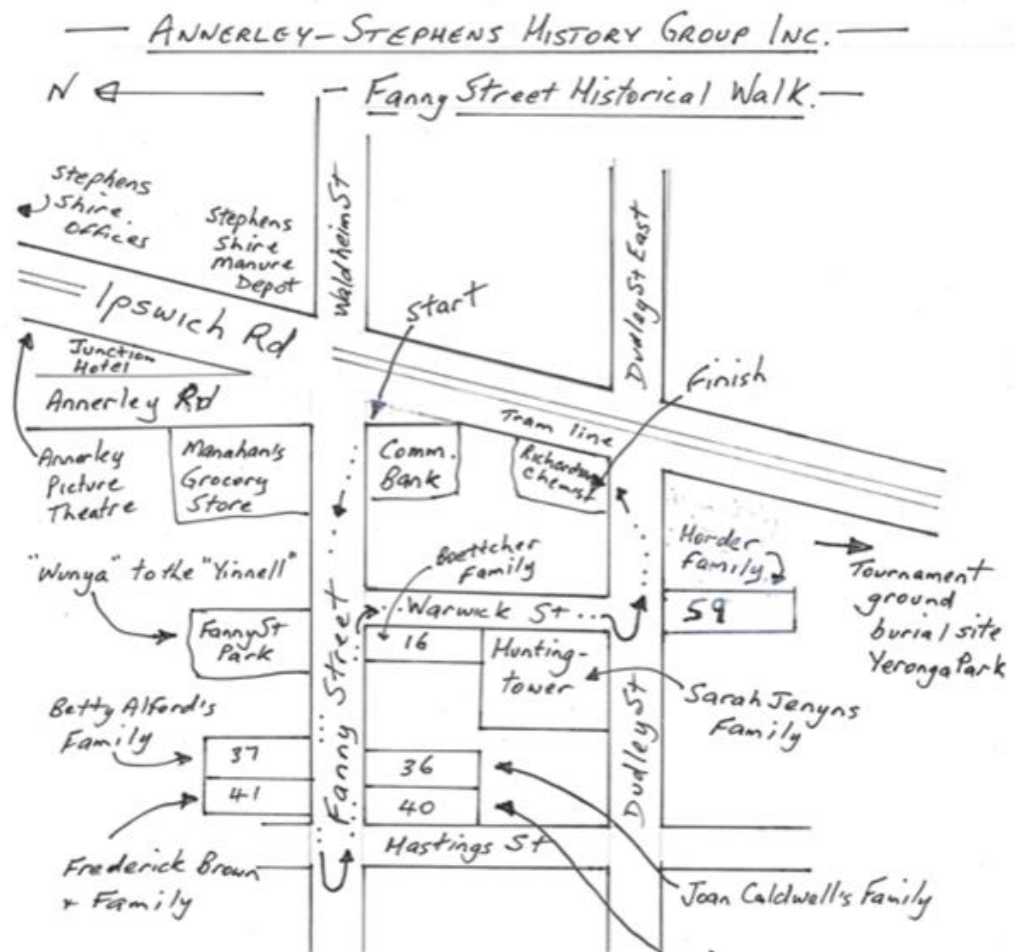


## Fanny Street Historical Walk – self guided

Compiled by ASHG members Denis Peel, Kate Dyson and Pauline Peel



This walk is based on research for signage that was commissioned by Councillor for Tennyson Ward, Nicole Johnston for the Fanny Street Park.

