for the design of the new building.

The new Normanby Hotel was formally opened in December 1890, a large, ornate two storey brick building with a lower level to the rear. The hotel was built to face Musgrave Rd and its principal elevations were Musgrave Rd and its eastern side, facing a small reserve at the corner of Musgrave and Kelvin Grove Roads. Internally the hotel contained bars and parlours, drawing and billiard rooms, and accommodation for both guests and lessees/employees. The building was described in great detail in a Brisbane Courier article at the time of opening (see below), while a sketch of the building appeared in the Building and Engineering Journal of Australia and New Zealand in 1891. The hotel was built at a cost of £4000, with Thomas Game the contractor.

Brewery Buys Normanby Hotel for £52,000

THE Normanby Hotel, the central landmark at the Normanby Corner, has been sold by the proprietor, Mr. F. G. Burton, to Castlemaine-Perkins, Ltd. The purchase price, it is understood, was about £52,000. This is one of numerous recent acquisitions of hotels in Brisbane by brewery interests.

With the exception of several short periods, the Normanby Hotel has been in the possession of the Burton family for 65 years. It was established by the parents of the present vendor when the locality was covered by thick bush and the patrons were chiefly wood carters. The old wooden building was demolished in 1900, when the present brick building, distinguished by its handsome type of architecture, was erected.

Mr. F. G. Burton became proprietor in 1905. After some years he sold the property, but later repurchased it.



THE NORMANBY HOTEL

*The Courier Mail 1 August 1936
(National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)*

Normanby to spend \$1m^{15/12/00} to upgrade its beergarden

Madonna Cameron

CAN you remember the last time you walked to your local pub for a quiet one just because it was there?

Could you sit in refurbished comfort among the regulars who are as much a part of the hotel as the new landscaped beergarden?

Because this is the kind of pub Brisbane partnership Michael Dempsey and Otto Wilhelm are about to create with a \$1.1 million refurbishment of the heritage-listed Normanby Hotel.

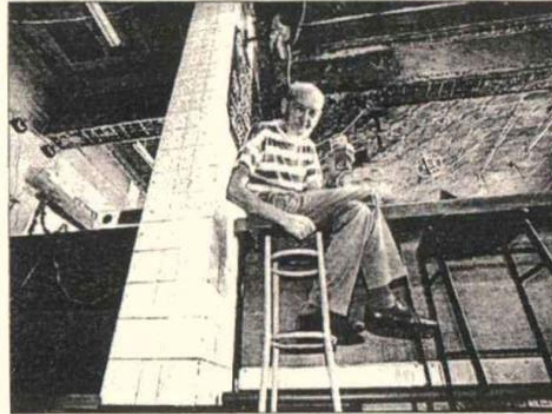
Improvements include a doubling of the beergarden surrounding the landmark Normanby Fiveways fig tree.

The timber-decked bar will bear no resemblance to the place 30-somethings used to congregate in the 1980s to watch a guitarist called Hemi.

Also new will be the Kelvin Grove carpark which will be levelled to make room for 49 cars.

But upstairs the traditional public bar ambience will be comfortably revamped to welcome the new and the old.

The owners value the patronage of the regulars who have spent years watching the paint peel and want to make sure they return.



A REGULAR at the bar, Neil Currie, welcomes the changes.

"There's a lack of traditional pubs around now," Mr Dempsey said.

"They've either all been gentrified into restaurants or turned into nightclubs."

The designs, by Brand & Slater Architects director James Forbes, hope to blend the fabric of the historic hotel with modern comfort.

Among the additions is a standalone gaming room with 35 poker machines and a kitchen which will specialise in traditional pub-style food.

The licensees are also applying for a mini-tab licence.

And despite an alarming trend for the billiards room of Brisbane hotels to disappear during refits, the Normanby's will stay.

Neil Currie, 59, and a local at the Normanby for 30 years, welcomes the changes "as long as they don't go overboard".

Still awaiting Brisbane City Council development application approval, the renovations will convert the corner pub from 600sq m to 1600sq m.

The owners bought the hotel from the Action Liquor chain owner's Austhotels for \$900,000 18 months ago.



ARCHITECT James Forbes, left, and owners Otto Wilhelm and Michael Dempsey, right, discuss renovation plans.

Pictures: Tom O'Connor



c1983



August 2023

'Rear' of No 16 St James Street

Warren Lodge

In the early 1930s to cater for the housing shortage as well as to generate income many home owners in the inner-city suburbs converted houses into tenements, where tenants would share bathrooms, toilets and kitchens. This led to community concerns of overcrowding and increased hygiene problems.

A fashionable and more sophisticated alternative to this form of accommodation was the purpose built block of self-contained flats, marketed mainly at single people and childless couples. The earliest self-contained flats in Brisbane were generally conveniently situated close to trams, trains and shopping facilities in inner-city suburbs such as Spring Hill, New Farm and Fortitude Valley.

Most interwar flats in Brisbane were architecturally designed and constructed from good quality brick and timber.

In 1941 Ernest Frank Morley and his wife Edith Lily Morley purchased several parcels of land along Musgrave Road, Petrie Terrace. Morley, a building contractor, built a new set of six brick flats on the site. It is unclear if he designed them himself or if they had an architect.

The application for the construction of the flats was approved by the Brisbane City Council and was recorded to cost £2950. By 1943 the flats had been completed and the Morley's were recorded in the Electoral Rolls as residing at 'Warren Lodge'. The flats were designed with many Functionalist architectural features and were ideally situated close to the city and the Normanby Fiveways tramline.

'Warren Lodge' is important in demonstrating Brisbane's development pattern in the early 1940s, in particular in Petrie Terrace, and the way in which ideas about acceptable forms of housing were changing.

'Warren Lodge' also known as 'Charleston Mews'

Brisbane City Council Local Heritage Place since 16 February 2018



c1983



August 2023

'Rear' of Nos 1 & 2/27 St James Street

Warriston, Musgrave Road

Warriston was erected in the 1880s when timber and tin were becoming more acceptable materials for fashionable residences. Because of its scale, this building was readily turned into a boarding-house during the 1910s. Sheeted and stuccoed over, it operated as 'Berkeley Flats'. Only the fretwork sides of sunhoods, double brackets beneath eaves, pointed acroterions at gutter corners, double chimneys and the hipped iron roofline showed something of its pedigree. Aided by early photographs, professional expertise, enthusiasm and a mint of money, the building was restored in rich colour as well as timber detail, plus modern plumbing and air-conditioning.

Compared with the hovels behind the hill, Warriston provided elite living. This was the abode of David Pringle Milne, a West Ward alderman (1870 to 1876) and retired manufacturer of the 'Glasgow Boot and Shoe Mart' in Queen Street, hence the name 'Warriston', a northern district of Edinburgh. However, the two blocks of land had been acquired in the name of his wife Christina, in 1866 and 1874. Their early address was Petrie Terrace, which was renamed Musgrave Road after the sudden death of the Governor in 1888.

Since the Milnes lived on this site from the late 1860s and no mortgage was recorded, it is difficult to date the building exactly. Moreover Warriston is not one dwelling but two, separated by a brick and plaster party-wall, each semi-detached residence having three bedrooms up, two living rooms down joined by folded doors, and a detached kitchen at the back. However, the directories show that from 1887, when the building was first listed by name, the Milnes lived on one side in Warriston No. 2, while No. 1 was occupied successively by business and white collar householders. These included surveyors WM Davidson and CT Bedford, Albert E. Harte, a prominent stock and share broker of Queen Street, and Captain James C O'Brien of the Queensland Defence Force. During the later 1890s, a private boarding school was conducted in Warriston No. 1 by Mrs WB and Miss AM Brown. The proximity of Victoria Barracks accounted for the presence of further military gentlemen, named Major W Howard Tunbridge and Major Victor Sellheim, around the turn of the century.

Altogether this indicates that Warriston replaced an earlier Milne family dwelling and quite likely its easterly neighbour, Victoria House, between 1885 and 1887. It was built as a pair of semi-detached residences for middle class people who could afford a greater degree of space and style. But it was basically a glorified timber structure which was constructed against an earlier, single-storied building providing verandahed kitchens and servants quarters, well out of sight at the rear of the brand new Warriston 1 and 2.

