



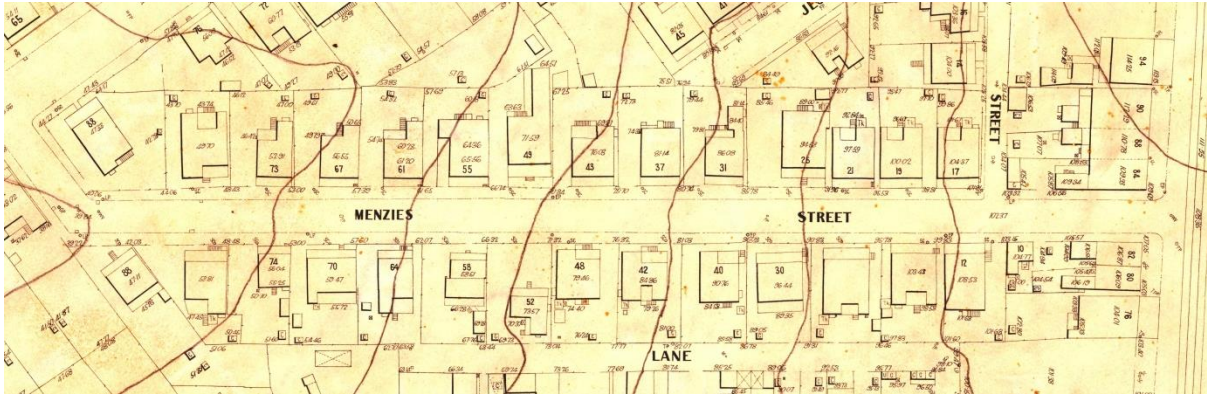
*1874 Looking south towards Petrie Terrace , Menzies Street centre of image
(State Library of Queensland)*

Menzies Street

Petrie Terrace Photo Study

Brisbane History Group

bhg4000@brisbanehistorygroup.org.au

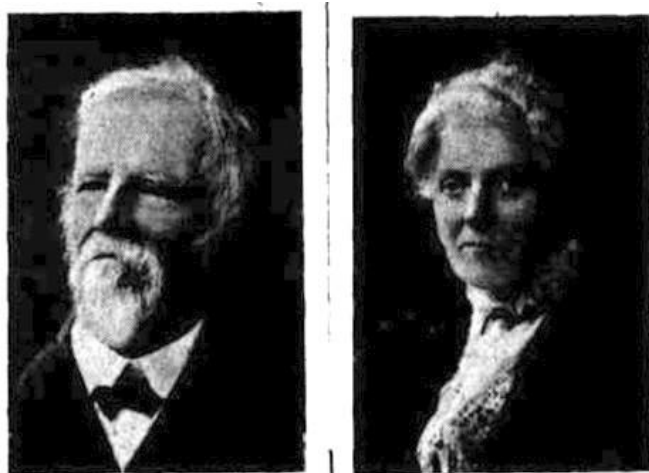


Part 1927 Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board Plan 113

BHG Walk/Drive Heritage Tour 1989

In 1861 the original purchaser of the 2 acre 1 rood 1 perch allotment through which Menzies Street now runs was Mary Ann Campbell, spinster of Brisbane, who married John Munro in 1863. The land was subdivided into 31 lots and sold from then until 1878. Most were merely 9 perches in area, though one was halved in the beginning, making two of the smallest blocks in Petrie Terrace.

Two larger blocks on the Terrace itself were purchased in the name of Sarah Menzies, whose husband Robert was one of the many builders living in the suburb – hence the name Menzies Street. The residents of Menzies Street included Joseph Smith, boilermaker, and Thomas Forrester, ironmoulder and alderman, who ran a major engineering works down town. Otherwise this back street boasted the usual households of petty tradesmen, craftsmen and labourers, plus the stray policeman from the Terrace.



*Mr and Mrs Robert Menzies, Queensland Times 18 September 1915
(National Library of Australia Trove digitised newspapers)*



c1982



August 2023

Menzies Street looking north west

QUESTIONABLE COMPLIMENTS.—Janet Davis was summoned by Mary Ann Chase for abusive language, and there was a cross-summons. Mr. Hely, instructed by Mr. Bunton, appeared for Mrs. Davis. The parties, who are next door neighbors, reside in Menzies-street, Petrie-terrace. On the 8th instant, some difference arose with reference to "the children" and the proper parties to correct them, and then some very uncomplimentary remarks were made; Mrs. Chase (according to her own showing) being distinguished as "Black Bess," and Mrs. Davis, who denied her neighbor's allegations, as "Dirty Janet." These were the mildest of the terms used. Mrs. Chase admitted that she had been bound over to keep the peace; and Mrs. Davis said: "She was bound over nine months ago, but commenced to abuse me a week before the time was up, and I have not had peace since." When the term "Dirty Janet" (which was only the beginning of an objectionable charge) was used, Mrs. Davis cautioned her neighbor to be careful, as she would have to prove her words. She called two witnesses—one, a Mrs. Perry, who lived opposite, and the other Constable Crawford, who characterised Mrs. Chase as quarrelsome, and Mrs. Davis as a quiet, respectable woman. The Bench dismissed the case against Mrs. Davis, but ordered Mrs. Chase to find one surety in the sum of £10 to be of good behaviour for six months. She maintained that she was the injured party, and shed tears copiously.