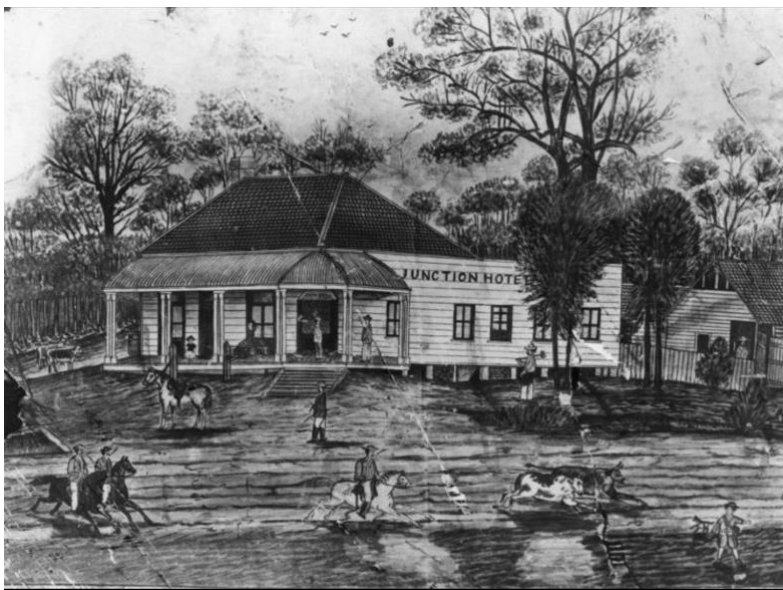
- 1. Begin at the Annerley Junction corner of Fanny Street, Annerley Road, and Ipswich Road outside 99 Bikes.**

This walk traces some of the history around the area of Fanny Street beginning with the many millenia that the *Yuggera* and *Turrbal* people cared for this land before the arrival of

European settlement in Brisbane in 1824. Annerley Junction in 1824 would have been dry sclerophyll *forest* – mostly tall gum trees and at ground level patches of grass and stubble from the effects of cool burns to manage the undercover and keep the pathways well maintained. As with most main roads in Brisbane, Ipswich Road follows one of the many pathways that the *Yerongpan clan of the Yuggera people* used to travel between campsites and it's likely that a pathway round here connected a campsite near Boggo Road jail and a tournament and burial area in Yeronga Park. So we pay our respects to their ongoing relationship to the land we'll walk on today.

The junction of Annerley Rd, Fanny Street and Ipswich Rd has always been a busy junction.

A hotel has operated at the junction since 1866 – almost 160 years. An early owner was John Neil who purchased it in 1869 from William Murphy.



*The Junction Hotel, Annerley (John Neil) by C. Hurst, 1875. (The sketch was donated by the Neil family to the John Oxley Library in 1994.)*

John Neil built and operated a blacksmithy alongside the hotel.



*Neil Blacksmithy, Annerley Junction (Echoes of Stephens, ASHG, p.61)*

In 1884 the hotel was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in stone. You can read more about the Neil family in two of our publications *Echoes of Stephens*, Chapter 5, p. 59 and the *Women of Stephens*. Chapter 4, p. 53.

From this junction it was a short walk across the road to the *Stephens Shire Council* chambers located at about 329 Ipswich Rd. The Stephens Divisional Board or Stephens Shire was proclaimed in 1886 and named after Thomas Blacket Stephens who was one of the first of the new settlers to purchase land in the area in 1857. The Annerley Stephens History Group takes its name from the Stephens Shire that included Fairfield and Annerley amongst several suburbs.



In 1925 the Stephens Shire Council was integrated into the newly created Brisbane City Council. The old council chambers are now a private residence at 15 Ealing Street, Annerley.

The Stephens Shire Council had responsibility for the *manure depot* which was on the site of the Annerley Library. An interesting odour to test the senses!

For the children of Fanny Street families, it was only a short walk to the state school in Waldheim Street (originally the *Thompson Estate School*), renamed as the *Junction Park State School* in 1893.

*TB Stephens* (State Library of Qld (SLQ)).

And for entertainment right behind the Junction Hotel was the *Annerley Picture Theatre* which commenced operation as an open area theatre in 1914. Later a roof was added. It was initially owned by a local Alderman, Mr A E Hughes. Apparently, it had capacity for about 800-1200 people. It was demolished in 1967.