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

John Herbert Awards — 1988



The National Trust's prestigious John Herbert Awards for excellence in the field of restoration were presented on April 18 to a variety of outstanding projects. The following article, part of a continuing series on the John Herbert Awards, 1988, gives a little insight into the many hours of work winners of the awards committed to their projects in the categories of recycling, conservation action and sites.



The former drawing room, now used as a reception area, has been decorated with antique furniture, prints and brass jardinières filled with lilies and parlour palms.

'Warriston' Wins Award By Richard Allom

After more than two years in restoration, 'Warriston, a pair of attached timber houses at 6 and 8 Musgrave Road, Red Hill, has been completed under the direction of Brisbane conservation architects, Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle.

In recognition of the work's excellence the building's owners, Brisbane Post Production Services Pty. Ltd., were awarded a 1988 John Herbert Award for recycling.

'Warriston' sits on the very edge of the Petrie Terrace Conservation Area — an entire suburb declared to be of significance by the National Trust in 1977. The houses themselves have recently been individually listed by the Trust.

Petrie Terrace is a unique area. Historian Rod Fisher has pointed out that not only is the suburb important for its early history but because it is the only relatively intact suburb of early Brisbane — "The City of South Brisbane has been dismantled; Kangaroo Point has been devastated by the Story Bridge; Fortitude Valley has become a thoroughfare; and Spring Hill is now in fragments" says Dr Fisher in a soon to be published book on Petrie Terrace.

The suburb was always one in which a mixture of uses and activities existed side by side. Public institutions, business of all sorts and houses from simple artisans cottages to substantial houses made Petrie Terrace, in its heyday, a vital and thriving centre.

Two major business centres existed. One at the junction of Petrie Terrace and Caxton Steet and the second at the Normanby Fiveways.

The more substantial houses in the suburb appear to have been clustered on the high ground around the Normanby Fiveways. These include not only 'Warriston' but the masonry Terrace Houses in Petrie Terrace that now function as restaurants and commercial offices.

The earliest building on the site of 'Warriston' however seems to have been somewhat less substantial than the present house. David Pringle Milne, a boot and shoe manufacturer and proprietor of the Glasgow Boot & Shoe Market in Queen Street is recorded as living on the site from the late 1860s. Two blocks of land had been acquired in the name of his wife, Christina, in 1866 and 1874.

It is not until 1887, however, that 'Warriston' is mentioned by name in the Post Office Directories and, judging by the architectural style of the houses, it is probable that the present building dates from that time. By then Milne had retired from business and indeed had retired from public life. He was a West Ward alderman of the City Council between 1870 and 1876.

The houses are fairly typical of their period and of the terrace house style. Although built in timber they are separated by a masonry party wall in the full height and length of the building. The street elevation is particularly elaborate and on a grand scale that signifies the importance and expense of their construction.

Upstairs consists of three bedrooms with verandahs both to the street and rear elevation. Downstairs are a pair of reception rooms joined with folding doors. A hall and staircase joins the two levels.



John Herbert Awards — 1988

Adjoining each house at the rear is a detached kitchen and maid's room and it is in this area that particular interest lies. The kitchen wings are clumsily attached to the main house and suggest, to the trained eye, that the architect or builder was not completely in control of his design at this point. Careful examination suggests subtle differences in construction and finishes between the two sections. Not the least of these is the discovery that the earliest paint colour to the two sections was different. It has therefore been assumed that the kitchen wings are probably part of an earlier Milne house on the site and may date from the late 1860s. Their incorporation into the late 1880s houses that presently occupy the site resulted in the clumsy detailing still apparent.

During their lifetime the Milnes occupied one side of 'Warriston' and the other side was let to a succession of business and white collar occupants. These included surveyors, W M Davidson and C T Bedford, Albert E Harte, a stock and share broker, and Captain James C O'Brien of the Queensland Defence Forces. During the late 1890s a private boarding school was conducted in 'Warriston' No 1 by Mrs W B and Miss H M Brown.

Shortly after the turn of the Century, 'Warriston' became a boarding house, a function that prevailed until the present owners purchased the house in 1985. During this time verandahs were enclosed and much of the detail was covered with a layer of stucco that largely disguised the finer architectural qualities of the building.

As "Berkeley Flats" its future seemed grim. It required a sensitive and alert eye to see the potential of the property and a solid financial commitment to save the houses. Given the problems that dogged the restoration programme over two years, it also required a real commitment to the project. Work began slowly with careful investigation of structural capacity and damage to the fabric. The houses fairly groaned under the weight of tons of stucco cement and distortion in the timber frames was substantial. White ants had taken advantage of the covering of original timber to make their home in the walls. The usual crude adaptation of large rooms into bed-sitters and kitchenettes had left its mark and damaged the original fabric.

Surprisingly however, much original material remained behind later enclosures. For example not only were verandah balustrades found behind asbestos cement linings but, because the work had been done within thirty years of the first construction of the house, early colour schemes were clearly visible. Subtleties of colour were therefore able to be matched in the restoration. Detailed colour scraping and microscopic analysis was carried out in areas where early colours had been overpainted.

Work proceeded with a small and expert team under the direction of George Cooper who, throughout the programme, maintained an exceptionally high standard of workmanship often in difficult conditions.

Project architect, Richard Allom, says of the workmanship, "From the beginning it was understood that this was to be one project that was to be done right. No shortcuts were taken nor was it expected that they would be. By the time the project was completed, tradesmen engaged on the work knew and understood the owner's commitment to quality and learned or remembered building skills that are increasingly hard to find and, in many cases, have almost disappeared from the building trade repertoire."

Despite the tendency in Brisbane to build reproduction 19th Century buildings within historic areas — an approach permitted and indeed encouraged by the Brisbane City Council

— the new owners at 'Warriston' recognized the intrinsic value of the genuine article and spared no expense or effort to preserve the houses as they were conceived in 1887 and before.

As an extension of this approach the houses have been furnished with antiques of the period and interiors fitted with late Victorian prints and paintings, whatnots and jardinières to recapture the cluttered look of interiors of that period. Desley Campbell-Stewart of Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle who was responsible for the work at 'Warriston', spared no effort to find appropriate soft furnishings and furniture to complete the task.

Although it might have been quicker, easier and less expensive to demolish the houses and build reproductions as allowed in the Council's Development Control Plan for Petrie Terrace, the work on 'Warriston' stands as an example of what can be done by private enterprise to preserve the real heritage of this city.

The houses' conservation and re-use is a testament to the success of this attitude and approach. The recognition of the work by the National Trust is fitting in this bicentennial year. 'Warriston' is now safe and will be appreciated not only by the present generation but by generations to come.

Proprietor: Brisbane Post Production Pty Ltd
 Builder: George Cooper
 Architects: Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle Pty Ltd
 Historical Research: Dr Rodney Fisher



The entrance hall has been painted a deep turquoise and decorated with a dado and stencil typical of the Victorian period.

DESIGN FOR LIVING



Restoration architect Richard Allom with project officer Desley Campbell-Stewart in the one of the rooms they restored.

Rare pair

TO see what restoration is really about, pull up beside the Normanby Hotel in Brisbane and look at the building over the road.

Another good view is from the traffic in Kelvin Grove Road. Continuity is what restoration is all about, and regular commuters have watched it all happen in Musgrave Road over the past couple of years.

Once there was a building lost in obscurity, very old and rather boring. Now it has emerged in breathtaking beauty, a rare matching pair of Victorian houses, appearing as one ornate symmetrical place.

It wasn't really sudden. Videotape editor Steve Cooper bought Warriston, 6-8 Musgrave Road, Petrie Terrace, for love of old buildings, in 1985.

By GRACE GARLICK
Pictures by
KAROL GAWLICK

He and his wife Karen had "got the bug". They'd restored a dilapidated old building in Spring Hill back in 1982. "We got a lot of satisfaction out of that," said Steve. "So we said let's move on and see if we can find another."

"We bought the Normanby building in November 1985. It was 10 or 12 flats — unbelievable. We had a good look. From the fireplaces and doors and what we saw we realised this was once a very beautiful building."

They paid \$170,000 for it. Steve estimates the restoration project at \$280,000. Its value now would be close to \$650,000.

His father, George, worked on site for the months of restoration. It wasn't the sort of job you could call quotes for, when dirt for years past had been piled up against one side and the white ants had found a way in.

Steve had bought more history than he realised. Warriston features in historian Rod Fisher's new book *Up and down old Petrie Terrace: Brisbane 1858-1988*, with sketches by Steve Woolcock (Boolarong Publications, price about \$10).

