



*1992 Street protest*

**Hale Street West**

**Petrie Terrace Photo Study**

**Brisbane History Group**

**[bhg4000@brisbanehistorygroup.org.au](mailto:bhg4000@brisbanehistorygroup.org.au)**

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.

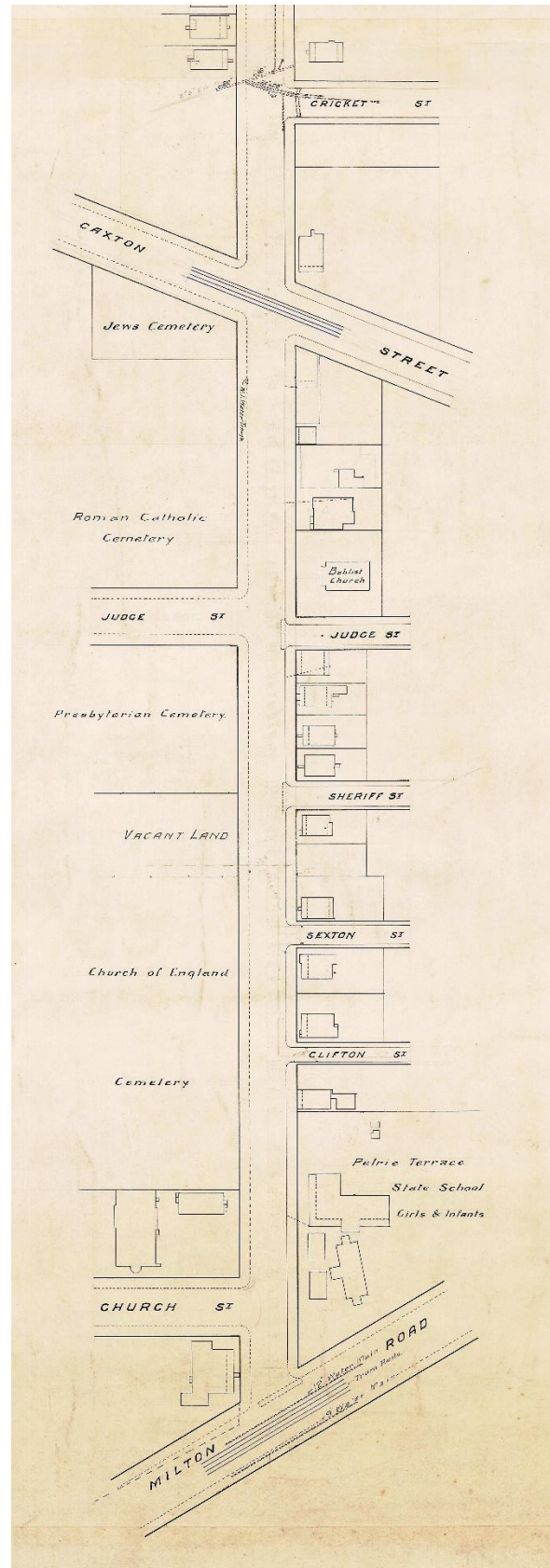
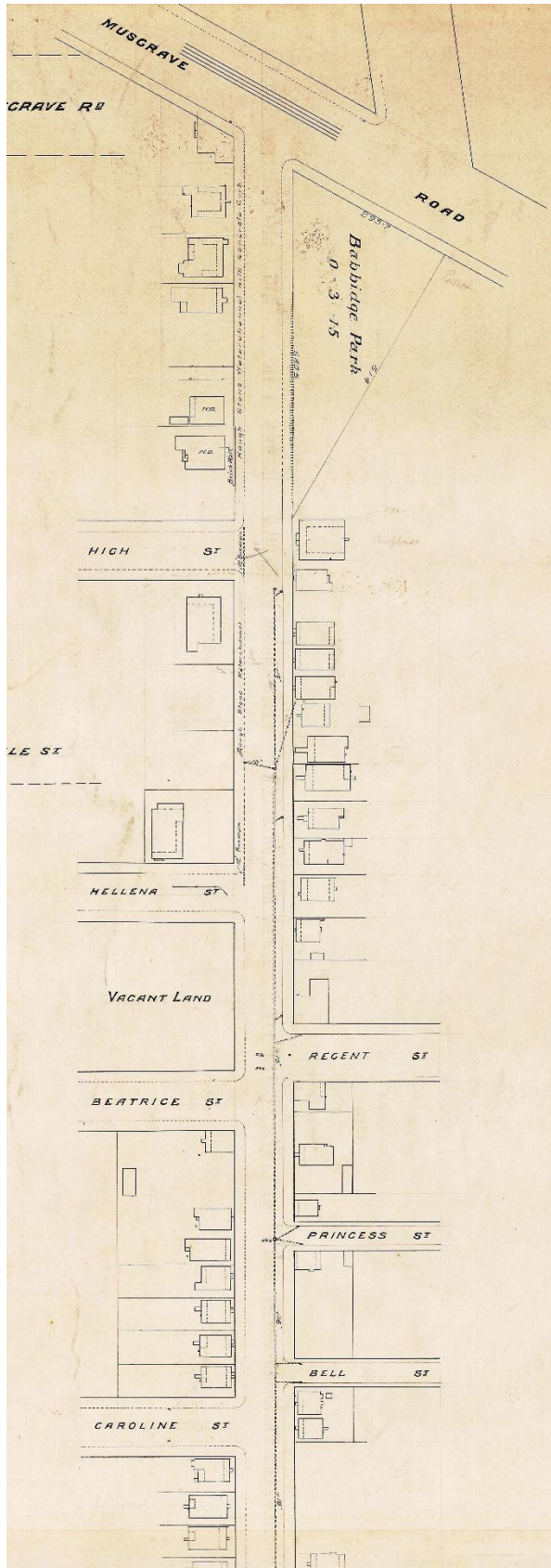
Forty years later we decided it was time for an update, and this set of street albums provides a snapshot of how the houses, predominantly small lot timber cottages, have been adapted for current day living. The area was predominantly working class in the 1970s, however, as with other older city fringe 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](mailto:bhgresearchlibrary@gmail.com)

***This album differs from the others in the study as all of the residential buildings on the western side of Hale Street were removed or demolished to enable the construction of this section of the Inner City Bypass. An existing shop was relocated up the hill to a corner block on one of the truncated streets.***



Part 1911 Hale Street road improvement Plan E-10-17  
(Brisbane City Archives)



Produced "Some weeks" after Sept 1987



Brisbane City

# INNER NORTH - WESTERN RING ROAD



## LORD MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The inner north-western ring road is Brisbane City Council's most important traffic scheme.

It will provide a direct and easy alternative for motorists who are heading across the city rather than into the city for business or shopping. The ring road will be, quite literally, the best way around inner-city traffic congestion.