The Brisbane Courier 22 February 1873

(National Library of Australia Trove digitised newspapers)

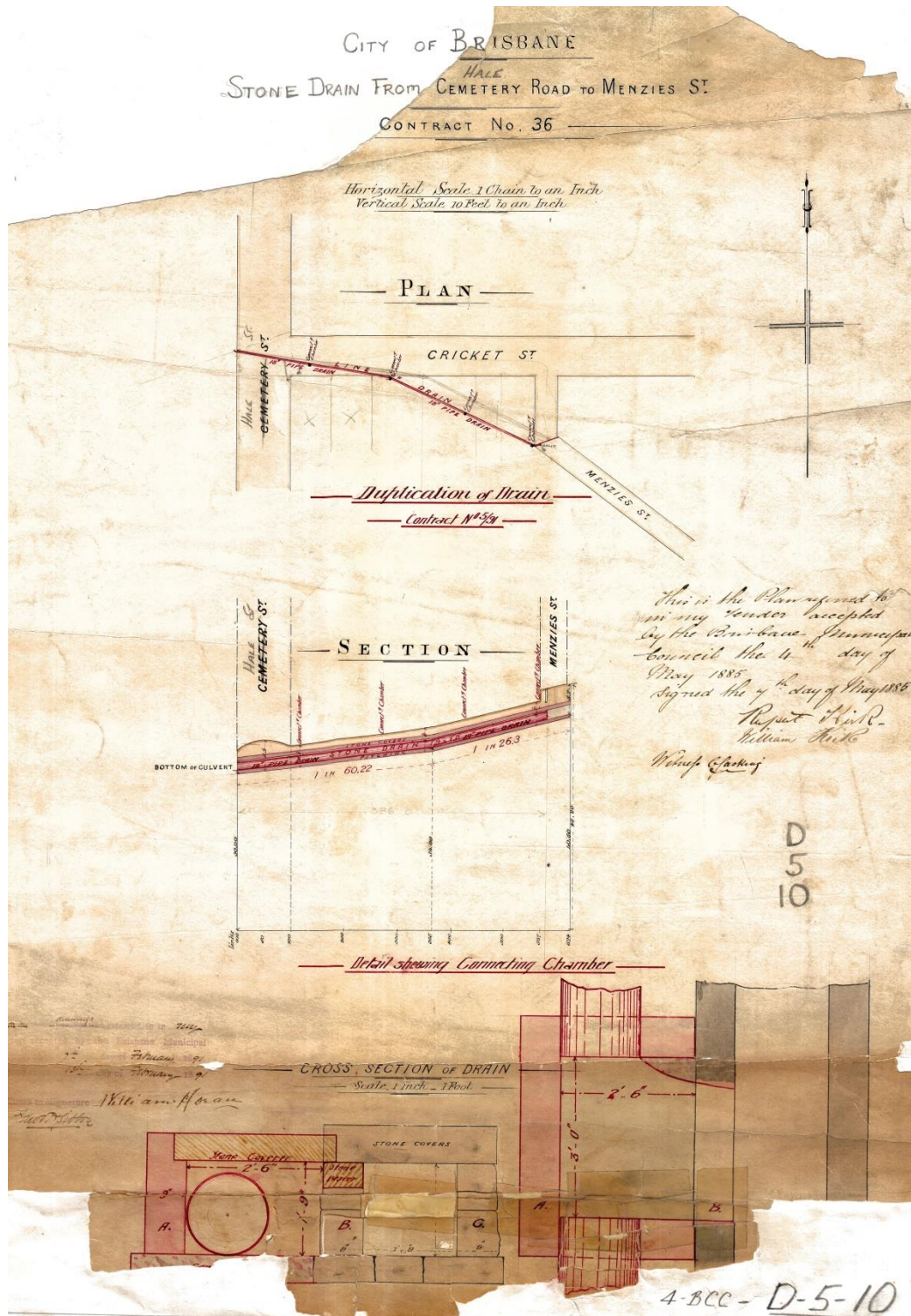
BUBONIC PLAGUE.

YET ANOTHER CASE.

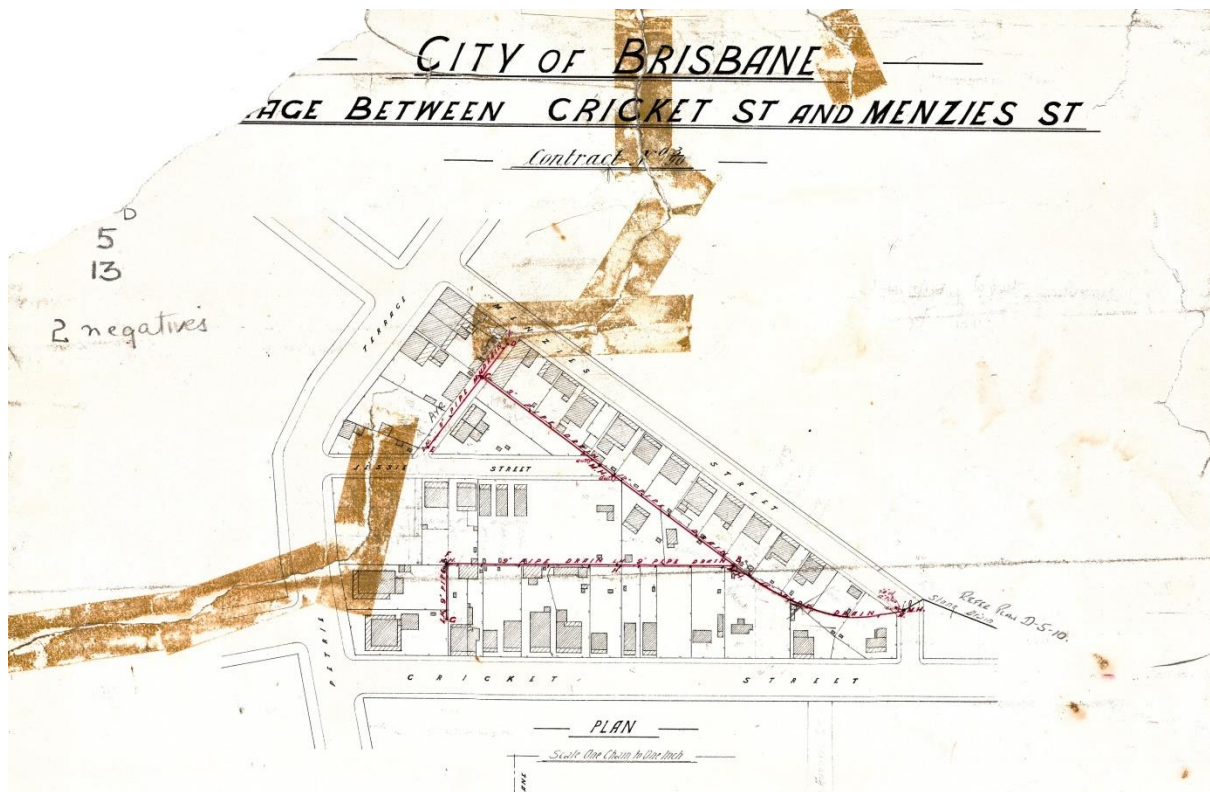
YET another case of plague (says yesterday's "Courier") was reported to the authorities late yesterday afternoon, the victim being a lad named Percy Smith. The case has some more than usually sad features, owing to the condition of the lad's mother, and it is also marked by the fact that, although the case was not diagnosed as plague until yesterday afternoon, the lad died on the previous day. It appears that the boy was only eight years old, residing with his widowed mother at Menzies-street, Petrie-terrace. He had attended the Petrie-terrace State School until the 30th of last month, when he complained of a sore foot. A significant fact in connection with the date is that on the same day a dead rat was taken from beneath the house where the boy lived. On Monday last he became so much worse that he was removed to the general hospital, where he expired on Wednesday. Yesterday (Thursday) a post-mortem and bacteriological examination was made, and it was found that the plague bacilli were present. The body was buried at Toowong, the arrangements being subject to the hospital regulations. The widowed mother, who earns her living as a seamstress, has two