It was built in the 1880s when timber and tin were becoming more acceptable materials for fashionable residences, said Dr Fisher.

Because of its scale, the building was readily turned into a boarding house after the turn of the century.

Sheeted and stuccoed over, it operated as Berkeley Flats until recently. Only the fretwork sides of sunhoods, double brackets beneath

caves, double chimneys and the hipped iron roofline showed something of its pedigree.

"Aided by early photographs, professional expertise, personal enthusiasm and an amount of money, the new owners have restored Warriston in rich color as well as timber detail," states Rod Fisher's book.

"Once more can we admire the fine two-storey facade, its double veranda posts separated by diagonal balustrading, unusual for the city, with curved veranda brackets above and arched lattice infill below.

"Inside, the timber mantelpieces surrounding cast iron coal-burning grates have been marble painted and the pine staircases stained cedar again.

"Compared with the hovels behind the hill, Warriston provided elite living. This was the abode of David Pringle Milne, a west ward alderman from 1870 to 1876 and retired manufacturer of 'Glasgow Boot and Shoe Mart' in Queen Street. Hence Warriston, a northern district of Edinburgh."

Warriston is not one dwelling but two, separated by a brick and plaster party-wall, each semi-detached residence having three bedrooms up, two living rooms down joined by folding doors, and a detached kitchen at the back.

For Steve Cooper and his family, restoration is "in the blood". He'd grown up in an old Queensland colonial when his parents, George and Doreen, migrated from England to Moggill, on Brisbane's west side, in 1961.

Steve and his wife Karen and five children live in a rather more modern house at Brookfield. As a videotape editor, specialising in making TV commercials, he



Hallway of one of the matching pair restored with the colors of Victoriana, and beautiful wall stencil. Pictured is secretary Janette Brewer.



c1983



August 2023

'Rear' of No 29 St James Street

N.C.S.	Earl St	MAP 79 D2	STREET	10 MUSGRAVE ROAD	SUBURB	PETRIE TERRACE
VENDOR/S PHONE			TENANT PHONE	Yes - 6mths lease		LISTING No. 43394/1
BASE	tmbt stps	O/S WALLS	w/bd			
ROOF	iron	INT. WALLS	timber			
AGE	old	PATIO				
L & D	comb	BDRMS.	3			
OTHER RMS.	encl. front verandah					
KIT	old					
BATH	yes	SHR. REC.	SOB			
STOVE	gas	H.W.S.	elec			
LAUNDRY	off kitchen	SEWD.	yes			
CAR ACCOM.	no	HIGH/LOW SET	H/L			
LAND APPROX.	242.6m2	FRONT APPROX.	8.7m			
FENCED	4 sides	ZONING	A			
RATES	\$165.23	ASSESS No.				
V.G.	\$4220	TRPT.	bus outside			
R.P.D.	S.4 Allot.311 on RP.10691					
Vol.	454 Fol.123 C/Stanley P/Nth Bris					
DEED HELD			V.P.			
INSPECT			C.B.A. Toowong			
	Through Listing Agent					
FRONT STEPS	12	REAR STEPS	3			
UNDER HOUSE						
ASPECT						
L.A.	L.J. Hooker					
SUB.	Toowong		H40			
PHONE	371 3866					
A.H.s. REP.	Tom Laffan					
BASIS OF CONJUNCTION	2/3 OF NETT COMMISSION					
	18th April, 1979					
MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE OF QUEENSLAND. FORM 2.						

REMARKS: Ideal investment property. Present rental \$50. Handy transport - walk to City. Freshly painted inside.

PRICE: ~~\$19,900~~
24,000.

[Courtesy Windsor & District Historical Society / Churchill Real Estate Archive]



c1984



August 2023

'Rear' of No 12 Earl Street



c1983



August 2023

No 14 Musgrave Road (and Nos 9 and 9A Earl Street)

OLD NORMANBY STORE c1912, cnr Musgrave Road and Earl Street

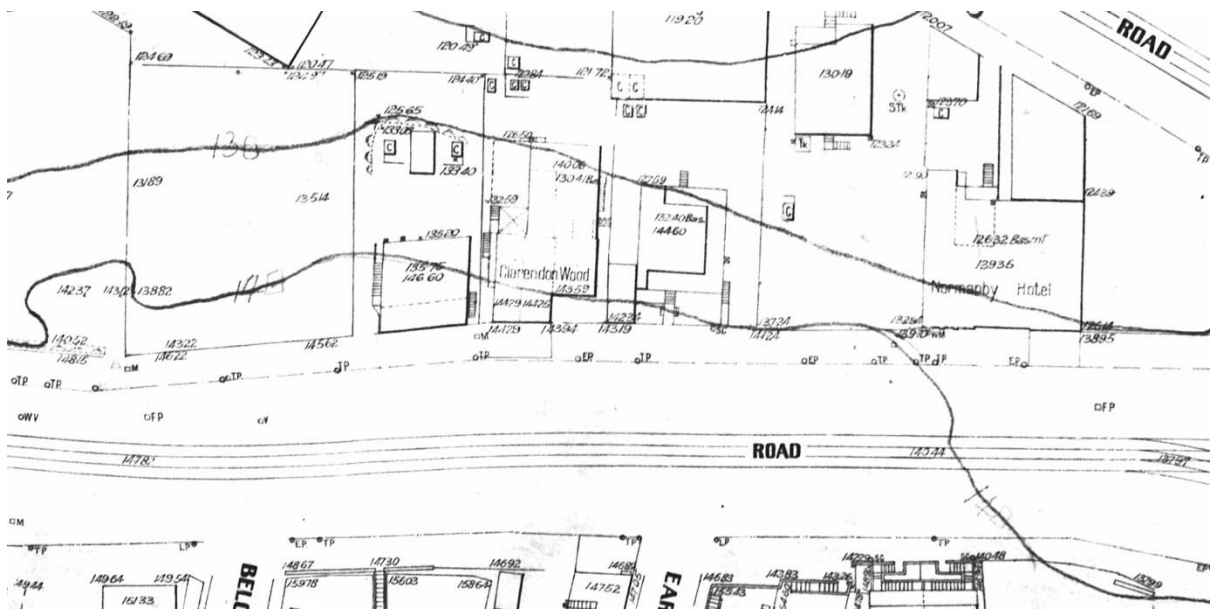
At the Earl Street corner of Musgrave Road is a small two-storied shop-house, a newsagency since 1936. Earl Street first comprised a large allotment bought from under Bishop Quinn's nose in 1861 by Edward Tufnell, the Anglican Bishop. In 1878 this was gained by John Bale, a Brisbane accountant, who sold 26 lots of about 6 perches.

On three corner blocks of the 'Bishops Hill', a fine timber dwelling facing Musgrave Road was built by 1896 as a rental proposition for John James Clark, a former Colonial Architect. The next owners, Alfred Sands, a ganger, and his wife Elizabeth, moved there from lower down in Earl Street and built the shop-house in front, which has been occupied since 1912. Looking at Musgrave Road today, one might suppose that this was simply an old corner store. No such thing – this shop with several others opposite and on Petrie Terrace are the remnants of a once thriving business centre.

The principal shopping centre sprang up in the 1860s where Caxton Street met Petrie Terrace, facilitated by through roads, settlement of the southern end, public houses, the gaol and the barracks. Such was the variety of services by the 1880s that residents hardly needed to visit the city. As settlement spread northwards in the 1880s, a second centre developed around Normanby, named after the Governor of 1871-74.

Being at the intersection of five major roads and four populous suburbs, the Fiveways boasted a hotel, post office, railway station, fire brigade, and businesses along Musgrave Road. In 1939 these included a newsagency, hairdresser/tobacconist, butcher and confectioner, two general stores and three mixed businesses, a printer, two motor garages, and a plumber.