By removing through-traffic from the heart of Brisbane, our inner-city streets will be free to do the job for which they were intended.

Everyone wants to see more pedestrians - not cars - in the city.

The ring road will take traffic from the South-East Freeway, along Coronation Drive, Boomerang and Hale Streets at Milton, and Ithaca Street at Kelvin Grove.

Northbound motorists will be able to "feed off" to Kelvin Grove Road, Caxton Street, Musgrave Road and Gilchrist Avenue.

The need for such a route was recognised as far back as 1926, but increasing volumes of inner-city traffic have made its construction absolutely necessary as we approach the 1990's.

The Council, however, is not simply reviving an old plan.

When we engaged a consultant to carry out investigations into the feasibility of a ring road, we insisted that important aspects such as effect on the environment, traffic efficiency and economy be examined.

After extensive research, the best of nine proposals was selected. It is this scheme which is outlined in the following pages.

The Inner North-Western Ring Road will cost a total of \$30 million.

Stage One will begin this financial year (1987/88), and will include roadworks under the William Jolly Bridge, the widening of Coronation Drive at North Quay, and construction of a tunnel beneath the railway lines to link Hale and Boomerang streets at Milton.

The roadworks to widen North Quay and Coronation Drive to six lanes will be carried out as much as possible during the Christmas school holidays when traffic flow is lighter than normal. It should take about two years to complete Stage One.

As well as planning for the travelling needs of residents and visitors, the Council has carefully considered the impact on people living near the ring road.

Residents who live in the heavily-trafficked areas of the city where the ring road will be built presently put up with a lot of noise. Extensive planting of trees and shrubs will improve the streetscape, and sound barriers will help to reduce traffic noise for many of these residents.

The ring road will also reduce the amount of traffic which travels through the historically important Petrie Terrace area of the city.

The Brisbane City Council is proud to announce this major project, which will provide major benefits to you, the residents and motorists of Brisbane.

*Sallyanne Atkinson*

Alderman Sallyanne Atkinson  
LORD MAYOR OF BRISBANE







**c1983 Hale Street (looking north from cnr Caroline Street)**



**c1991 by Dr Iraphne R Childs (QUT Digital Collections)**





**September 1984 Hale Street (looking south from cnr Caroline Street)**



**September 1984 view of Hale Street south of Sweetman Street**





1977



1983

## **THE OLD BOOT FACTORY**

*The large double storeyed building on the corner of Hale and Caxton Streets has served various purposes in recent years – as the Spaghetti Factory before the notorious dog food episode, then the Underground disco, restaurants, the Brasserie and commercial houses.*

*As local lore suggests, this building originated as a boot factory. Hence the industrial form of the structure, its spacious windows and large skylight, as well as some machinery remaining inside. Despite its practical origin, the otherwise box-like appearance is relieved by pedimented towers at each corner, wall pillars, window bars and roof profile. Before the walls were painted over, the dark brickwork no doubt contrasted nicely with lighter coloured plaster bands.*

*The factory was designed in 1929 by Walter C Voller, a prominent Queen Street architect, as his last major project. It was erected in late 1929 to early 1930 by John Hutchinson, who operated one of the largest private building firms in Brisbane. They were commissioned by Frederick Thomas Morris of Upper Paddington.*

*Though Morris purchased the corner site in 1914, the land remained vacant until F T Morris & Co, boot manufacturers, moved their business from Latrobe Terrace, Paddington to the new factory in 1930. This company had been founded by his father, Reuben Morris, who arrived with the family in 1886, settled in upper Paddington and opened his bootmaking shop.*

*Frederick Morris not only expanded the business but also became president of the Boot Manufacturers Association. In addition he was an elder of the Ithaca Presbyterian Church and a past Master of local Masonic lodges. As one of Paddington's leading citizens, he was an alderman and then mayor of the Ithaca Town Council.*

*After the death of Frederick Morris in 1932, the business continued under the name of F T Morris & Co Ltd, until the company was wound up in 1972.*

*Altogether this building served as a boot factory for over 40 years, and thus exemplified an important developmental stage in Brisbane manufacture. The company itself was founded by an influential local family, who employed many workers in the surrounding suburbs of Paddington, Red Hill and Petrie Terrace. It was obviously the culmination of two lifetimes' achievement and has been a distinctive Brisbane landmark for 70 years.*

*Despite its historic and local significance, the old boot factory stands in the path of the Hale Street Ring road, and is scheduled for demolition by the Brisbane City Council.*

**Rod Fisher (based on research by Helen Bennett) – 10 March 1990**



**1984 Sept No 160 Hale Street**

*I don't know where I can go because I've got two cats and people won't have them in flats.*

*I've got a bad eye and there would be all that furniture to shift and nobody to help. I don't sleep at night, I just lie there thinking about it.*

*I've lived here for 48 years and I like it. When you are 84 years old it's a bit late to be moving.*

***Interview with Doris Harris c1989\****

*\* The 'Interviews' included in this album are summaries from the interviews and research undertaken by Nathalie Haymann for her book 'Resumed in protest, the human cost of roads'. Copies are held in BHG Research Library*



# Could this happen to you?

## THE HALE STREET RING ROAD SAGA 1987-89

Dr Rod Fisher

The first inkling that most residents had of the Hale street ring road was in the Lord Mayor's letter of intent: "Your property is one which will be affected by a future stage of construction. Although the Council may not require this property for some time, funds have been allocated for the purchase of properties where owners prefer to sell now."

There was no previous consultation. No public discussion. No political debate. No environmental and social impact study. No honouring of a previous promise from the Lord Mayor that, in relation to traffic, "I will be continuing my practice of inviting the community to participate, to offer their views and suggestions."

Nor was there any room for reconsideration let alone compromise. The City Hall cabal had spoken for the good of the great god Brisbane.

As the Council emphasised, traffic planners and politicians had long set their sights on Hale Street. But they had only thought of upgrading the road by connecting Hale Street directly with Coronation Drive and underpassing the railway line, Milton Road and Caxton Street. Even as late as May 9, 1987 the Courier Mail reported Alderman Bob Ward, Chairman of the BCC Planning Committee, as talking merely of resuming "several properties" at "crucial corners".

What took everyone by surprise was the magnitude of the scheme.

### What took everyone by surprise was the magnitude of the scheme.

Stretching from Coronation Drive to Victoria Park, the Inner North-Western Ring Road would provide a four lane freeway, with a parallel service road and on/off ramps up to seven lanes abreast. According to a glossy BCC brochure produced some weeks later, this monster was suddenly needed to relieve inner-city traffic congestion by removing through-traffic from the heart of Brisbane.

