THE FRANK CORLEY HOUSE PHOTO PROJECT:

PHASE TWO

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY OF MOOROOKA

OCTOBER 2016

This project of the
Annerley-Stephens History Group Inc. (ASHG)
has been generously supported by
Community Plus+ Annerley and Yeronga
and the Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund.



Tara and Audrey find their 1970's Corley house photo at Moorooka Community Centre on 21st Nov 2015.

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Report collated by Denis Peel.

Cover photo Denis Peel and Corley collection house photo @ State Library of Qld.

BACKGROUND: The story so far.....

Frank Corley was a commercial photographer who photographed almost every house in Brisbane in the late 1960's through to the mid 1970's. The photos were sold door-to-door as inserts into calendars. The photos that weren't sold were kept in storage. Before his death in 1995 Frank Corley presented the collection of over fifty thousand unsold photos to the State Library of Queensland.

The Frank Corley Collection is housed in the John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

In October 2014 members of the Annerley-Stephens History Group Inc (ASHG) began finding the addresses of some of the Corley house photos in Fairfield and Annerley. It was quickly found that the photos were a catalyst for community engagement and a much broader project began to develop.

The Frank Corley House Project: Phase One – September 2015 is a report that outlines the processes that developed as the house photos for Fairfield, Annerley, and Yeronga were catalogued by community volunteers. That report analyses the process used and makes recommendations for improvement.

The Frank Corley House Project: Phase Two – Engaging the Community of Moorooka continues reporting on the development of this project.

Note: All photos from the Corley Collection are copyright of John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

The ASHG was established in 2013 and aims to promote the history of the suburbs within the former Stephens Shire Council. The group is undertaking a range of local history projects including the Frank Corley House Photo Project.

The ASHG meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Community Plus+ Annerley Community Hub at 556 Ipswich Road, Annerley at 6.30pm.

If you would like to find out more about the Frank Corley House Photo Project, contact Project Manager Denis Peel by mobile on 0408 001 362 or via our website: http://annerleystephenshistory.org/

ASHG PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

The Annerley-Stephens History Group Inc (ASHG) is a new arrival in the panoply of respected Queensland History Groups and we were formed with the goal of making history accessible to people of the area covered by the old Stephens Shire Council (Amalgamated into Brisbane City Council in 1925). The Frank Corley House Photo Project, so ably led by Denis Peel has been a prime ASHG project that has helped build so much support for our organisation in this area.

So often history enthusiasts focus on the events a century or more ago. Denis and his team have shown that there is so much to learn in systematically documenting the changes that have occurred over the last 45 to 50 years, and diligently working to not only identify both the precise positions of houses photographed by Frank Corley, but also to show how our streets have changed, and to then use this information to build a living history of our suburbs, street by street.

In any important endeavour, there is a spark of inspiration that provides the vision to drive a successful project. In this case that inspiration came to Denis Peel some two and a half years ago, when he learnt of the existence of the Corley photos while trying to find photographs of houses near his Fairfield home. Denis recognised the value of this largely untouched treasure trove of photographs that had fortunately been bequeathed to the Queensland State Library. From this inspiration Denis developed a vision of systematically identifying houses from this collection, initially in Fairfield and subsequently, across the Stephens area. Denis has driven this effort and communicated his vision widely, most recently during the methodical identification of houses in Moorooka, helped by ASHG members and numerous other volunteers. Communication was an important issue, and many activities were held including an ASHG Clifton Hills information afternoon where over 150 people attended, to learn more about the history of this iconic area and to share in the identification of 1970 photographs taken by Frank Corley.

Thus far, the photographs that we have been using have been copied by Denis Peel and Kate Dyson on their trusty cameras and duplicated for identification, with the help of Brisbane City Council Ward Offices – the office of Cr. Steve Griffiths in the case of Moorooka. We are thrilled to hear that the Queensland State Library has now also been encouraged by Denis's energy and will professionally copy Tarragindi area photographs for the next step in the project. We look forward to working closely with them and with the Stephens community as the Frank Corley House Photo Project evolves.

Bill Elliott

President – Annerley-Stephens History Group Inc.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY OF MOOROOKA.