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



Above Part 1927 Plan 448 (Brisbane City Archives) and below Part 1961 Aerial photograph (QImagery) of the same northern side of Musgrave Road. Starting at the Normanby Hotel and heading west, by 1961 the first building fronting Musgrave has been demolished, Clarendon and its shops remain (demolished after c1983), and the vacant site beyond the 'trapezoid shaped' shop is now part of the Egg Board complex built in the mid 1950s



Nos 1 -23 Musgrave Road



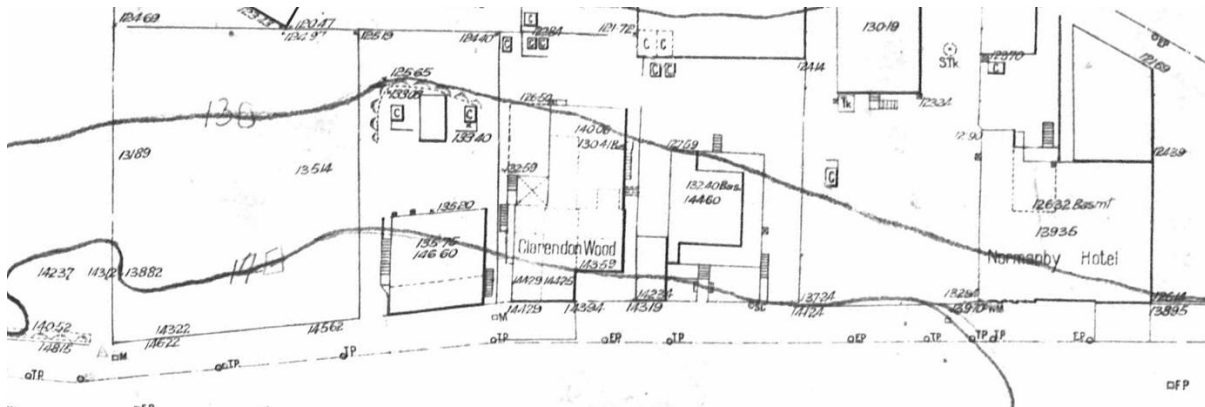
c1983



August 2023

No 15 – 17 Musgrave Road

From as early as 1912 'Clarendon' at No 15 Musgrave Road was advertised as a boarding house. Attached to the building there appears to be two shops on the street frontage (The Telegraph 10 Feb 1912)



Part 1927 Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Plan No 448
(Brisbane City Archives)

Normanby Case.

Covered in blood a man was seen to stagger from a flat at the Normanby last night. A few minutes beforehand, a woman's scream had aroused the curiosity of neighbors.

The man, after traversing a few yards, fell, and was assisted by two youths to the Normanby Hotel, from where ambulance bearers were summoned. The man who recovered while being treated, gave the name of James Crady, of 15 Musgrave-road, Normanby. He was suffering from a large incision on the left thigh, laceration and contusion on the head, and shock, and was taken to the General Hospital.

When questioned by the police, Crady refused to state how he received his injuries, or who inflicted them.

Daily Standard 10 Apr 1933
(National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)



c1983



August 2023

No 21 Musgrave Road

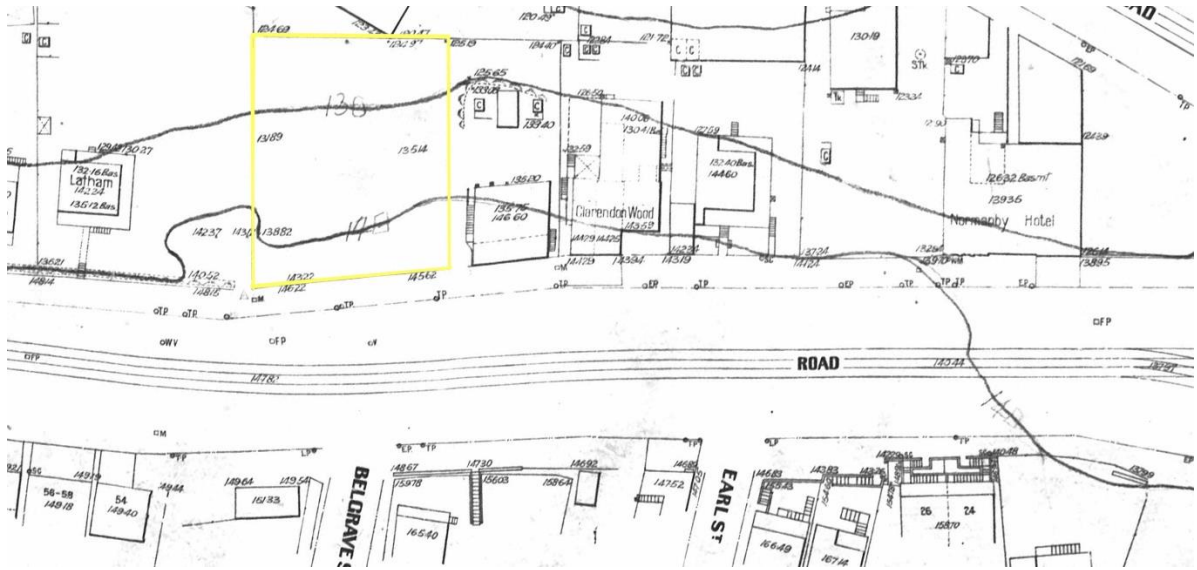


c1984

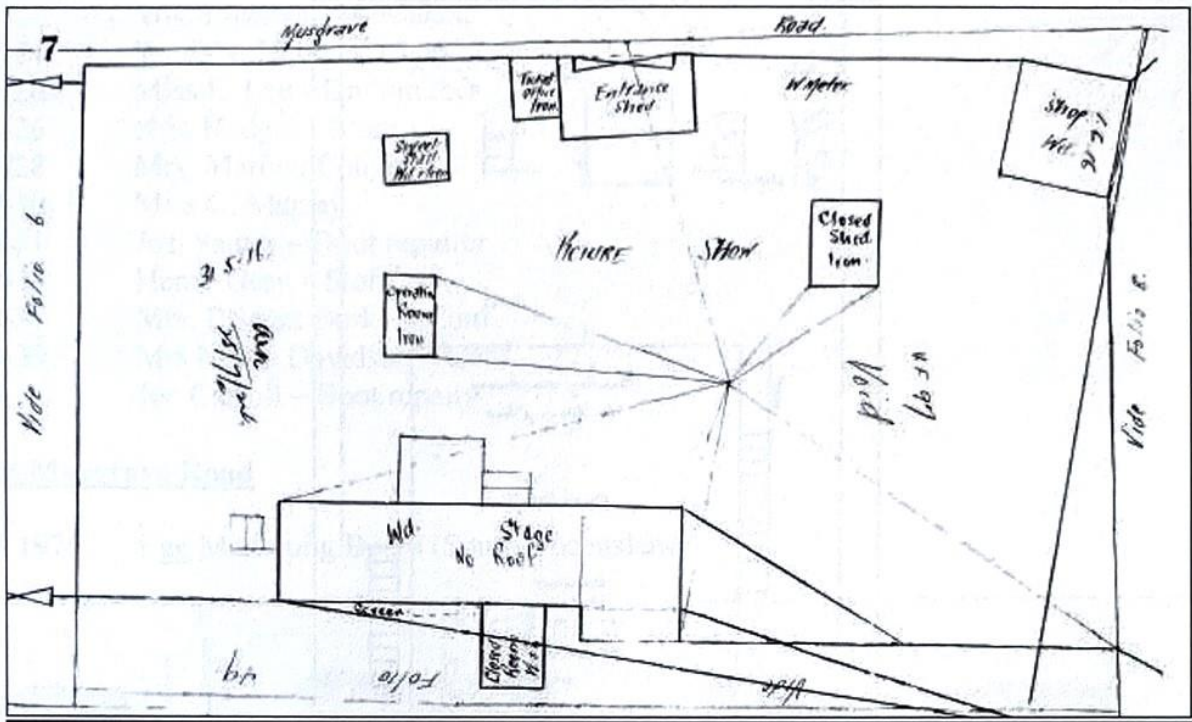


August 2023

No 23 Musgrave Road



Site of the Normanby Picture palace highlighted in yellow on Part of the 1927 Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Plan 448 (Brisbane City Archives)



1916 MWS&SB Surveyor's notebook (Brisbane City Archives)

NORMANBY PICTURE PALACE.

LOCATION: A FEW DOORS FROM NORMANBY HOTEL,
 Direction: Hugh Black's Entertainments Limited.
 EVERY TUESDAY AND SATURDAY EVENING, AT 8.

GRAND OPENING TO-NIGHT.

A PERFECT ARGOSY OF ATTRACTIONS.
 Pictures from all Habitable Corners of the Globe,
BRAVE HEARTS.
 A Beautiful Western Drama, full of Thrilling Situations, and Abounding in Magnificent Scenery.