*The demolition of the Annerley Picture Theatre in 1967. (Photos courtesy of Robyn Jenkinson (nee Hubner)).*

In early November 1920 local people gathered at the junction for an exciting event – the launch of the Stephens Shire Council’s first electric street lighting scheme by Cr Stimpson. It’s reported that the locals were joined by the Mayors of Brisbane and South Brisbane and State Parliamentarians and “amid great cheering a turn of the key released the current and principal thoroughfares were brilliantly illuminated.”

In the 1860s, horse drawn coaches would pass this way, including Cobb and Co. One of the local businesses running other coaches was the Soden family from 1885, who had taken over *Hardcastle’s Victoria Hotel* (renamed *Clifton* after an early land subdivision) on the slopes down to Four Mile Swamp. The Soden omnibuses were eventually made redundant in 1903, as they were competing with the trains (from 1884) and the coming of the trams in 1899 to the Junction. The tram terminus initially only went as far as the Junction, then Chardon’s Corner in 1915, then to the gates of Yeronga Park, and later was extended to Salisbury during the Second World War. Residents of Fanny St would hear the trams approaching and would have to dash up the hill to catch them until the last trams ran in 1969.

The first building on the right hand side of Fanny St was *Manahan’s* grocery store, which served many of the local households. A store was built here by around 1884 (shown in both 1884 *Hastings Estate* and 1888 *Riverview Estate* maps) and served as a Post Office as well, possibly occupied by Mrs Reille who was first post mistress. (Read more about the commercial development of Annerley Junction, in Mark Baker’s article in Chapter 7, p.87 of the *Echoes of Stories of Stephens*). Joseph-Manahan occupied the store in 1898, the first in a chain of statewide grocery stores, and it remained *Manahan’s* up until at least 1944, with *Manahan’s* becoming *Brisbane Cash and Carry (BCC)*. In the early days, damp sawdust would be sprinkled on the floor, and behind the store, down the slopes of Fanny St, were the stables, where the horses and carts were kept for deliveries. *Manahan’s* building was demolished in the 1980s, to be replaced by Commonwealth offices in 1986. Later the site became the *Centrelink* office which closed in 2000 and the site has since housed a few different businesses.

On the opposite side of Fanny St, just down from the Junction, the Commonwealth Bank was housed temporarily in an old army building, a relic of the Second World War. In the early morning of Saturday, January 3 1953, the Commonwealth Bank was the victim of a daring robbery of £1000 pounds in notes. After a far reaching search that crossed Queensland and New South Wales, a 22 year old man in Sydney was apprehended, and £700 pounds of the stolen cash were recovered, with no clue as to where the missing £300 had been spent. The following year the Commonwealth bank opened in newly erected purpose-built premises at 425 Ipswich Road.

## **2. Cross Fanny Street and walk west to the Fanny Street Park (You might like to take time to go down into the park and read the signage)**

As the town of Brisbane grew out of the former penal settlement, a parcel of land of 21 acres in the *Boggo* district was bought by Richard Board for £42 in Land Grant 3868 signed by Governor Bowen on May 15, 1862. Further subdivision followed – including a transfer in

1866 to Henry Buckley, who was Auditor General for Qld, Shipping Agent, Spirit Merchant, and proprietor of the *Moreton Bay Free Press*. Buckley on-sold some parcels of land to a Charles Trundle, a native of Hingham, Norfolk, England. The Trundle family had arrived on board the Reverend Lang's free emigrant ship the *Fortitude* in 1849, and Charles and wife Fanny brought with them a large family that eventually grew to 14, including a daughter also Fanny and an Annie.

As the area became increasingly populated, this area was marketed as the *Hastings Estate* in around 1865, which included Mary, Annie, Polly, and Fanny streets. It was described as "a rising locality" having "the finest frontages" on the "main telegraph road to Ipswich", "combining the romantic with the picturesque". Purchasers were exhorted to "choose the south side" following the construction of the first Victoria Bridge in 1874. In the 1880s, allotments on the *Hastings Estate* were described as boasting "extensive and grand view[s] of the Brisbane River, Taylor's Range and the whole of the *Boggo District*".