On Sunday 18 October 2015 the Annerley-Stephens History Group presented the results of "The Frank Corley House Photo Project" for the Clifton Hill area to a public meeting of about 150 people in the Annerley-Moorooka Senior Citizens Hall. ASHG was thrilled with the response to the research and by the number of people who became engaged in searching the information to see if their house was recorded in the collection. This process was an excellent way to gather the stories of the community.

Councillor for Moorooka Ward, Steve Griffiths attended the meeting and encouraged ASHG to continue the project further into Moorooka. With the support of the **Lord Mayor's Suburban Initiative Fund** and Councillor Griffiths Ward Office and Mark Bailey MP and his Yeerongpilly Electorate Office, the second phase of the project was launched at the Moorooka Community Centre on Saturday 21 November 2015.

A4 copies of all the house photos in Moorooka (approx. 1000) were printed to observe at the meeting. It was hoped that people would take the sets of around 25 photos home with them to identify. Instructions were given for finding and recording the information about each house. Around fifty people came to this meeting and seventeen of the forty-four sets of photos were taken home by volunteers. As well as this many of the other house photos were identified on that afternoon, with a number of people lucky enough to find their own house in the collection.

By the end of 2015 most of the volunteers had completed the identification of their sets and some had enjoyed the "detection" process enough to continue to work on further sets. At the *Chrome Street*Festival, Salisbury, on 12 March 2016 the ASHG exhibited the photos and the results completed to that point. The public response was excellent in terms of further raising interest and generating assistance in finishing the work of matching the photos to addresses. There were also some volunteers from the first phase of the project who continued to help, and by June 2016 all the photos had been identified, exceeding all expectations.

The photos are proving to be an excellent stimulus for gathering local stories. At a number of community events people have told the stories of their houses, families and neighbourhoods, and this has stirred great interest in the project.

As well as this work in Moorooka the ASHG has continued to show the results from the first phase of the project. In February 2016 we exhibited the results at ASHG's highly successful *Stories of Stephens Conference*. On 22nd May a lot of people searched the information to find their houses in the collection at the *Junction Park State School Fete*. Most recently the ASHG presented a *Local History Night at the Fairfield Library* (8 Sept 2016) with seventy attendees. The session drew on the Corley photographs to tell some of the local history of the area.

These public interactions have enabled the continued gathering and recording of the stories attached to the houses in the photographs.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who have worked on identifying, cataloging, and photographing houses in the Moorooka area:

Carol Clifford, John Cronin, Lloyd Davis, Sue Ferguson, Michelle Fogg, Tara Gordon, Megan Hughes, Kate Dyson, Trevor McKell, Jan Maxwell, Joan McGrath, John Newman, Scott Newman, Michael O'Neill, Sandra Platz, Tim Mullooly, the members of the Moorooka Local History Group, Daniel Joynes, Linda Brady, Cec Fox and David Wright and apologies to anyone else who has accidentally been omitted.

A VOLUNTEER'S VIEWPOINT

I really enjoyed being part of the team who tracked down the houses in Fegen Drive and surrounding streets. I have lived in Fegen Drive since 1973 (just too late to have my home photographed) but it was such a buzz lining up the current homes with the 1970 photos.

It was a bit difficult driving and identifying and easier if there were two of you. Walking was better but it was very hot. Where you could pick up a number on the 1970 photo, it made the puzzle easier.

Some of the streets in my area were incorrectly labelled and this made it harder.

I was so pleased to be involved in the process. It was like being a detective and I still pass homes and remember the identification process, almost a year ago. Thanks for including me.

Jan Maxwell, October 2016.



Searching for house photos, Clifton Hill ASHG Event 18 October 2015, photo Chris Elliott