THELMA, Marie Corelli's Novel,
THE MAGIC FIFE, Gaston Velle's Fairy Tale,
 Two Beautiful Coloured Pictures, set in Magnificent Scenery, &c.

A PLUCKY AMERICAN GIRL, Sensational Cowboy Dramas,
 STARLIGHT AND THE SQUAW,

MR. GILBERT FERGUSON
 In the very latest Illustrated Song Successes.

Seats for 2,000. 500 reserved chairs. Admission, 6d.; Chairs, 6d. extra; Children, half price.
 Complete Orchestra. W. F. O'SHEA, Business Manager.

NORMANBY PICTURE PALACE.
 Residents of Red Hill and Kelvin Grove districts have been watching with interest the construction of Mr. Hugh Black's new picture theatre near the Normanby junction. The place was opened last night, and the attendance on this occasion was so large that the management began to regret that they had not a larger enclosure. As the place is better known, it will, no doubt, be inadequate altogether, for the crowds who will attend. Last night it was quite filled. Many favourable comments were passed on the comfortable seats, which are arranged on a natural slope, and the clean and new appearance of this latest open-air theatre. It is very well equipped, and as Mr. Black intends to include it in his circuit of attractions, a successful career must follow. "Thelma," a dramatisation of Miss Marie Corelli's novel, was the principal picture. It introduced beautiful scenery, and an absorbing love interest, and was heartily applauded. "The Magic Fife," a fairy tale; "A Plucky American Girl," "Brave Hearts," "Sport in Indo-China," and many comics also were included. Mr. Gilbert Ferguson was the vocalist, and his songs, "Pansies," and "If You Love Someone, Won't You Please Love Me?" were vociferously applauded. Another entertainment will be given on Saturday night.

The Telegraph 15 Aug 1911

The Telegraph 16 Aug 1911

(National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)



Musgrave Road looking south east c191.2 The screen at the bottom of the slope, the rows of seats, and the Bushell's Tea advert on the side of the small building are all believed to be part of the Normanby Picture Palace

(State Library of Qld)

To-morrow night Mrs. Fred Hill, a keen worker for the soldiers, and a woman with a charming personality, is organising, with Miss Stella Bruce Nicol (secretary of the Wool-spinning Guild), a picture benefit for the Ladies' Harbor Lights Guild—that is, the Seamen's Mission—at the Normanby Picture Palace, which has just changed hands and is now owned by three returned men, who are giving their opening night to them for the above cause, as well as the Nurses' Equipment Fund. Mrs. Smythe, the late proprietor's wife, is giving refreshments to all the helpers free. The Naval Band will play all the evening. His Excellency the Governor has given his patronage, General Irving will be present, also Commander and Mrs. Curtis, and the mayor and mayoress.

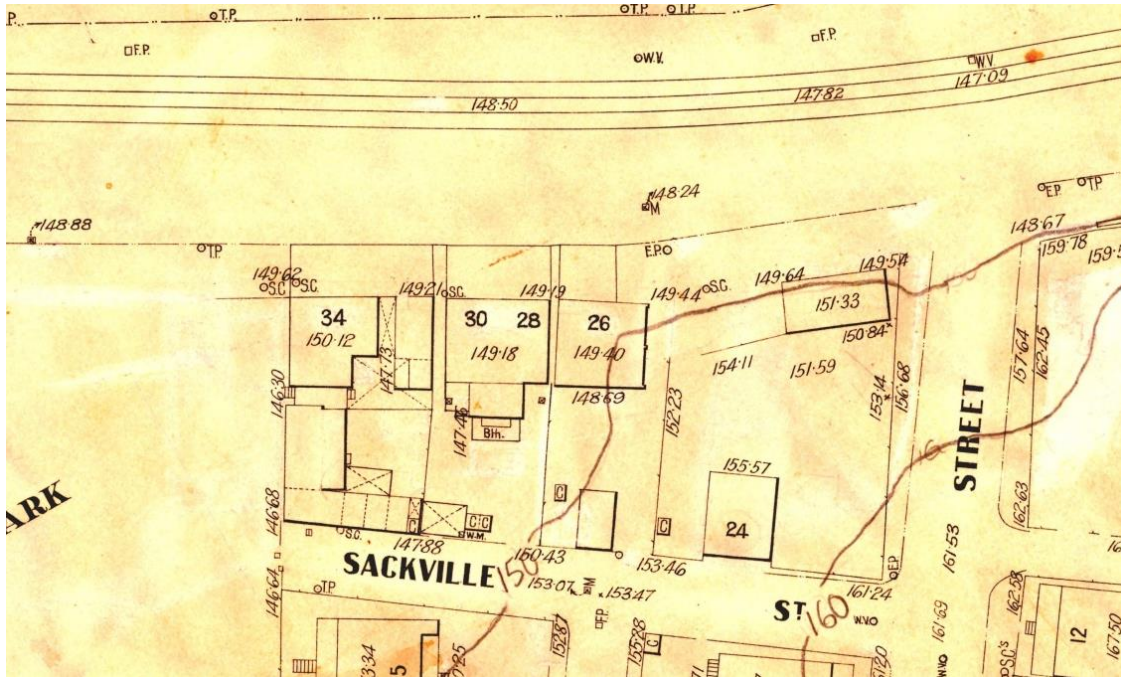
National Leader 27 Jul 1917

(National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)

Richard Smythe, the butcher who lived on the opposite side of Musgrave Road (No 34) owned this picture theatre for some time prior July 1917. Ownership changed hands that year and by 1924 it was advertised for sale, with enquiries to be made at Smythe's address.



*Footpath collapse during construction of the foundations for the Queensland Egg Marketing Board building in 1956
(Brisbane City Archives)*



Above Part 1927 MWS&SB Plan 111 (Brisbane City Archives) and below Part 1961 aerial photograph (QImagery). At the time of the initial survey for the 1927 plan there was a forge and carriage works on the Belgrave/Musgrave corner, and a building to the west of No 34, the local Fire Station (built in the parkland)



