

*Potter about*

# • PETRIE TERRACE •



Timber  
building on  
the corner of  
Petrie Terrace  
and Cricket  
Street



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*





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# MAP

## LEGEND

-  Heritage site
-  Walking trail
-  Public toilets
-  Normanby busway station

Access for people with limited mobility:

-  Moderate gradient (between 1:20-1:14)
-  Steep gradient (in excess of 1:14)



- |                              |                             |                                    |
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# INTRODUCTION

Petrie Terrace is one of Brisbane's earliest suburbs. The first land sales began in 1842 following the closure of the Moreton Bay Penal Colony. The suburb was on the edge of Brisbane Town during the 1840s, hosting only the cemetery. However, from the 1860s onwards its proximity to the central business district and a population boom in Brisbane combined to make the area much more desirable. The area was then known as 'Green Hills'.

Houses, shops and a school were quickly built on small, tightly packed lots. The best residences were constructed along the Petrie Terrace ridgeline overlooking Brisbane Town. Workers' dwellings filled the hollows of Petrie Terrace. Following the opening of the Petrie Terrace gaol and military barracks in the 1860s, there were workers as well as residents to patronise local hotels. Hoteliers made the most of the demand, setting up establishments including the Caxton Hotel, the Cricketers' Arms, and the Prince Alfred Hotel which, when first built, were simple timber buildings. The cemetery at the base of the hill was closed by 1874.



*Workers' Cottage, Petrie Terrace, 1897, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 73751*

By the turn of the century, electric trams were travelling along Petrie Terrace and down Caxton Street as suburbs such as Paddington and Red Hill became increasingly populated.


With the Great Depression impacting on the economy in the 1930s, many of the small houses in Petrie Terrace became crowded boarding houses and tenements. By the 1950s, Petrie Terrace had gained a reputation as a poor and overcrowded inner-city suburb that had become home to many of Brisbane's undesirables. It wasn't until the 1970s and 80s that many of Petrie Terrace's run-down old buildings were lovingly restored, reinvigorating the suburb and swiftly making it one of Brisbane's most sought-after inner-city addresses.

1

## LANG PARK

The area that is now part of Suncorp Stadium (Lang Park) was originally the site of the North Brisbane Burial Ground (also known as the Milton-Paddington Cemetery), established in 1843. As the first cemetery in Brisbane for free settlers, it became the resting place for several thousand early Brisbane residents. Concerns about hygiene were raised as the cemetery filled, and it was officially closed in 1874. At that time, more than 130 graves and memorials were relocated to Toowong Cemetery, with the rest either sold at auction or destroyed.

It was not until 1914 that all the headstones and monuments were removed from the site and it was converted into parkland. A small memorial reserve was created for a few of the headstones beside the Anglican Church. The park was named 'Lang Park' and was used as a recreational reserve until 1955 when Queensland Rugby League took over the site and constructed a series of timber spectators' stands around the field.



*View over Paddington Cemetery towards Milton, Brisbane, ca 1870,  
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 65399*

Today, Lang Park is known as Suncorp Stadium and is a Queensland sporting landmark. Colloquially, it has long been known as 'the cauldron' for its intimidating atmosphere for interstate players.

## • ITHACA PLAYGROUND •

This playground, known today as the Neal Macrossan Playground, was established in 1918 by the Playground Association of Queensland, which was committed to providing poor children with recreational and educational facilities in disadvantaged areas.

This park was the first of its kind established in Queensland and was designed as a model playground by the association. A playground where children could play in a safe environment away from the crowded and dirty streets of Petrie Terrace had long been requested by the community.

A portion of land from the old cemetery was set aside for the playground "to put more sunshine into the lives of the children, and to give them a brighter time when passing towards adolescence" (*Brisbane Courier*, 10 October 1913).



*Children's Playground at Ithaca, 1918, State Library of Queensland,  
Negative Number 108161*

The Playground Association was appointed to undertake the management of the park. It was believed that instilling values in children such as honesty, consideration of others and courage would stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives. Supervised outdoor play areas were divided into girls', boys' and infants' areas.