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

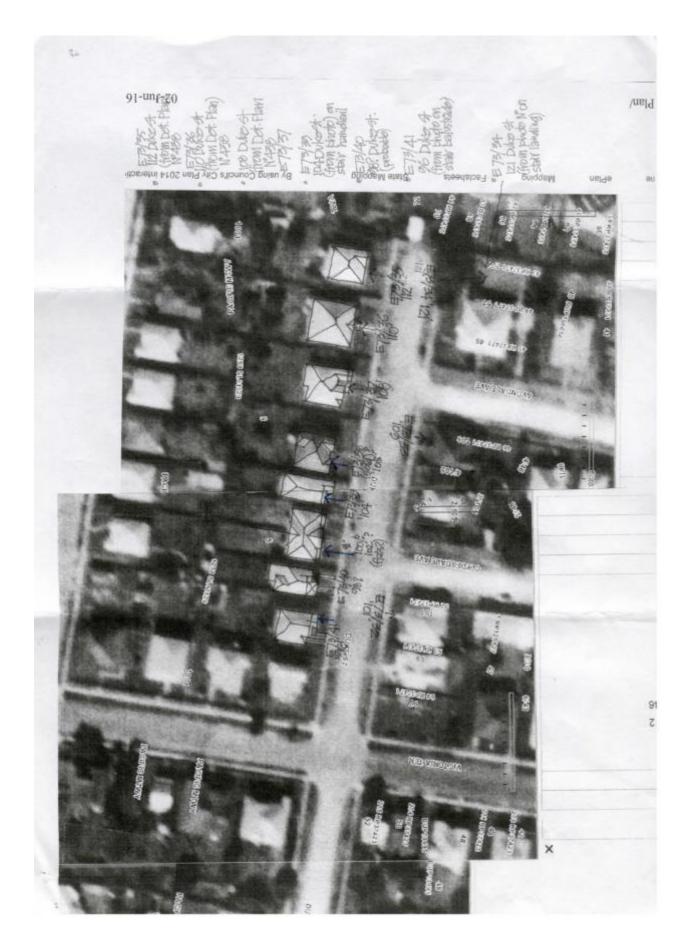
1. GUIDE MAP

To aid the identification process the map below was produced with the location of the approximate start point for each Corley reel (as recommended in the Phase One report). The coloured highlight lines were added after the route was established by the identifier. Each volunteer was also given a list of any directions for all the reels that had been saved as the end point for each reel should be adjacent to the start point of the next reel. This provides a rough start and end point for each particular set of photos.



2. USING DETAIL PLANS AND AERIAL PHOTOS

Tracing the addresses of demolished or removed houses is difficult. Daniel Joynes (Architect, Yeronga) has been able to locate the probable location of a number of these houses by reference to Brisbane City Council sources of Detail Plans and the 1946 aerial photo of Brisbane. The images show how the elevation of a house can be predicted from the plan view in the maps and photos. The example given here is the 1946 aerial photo of Duke Street, Annerley. The pencil lines on the roofs follow differences in shading due to sunlight reflecting more or less depending on the orientation of each part of the roof.

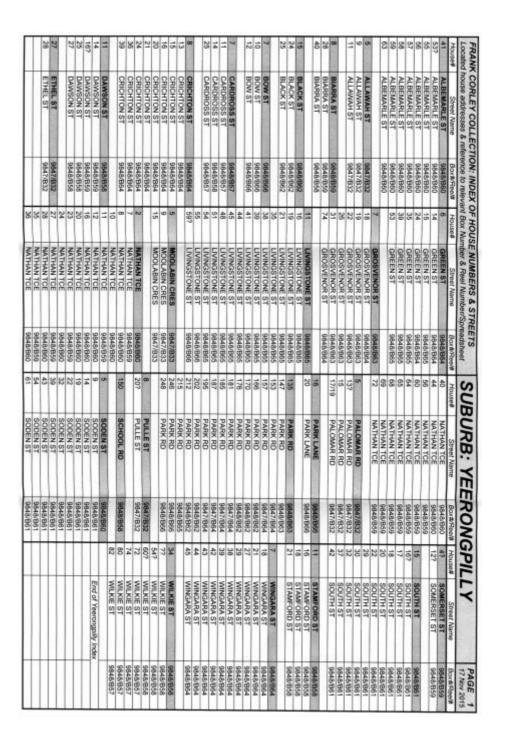


Brisbane City Council Interactive Mapping 1946 aerial photo of Duke Street, Annerley and Daniel Joynes pencil drawn predictions of roof ridge lines and matching Corley photograph numbers.

3. PUBLISHING RESULTS ON ASHG WEBSITE.

The ASHG website *annerleystephenshistory.com* now has an alphabetical index for each of the six suburbs completed. This index identifies the houses found and gives the box and reel number in which the corresponding print is located. Also accessible on the website is the spreadsheet for each reel giving the print number for any particular address found. This gives all the information needed to find the original print in the John Oxley Library.