We asked who was Fanny St named for? It certainly was common practice to name streets in subdivisions after family members and Fanny was a popular name in the 1800s. On the Cameron and Henzell no. 365 Estate Map held by the State Library of Queensland, there is a Hingham St (aligns with current Polly St), which seems to cement the connection with Fanny Trundle and her family, who were prominent in Brisbane public life. We may never know who the original Fanny was, but the survival of this street named for a woman is remarkable in Brisbane, as many have been renamed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to reflect *London Street Directory* entries, male dignitaries, or politicians. Mary and Annie Streets are no longer, lost after Greater Brisbane amalgamated and too many street names had been duplicated causing confusion and a program of renaming.



Portion 158b/159a, ca 1865 (SLQ).

### **Fanny Street Park and nature:**

*Wanya* to the *yinnell*. Elders of the *Yerongpan* clan are keen to share some of the local words so *Wanya* – welcome to the - *yinnell* – gully and listen out for the *billin* – magpie-lark or peewee and down in the *yinnell* look out for *kabul* - the carpet snake. There are many exotic plants and trees here now but some pink bloodwood and brushbox show what was the original vegetation of this *yinnell*.

### **3. Walk west to number 37 Fanny Street**



*Betty Alford – photo courtesy of the Alford family (Echoes of Stories of Stephens, p. 160).*

Betty Alford lived at 37 Fanny Street for 81 years from 1926 - 2007. Betty wrote down her memories of her 81 years in Fanny Street and her nephew Tom Alford has published them in *Echoes of Stories of Stephens*, Chapter 16, p.155. Betty recalled that back in the 1920s and 1930s the steep slopes and heavy vegetation of the gully had discouraged the building of houses in the lower part of Fanny Street. People made their homes in ‘humpies’ amongst the trees and shrubs before the simple workers dwellings took their place. From Betty’s home two dairies in Fairfield could be glimpsed which she says supplied residents with ‘warm milk’, delivered twice daily to homemade ice boxes. Many of the places mentioned at the start of the walk - the *Annerley picture theatre*, *Manahans*, and the *Junction Park State School* - are included in Betty’s story. She also wrote about the people in the street.

### **4. Proceed to number 41 Fanny Street**

Number 41 was the home of the Brown family, including Frederick Brown, publisher of the *Truth* and *Sportsman Ltd* newspapers. *Truth* was infamously known to be a tabloid ‘scandal sheet’, but also provides insight into the social norms of the time with many stories and photos featuring ordinary people and their lives. The *Truth* ran until the 1960s, when it became the *Sunday Truth/Sun* which ended in 1992.

Fred Brown, whose job was described as a newsagent in the electoral rolls from the 1920s until the 1950s, also had a paper run, complete with noisy motor cycle and sidecar. There was a daughter, Phyllis, a piano teacher, who married an American soldier and went to live in the US – did they meet at *Camp Yeronga* during the Second World War?

##### 5. Cross Fanny Street to number 40.

*First War Service Home (First World War) - 40 Fanny St*



*Stump Capping ceremony, 40 Fanny Street (Reserve Bank Archives)*

This house has an amazing history that is told in Chapter 16, p. 195 of *Stephens and War*. It began life as the first World War 1 Service home built in Queensland on 1 November 1919. It was named *Nevasa* which was probably the ship that transported Private W H Smith home after the war. The stump-capping ceremony two months earlier was a big event as shown here with the Smith family surrounded by dignitaries. The Smith family moved away in the late 1930s and James Francis Whitney Comptroller-General of Queensland Prisons and his family were the next residents. Unfortunately, tragedy struck that family in 1944 when the 17 year old Earl Whitney drowned in the Brisbane River when his canoe overturned. The house passed through a series of other owners and tenants until it became part of the Annerley Terraces redevelopment. The changes to the house are shown in these photos from 1919, 1970 and 2017.