## STOMBUCO'S *terrace houses*

As you walk up the hill towards Petrie Terrace there are two sets of masonry terrace houses. The first row of four was built in 1884 and the set of two beside them was built in 1886.

It is believed that the terraces were designed by eminent Brisbane architect, Andrea Stombuco. He designed some of the city's most beautiful buildings during the late 19th Century, such as St Joseph's Christian Brothers College on Gregory Terrace, All Hallows Convent School in Fortitude Valley, 'Rhyndarra' in Yeronga, and Palma Rosa' in Hamilton (originally named Sans Souci).

Turn left onto Petrie Terrace and there are two more rows of terrace houses, also thought to have been designed by Stombuco. The first, known as 'O'Keefe's Buildings', was built in 1881 and beside these are the 'Illawarra Buildings', built in 1887.



*Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, ca. 1902, State Library of Queensland*

Unlike Sydney and Melbourne, terrace houses are quite rare in Brisbane. The terrace houses reflect the urban development of Petrie Terrace in the 1880s when larger residences were being constructed on the high ridges overlooking the city for affluent residents, and many small workers' cottages were built on the slopes and valleys of the early suburb for those of lesser means.

Although the terrace houses fell into disrepair in the 1970s and 80s, they have been restored and today play an important role in the historic streetscapes of Petrie Terrace.

These houses are private property. Please **do not** enter.

## NORMANBY HOTEL

“Mr Nicholson has prepared plans for the building which is to supersede the Normanby Hotel at the foot of Red Hill. The drawings show a rather imposing structure, and one which will not fail to attract the eye on account of its uniqueness as far as Brisbane is concerned. The style adopted is the Elizabethan”  
(*Brisbane Courier*, 13 December 1889).

The Normanby Hotel is one of the city’s most beautiful hotels and a landmark in Brisbane. It was constructed in 1890 for publican William Valentine. There has been a hotel on this site from as early as 1872. The current hotel was built in 1890 to replace the older one and was designed by respected architect John Beauchamp Nicholson, who also designed the Norman Hotel and the Princess Theatre at Woolloongabba.

There has always been a demand for hotels in Brisbane. When Moreton Bay was opened for free settlement in 1842 some of the first businesses were hotels, with seven licences granted that year. Hotels not only provided an array of services such as drink, food and accommodation, they often played an important role in people’s social lives.



*Architectural Drawing of the Normanby Hotel, Brisbane, 1890, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 202854*

To assist in the regulation of the hotel industry, the colonial government introduced *The Publican’s Act* in 1863. Under the Act, hotels were to provide at least two rooms for guest accommodation, have two sitting rooms, and enough stabling for six horses. All hotels were to be clean and display the hotel’s name out the front on a lamp-lit sign.

In the 1880s, Brisbane experienced a boom due to high wool prices, gold mining and the discovery of other valuable minerals. Plenty of wealth was on show when many of the older timber commercial buildings in the city were replaced with grand masonry ones. The Normanby Hotel was also rebuilt to reflect this growth in prosperity. Today, the Normanby continues to provide hospitality to its guests.



## • ABORIGINAL HISTORY •

"The Brisbane, Stradbroke Island, and all from the Logan up to Brisbane had their camp at Green Hills ... the Ipswich, Rosewood, and Wivenhoe tribes were on Petrie Terrace, where the barracks are, and the Northern tribes camped on the site of the present Normanby Hotel"

*(Tom Petrie's Reminiscences of Early Queensland).*

Growing up in the fledgling settlement of Brisbane Town in the 1840s, Tom Petrie was a close friend to many local Aboriginal people during his childhood. He learnt their language and was privileged to have been shown many parts of their culture.

In his memoirs, he remembers several Aboriginal camps close to and along Petrie Terrace. These were established by visiting groups from different parts of South East Queensland when inter-tribal gatherings took place.