Nos 24 to 34 Musgrave Road



c1983



August 2023

No 24 Musgrave Road

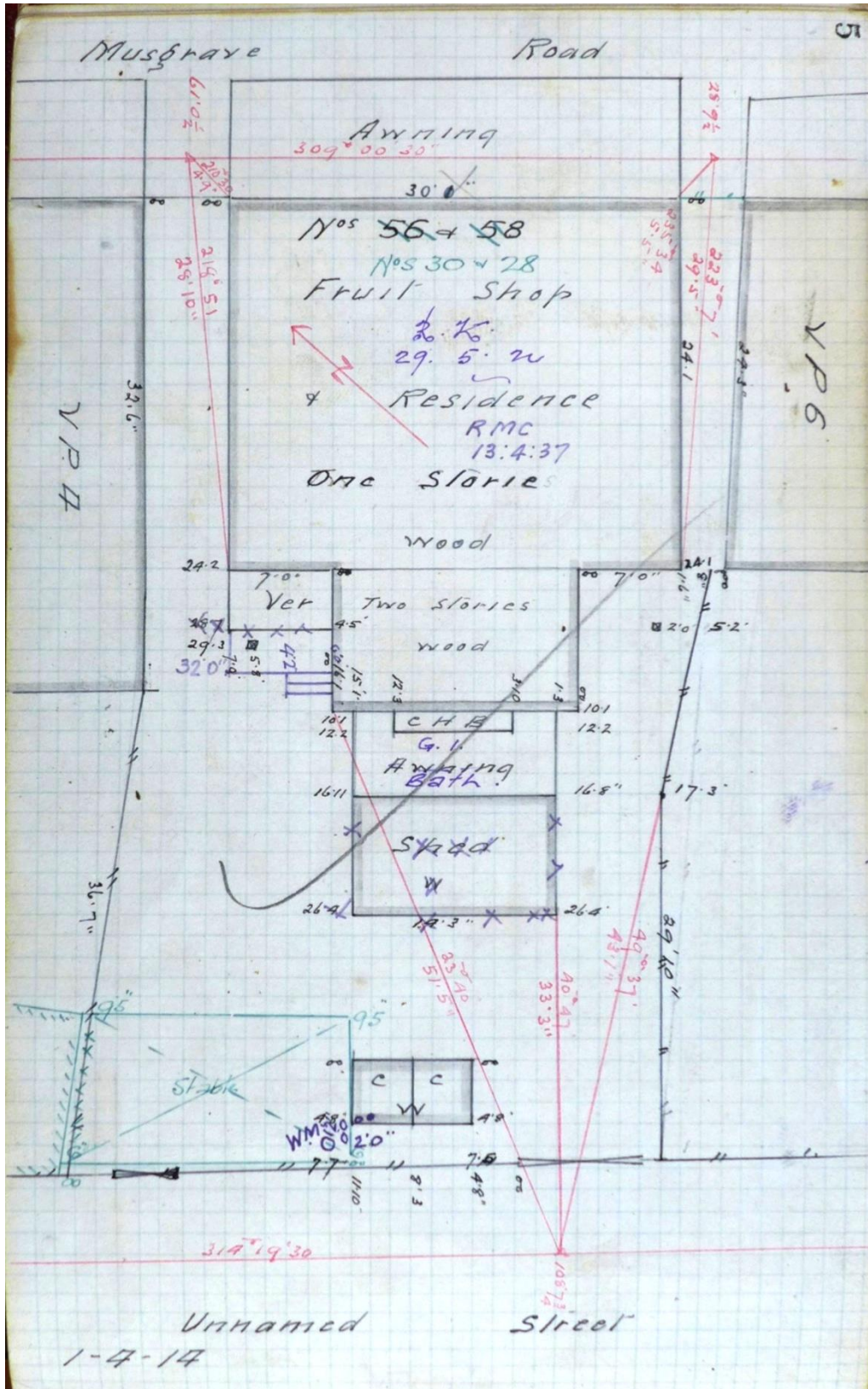


c1983

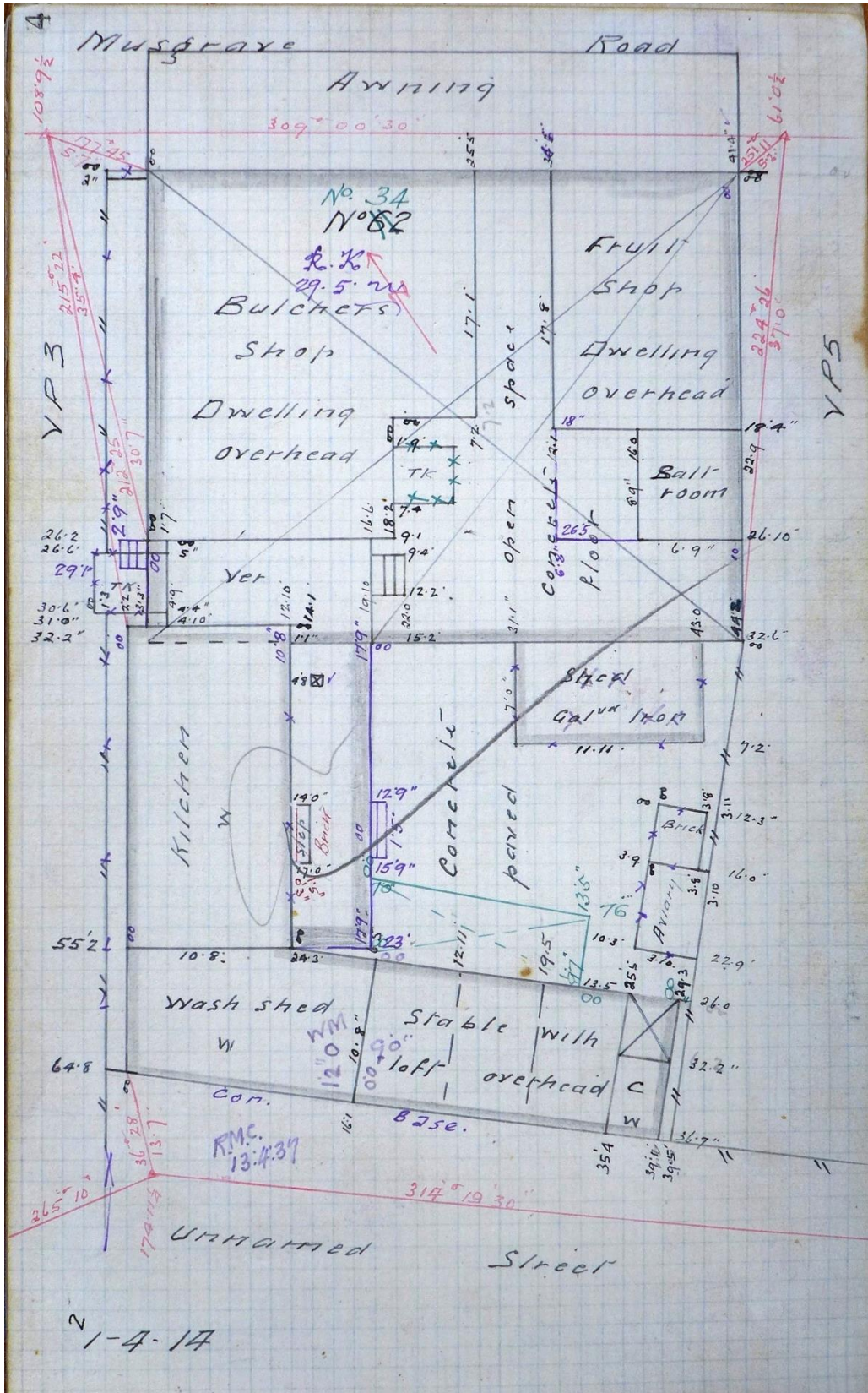


1988 Demolition of this row of shops underway

No 26 – 34 Musgrave Road



Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board
Surveyor's notebook – No28 - 30 Musgrave Road
(Brisbane City Archives)



Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board
Surveyor's notebook – No 34 Musgrave Road
(Brisbane City Archives)

Excerpts from an interview with Mervyn Smythe 1990s

Our family butcher shop was originally built in 1896 and we have a receipt dated that year for 5 pounds of nails costing 4s. The timber was 5s and the whole job cost £5 something. All the family helped out in that shop and the children in the family were the cleaners. As you got to a certain age, you went to work. The family house was there too, and the grandparents. It was on the corner of the park, on top of the butcher shop, corner of Hale Street and Musgrave Road.

There used to be horse stables at the end of this street believe it or not and my grandad Richard Smythe used to go down there on Sundays and play cards. Grandad got this great big lump of meat and hammered it under the table and when they all arrived to play cards they were saying "gee, something stinks". They kept shifting the table around but they were taking the smell with them. One day my dad Leslie Smythe painted a bird (pigeon) and took it down to the Normanby and told them it had escaped from a Japanese fishing boat. One day they gave it a wash and the paint came off. He was always playing jokes on people.

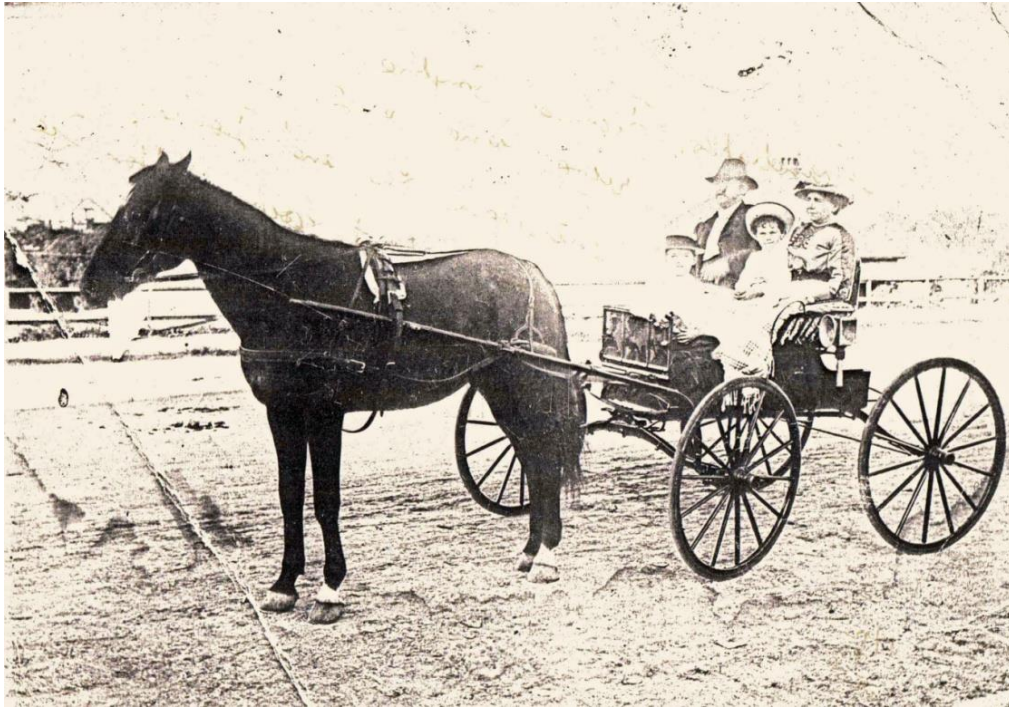
There were two abattoirs out the back of the butcher's shop where the beasts were slaughtered and dripping was made in a great big copper. The Smythe family also had two mixed businesses in that area of Musgrave Road, and an old shop – a blacksmith's shop. Across the road there was a cafe and an ice-cream parlour, also a fish and chip shop. We had everything we needed, just in this little area.