40 Fanny Street (*Stephens and War* pp 195, 200 and 201)

### **6. Walk east to number 36 Fanny Street**

In the background of the stump capping photo from the *Reserve Bank of Australia*, there is a very elegant house, at 36 Fanny St. During Betty Alford's time, it was owned by the Caldwell family and had a flat area out the back for a tennis court. Betty was close friends with the daughter Joan and they would sing songs to each other across the road from behind their fences. Later it was owned by Robert and Marion Mearns.

From the late 1990s, the house lay empty for 14 years in a demolition control street of character housing. When a demolition application was approved in 2011, neighbours who had renovated their homes to comply with building codes were dismayed that a pre-1946 home could be demolished through neglect. Nearly 50 residents protested and signed a petition opposing the demolition. In 2010, however, engineer reports revealed there were active termites, the ceilings had sagged, the tile roof was leaking, vegetation was growing internally, VJs had separated from walls and ceilings, walls and floors were out of plumb, and the deck joists had separated from the bearers. The foundations were in a bad way and previous termite and borer damage in the structural elements, internal linings, and floorboards. Deemed to be beyond repair, the house was duly demolished. In its place, five units were built, with that development also drawing objections from the residents due to the boundary setbacks. A very sad end to a once much-loved family home.

### **7. Walk east to the corner of Warwick Street and Fanny Street**

August Boettcher from a well-known family of builders in the Annerley area built and lived in this house as well as being responsible for many of the other houses in the area.

### **8. Walk south along Warwick Street to the corner of Dudley Street West.**

The magnificent *Huntingtower* residence was said to be built for a Lawrence Cusack. James Campbell Moffat, a chemist, was one of the early occupants from the 1890s up until he died in 1905. *Huntingtower* was later owned by a Scot, William Walter Hood, who was elected in 1898 as member for Warrego in the Queensland parliament, noted amateur horse rider, and participant in the very first polo match played in Australia. After his death in 1920, it became the long-time residence of the Jenyns family. A 2012 State Library of Queensland blog cites an advertisement for the house in 1920 describing *Huntingtower* as a "charming residential



property with magnificent views of the Brisbane River, containing ten rooms, including a large billiard room, and good garages. The grounds are described as tastefully laid out with fruit and flower gardens". *Do you remember Huntingtower? | State Library of Queensland (slq.qld.gov.au)*



*Huntingtower, Annerley, (SLQ).*



*Sarah Ann Jenyns, (SLQ)*

Sarah Ann Jenyns (1865-1952), who is seen as a business pioneer due to her business manufacturing innovative surgical corsets, lived here until her death in 1952. Some recall going up the tower (reportedly a look out for fox hunting) when they were young and looking out over the view. Betty Alford remembers Mrs Jenyns only ever wearing long black dresses topped by huge black hats, so she and her little friends were convinced she was a witch.

However, every year, she also recalled a charity fete held at *Huntingtower*, with silk Chinese lanterns and candles hung amongst the Moreton Bay fig trees. The children used to try to climb through a neighbouring fence to get in without paying but were disappointed one day to find it blocked up.

This remarkable woman, Sarah Jenyns, was inducted into the Queensland Business Leader's Hall of Fame in 2014 and was also featured in *Magnificent Makers* exhibition at the State Library of Queensland in 2018.



Maginificent Makers, December 2017-June 2018. (SLQ).

The Mesh family (also proprietors of the *Annerley Picture Theatre*) owned the *Huntingtower* property in 1960, and their young son, Verne, was lucky enough to find a grand treasure of over £48 in the grounds. This sparked a treasure hunting frenzy in the area, and included the efforts of a diviner, Norman Arundell, along with many other school boys. The rumour was that Mrs Jenyns had hidden over £1000 somewhere in the gardens. The house was eventually demolished to build the then ultra-modern *Huntingtower Motel* – which became the Westminster Nursing Home. It is currently for sale in 2023! Maybe an opportunity to redevelop and/or find out if there is any more treasure!