other children—boys, aged 10 years and 12 years respectively. These, with the mother, are the only contacts in the case, and they are to be removed to Colmarie.

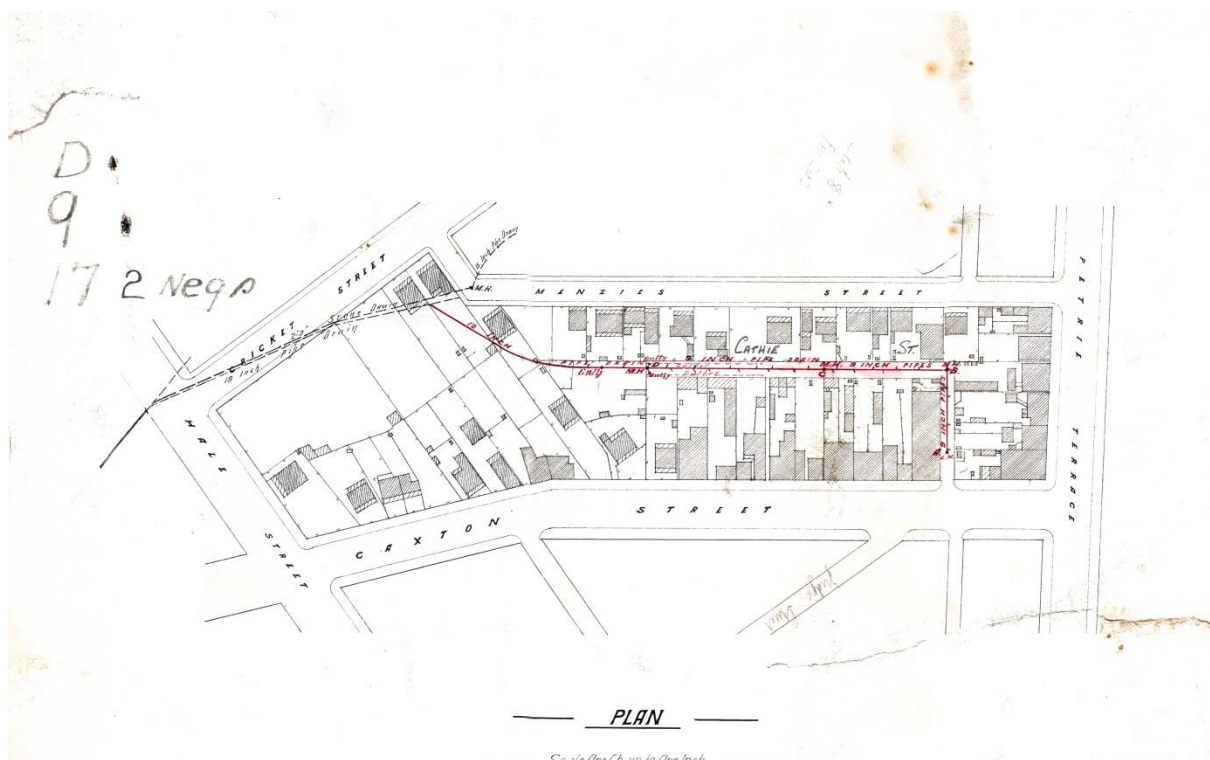
*Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald & General Advertiser 11 August 1900
(National Library of Australia Trove digitised newspapers)*



1885 Drainage works (supplementary pipe drain) Plan D-5-10
(Brisbane City Archives)



Part 1890 Drainage works Plan D-5-13
(Brisbane City Archives)



Part c1895 Drain works Plan D-9-17
(Brisbane City Archives)