Rather than a mere "\$8 million", the estimated cost jumped immediately to \$30 million. "Several properties" now added up to 85 residential, commercial and church premises, all the way along one side of Hale, Clifton and Ithaca streets, as well as those at "crucial corners".

In heritage terms this scheme meant bulldozing the only remaining slice of Brisbane's early cemetery and the adjacent church hall, both of which were listed as part of the Christ Church precinct by the Australian Heritage Commission. This is not to mention the fine stand of old Lang Park trees, the former boot factory, the old Petrie Terrace and Kelvin Grove stores and whole clumps of period houses - all of which contribute significantly to the character of the area.

Even worse was the cost to the community itself: the further weakening of its residential and commercial fabric, the loss of local

services, the deterioration of amenity caused by increased traffic, noise and pollution and the wedge driven between residents east and west of the almighty ring road.

Most horrifying of all was the price to be paid by affected individuals. Many were elderly, less privileged, immigrant or second generation residents and hard working folk in small businesses. All that the Council offered them was adequate compensation and counselling - to "smooth the dying pillow" as white supremacists once said of the Aborigines.

No wonder these pronouncements provoked such an immediate reaction - in June 1987 a protest meeting of over 250 disbelieving

### Even worse was the cost to the community itself...

residents, formation of the Ring Road Resistance Committee, an abortive meeting with BCC representatives, a petition with 1300 signatures presented in the Council Chamber, "Hands off Hale Street" bumper stickers, and "Resumed in Protest" house signs.

Sympathetic members of Council, Parliament and Press also took up the cudgel resulting in hardly a week going by without some media revelation about the Hale Street Ring Road.

To those at the battle front, this was not simply a matter of defence against the Council blunderbuss. Apart from indications of being cooked up in a hurry for political purposes, the whole scheme hardly seemed a necessary or effective way of solving Brisbane's traffic congestion. It merely provided for a short stretch of unimpeded roadway with bottlenecks at the Coronation Drive and Royal Brisbane Hospital ends.

If Hale Street were so essential for urban survival, a better solution would be to use Countess Street in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Roma Street Railways and upgrading of the Normanby Freeways, both of which were overdue. This alternative might cost an extra \$15 million, but it would



"I've been in Hale Street for 47 years and I've got a lot of memories here..."  
Dorris Harris before her "relocation".

mean using public money and public land instead of making private people and the local community foot the extra bill for the CBD and cross-city commuters. The inner suburbs had already paid a very high price.

Though the Council had theoretically considered nine or ten

alternatives including Countess Street, it refused to reconsider or even discuss any alternative other than Hale Street. Consequently the Committee took the case to the State Government, starting with Russ Hinze and then on to his replacement Bill Glasson.

As the Council was gradually purchasing properties from disillusioned owners, and no legal impediment could be found, the only legal case which could be mounted concerned the remains of the old cemetery near Milton Road. (See separate story this page.) As Father Graham Perry, the Rector of Christ Church, often said before he died fighting, the church was the only real barrier between the Council and the community. While accepting that the graveyard had been part of the old cemetery before becoming a memorial reserve in 1911-14, neither Russ Hinze nor acting Minister Glasson were prepared to make the Council reconsider its plan.

When the BCC finally moved against the graveyard last June, the church wardens took the Council to court for acting contrary to the Paddington Cemeteries Act of 1914, which deliberately protected the memorial reserve from desecration. The church wardens won in the Supreme Court.

Unable to accept the decision of

the legal umpire, the Council then went to the State Government. In October, during the early hours of the morning, an unholy alliance of National Party and Liberal Party members raced through the Trust (Reserve 1030) Variation Bill, thus enabling the Council to bulldoze the graveyard forthwith.

Since then the first house on the Caroline Street corner has disappeared overnight. A whole row of shops at the Musgrave Road corner

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went long ago. Fearing that a new State Government in December might repeal the latest Act, the BCC is likely to conduct a "scorched earth" campaign as soon as possible.

Unless the Council is stopped by further legal action - or some act of God - all that can be done is to rally popular support, thereby showing that such an unpopular and prejudicial project should be reconsidered more objectively after the state election.

After all, this kind of detrimental action could happen to anyone, dead or alive.

## VILE ACTS

Mrs Gail Perry, wife of the late Father Graham Perry, wrote recently to a number of newspapers and talked about her reaction to the news that the historic Paddington Cemetery will be bulldozed.

The power of the "iron triangle" crushed a community in Brisbane this week.

The hierarchy of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, the State Government and the Brisbane City Council have combined to destroy homes, an historically significant church and all that was left to mark the site of the original Paddington cemetery. All this to widen a road.

Vile acts in themselves. But the vilest act is yet to come as the city council bulldozers dig up the bones of the pioneers and Aborigines buried there. Where will this mixture of soil and bones end up? As clean fill on some council project or will it go straight to the dump? And who will be sifting through it for precious items of jewellery and artefacts that were buried with the dead?

G Perry, Coorparoo





**September 1984 No 162 Hale Street**

*Maria Schifilliti: My father came out from Italy to Australia in the 1950s and after I married and came to Australia I lived there for 4 years with my husband Sebastian and two sons. My sister Rosetta grew up in that house and was married from there, then stayed for a year afterwards with husband Giovanni Donato.*

*My father died of a cardiac arrest in November 1988, just 40 days after he vacated that house.*

*Granddaughter: I remember my grandmother would babysit me and my brother there. We used to go out in the backyard and play cricket as the playground was just behind us and we used to jump the fence. My grandfather had a big garden, and planted 4 or 5 fig trees and they were my favourite fruit. There was also a huge mango tree. My grandfather built a hen house and it was so funny because my brother and I used to go and let the hens out and they would quickly run to eat the garden plants. I remember when the house was knocked down the mango tree was still there and when I drove past recently, it was still there.*