*Drawing of Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, 1881, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 19319*

These gatherings included large ceremonies, corroborees and tournaments, and up to one thousand people were camped in the vicinity. There were assigned areas for the visitors' events and camps which were strictly adhered to. The main tournament and fighting ground for those camped around Petrie Terrace was down the hill in the vicinity of where Roma Street Station and the Roma Street Parkland are today.

As European settlement expanded and more of the inner-city was developed, these important sites were increasingly destroyed and the Aboriginal people forced away from the more populated areas.

## HARDGRAVE PARK

"The gentleman whose name now becomes permanently associated with the reserve was an alderman of the city from 1867 to 1870, and he occupied the Mayoral chair for the year 1868-9 ... As far back as 1874 he began agitating to have this piece of land proclaimed as a reserve"

*(Telegraph, 22 January 1914).*

Hardgrave Park was named after John Hardgrave, a Petrie Terrace resident and local politician who was described at the time of his death as "a man of strong convictions and sterling character" *(Brisbane Courier, 10 November 1906).*

It is the earliest gazetted park reserve in Brisbane.

In the early 1870s, the Brisbane Municipal Council proposed subdividing this two-acre triangle of Crown land for building sites. Hardgrave and two other Petrie Terrace residents protested to the government that any blocking of the eastern breeze in summer would adversely affect the health of this heavily populated area.



*Hardgrave Park, Petrie Terrace, 1949, Brisbane City Council, BCC-B54-86*

This proposal, however, was not supported by many of the Petrie Terrace residents who wished to see the parcel of land sold so that the subsequent revenue made by the government could contribute to civic improvements in the suburb.

By 1873, the government had decided that the steep site was more suited to recreation than building and it was gazetted as a recreation reserve in 1875. The park was officially named Hardgrave Park in 1914.

## PRINCESS ROW

This row of brick terraces was originally called 'Costin's Cottages' and were built in 1863. They are some of the earliest surviving terrace houses in Brisbane. Built for Queen Street chemist William Costin as a rental property, they demonstrate Petrie Terrace's rapid development in this era with small land subdivisions on which cottages were swiftly built. Costin commissioned one of Brisbane's earliest and most successful architects of the time, James Cowlshaw, to design the terrace houses.

At the time of their completion, a series of advertisements were published in the newspapers seeking tenants for the houses: "Cottages to Let, containing six rooms with detached kitchen, servant's room pleasantly situated on the Green Hills, Petrie Terrace ... They are very neatly finished gentlemen's villa residences" (*The Courier*, 23 October 1863).



Looking towards Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, ca. 1878,  
State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 204878

The terrace houses were quickly tenanted and by the 1880s had a mix of residents including a bricklayer, a draper, a mine inspector, a boarding-house keeper, a carpenter and three railway porters.

This is private property. Please **do not** enter.



## ‘SHAWN’ FLATS

‘Shawn’ Flats were built in 1936 for widow Margaret Murphy as an investment property. The unusual set of flats incorporates a number of popular interwar architectural styles, including ‘Old English’ and ‘Mediterranean’.

As the Great Depression progressed through the late 1920s and into the 1930s, there was a marked lack of housing in Brisbane. This was the period in which the multi-unit dwelling began to emerge as an alternative to the traditional Brisbane house and yard. Before this, in larger Australian cities such as Sydney and Melbourne this style of ‘modern’ living, in blocks of flats, had become a stylish alternative to living in the traditional house.

In the early 1930s, to cater for the housing shortage as well as to generate income, many home owners in 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.



*Aerial photograph of Petrie Terrace, 1946, Brisbane City Council*

A fashionable and more sophisticated alternative to this form of accommodation was the purpose-built block of self-contained flats.

Naturally, the introduction of the flat to Brisbane was not without its critics. Flats were generally marketed to single people and childless couples, and some believed that ‘flat’ living would degrade the family unit and encourage lax morals. In spite of this, apartment living soon became fashionable and new architect-designed apartment blocks began to appear in inner-city suburbs such as Petrie Terrace, Spring Hill, New Farm, Fortitude Valley and South Brisbane.