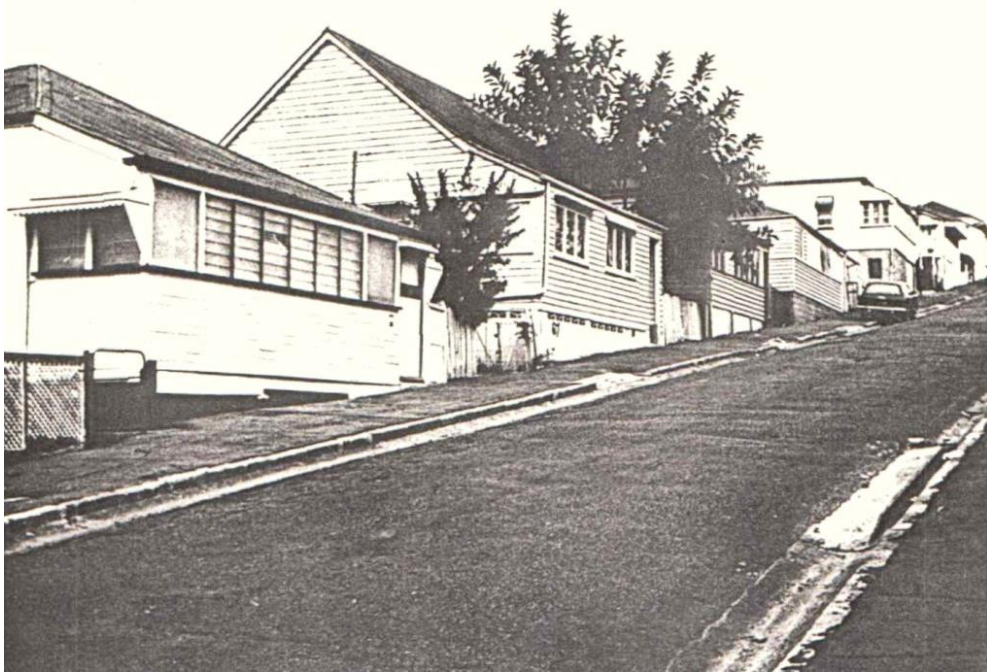


c1983



August 2023

No 17 Menzies Street



1977 street view

c1992 Memories of Kevin Gamble who lived in No 17 Menzies Street for over 40 years

I lived there since 1946. There was no refrigeration and we didn't have an ice-chest in those days. To keep the butter cool, we'd put it in a dish of water, and hang some wet canvas around it and the breeze would keep it cool as it blew on the wet canvas.

A bloke used to come down the street in a horse and cart selling fruit and vegetables. He'd start at the top of the street and he'd always call out "NOW YOU CAN HAVE" and he would list how many of each item you could buy for one shilling.

The milkman used to come with a can, with a tap on it, and you'd take your jug out and pour the milk straight from it.

The baker would also call and you could buy bread directly from him.



c1983



August 2023

No 18 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 19 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 20 Menzies Street



c1984

BHG Walk/Drive Heritage Tour 1989

No 20 appears as an early twentieth century house in 'mint' condition back and front, having most of its original features – picket fence, double rails, bracketed post, continuous roofline, weatherboards, sunhoods, stovehouse and tank stand stumps – in need of careful treatment; conservation not renovation.



c1983



August 2023

No 21 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 25 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 30 Menzies Street

CHASE'S HOUSE c 1880 – 30 Menzies Street

Like Dyne's houses in Cricket Street, this dwelling was not first off the rank. The panorama of Petrie Terrace taken in about 1874 shows a row of gable-roofed dwellings in Menzies Street, but none much larger than a basic two-roomed cottage.

In comparison, this timber house is quite capacious, being built with one or two rooms in the roof, four high-ceiled rooms down, and a brick kitchen running the full depth under the high side. It is also more ornate, with ruby and plain patterned glass panels around the front door, a brass knocker and central knob, and floral fretwork breezeways above the hallway doors. Having a spacious gabled roof with nicely turned finials at either end, and a narrow stick-balustered staircase to the attic, it is more in keeping with 1870s housing than the 1880s. But the convex verandah iron, four-paned sash window, internal joinery and absence of shingle battens suggest that this was a transitional house, built somewhere in between the eras.

Joseph Chase was the owner of this particular 9 perch subdivision from 1864 to 1895 and resident there from 1873 at least – a degree of continuity unusual for much of Petrie Terrace. Though little is known about Chase himself, he looks like one of those seafaring men who was adjusting to domestic life, being described as a mariner, engine driver and then punt owner in the 1870s, but an engineer thereafter. From 1896 to 1900 Joseph Chase, engineer, and Miss E. Chase, dressmaker, were listed as householders in nearby Caxton Street.

Patrick Gorman, the next owner from 1895 until his death in 1916, was quartermaster and then sergeant major of the Queensland Defence Force at Victoria Barracks up the hill. Between 1885 and 1891 Gorman acquired five houses in a row, living in number 18 in the 1880s and then number 12, while renting out the others.

As happened to so many rented houses, the verandahs were later closed with fibro sheets and assorted windows, the double chimney was shorn off above the roofline, the central steps were replaced at the side and the living space was divided into five flatettes.

Chase's old house is now being rejuvenated by its owner-occupier. All of the verandah balustrading has long gone; but the posts indicate that, unlike most timber houses of its type and location, this one had cast iron - hardly surprising for a mariner turned engineer.

***Petrie Terrace Brisbane 1858-1988; 'Its ups and downs'
by Steve Woolcock & Rod Fisher (page 38)***

Flat Declared Disgrace To Authorities

"A shame and a disgrace to every authority in Brisbane that has anything to do with health or housing," was how Mr A. C. Winning described to the Fair Rents Board today the conditions he alleged surrounded the tenancy of a single-brick-walled flat beneath premises in Menzies Street, Petrie Terrace.

They were no better or worse than in hundreds of dwellings in the vicinity, however, he added.

"I can't understand why some action isn't taken by the authorities in cases like this," Mr Leahy, SM, said.

Mr Winning's application for a reduction in the weekly rental of 18/, now paid by the present tenant of the flat in Desmond, Menzies Street, Petrie Terrace (Mr Fletcher Young) was granted by Mr Leahy, who fixed the rental at 10/, to include electric light.

Mr Winning said that the tenant (a war-worker), his wife, and three children, had recently arrived from Mt Isa. The flat, which was let furnished, had only 7ft. 6in. ceilings.

"What conditions are these for growing Australian kiddies?" he said. "Getting out of bed on to concrete floors, and only concrete backyards, and a half-chain street to play in."

He said that the furniture in the flat was valued at £13/10/, and the whole property at £600.

COMPLAIN PARTIES "DRUNKEN BRAWLS"

Parties in one flat in a tenement building more or less ended in a drunken brawl, it was alleged in the Summons Court today.

The tenant of the flat, Percy Price, of Menzies Street, defended ejectment proceedings brought by James Henry Woodcroft, of Upper Roma Street, owner of tenement buildings known as "Desmond."