***Schifilliti family interview early 1990s***



**September 1984 No 164 Hale Street**



**September 1984 No 166 Hale Street**

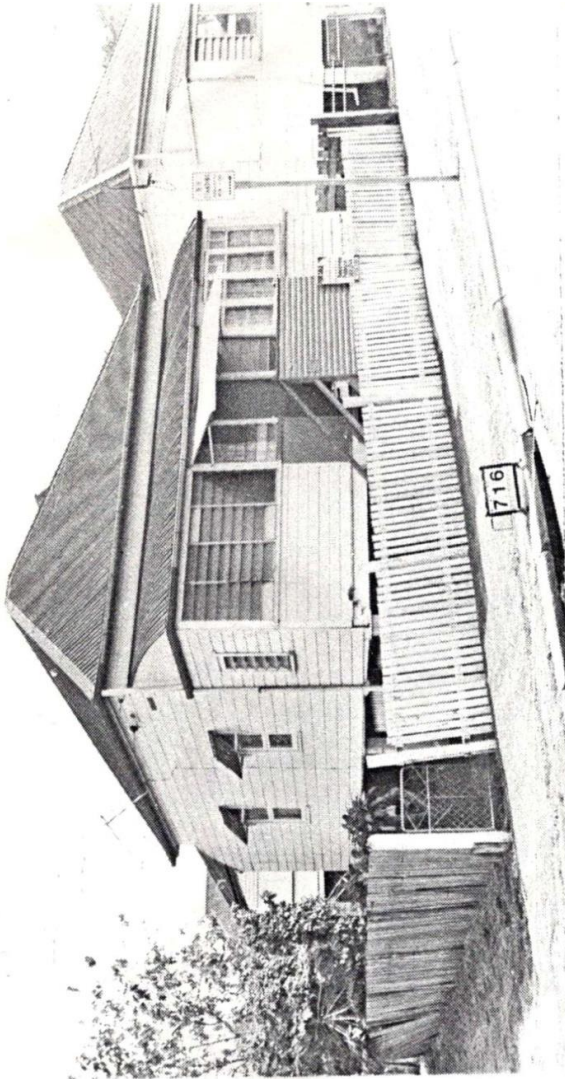




**September 1984 No 168 Hale Street**



**Stumps remain of No 168, house removed to Cairns Street, Red Hill**

N.C.S. CAROLINE ST	MAP F11	STREET 168 HALE ST	SUBURB PETRIE TCE
VENDOR/S PHONE	TENANT PHONE		LISTING NO. 74716/1
			
BASE WD/S C/S	OS WALLS W/BD		
ROOF G.I.	INT. WALLS T&G		
AGE	PATIO		
L&D SEP	BDRMS 2		
OTHER RMS	POOL		
	STOVE GAS		
KITC. BASIC	SHR. REC. S.O.B.		
BATH NEEDS WORK	SEWD SEP		
LAUNDRY REAR LU	TPORT 1MIN AWAY		
CAR ACC. OFF ST	HI/LO SET L		
LAND AREA 228M2	ASPECT		
FENCED YES	ASS. NO.		
RATES \$121.49/Q	ZONING		
V.G.	STEPS F6 R6		
R.P.D.			
UNIT FLOOR	ADMIN LEVY		
SINK FUND	DEED PUBLIC CURATOR V.P.		
INSPECT L.A. HAS KEY	VENDORS MOTIVATION		
UNDER HOUSE			
L.A. RAINE & HORNE PADDINGTON			
SUB. PETRIE TERRACE			
PHONE 3693144			
A.H. REP CAROL MCWHINNIE 3566411			
CONJUNCTION 50%			
REMARKS OLD WORKERS COTTAGE, HAS FIREPLACE, ENCL. FRONT VERANDAH. IDEAL RENOVATOR OR INVESTMENT PROPERTY.		PRICE:- \$ 46,000	

### Early 1980s

All REIQ card files courtesy Windsor & District Historical Society/Churchill Real Estate Archive





**September 1984 No 170 Hale Street**



**September 1984 No 172 Hale Street**





**September 1984 No 174 Hale Street**



**September 1984 No 176 Hale Street**



**September 1984 No 178 Hale Street**



**September 1984 No 182 Hale Street**





**1984 Sept**

*Eric Holz of Zillmere said his grandfather built the store and dwelling at the corner of Hale and Charlotte Streets, Petrie Terrace about 1880. The old store ended its days as a coffee shop that closed down last June when the Brisbane City Council earmarked it as standing in the way of the new ring road that will traverse the area.*

*Eric recalled how his grandmother had noticed the class distinction in the district in those long-gone days – government officials and army officers' wives were at the top of the pecking order, then came workers and lastly battlers.*

*My grandmother divided the tea that she bought in bulk into three bins and marked them with three different prices. Then she sat back and smiled to herself as each housewife came in and bought from the bin according to her place in the pecking order.*

***Nostalgia by Ken Blanch, Sunday Mail Magazine 25 Sept 1988***



*William Robert Gardner and Emily Elizabeth Gardner were the storekeepers from circa 1932*  
**From an interview with Ron Gardner early 1990s**



**Early 1980s intersection of Hale and Charlotte Street looking south**





**c1989 Building in the process of relocation**



**July 2023 (now No 2 Mullin Street)**

*Sunday Mail 19/1/95*

A HOUSE on Hale Street, Paddington, that was bought, moved and restored by Brisbane City Council four years ago for \$500,000, has been sold for only \$170,000.

The house and shop, now separated from Hale Street by a concrete wall, has stood empty for four years, with the council unable to find anyone to lease the building.

The sale went through quietly in October, without Opposition councillors even being aware of the sale.

Now the new owner of the attractive two-storey house, Hartridge Constructions, has put up a For Lease sign.

Mr John Hartridge said he expected to have it leased out by next month.

He said since the sign went up in December people had shown interest in leasing it for an outdoor furniture shop, a skateboard shop and an architect's office.

Mr Hartridge said he was not concerned about the building's position — now only accessed via Mullin Street, Paddington.

"Every second person in Brisbane knows the place."

The house and shop was bought by the previous council administration, moved off Hale Street and renovated during construction of the Northern Ring Road (Hale Street) bypass.

The council spent \$277,000 renovating the building.



Hale Street house.

## Council loses money on house

By KAY DIBBEN

Liberal Opposition Leader Bob Mills said yesterday the property was worth a lot more than \$170,000 to council, and it should not have been sold.

"This asset of the city could have remained on the books and returned us better as an asset, rather than having it sold for that amount."

He said it had been bought by council in response to public pressure.

But the council says \$170,000 was its market value.

Deputy Mayor Cr John Campbell said the sale of the property at a figure much less than the sale and renovation cost just showed how silly the decision was to buy and renovate it in the first place.

He said it had been put in a "stupid, unmarketable, nonsensical position" and council had been unable to lease it.