These flats are private property. Please **do not** enter.

# PETRIE TERRACE'S

## *gullies*

As you walk down Cricket Street, take note of the historic 19th Century streetscape, with its variety of modest timber cottages and larger, more substantial two-storey homes.

In the 1870s it was the lower areas of Petrie Terrace that raised concerns amongst the community, as crowded conditions and poor drainage were thought to be causing disease. Before knowledge of bacterial-borne diseases, it was a common belief that serious illnesses such as typhoid, diphtheria and cholera were caused by the smells and bad air called 'miasma' coming from these cesspits. It was also believed that the close proximity to the over-crowded cemetery at the base of the hill contributed to the unhealthy conditions.

"The sewerage of this district runs naturally to the gullies ... the channels leading to these gullies are, except after heavy rains, literally choked with accumulation of rubbish and other offensive matter from the densely crowded tenements on the rising grounds above ... the effluvia produced by these various causes ...



*Judge Street, Petrie Terrace, 1925, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 152882*

has obtained Petrie Terrace and the neighbourhood an unenviable celebrity" (*Telegraph*, 25 December 1873).

Public meetings were held as early as 1870 in an attempt to have the cemetery at the base of the hill relocated outside of the town. At one of the meetings, a delegation of high-profile community members was formed to lobby the government with a petition:

"there exists in the immediate neighbourhood of said cemeteries, a low type of fever among the residents, and that during the last twelve months one whole family had to be removed into the hospital, and at least one death occurred which could not be traced to any other than of miasmatic causes"

(*Brisbane Courier*, 11 August 1870).

The community's concerns were answered with the closure of the cemetery at the bottom of the hill and the establishment of a new cemetery at Toowong in 1874.

## ROW OF COTTAGES

Like so many other streets in Petrie Terrace, most of the cottages along Menzies Street were built on very small portions of land and are a reflection of the crowded conditions on the hill in the late 1800s.

There were serious concerns about over-population in inner-city areas from as early as the 1870s. The construction of small tenements and tiny cottages on very small parcels of land increased the risk of disease and fire. In an attempt to prevent slum developments, the colonial government introduced the *Undue Subdivision of Land Prevention Act* in 1885. It then became illegal to subdivide land into lots smaller than sixteen perches (405m<sup>2</sup>). The Act also regulated the width of new roads and lanes, and the distance between new houses and the road.



Auction sale, Petrie Terrace, 1883, State Library of Queensland,  
Negative Number 21124219790002061



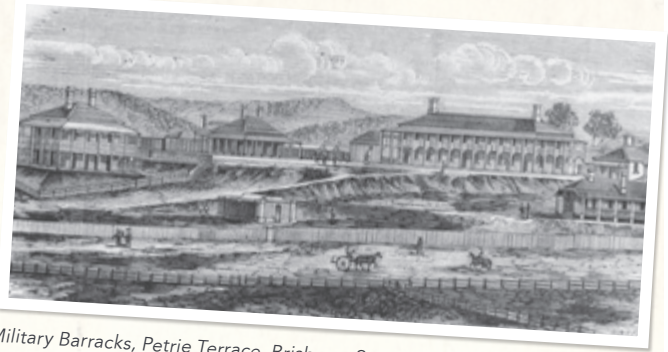
## VICTORIA BARRACKS

"You will as soon as possible exert all energy and persuasion to induce the colonists to see to their self-defence internally ... A colony that is once accustomed to depend on Imperial soldiers for aid against riots &c, never grows up into vigorous manhood"

*(Letter to Governor Bowen from Sir Lytton, 1859).*

Before Victoria Barracks was established in 1864, a military presence had been requested by the governor of the newly separated colony, Sir George Ferguson Bowen. Governor Bowen was concerned about a perceived French Naval threat from New Caledonia as well as the need for protection from Aboriginal attacks for early European settlers. A British Imperial garrison was sent to Queensland in 1861 who were first housed in the old convict settlement's military barracks. This accommodation, however, was swiftly deemed unsatisfactory and the site for a new military barracks was chosen on what was then known as Green Hills.