Woodcroft claimed that Price was guilty of conduct which was a nuisance and annoyance to neighbouring occupants.

Mr. Moore, S.M., made an order giving Woodcroft possession within 14 days of August 6, but gave liberty to both parties to bring the action on again with three days' notice.

"Perhaps reformation and the restoration of neigh-

bourly feelings may be possible," Mr. Moore said.

Woodcroft said there were often six or eight people drinking and singing in Price's flat. He had received complaints from other tenants.

Tenants of "Desmond" gave evidence that the parties were very rowdy and they could not sleep because they were frightened and upset.

Price in evidence said he had parties in the flat and on occasion they became rowdy, but there was only singing and dancing.

He said some of the tenants who had given evidence had been to the parties and had become intoxicated.

The Telegraph 8 Dec 1943

Brisbane Telegraph 9 July 1951

(National Library of Australia Trove digitised newspapers)

No 30 Menzies Street was named 'Desmond'

(The Telegraph 15 June 1917 – NLA Trove Auction Notice)



c1983



August 2023

No 31 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 37 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 40 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 42 Menzies Street

Subdivisions 23 and 24 of allotment 294 (ie Nos 42 and 44 Menzies Street) were owned by William Henry Warman and his daughter Emily Jane Warman. WH Warman was the original owner and licensee of the Caxton Hotel. The properties in Menzies Street were sold after Mr Warman died in 1912.

**COMFORTABLE COTTAGE AND TWO
ALLOTMENTS.**

**MENZIES STREET. PETRIE
TERRACE.**

**By order of the Curator of Intestate
Estates.**

**Re Emily Jane Warman and Wm. Henry
Warman, Deceased.**

**Subdivisions 23 and 24 of allotment
294, parish and town of North Brisbane,
area 18 perches, fronting Menzies street,
Petrie terrace, and having thereon a wood
and iron Cottage of four rooms, front
veranda, &c., and now in the occupation
of Mrs. Gilbert.**

*The Telegraph 15 Jul 1913
(National Library of Australia Trove digitised newspapers)*

Mrs Gilbert lived at No 42 Menzies Street (1914 electoral roll)

N.C.S.	Petrie Tce	MAP F2 26	STREET	42 MENZIES STREET	SUBURB	PETRIE TERRACE
VENDOR/S PHONE	TENANT PHONE			LISTING No. 44572/1		

BASE	tmbtr stumps	O/S WALLS	timber
ROOF	iron	INT. WALLS	timber
AGE	old	PATIO	
L & D		BDRMS.	4x1
OTHER RMS.			
KIT			
BATH	2 share	SHR. REC.	
STOVE		H.W.S.	elec
LAUNDRY	community	SEWD.	yes
CAR ACCOM.		HIGH/LOW SET	
LAND APPROX.	228m2	FRONT APPROX.	9m
FENCED		ZONING	Res A
RATES		ASSESS No.	
V.G.		TRPT.	
R.P.D. Vol.4919 Fol.105 C/Stanley P/N Bris			
RS.24 Allot.294 on RP.10666			
DEED HELD	V.P.		
INSPECT	ANZ Paddington		
FRONT STEPS	7	REAR STEPS	7
UNDER HOUSE	undeveloped		
ASPECT			
L.A.	Dray & Malone Pty. Ltd.		
SUB.	Milton		
PHONE	36 1411		
A.H.s. REP.	John Howard 59 9105		
	9th July, 1979		

PRICE: \$22,500 ONO

REMARKS: 4x1 registered flatettes in handy position returning \$88 PW.

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

Petrie Terrace Photo Study – Menzies Street vJuly 2024



c1983



August 2023

No 43 Menzies Street




c1983



August 2023

No 44 Menzies Street

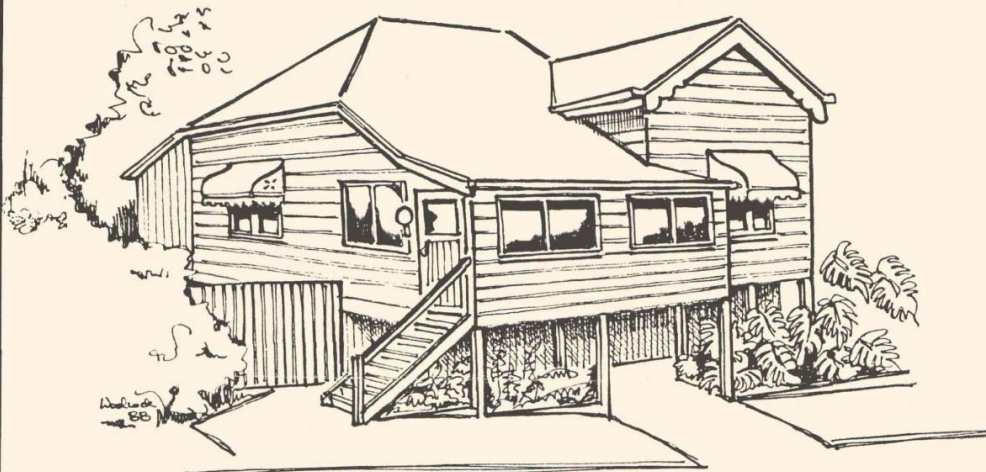
44 MENZIES ST

 **Ray White**

REAL ESTATE

AUCTION

PETRIE TERRACE - STROLL TO WORK



44 Menzies St. Petrie-Terrace.

ENJOY INNER CITY LIVING IN THIS CHARMING THREE BEDROOM QUEENSLANDER THAT FEATURES A MODERN KITCHEN AND BATHROOM, SPACIOUS LOUNGE ROOM, ENCLOSED FRONT VERANDAH, AND TWO(2) STREET ACCESS.

PRIOR OFFERS CONSIDERED

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	SUBDIVISION 23 of Allotment 294 on Registered Plan 10666. Volume - 4891. Folio - 14. County - Stanley. Parish - Nth. Brisbane. City - Brisbane.
<u>ZONING</u>	Detached Housing 1p. Area - 228m ²
<u>CONDITIONS OF SALE</u>	Cash - 10% deposit on fall of hammer, balance within 30 days.