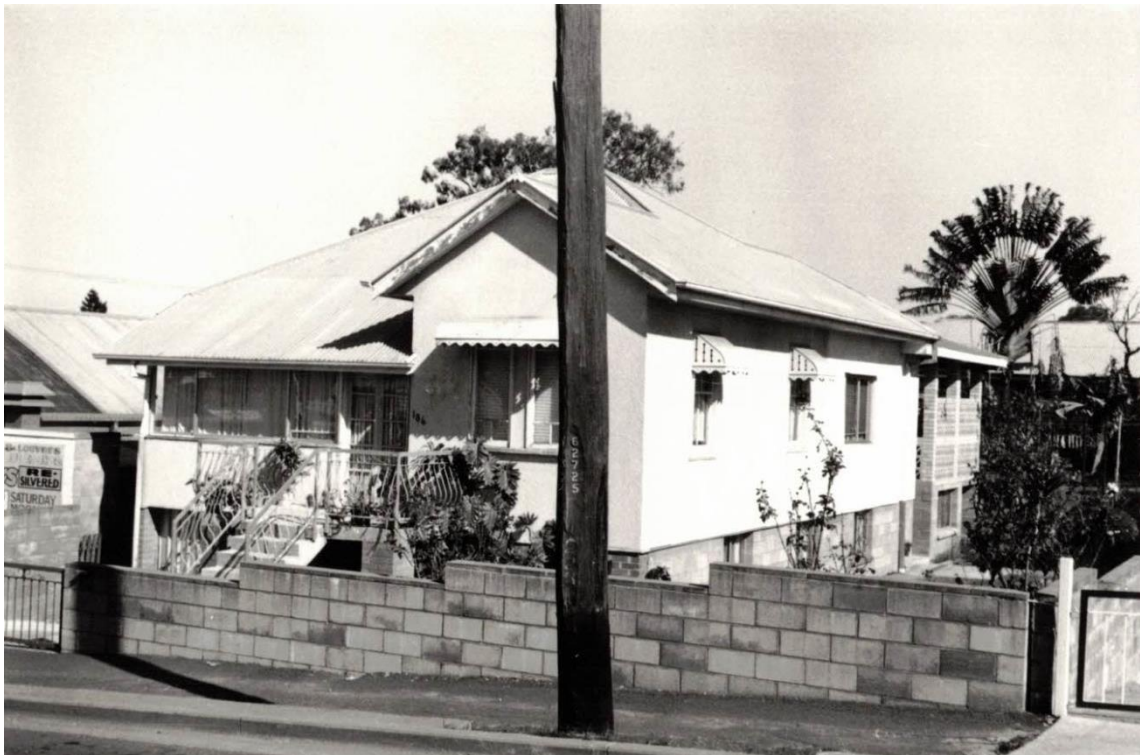
"Maybe there was an argument to save the shop, but the location was crazy."

The building was originally an old Petrie Terrace store, built in the late 1800s.





**September 1984 No 184 Hale Street**



**September 1984 No 186 Hale Street**

*Michael Servodios and his wife Rassaela and children Maria and Angelo lived in Petrie Terrace for 30 years, first in Lutwyche Street, then Cricket Street and finally 186 Hale Street. City Glass was next door and prior that it was a butcher shop. The Servodios were proud of their garden, all planted by Michael – grapes, figs, lemon, orange paw paw, bananas and vegetables.*

*Mr Servodios: We would have liked to stay there because it was very close to the city and we had many friends there. I used to walk to work in the city. I fixed the house up and built an extension on the back. Our house was taken away and put somewhere else but they left the back extension because it was not wanted. We had three months to find a new house.*