**9. Look across Dudley Street West to the Energex Substation once two family homes.**



*59 Dudley Street (courtesy of John Horder).*

*59 Dudley Street was the home of the Horder family, John Horder recalls:*

*Our family house from 1960 to 1994 was opposite Warwick Street. In 1994 it was sold to Energex who already had a substation between us and the hairdresser's. Energex needed to expand its capacity with an increasing population in the area. They must have also bought 57 Dudley Street beside us. Our house was moved to 511 Wivenhoe Pocket Road, Fernvale about 2004 by Energex.*

**10. Complete the walk by returning to Ipswich Road.**

*Richardson's Chemist shop occupied the end of the building on the northern corner of Dudley Street West and Ipswich Road. Mr Richardson's daughter Gwyneth became the first woman pharmacist in the Australian Defence Forces. (Women of Stephens, ASHG Chapter 6, p. 73)*

## Fanny Street Annerley Timeline

Year	Event
Pre 1820s	Indigenous use of the area – tracks, food, campsites, tournament grounds, burial sites
1840s	Moreton Bay Penal settlement ended and area declared open for free settlement
1850s	First land sales in Parish of Yeerongpilly
1859	TB Stephens establishes wool scour on banks of Ekibin creek - 94 acre land holding
1860	Horse drawn coaches run from Brisbane to Ipswich
1862	Richard Board purchases 21 acres which includes Fanny Street area
1865	Hastings Estate name appears – Trundle family
1866	First Junction Hotel begins trading
1869	John Neil buys Junction Hotel and builds blacksmith building adjacent to hotel
1879	Yeerongpilly Divisional Board established
1880s	Woolloongabba DB buys part of TB Stephens' property for a manure depot (now police station)
1883	Soden's omnibuses commence service to city
1884	Post Office and store on NE corner, South Coast railway opens – track beside Fairfield Road
1886	Stephens Divisional Board split off from Yeerongpilly Div Bd – takes over manure depot
1891	Thompson Estate State School moves to present site in Waldheim Street
1892	Boggo PO renamed Annerley PO
1893	Name change of school to Junction Park SS
1896	Railway line realigned
1898	Joseph Manahan buys PO store
1899	Tramline opened to Annerley Junction
1903	Last Soden omnibus runs, Stephens Shire Council begins
1905	Boggo Road renamed Annerley Road
1914	Annerley Picture Theatre in operation
1919	First War Service home in Queensland at 40 Fanny Street
1920	First electric street lighting in Stephens Shire switched on in Fanny Street
1925	Stephens Shire dissolves into Brisbane City Council
1927	Alford family buy 37 Fanny Street
c1930	Humpies built on uncleared land
1930s	Workers' dwellings built west of Hastings Street
1940s	Mr Horsefield operating store and SP bookie at 99 Bikes site
1953	Annerley Commonwealth Bank robbery
1952	Sarah Ann Jenyns dies
1960	Mesh family discover buried treasure – demolish Huntingtower, build motel
1967	Annerley Picture Theatre demolished
1969	Last tram service in Brisbane
c1990	Local residents and BCC protect patch of "wasteland"
2002	Park entered into BCC records
c2011	36 Fanny Street demolished

The ASHG publications (*Echoes of the Stories of Stephens, Stephens and War and Women of Stephens*) mentioned in the walk cost \$25.00 and can be purchased from Annerley Meats, Ipswich Rd., or by emailing ASHG on [AnnerleyStephensHistoryGroupin@gmail.com](mailto:AnnerleyStephensHistoryGroupin@gmail.com) For more information about ASHG go to <https://annerleystephenshistory.org/>