"The site has been well chosen, and when finished, the new barracks will, undoubtedly possess, not only the advantage of being well situated, but in point of comfort and stability they



*Military Barracks, Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 146231*

will show a decided improvement on buildings of the same character hitherto erected in the colony"

*(Brisbane Courier, 16 April 1864).*

The designs for the first buildings on the site were sent from the War Office in London and included a men's barracks block, officer's quarters, a guard room, an ablutions block and a kitchen annex.

After the British Army withdrew from Australia in 1869, the barracks were occupied by the colonial police force between 1870 and 1884. From 1885 the Permanent Force of the Queensland Defence Force occupied the site and additional building work was undertaken. The Queensland Defence Force became part of the Commonwealth Military Forces from 1901, and since that date the site has remained under the control of the Australian Army.

## BRISBANE GAOL

“Who will give a thought to the hours of suffering, the hours of remorse, which these walls and buildings have witnessed. Surely the very ground will cry out and tell of hanging and the terrible last hours of doomed men; of the hiss of the lash through the air as it descends on the back of some unfortunate”  
(*Queensland Figaro*, 6 January 1883).

Before the establishment of the police barracks, this was the site of Queensland’s second purpose-built prison which was erected in 1858-59. The design of the gaol is attributed to Queensland’s first Colonial Architect, Charles Tiffin, who was also responsible for designing Parliament House.

When first opened, the gaol, situated on the rise of the hill, was a formidable structure on the fledgling town’s skyline and consisted of two brick and stone, three-storey wings with 72 cells. Initially the gaol was surrounded by a timber paling fence and later a high stone wall. An imposing stone arch at the entrance of the gaol created a sense of authority.



*Brisbane Gaol, 1868, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 106537*

Within the grounds, executions took place on a timber scaffold not visible to other prisoners. Hangings would take place at eight o’clock on Monday mornings and were heralded by a tolling bell. It is believed that by the 1880s there had been approximately 30 executions at the gaol.

By the mid-1860s the conditions in the gaol became unbearably crowded and by 1867 another gaol on St Helena Island in Moreton Bay had been established. It was not until 1883, however, that the gaol on Petrie Terrace was closed following the construction of the Boggo Road Gaol across the river.

# PRINCE ALFRED

## Hotel

"Owing to its elevation, is all that could be desired by visitors, while the fact that several lines of trams pass the door makes it a pleasanter residence than places actually in the city. Patrons can rely upon nothing but the very best quality of drinks being supplied" (*Truth*, 5 April, 1908).

This landmark hotel was known as the Prince Alfred Hotel. Built in 1881, it is the second on the site, replacing an older 1860s timber hotel. The hotel was named after Queen Victoria's son Prince Alfred, who visited Brisbane in 1868.

By 1881, the old hotel had been demolished and a new one had been designed by one of Brisbane's most celebrated architects, Richard Gailey. Gailey was responsible for designing some of Brisbane's most beautiful buildings and is most famous for his late Victorian era hotels including the Prince Consort,



*Prince Alfred Hotel, Brisbane, ca.1929, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 1873*

the Wickham and Jubilee hotels in Fortitude Valley, the Orient Hotel in the city, and the Regatta Hotel in Toowong.

Over the years, the hotel became a favourite watering hole for personnel stationed at both the Victoria Barracks and the Police Barracks close by.

Today, it remains one of Brisbane's favourite hotels and carries on the tradition of providing hospitality to Petrie Terrace's residents and visitors alike.



## • ODDFELLOWS HALL •

This hall was built in 1891 and is another example of architect Richard Gailey's work. The design of the hall was commissioned by the order of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows (MUIOOF).