***From an interview with Michael Servodios early 1990s***



**September 1984 No 190 Hale Street**





**September 1984 No 192 Hale Street**



**September 1984 No 4 Mullin Street (cnr of Hale Street)**

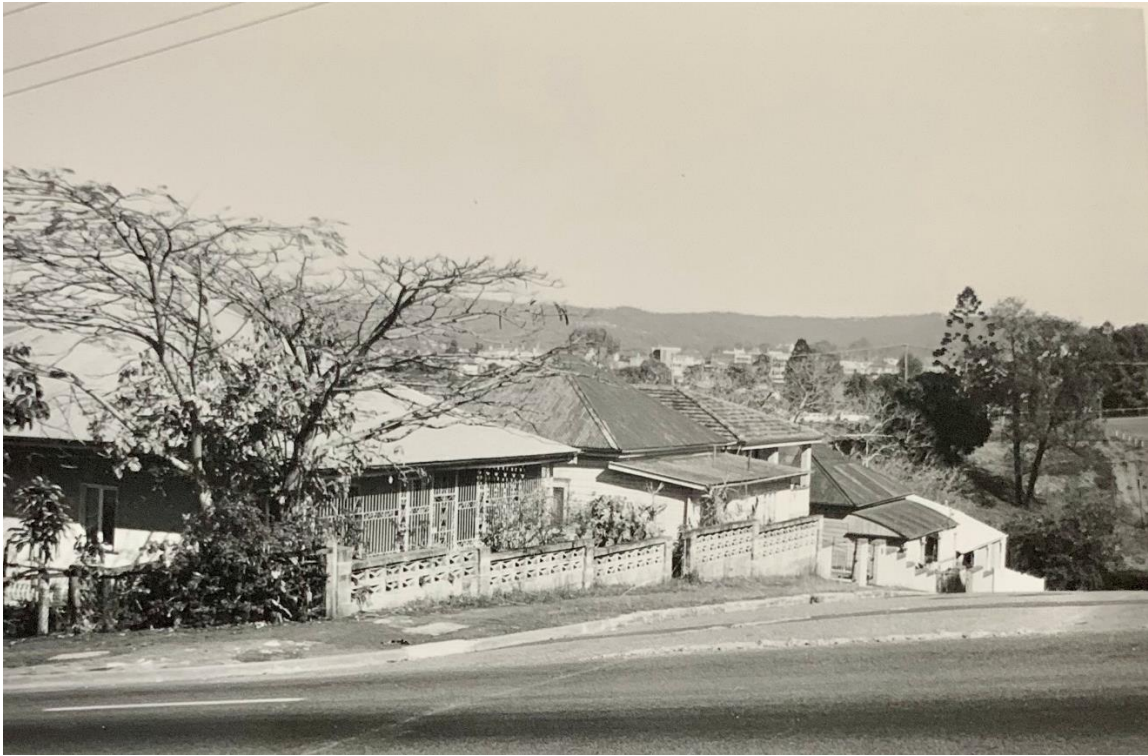


**September 1984 No 194 Hale Street**

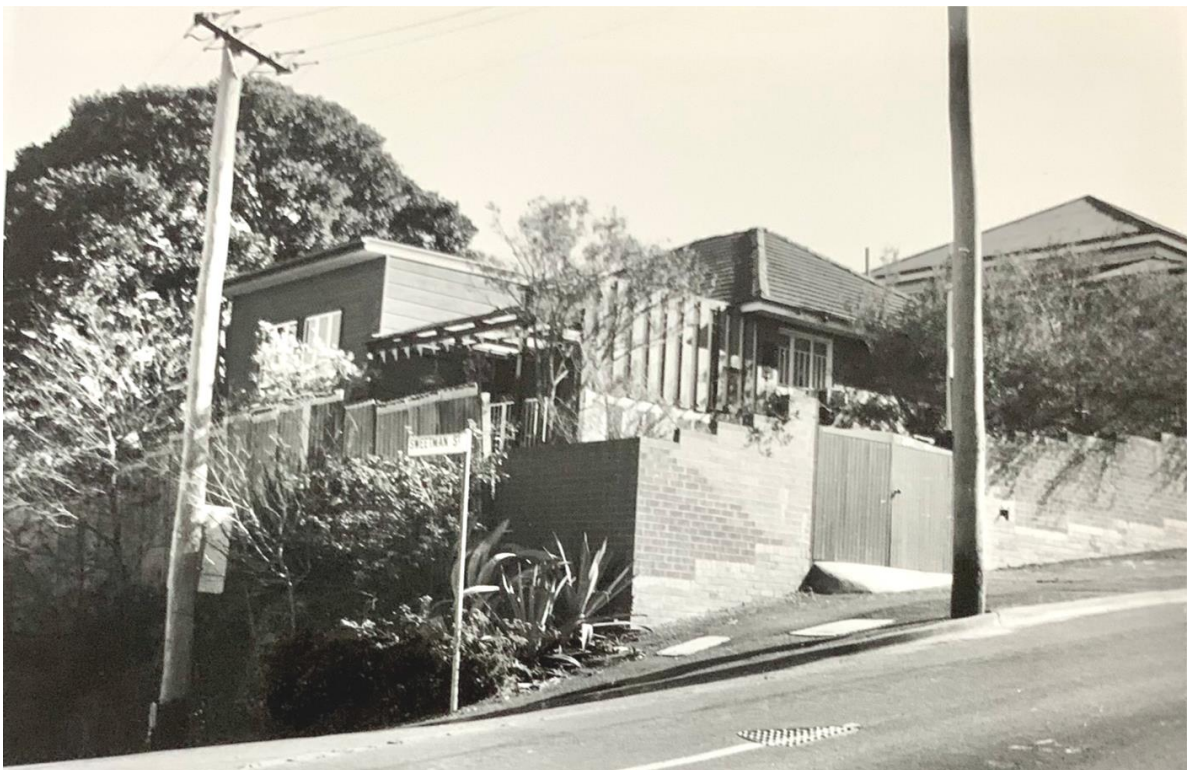


**September 1984 No 196 Hale Street**



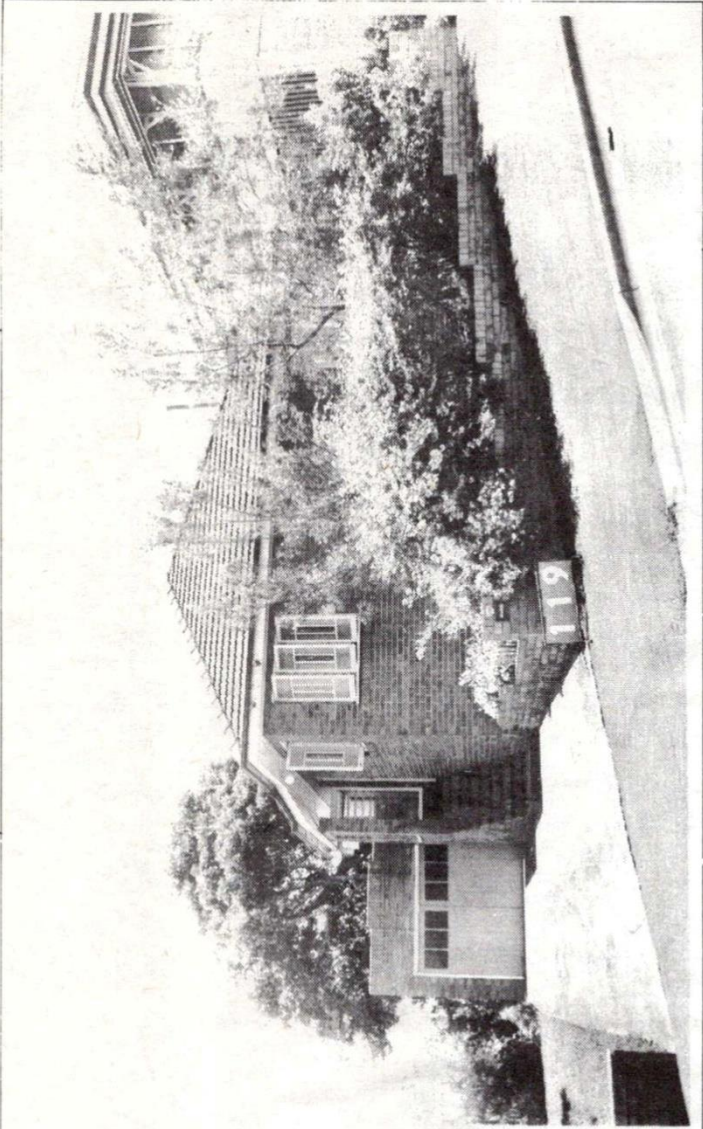


**September 1984 No 2 Sweetman Street (cnr Hale Street)**



**September 1984 No 200 Hale Street**

N.C.S.	Musgrave Rd	MAP E2 26	STREET	200 HALE STREET	SUBURB	PETRIE TERRACE
VENDOR/S PHONE	TENANT PHONE			LISTING No. 31119/1		
BASE	brk	O/S WALLS	brk			
ROOF	tiled	INT. WALLS	plst/fib			
AGE	30	PATIO				
L & D	comb	BDRMS.	2(1BI)			
OTHER RMS.	extra bedroom d/strs					
KIT	eat in					
BATH	BI	SHR. REC.				
STOVE	gas	H.W.S.	30gl elec			
LAUNDRY	gas	SEWD.				
CAR ACCOM.	USR	HIGH/LOW SET	yes			
LAND APPROX.	1 car	FRONT APPROX.	LF/HR			
FENCED	400m2	ZONING	Res B			
RATES	yes	ASSES No.				
V.G.	\$140 ½	TRPT.	50m			
R.P.D.	S.1 Sec.7 Allot.316 C/Stanley					
P/NH REP	Bris V-2569 F.93					
Defence Dept Homes	V.P.					
INSPECT	60					
Thru E.A. only						
FRONT STEPS	5	REAR STEPS	8			
UNDER HOUSE laundry						
ASPECT	North East					
L.A.	Ashland P/L					
SUB.	Ashgrove					
PHONE	384128					
A.H.s. REP.	Ron Hastie 2631577					
REMARKS: Handy to City, ideal for business couple. Better than a unit. Splendid views over City to the Ranges.						
PRICE: \$32,000						



17th November, 1976



N.C.S.	Sweetman	MAP	79 D1	STREET	200 HALE STREET	SUBURB	PETRIE TERRACE
VENDOR/S PHONE				TENANT PHONE			LISTING No. 37862/1R