TO BE AUCTIONED ON SITE SATURDAY 27th AUGUST at 2.00p.m.

<u>ENQUIRIES</u>	PETER EGAN a.h. 378 9217	GEORGE HADGELIAS a.h. 379 9943
------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------------

PADDINGTON:3696488

August 1988



c1984



August 2023

No 49 Menzies Street

TRUTH, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1921:

Cuerel's Comic Capers.

Some Very Strange Domestic Doings.

Application to Vary a Maintenance Order

OPENS UP A VERITABLE PANDORA'S BOX OF QUEER GOINGS-ON.

Some Laughable Sidelights on Life in Ipswich on the Bremer.

On Thursday morning, in the City Summons Court, before Mr. F. J. Cherry, P.M., Theodore Louis Cuerel applied for a variation of the maintenance order for £1 7s. 6d. per week, made against him by Mr. G. A. Cameron, P.M., on behalf of Sarah Gross Cuerel, on May 28, 1918.

Mr. James Crawford appeared on behalf of Mrs. Cuerel, and Cuerel was his own lawyer.

Theodore Louis Cuerel, the complainant, said he was at present living at 49 Menzies-street, Petrie-terrace, and he applied for a variation of the maintenance order against him for the support of his wife. He claimed that when the order was made there was an alternative of him giving his wife a home. He was now in a position to furnish her with a home, and he made that offer. He was in constant work, and able to support a home and his wife. Witness had rented the house at £1 a week. It was at 70 Menzies-street, Petrie-terrace, just opposite to where he was now living. He had a constant job for life provided the work lasted, and he was getting £4 10s. a week.

By Mr. Crawford: How much do you at present owe on your maintenance order?

Witness: Nothing. (Here witness triumphantly waved a receipt).

When did you pay it?—Last Thursday.

You paid £17 odd?—Yes.
Where did you

What about that widow?—Oh, you are mixing up somebody else (mentioning a name).

Do you admit "carrying on" with other women?—No.

Didn't you admit to me that you had improper relations with another woman?—No.

Since you and your wife have separated, you say you have not associated with another woman?—I won't say that.

We'll go a little further. Will you say you have not associated with three different women?—No. (To the P.M.): Your Worship will understand I'm speaking of friends.

You have been in gaol for disobeying the order, haven't you?—Yes.

Haven't you repeatedly boasted that your wife wouldn't get anything out of you?—Yes.

You have done everything in your power to defeat that order, haven't you?—(No answer).

The man who was living with you and your wife before you separated—his name was Smythe, wasn't it?—Yes.

You sold the home up over your wife's head, didn't you?—Yes; to separate her and Smythe.

Smythe was a friend of yours?—A sort of a friend.

Do you say your wife miscondacted herself with Smythe?—Yes; I do!

And you are willing to take her back?—Yes.

Why?—Because of

MY GOOD NAME.

(First column continued over)

You paid it out?—Yes.
Where did you

GET THE MONEY?

—From a friend.
Who is the friend?—A Mr. Griffiths.
Where does he live?—I don't know his address, but he lives in Toowong.
Well, where does he work?—I don't know.
How long have you known him?—He has known me as long as I have known him, and he has known me ever since I was born. (Smiles.)
Why did he lend this £17 to you?
—He did not lend it, he gave it to me.
Very obliging of him, to be sure. I would like to know his address in case



SARAH CROSS CUEREL
THEODORE LOUIS CUEREL

I want to borrow anything. (Smiles.)
Is he any relation of yours?—A distant relation.
How distant?—He is just a ship-mate of the family. I suppose that's what you would call him.
How often have you been out of work the last 12 months?—I don't know.
Would it be a week?—More than that.
Would it be a month?—All right, I'll let you have that.
How often have you been out of work, then?—Well, when I'm in work, I'm in work, and when I'm out of work, I'm out of work.
Mr. Crawford (sarcastically): Oh, indeed, and I suppose when you are in a pub, you are in a pub, and when you are out of the pub, you are out of the pub; very logical, very logical. You needn't get hurried, I've a lot more questions yet.
Witness (resignedly): Very well, carry on, carry on.
You know your wife has to keep your child, a girl of 12?—I know she is supposed to keep her.
Did you not admit to the C.P.M., Mr. Archdall, before the original order was taken out, that your wife's alle-

MY GOOD NAME.

I have a good name (proudly and dramatically) "Cuere!"—C-u-e-r-e-i (slowly and deliberately, and a tap of the finger on the table to emphasise each letter). It's a name, sir, that's known throughout the world!

Mr. Crawford: And through the gaol records, too. (Laughter.)

Witness: That's no disgrace.

How many times have you been in prison for the non-payment of the maintenance order?—Only twice, once for a few days, and once for a month.

You know your wife had to go out and work?—From what I hear, she has been living in an immoral manner.

The P.M.: You wish your wife to come back, and yet you make these statements.

Mr. Crawford: Do you believe that?

Witness: Yes.

If she comes back, are you going to reform her?—Well, I'll do my best.

You haven't any proof?—Well, not directly.

How do you mean?—Well, one night, between 7 and 10 o'clock, I saw her with a man in George-street, going through the Roma-street railway gates. Her skirt was not straight.

Were there many people going about?—Hundreds.

So you concluded that because you saw your wife going through Roma-street railway gates with a man, that she had had improper relations with him?—Yes.

A rather far-fetched imagination, haven't you?—No.

Are there any other instances you can quote?—Yes; when I

WENT TO IPSWICH

for a week, her name was on every Tom, Dick, and Harry's tongue. Lots of people told me how she was carrying on.

How many people told you?—I couldn't say.

Would it be one hundred?—Oh, no, I don't suppose there would be 150 people in Ipswich. (Loud laughter.)

You'll shock our deposition clerk, he lives in Ipswich, you know. (Laughter, in which Boy Boulter joined quite heartily.)

Witness: There are more women than men in Ipswich; there would, I think, be three women to every man.