The Mansfields had the butcher shop after the Smythe family and that's when the Council put 'no parking signs' on Musgrave Road and nobody stopped at the butcher shop anymore.

(Several generations of the Smythe family were butchers Richard Smythe, who built the original shop in 1896, then his sons Leslie and Bonnie, followed by Leslie's son Mervyn.)



Mervyn Smythe 1952



Richard and Jane Smythe with children Leslie and Dolly – circa 1910



*Richard Smythe (left) with son Leslie and unnamed staff member in abattoir at rear of
butcher shop 1910s
(Photos courtesy of Mervyn Smythe)*

Two other sons of Richard Smythe, also residing in Musgrave Road, were Dick and Eddie Smythe, both motorcycle champions.



1928 Davies Park Speedway - Charlie Spinks - Billy Lamont - Dick Smythe - Vic Huxley
(Speed and Road Race History website)

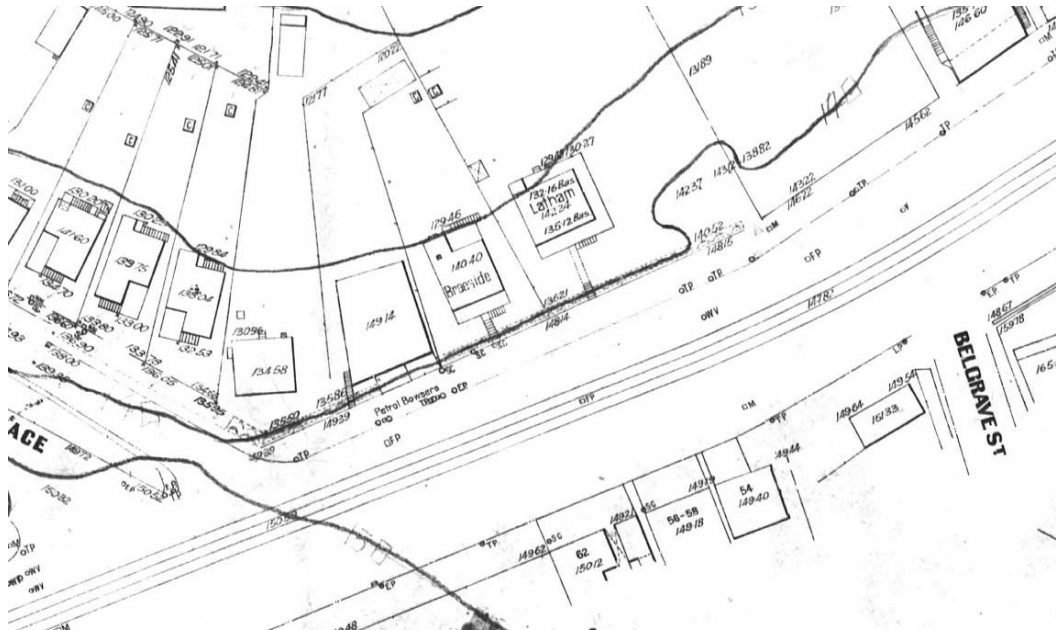


Dick Smythe
1937 Player's cigarette card



Eddie Smythe
The Telegraph 11 Feb 1929

Dick and Eddie Smythe operated the Normanby Speedway Garage (Note 'Petrol Bowers' on plan below) at 39 Musgrave Road in the 1930s. Eddie and his wife lived next door at 'Braeside' 37 Musgrave Road.



Part 1927 Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Plan No 448
(Brisbane City Archives)



Normanby Speedway garage – from left – Don Wilson with baby Ken Smythe, Lance Huxley, Jack Lippiatt and Arthur Lippiatt – Price of petrol on sign – 1/9d per gallon- c1951

(History of the Normanby Triangle by Desley Drevins 2011)

Corner of Musgrave Road and Hale Street

Babbidge Park was named after Benjamin Babbidge who in 1878 was elected Alderman for the North Ward of the Brisbane Council and was elected mayor in February 1885. In that year more money was spent on public works than ever before. As mayor, Babbidge was instrumental in forming the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institute and subscribed £100 to its building fund. He resigned from the North ward in 1887.

(Australian Dictionary of Biography)

Every weekend Bingo was played in the park during the 1930s when the Depression was on. Not everybody had a radio and the SP bookie was in one of the houses up near the park.

(Les Wiseman 1990s)

Circa 1890 a new Petrie Terrace Fire Station with residence was built on land fronting Musgrave Road, previously part of Babbidge Park. By 1921 it was no longer in use and the building was sold.

PETRIE-TERRACE FIRE STATION. — Last year the Fire Brigade Board were allotted 40 feet of the Musgrave-road frontage of Babbidge Park for the purpose of erecting a fire station thereon ; but up to the present a station has not been erected. The dilapidated premises at the corner of Cricket-street, at present occupied by the brigade, has long since been condemned by the board as being unsuitable and dangerous. We understand that the "want of funds" is the reason why nothing has been done. But there is a very easy way of getting over the difficulty, now that the erection of a new Central Station is determined upon, as the material of which the present station is constructed could be sent out to Petrie-terrace, where it would go a long way towards making a station there. The cost of the erection would not be a very large item, as the resident foreman at Petrie-terrace, and other paid firemen, are members of the carpentering craft, and could put in their time advantageously at such work. It is therefore to be hoped that the board will avail themselves of such an opportunity to extend their operations.

Moreton Mail 31 Jan 1890

(National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)

FIRE STN.
 TUESDAY, 5th APRIL,
 At 11 o'Clock.
 ON THE PREMISES,
 BABBDIGE PARK, PETRIE TERRACE,
 NEAR NORMANBY,
 Under instructions from Brisbane Fire Brigade Board.
 FOR REMOVAL,
 (1) BUILDING KNOWN AS NO 3, OR PETRIE TERRACE FIRE STATION (about 30 x 18).
 (2) HARDWOOD AND CHAMFER COTTAGE, about 48 x 30, lined and ceiled, 7 feet veranda, iron roof, containing five rooms, attic and kitchen, Lupton stove, sink, brick chimney, water piping, with 800 gallon tank.
 ISLES, LOVE & CO.
 WILL SELL AS ABOVE,
 WITHOUT RESERVE.
 17446

The Telegraph 2 Apr 1921

From the fire station, there was a cable running down to 17 Lower Clifton Terrace, the home of volunteer fire man Albert Skuce. A bell at the end of the cable alerted him to a fire.

During World War II there was a sandbag bunker in Babbidge Park next to the butcher. Leslie Smythe was the air raid warden.