BASE	Brick	O/S WALLS	Brick
ROOF	Tiled	INT. WALLS	Fib/Plast
AGE	40yrs	PATIO	
L & D	Combined	BDRMS.	2 (1BI)
OTHER RMS.	Storage Room.		
KIT	Large Eat in		
BATH	Good	SHR. REC.	
STOVE	Gas U/R	H.W.S.	Elec 30g
LAUNDRY	USR	SEWD.	Yes
CAR ACCOM.	1 garage	HIGH/LOW SET	Low
LAND APPROX.	379m <sup>2</sup>	FRONT APPROX.	
FENCED	4 sides	ZONING	Res A
RATES	\$250 p.a.	ASSESS No.	0904358(9)
V.G.		TRPT.	Bus
R.P.D.	S.1 Sec.7 Allot.316		
DEED HELD	Parish North Brisbane		
	War Service		V.P.
INSPECT	Ring first or contact L.A.		
FRONT STEPS	8	REAR STEPS	8
UNDER HOUSE			
ASPECT	South		
L.A.	Alex Overett		
SUB.	Alderley		
PHONE	356 9822		
A.H.s. REP.	N. Carlyon	289 1162	

REMARKS:	PRICE:
Good brick home close to city, in excellent repair. Suit retired couple or young business executive. Walk to work.	\$27,500 SAO

19th January, 1978



**September 1984 No 202 Hale Street**



**September 1984 Hale Street (looking north)**





**September 1984 No 204 Hale Street**



**September 1984 No 206 Hale Street**



*Ellen Young at No 206 Hale Street shortly after her marriage to Cyril*



*(Possibly) Patrick and Mary Fah and daughter Ellen on the verandah of  
No 206 Hale Street*

*Patrick Fahey owned it from 1927 (titles). Only daughter Ellen possibly inherited it, married  
Cyril Young and they lived there until at least 1969 (elect rolls)*





**September 1984 No 208 Hale Street**

*From 1922 to 1935 Honoria Kate Phillips lived at No 208. She was known as Nurse Phillips and was charged with performing abortions on a number of occasions but was never sentenced to any time in jail. Charges date from 1917*



**Truth 25 October 1931**

*To her house at Red Hill the police have apparently lent their steps quite frequently, but without any more result than trials that either fail to sustain the police allegations, or to witness with some mortification the withdrawal of the charges by the Crown before even a jury could hear them.*

*The allegations against Mrs Phillips have all concerned one particular type of activity, to do with illegal operations performed on women. But the police, by the showing of the list of trails that have failed, have never been able to prove it.*

*First time she came in contact with the officers of the law was late in 1917, when she was charged with murder. She had been committed for trial by a magistrate, but the Crown entered a "nolle prosequi", and that was that.*

*On the same occasion she was also acquitted of a charge of having unlawfully attempted to "bring about a certain event", as the daily papers have it.*

*Nine years later she faced the possibility of a trial again. The charge was murder. But a "no true bill" was filed, in October of 1926.*

*A year later found her in the midst of a whirl of criminal court activity. In all she faced three trials for allegations of unborn child slaying, but the end was acquittal.*

*Three years after she was again brought before the court, on a similar charge. But this time the Crown presented no indictment and she walked off free, again.*

*This year she was charged, with others, with conspiracy, again concerning a woman who had loved not wisely but too well. Nurse Phillips was committed for trial, but a "no true bill" has been filed in her case and that of another of the four persons charged.*

*Persistently she is charged, persistently the police fail. It is an amazing record that is held by this 60 year old woman. One doubts if it can be equalled by anyone else.*

### ***The Arrow, 4 December 1931***

*My parents William and Rita Que Hee, bought this house at the end of the war after coming to Queensland from Sydney and they paid \$300 [probably meant to be £300]. They, along with myself, my brother Raymond, my uncle Les and my uncle George all lived there. We went to Central Practising School in St Paul's Terrace in Spring Hill and we used to walk down to the Normanby, get a Newmarket tram, and that used to drop us at the front door. My parents had a restaurant opposite Anzac Square so we used to go there and then get a tram home.*

*My father was a keen gardener and he always grew lots of Chinese vegetables. I don't know how many times he dug up the side of the yard. There were many vegetables that were hard*



*to get in those days, such as bitter melons. My father saved the seeds from year to years. We used to have a very big tree out the back, called a longarn tree, the fruit was very similar in taste to lychees, but the skin is smoother. This was a most beautiful tree but never bore any fruit. We also grew lychee trees there, and we had a big orange tree.*

*Mum and Dad had restaurants all their lives and they didn't have very much time for socialising. The restaurants were usually open from the morning until very late at night which meant that one lot were on day shift and one lot were on night shift. We always had to be very quiet in the house. My mother used to do all the housework in the morning and then go and work in the restaurant during the day.*

*The house was typical of its time, with a central hallway, bathroom and toilet downstairs, big kitchen, lounge room and five bedrooms.*

**Interview with Doreen Lumm early 1990s**



**September 1984 No 210 Hale Street**



**September 1984 No 212 Hale Street**



*SLQ - digitised from an image in The Queenslander, 21 July 1932*

**DENNIS' HOUSE c1865 – 212 Hale Street**

*Though most of the first houses were matchboxes, some more substantial timber homes were built on higher ground along the Terrace and around the corner towards the Red Hill.*

*One of these was the long demolished Dennis family home near the top of Hale Street on the Red Hill side. This was a large gable-roofed timber and tin house sited end-on towards the road, providing four rooms down, three up, a semi-detached kitchen at the rear, verandahs all round, and a Juliet balcony supported by double verandah posts from below.*



*According to family tradition, this was built and occupied by the Dennis family as early as 1865. Though John Dennis did not own the land at that time, he purchased four blocks in a row by 1884, as well as a large allotment diagonally across the way on the far side of Musgrave Road.*

*Like many others in the area, Dennis was a builder – a rather important one at the time, as his works included the Queen Street wing of the old Lands Department in George Street, the Australian Hotel at Queen and Albert Streets, the new Theatre Royal in Elizabeth Street, and Temple Buildings at George and Queen Streets, none of which survive today. However, the Brisbane Central State School of 1874 is still standing strong at Spring Hill.*

*Dennis also had six growing sons, who inevitably married and moved from the family nest, but not far distant. Until the mid 1880s, George and probably another son worked with their father as Dennis & Sons of Albert Street in the city. No doubt the family firm was responsible for building George's home, a large two-storied house, with cast iron panels around the verandahs, to the left of his parents' home in Hale Street.*

*The Dennis family also became involved in local bus services, which William first ran from Red Hill and along Petrie Terrace to town in 1880. Their land fronting Musgrave Road accommodated the Dennis & Co stables. After William's early death, George and his father operated the bus service until the end of the century, when electric trams took over.*