Mr. Crawford: Then don't you think your wife would have less chance, there being so few men? (Laughter.) Witness, are you right in the head? (Laughter.)

How many men told you about your wife?—(After reflection) Four.

Mr. Crawford: I know Ipswich very well.

Witness (sarcastically): I believe there is a nice river there.

Mr. Crawford (also sarcastically): Yes; it's called the Bremer.

Witness (very sarcastically): It has a nice bridge over it, hasn't it?

(First column continued over)

gations against you were true?—No.
And did not Mr. Archdall say that it was advisable that you and your wife should not live together?—No.

Do you know that one of the allegations made by your wife against you was that while she would be washing you would drag her into the bathroom and behave lewdly?—I know she said it.

Didn't you admit that?—No.

You know she underwent

A SERIOUS OPERATION

after the first case?—Yes; for a cut finger.

What! Go to the Lady Lamington Hospital for a cut finger?—Yes.

You had another wife at the time?—No.

Didn't you admit that you had another wife?—Never in your life.

a nice bridge over it, hasn't it?

Mr. Crawford (reading from the depositions of the original case): You said thus of Smythe at the last case, didn't you, "I

TREATED HIM LIKE A BROTHER,

and watched him like a skunk"?—Yes.

Mr. Crawford then read the following extracts from the evidence in the previous case, all of which the witness admitted that he had sworn in evidence in the original case:—

I went into the bedroom, at 1 o'clock in the morning, where my wife, my daughter, and a visitor, Miss Andrews, were sleeping. I woke my wife up, but I didn't speak to her. I just touched her on the shoulder.

I have not been strictly moral since I left my wife. I have been in company with one woman during the last 13 months, and I may have been with others.

I have not been hanging about with strange women. It is a married woman I have been in company with.

It was after I left the house that my misconduct with the woman mentioned occurred.

Mr. Crawford: Does your wife ever call you anything?

Witness: She calls me everything but an angel. (Laughter.)

And yet you want her back?—Yes.

Mr. Crawford addressed the Bench, and the plaintiff, striking a Marc Antony attitude, followed suit on his own behalf.

Mr. Cherry, after a few words of advice to the complainant, dismissed the application, and allowed £2 2s. professional costs, and 9s. 10d. for defendant's expenses from Ipswich.

(National Library of Australia Trove digitised newspapers)

The Cuerel family lived in No 49 Menzies Street for over 30 years



c1983



August 2023

No 52 Menzies Street



c1983

Herb Johnson memories of No 52 Menzies Street in the early 1970s

"The bathroom was a tin shed downstairs to the right, with the toilet next to it, made of wood with big holes in its walls where the neighbour could look through. The neighbours must have been part of a free love movement, as I saw them walking around inside their house nude, occasionally with a few of their nude friends."



c1983



August 2023

No 55 Menzies Street



The Brisbane History Group was sent an old family photo of a house believed to be located somewhere in the suburb of Petrie Terrace. After much research into the families who were associated with the owner of the photo, the location was narrowed down to Menzies Street.

But it didn't quite fit with any of the house photographs we had, and the incline of the street just didn't look right. So we 'flipped' the image and it became much easier to identify it as No 55 Menzies Street.

It was the home of Mrs Mary Jackson when her brother Hugh O'Brien (great grandfather of the photo owner) emigrated from Ireland and arrived in Brisbane in 1913. It remained the home for some members of the Jackson/O'Brien families until the 1940s.(electoral rolls)

Photo courtesy of Caroline Towers (May 2024)



c1983



August 2023

No 58 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 61 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 64 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 67 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 70 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 73 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 74 Menzies Street

SNAKE WARNING TO CHILDREN

A WHIP snake about 28in long was caught by Mr. J. O'Neill, Menzies-street, Petrie-terrace, yesterday morning under a lemon tree in his back yard.

Mr. O'Neill said that children in the district often went to his home to gather lemons, and also took mulberry leaves for their silkworms, and he would like to warn them of the danger of snakes.

Sunday Mail 26 Sep 1937

(National Library of Australia Trove digitised newspapers)

O'Neill lived at No 74 Menzies Street (Wise's Post Office Directory 1937)



c1983



August 2023

No 78 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 79 Menzies Street



c1983



August 2023

No 88 Menzies Street



c1984



August 2023

Menzies Street looking south east



c1983



August 2023

Menzies Street looking south

'TORPEDO JUICE' PARTY DENIED BY U.S. SAILOR



Mary Alberta Greer, who was in the sailor's company.

Above, Constance Flannagan (42), keeper of a Petrie-terrace residential, committed for trial on a charge of stabbing an American soldier with whom, it was stated in court during the week, she has been living for 12 months. Left, U.S. sailor, Fay Walter Riley, said he had drunk "torpedo juice," but denied that he had taken any to Flannagan's place on the night of the stabbing alleged against the woman.

"TORPEDO juice," with the kick of a thousand mules and then some, is used in warfare as the motive power to shoot death-dealing "torps" on their fateful mission of destruction. In minute nips, imbibed by humans, it may also wreak havoc. And, as told in the Police Court during the week, inveterate tipplers have taken the potion with disastrous results.

Mention was made of "torpedo juice" during a hearing in which Constance Flannagan, 42, Menzies-street, Petrie-terrace, was committed for trial on a charge that, on September 28, she unlawfully assaulted Darío Albert Miller, a U.S. soldier, with whom, it was stated, she had been living for 12 months. She pleaded not guilty.

According to Det.-Sergt. Codd, Flannagan admitted that she had been living with the American, Miller, at a residential in Menzies-street, Petrie-terrace, for the past 12 months. He told her that he had found Miller lying on a blood-stained bed with cuts on his chest, finger and forearm, and she allegedly replied: "We had a row, but I did not stab him."

Cross-examined by Mr. J. R. Gilbert (For Flannagan), Sergeant Codd admitted that defendant said she did not know anything at all about a knife. She said she had been drinking and appeared to have had liquor taken.

Mr. Gilbert: What did she say she was drinking?—"Torpedo Juice."

Mr. Gilbert: This is a pure spirit with which they fire torpedoes—an octane spirit.