(History of the Normanby Triangle, Desley Drevins 2011)



*Musgrave Road looking east, Hale Street on right, Lower Clifton Terrace on left
Construction of Clifton Terrace underpass 1968*

(Percy Meara, Remembering the Brisbane Tramways facebook page)



1984



August 2023

No 43 Musgrave Road



The 1961 aerial photograph above (QImagery) shows two buildings between the garage on the corner of Lower Clifton Terrace and the large two story building at No 55. Both were subsequently removed after this photograph. Patti Hobbs (2025) lived in the house next to the garage in the early 1970s, her brother was a mechanic there. At the time the lot next door was vacant. Interestingly the roof of the house they lived in is remarkably similar to the house now at No 51



*1968 No 43 Musgrave Road on left hand side – Shell Garage
(Brisbane City Archives)*



1984



August 2023

No 50 - 54 Musgrave Road



1984 (For sale sign on vacant lot now No 51)



August 2023

No 51 Musgrave Road



1984



August 2023

No 55A & B Musgrave Road



1984



August 2023

No 59 Musgrave Road



1984



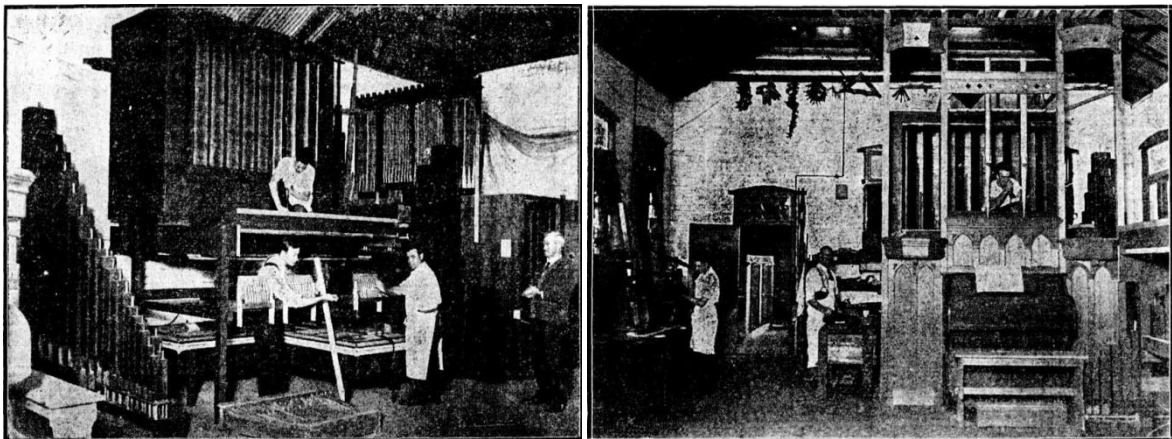
August 2023

No 61 Musgrave Road



From 1903, the firm was listed as 'BB Whitehouse & Co.' at 185 George Street, and this name appears on all of their organs up to 1920. In 1921, the organ-building part of the firm moved to a new location at Musgrave Road, Red Hill, Brisbane, and became known as 'Whitehouse Brothers'

(Organ Historical Trust of Australia)



*Pipe organs being built at Whitehouse Bros in Musgrave Road
The Telegraph 20 June 1927
(National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)*

TWO SAFES BLOWN AT RED HILL

Workshop in State of Chaos Attempt on Garage

Red Hill was the locale of the activities of thieves last night. During the past six months practically every suburb round Brisbane has had to contend with at least one unwelcome visit of these marauders, and although many arrests have been made wholesale robberies continue.

At Red Hill two safes were blown during the night, and a garage was broken into. Fortunately the victims of the attempts were not heavy losers.

At 4.45 a.m. a resident living in the vicinity of the workshop of Messrs. Whitehouse Brothers, at 61 Musgrave Road, Red Hill, saw several people sneaking away from the premises, and later it was discovered that the safe in the office had been shattered. The door was blown in two and the excessive charge of explosive did certain damage to the office furniture and stock, and blew down part of a brick wall.

However, the intruders were but poorly repaid for their trouble, for they obtained only about 10s. and some cheques, on which payment has been stopped.

By breaking open the front door with a jemmy the thieves were able to get

at the office, and they packed the safe well preparatory to blowing it. When the proprietors arrived to-day they found the place in a state of chaos. There were large gaping holes in the brick wall near the safe, and powdered cement covered the entire place. The door of the safe was in two pieces and some of the stock was damaged.

AT SHOE FACTORY.

The safe at the shoe factory of Messrs. F. T. Morris and Company in Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace, yielded even less valuables to the gang that rifled it during the night. When employees arrived on the premises at 7.30 o'clock this morning they found that the double lock on the front door had been destroyed. The safe was buckled and its contents—documents—were strewn about the floor.

Cash is never left on these premises over night, and beyond the damage to the safe the proprietors are not heavy losers.

The intruders apparently made a safe getaway for themselves, for besides the double lock on the front door being shattered, a lock at the rear was spiked.

ATTEMPT ON GARAGE.

Emerson's garage at 43 Musgrave Road, Red Hill, was the scene of the third attempt. There the would-be thieves forced the front door and apparently seeing the till open walked out again. The proprietor states that he makes a practise of taking all cash from his till and leaving the door open every evening.



All that was left of the safe at the premises of Whitehouse Brothers, Red Hill, after thieves had finished with it.

*The Telegraph 11 Jan 1934
(National Library of Australia digitised newspapers)*

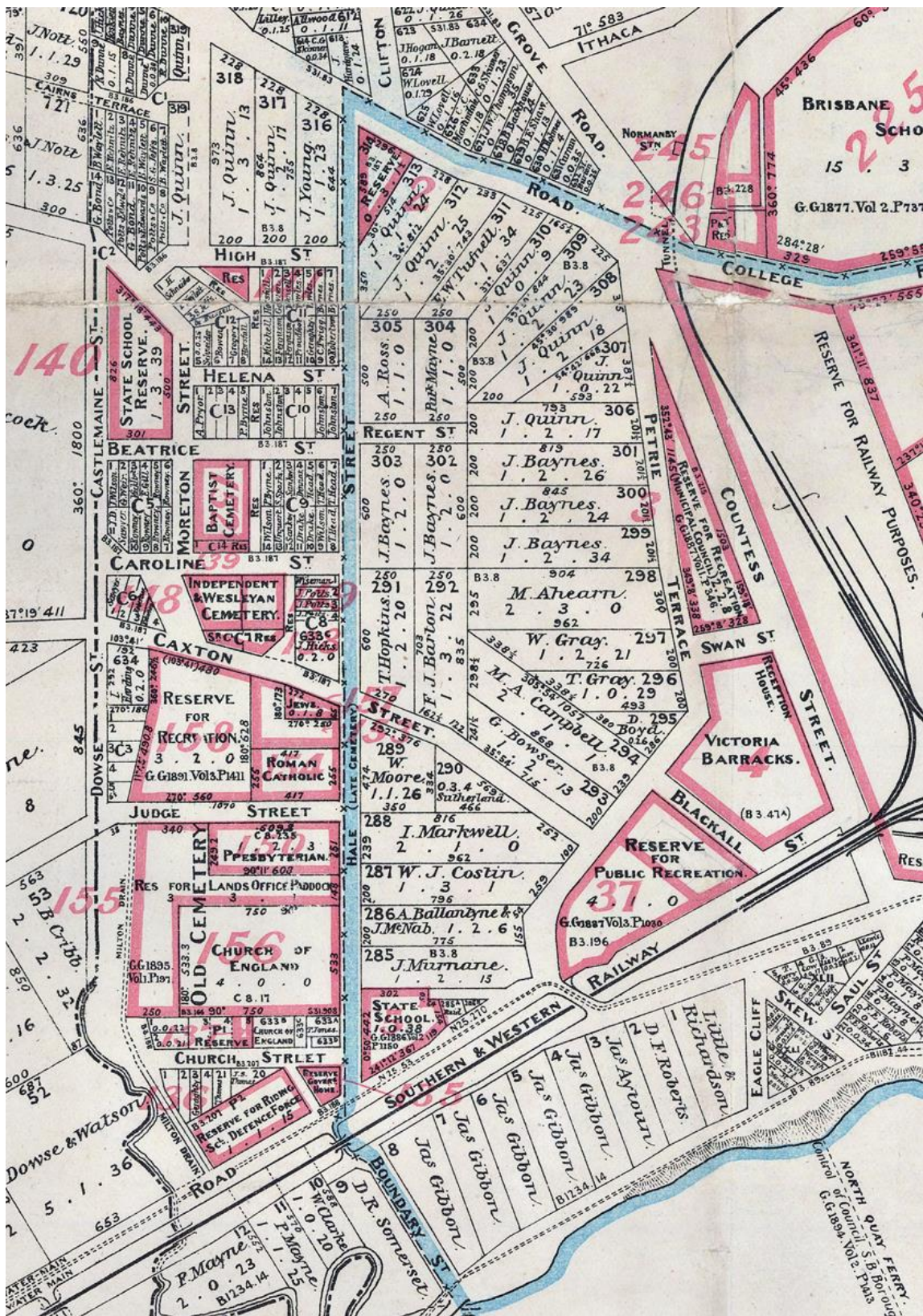


c1935 (State Library of Queensland)



August 2023

Musgrave Road looking east



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)*