*Charles, a plumber and gasfitter by trade, worked down in Roma Street at first, then on the near side of Musgrave Road, next across the way at the stables and finally a few doors up the road. From 1878 to 1922 he lived nearby – in Hale Street to the right of his parents, then opposite on his own Clyde Street land, and back again in the end. The plumbing business continued in the Dennis name until at least the 1940s.*

*Alfred and Fred were clerks who worked down town but lived close by in Petrie Terrace and Red Hill; likewise Tom, a saddler and harnessmaker in Roma Street, until moving interstate. The Dennis business was obviously a family affair – building, plumbing, transport, saddler and bookkeeping.*

*Altogether the Dennis family made quite a mark around the top end of Petrie Terrace for over 80 years. Just how many buildings were constructed or passengers carried will never be known. Now the family home has gone, the others will be next, and the new ring road will plough through the paddock where Dennis & Co horses were wont to graze.*

### ***Petrie Terrace Brisbane 1858 – 1988; 'Its Ups and Downs'***

***By Steve Woolcock and Rod Fisher***



**1991 Looking north (QUT Digital Collections)**



**Part 1991 Aerial view C120-8998 of Hale/Musgrave interchange  
(Brisbane City Archives)**



2056

# Features

## HALE STREET

### Four years down the track

With construction well under way on the Hale Street ring-road project in Brisbane, **MARK STRONG** visits the area to see how residents are coping. Some old-timers are philosophical about the changes; others have packed up their belongings, sold their houses and moved out.



Petrie Terrace Photo Study - Auburn Street vAugust 2025

**W**HEN the residents of Hale St, Petrie Terrace, heard four years ago their street had been selected to bear the brunt of Brisbane's future traffic demands, they wasted no time in expressing a collective shrug of indifference. Of those most determinedly opposed to the development brought in lobbyists, wrote letters, picketed the offices of the Brisbane City Council and the Housing Commission, and vowed the proposal would not proceed.

Any driver turning on to Hale St from Clifton Terrace today would know instantly that the road was not on a walkway and a sound barrier wall.

"Now, the noise levels are shocking — the bulldozers, not the traffic," says a resident at 630 St. "I don't know what one says the noise will settle, and I agree the traffic will not be as bad as the bulldozers, but... with the bulldozers, the noise doesn't blend with the polished floors and carefully chosen period furniture," says Ms Dyer, the area's last remaining resident. "I've lost its charm."

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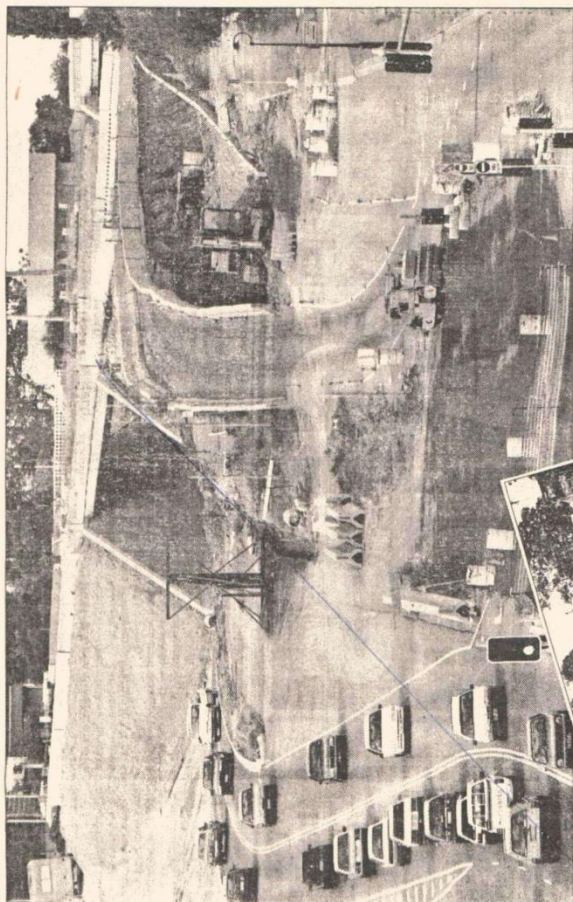
chase, finding no indication of the ring-road proposal. From her back deck she now looks out on the flyover connecting Hale St to the river.

Ms Dyer tried to sell her house two years ago, but could not find a buyer. She sold it for \$165,000. She took it off the market after 12 weeks. Last month she sold it at a "substantially lower figure" to an overseas buyer.

"When I bought this, all I could see were the tops of trees and a lot of houses," she said. "The trees and houses went, and now I see the sky and the sound barrier wall."

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STAGE one of the Hale Street development, and Inset, a section of the street before the bulldozers moved in.

what some people call the Berlin Wall. Its residents stare out over concrete sound barriers that are one-and-a-half storeys high, across no-man's-land of the emerging wall on Hale St's eastern side.

"Just have a look at Elston St if you want to see potential price increases," says a real estate agent. "If you want to see potential price increases, again, none could predict a trend for the area."

The key word is volatility. For example, one estate agent says prices have risen 10 per cent in the last 12 months. "Prices may increase in price because it would be sandwiched by two major roads (Petrie Terrace and Hale St)."

There were a few problems, but nothing she could not handle. She had to walk further to cross the road, but she had to cross Hale St's western side cut her off from seeing friends who were once just across the road.

The nearest phone booth was no longer available. She had to make her self heard as she stood on the street and pointed out where her friend still lives, now out of sight.

She may have no complaints, but the Hale St development has surely taken a part of her community and put it out of reach.

For some people who have lived on Hale St all their lives, little has changed. One woman, who did not wish to be named, says her friend has more than 70 years ago. Her brother lives next door.

She remembered a 99-year-old woman who had lived in Hale St all her life and had recently moved into a nursing home.

Apart from her brother, the people she had played and grown up with were gone.

She remembered the street when it terminated in a park but said she had lived on a main road since 1966, so the new development had no effect on her.

Housing prices were irrelevant: she had no intention of selling.

"We've actually benefited from it," she said. "The road has been built on the eastern side, so it should be a little more quiet."

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bottom of Hale St that was on the market for five weeks at \$105,000 and eventually sold for \$95,000, which seemed a realistic price.

Four agents identified Elston St as the street most adversely affected by the development. It was once a pocket of quiet, but now it is a noisy street.

It was once a pocket of quiet, but now it is a noisy street. The noise from the bulldozers and the traffic on the new road is a constant presence.

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main road to expand to meet the side street, but Hale St was proof that it could happen.

"People buying investment property in the area are looking for a quiet street, but Hale St is not a quiet street," says a real estate agent.

"The ones that have sold on Hale St are the ones who have gone to private buyers, probably because they fall into the Housing Commission lending range."

We did have one house at the bottom of Hale St that was on the market for five weeks at \$105,000 and eventually sold for \$95,000, which seemed a realistic price.

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