The MUIOOF was originally founded in 1810 in Manchester, England as a 'benevolent fraternity' organisation. It provided a form of medical and funeral insurance to help offset the high costs of sickness and death during an era of poor public health standards, high funeral costs, and no government welfare for hospitals and medical expenses. Members made regular contributions to their lodge funds in return for payment upon death or illness to either themselves or their dependants.

On the hall's opening night, a concert and ball was held and it was reported that the venue was completely full. The hall's value to the Petrie Terrace community was also highlighted.



*Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace, 1950s, Brisbane City Council, BCC-B54-695*

"The situation of the hall should render it especially useful to the inhabitants of Petrie Terrace and thereabouts, as up to this time they have had no large place suitable for meetings, entertainments, &c ... it will in all likelihood prove a much needed building in the suburb of Petrie Terrace"

*(Telegraph, 9 February 1884).*

Today, the hall has been converted into a popular Brisbane night spot.

# PETRIE TERRACE

## *push*

The 'larrikin' emerged in Brisbane in the late 19th Century. The term was used to describe a teenage male delinquent who, with his group of like-minded friends, wielded mischief, harassment and often violence in the crowded streets of Brisbane's older suburbs. These gangs, known as the 'larrikin push', first appeared on the streets of Sydney and Melbourne where poverty and unemployment levels were high.

In Brisbane, the emergence of the larrikin was attributed mainly to a lack of parental control, coupled with a wide gap of almost two years between the time a boy could leave school and when he could begin an apprenticeship. The *Education Act* of 1875 only compelled children to stay at school until the age of 12, while the minimum age for boys to work in factories was 14. Boys who were not encouraged to stay at school quickly became idle and joined others in these mischievous



*The Larrikin Outbreak, Melbourne Punch, 27 February 1896*

'pushes'. Fighting, stealing, gambling, harassing young women, destroying property and drinking were among the daily activities of a larrikin push.

In 1894, a long-suffering Petrie Terrace resident wrote of the problem: "Petrie Terrace has long been noted for its rowdyism; in fact, it maintains the reputation of possessing the largest number of larrikins and blackguards of Brisbane ... The majority of them are out of employment or, speaking sincerely, confirmed loafers" (*Telegraph*, 14 May 1894).

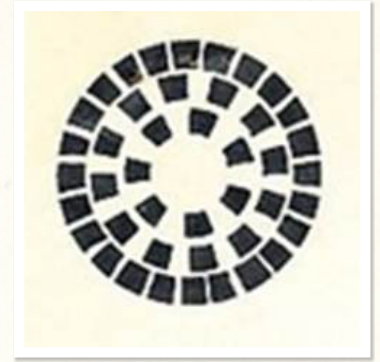
Although the problem of larrikinism in Brisbane was far less than in Sydney and Melbourne, it was a reflection of the harsh economic times.

# LA BOITE THEATRE

## 'The Box'

In the 1920s, a combination of factors including the threat from cinema, reduced numbers of visiting performers and the spread of the 'Little Theatre' movement from southern states sparked ideas of local amateur theatres. In 1925 a group of local theatre enthusiasts formed the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society, now the La Boite Theatre Group. The establishment of this permanent theatre group was embraced by Brisbane theatre-goers, with newspapers reporting large and appreciative audiences at the society's shows through the 1920s and 30s.

Despite the growth and success of Brisbane's amateur theatres, none had their own performance space. Brisbane's 'little theatres' rented practice space around Brisbane, and performed at venues including the Albert Hall, Cremorne Theatre and Princess Theatre. As these theatres began to close over the course of the 1940s, 50s and 60s, the groups sought new performance spaces.



*Iconic circle symbol for the LaBoite Theatre, 1970s, Private Collection.*

Two cottages along Hale Street were acquired by the society, and in a bold move one was converted into a 'theatre in the round', an innovative form of theatre in Australia at this time. The name 'La Boite', meaning 'the box', was adopted.

By the 1970s, a new theatre had been built on the site of the old converted cottage. The design was by progressive Brisbane architect Blair Wilson, and was to be Australia's first purpose-built arena theatre. Interestingly, irregular-shaped reject bricks were used for the building's construction in an attempt to lower building costs, contributing to its unusual character.