After Dario Albert Miller, Allied soldier, had stated that he had been living with defendant for about 12 months he said he did not want to answer further questions, but he was told by the S.M., that he must answer.

He then said he remembered they had some drinks—some powerful drink—it looked like gin, but it was very powerful.

HE HAD NO IDEA

Miller said he had no idea how he came by his injuries; he believed he had had an accident.

Fluffy-haired, 19-year-old blonde, Mary Alberta Greer told the court that she had a room at the Menzies-street residential, which was run by defendant whom she knew as Mrs. Miller. She also worked at the Far East Cafe, and about 12.30 a.m. on September 28, she, Mrs. Miller and a U.S. sailor, Pat Riley, went home.

Riley, said the girl, had a bottle of gin and a bottle of brandy with him, and before witness and Riley retired to her room, the three of them had some drink in the kitchen.

About 6 a.m. defendant, she declared, came rushing into the room and said, "Come quick, I think I have killed him!"

In Miller's room she saw the latter lying on the bed, apparently unconscious with blood on his uniform, face and hands.

Mr. Gilbert: What were you drinking?—The sailor told me it was torpedo juice."

What did it taste like?—It burnt me.

Fay Walter Riley, U.S. sailor, said he took a bottle of brandy and a bottle of gin with him to defendant's home. He denied that he had any "torpedo juice." For a while, he related, Mary Greer, defendant and he sat drinking in the kitchen. Then he retired to bed with Mary, he said.

Mr. Gilbert: If Miss Greer had stated that she did not see a knife in defendant's hand when she came into your room, she is a liar?—Yes.

Mr. Gilbert: Weren't you drinking torpedo juice?—I'm positive I was not.

The sailor denied that he told Greer that the spirit she was drinking was torpedo juice, and if everybody else had said it was, they would be lying.

Mr. Gilbert: Did you take this girl home for the purpose of putting her under?—No.

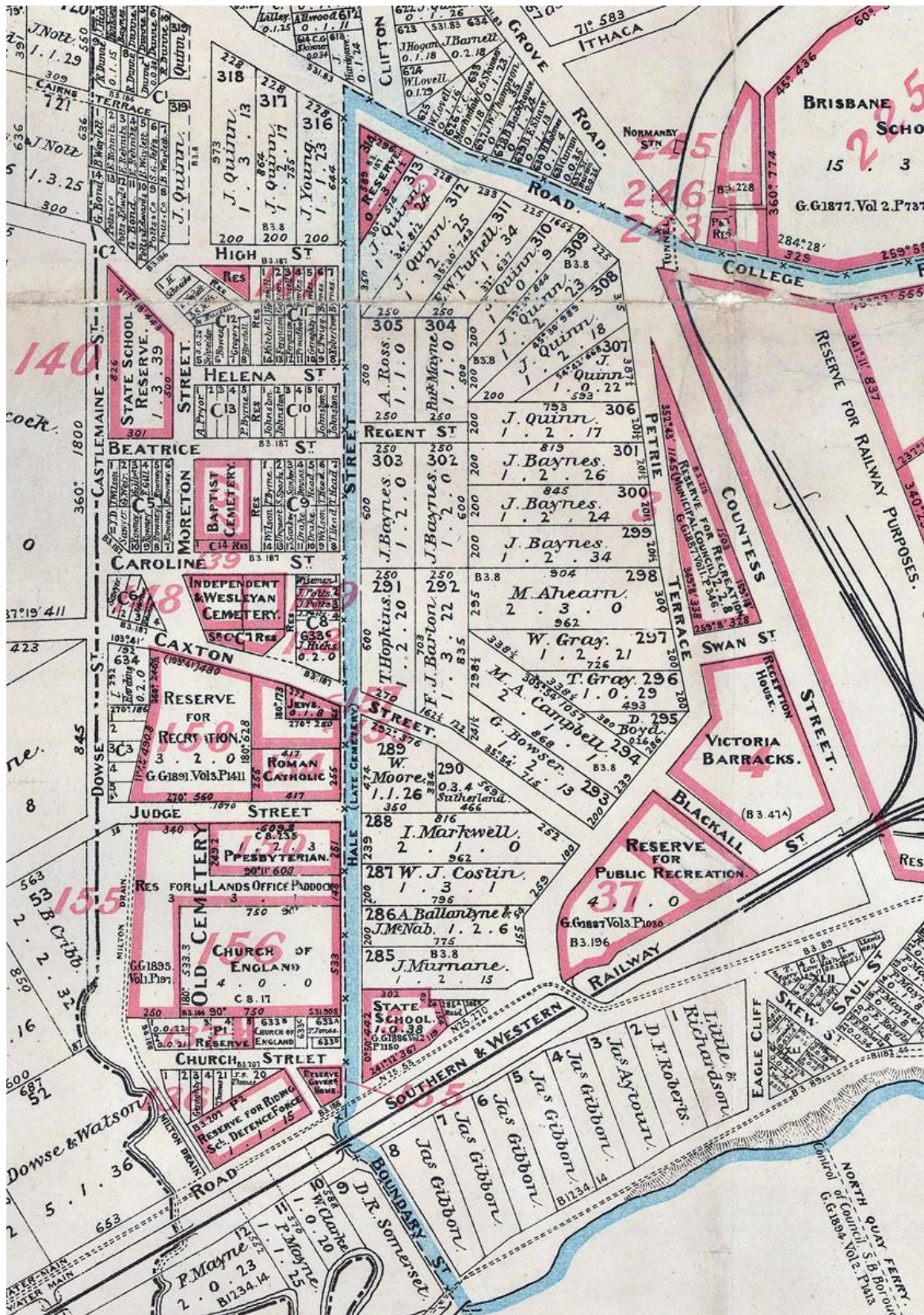
It was the first time you met her and you took her home and slept with her?—Yes.

With evidence concluded, Flanagan was committed for trial after pleading not guilty.

Truth 17 October 1943

(National Library of Australia Trove digitised newspapers)

Exact street location unknown



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)*