In 2001, La Boite moved to a venue in Kelvin Grove. The Petrie Terrace theatre has been sensitively converted into offices.



## TRAGEDY AT

# Jackson & Co's Granary

This austere brick building was once a grain store for J. Jackson & Co., long-established produce and seed merchants.

A major problem with the storage of grains was weevils, a tiny beetle that infests grain stores and eats the grain. On Christmas Eve morning 1947, several employees at Jacksons were directed to fumigate the stores in an attempt to eradicate the ever-present problem of the weevils. Prior to the fumigation of the stores, all windows and most of the doors had been boarded up and eight large drums of a chemical, carbon bisulphide, were made ready to be poured through the stores: "instructions were to tip drums at certain points, so that the liquid could run out, and to get away quickly" (*Courier Mail*, 31 March 1948).

Unbeknown to the men, the chemical they began pouring was extremely dangerous and volatile. Poison gas began to emanate from the liquid and the men were swiftly overcome by the fumes. Most of the men managed to break down the Sexton Street door and collapsed on the road outside. An ambulance arrived shortly after.

## CLAIMS GAS DANGEROUS

The use of carbon bisulphide in an enclosed building was strongly criticised to-day by the Deputy Fire Chief (Mr. Johnson) at the inquiry into the explosion which killed four people at J. Jackson and Co.'s store at Petrie Terrace on December 24.

*Courier Mail*, Friday 26 December 1947

One man, Ray Smith, remained in the store, consumed by the gas. With the arrival of the ambulance, ambulance officer George Cook raced into the stores with his gas mask on to retrieve Smith. A massive explosion then occurred and the nine-metre-high rear wall of the store building fell onto the next door timber cottage: "It would appear that the gas ignited inside the building, blew off the roof, cracked two side walls and forced them out of alignment and wrecked the Porters' house" (*Courier Mail*, 24 March, 1948).

Sadly, four people were killed in the blast: Smith, Cook and two residents of the cottage next door, 73 year-old James Porter and his sixty-eight year old wife, Sarah.

A coroner's inquest followed. Although there were speculations about what had sparked the explosion, such as Mrs Porter innocently lighting her stove, it was deemed impossible to say for certain.

# PETRIE TERRACE

## *Police Barracks*

In 1885 as the gaol closed, part of the site became the Queensland Police Force's depot and training centre. The cell blocks were demolished, but other buildings such as the guard houses and chapel were converted into quarters and offices. By the 1930s, the barracks were in dire need of upgrading and expansion. This was recognised by the Queensland government and the impressive brick barracks building was completed by 1939. It was heralded as the "Most Modern in Australia ... reputed to be the best equipped building of its type in Australia" (*Telegraph*, 29 September 1939).

In the northern corner of the site the original 1912 brick stables have been retained. Prior to the police force's introduction of the bicycle and motor vehicle, horses had been heavily relied upon. At the turn of the century, the Queensland Police Force expanded in response to the swift population growth throughout the state. The demand for well-bred horses suitable for police work had never been higher. In 1908 the Queensland Government established a stud farm at Rewan, west of Bundaberg, specifically for the breeding and training of police horses.



*Mounted Police at the Petrie Terrace Police Barracks, 1920, State Library of Queensland, Negative Number 93836*

"A rhythmical clatter of hooves, proud heads tossing, eyes gleaming with excitement – the police horses! Who has not admired the magnificent thoroughbreds of the Queensland Mounted Force as they prance at the head of processions ... They are undoubtedly one of the finest collection of mounts in the world" (*Sunday Mail*, 3 September 1933).

Many of the Rewan horses were sent to the Petrie Terrace barracks where they were given further training. When first built, the stables were equipped to accommodate 40 horses. As is the case today, police horses were given the best of care and were cherished.

The stable and barracks buildings have been carefully restored as part of the recent 'The Barracks' development.





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