Example: Yeerongpilly Alphabetical Index of Streets and House Numbers (prepared by Daniel Joynes)



A SELECTION OF STORIES FROM MOOROOKA.

19 Barford Street, Moorooka.

Story courtesy of Scott Newman.



19 Barford St Box 9852 Reel D67 Print 11 @ State Library of Qld

The house in the Corley photo was taken before the 4/11/1973 tornado. Two houses were completely destroyed in this area this one and next door (27 Rachel St not in collection) and a number of others sustained damage.

The owner did not have insurance cover so many of the neighbours "donated" any excess materials that they got from their insurance claims. There was enough to help the owner rebuild a modest home, which he lived in until it was sold in 1999 (photo below).



After sale, the new owner demolished this house and rebuilt the current dwelling.

Extract from an interview with Cec Fox, 5 May 2016.

I have lived in Moorooka all my life of 66 years. I love this suburb, I've got absolutely fantastic memories of this suburb and I'd like to share a few of those with you.

I grew up in 112 Chaucer Street, Moorooka. Opposite our house and down two houses lived my mother's mother and father, Harry and Bertha Fogarty.

They lived in 105 Chaucer Street. (Box 9842 Reel B73 Print 29) © State Library of Qld.



Harry and Bertha Fogarty were "the salt of the earth" people. My grandfather Harry worked at Evans Deakin at Rocklea as a tradesman's assistant. He helped work on a lot of steel work when they built the Story Bridge. His sons worked at Evans Deakin as boilermakers, they were twins, Cecil and Jack Fogarty.

At one tragic event in 1939 Jack Fogarty was electrocuted. He had an electric welder he put under his arm and he was sweating and he was electrocuted. He was a champion cross-country runner and represented Queensland on many occasions. After his tragic death the Rocklea Harriers Athletics Club that used to run behind the Rocklea Hotel put together a memorial race for him late in 1939.

The family purchased the trophies and presented them to the runners. Since 1939 my grandmother and grandfather presented trophies, when they passed away my mother and father presented trophies and now I have taken on the responsibility to supply trophies for that race and it is still continuing today seventy-seven years on from 1939.

Jack Fogarty - Cross-Country Champion (1915 – 1939).





The *Nimmo Cup won by C. Fogarty in 1935* was found in a dump in Victoria by an artist. A friend of the artist contacted Cec and arranged its return in exchange for a photo of one of the twin brothers. He wanted to paint a portrait to enter in the Archibald Prize.

77 Homestead Street, Moorooka, interview with David Wright 27 Sept 2016.







1947 1948 1950

Allan and Silvia Wright paid 114 pounds for the 24 perch allotment in Homestead Street in 1947. The land may have been part of Pegg's Farm before subdivision.

In the post war period a lot of homes in the area including 77 Homestead Street were owner built from whatever materials were available. Some of the timber bearers in the ceiling came from the Army huts on Fernvale Hill and are still covered in camouflage paint. As weatherboard couldn't be easily obtained in the late 1940's the house is clad in fibro, however the floor is a quality hardwood timber and the front doors are silky oak. David's parents told him it was just pot luck as to what building supplies you could obtain.

The house was finished two weeks before the first child was born in 1949.

Allan Wright was a fitter and turner then became Foreman and then Production Manager at A E Appleton Sherwood. (Now at Darra).

Silvia was a secretary at the Carpenters and Joiners Union in Trades Hall. She wasn't happy that her husband made her quit her job when they got married as she earned 1 pound per week more than he did.







1953 1954 1966

Photos: David Wright (pictured above in 1953).

14 Newman Road, Moorooka, email from Linda Brady, 6 March 2016.



Box 9848 Reel B67 Print 7 @ State Library of Qld

From: Linda Brady

Subject: "Caldwell's Place", 14 Newman Road, Moorooka information

Date: 6 March 2016 at 8:40:01 PM AEST

To: Denis Peel

Hi Denis,

Ok so I finally got a chance to compile all the scribblings we made on various scraps of paper last weekend while we were at the State Library.

The crux of it, that we understand so far is that it appears our home was built or bought by Ernest James Caldwell and his wife Lillian May Caldwell (nee Huet) in about 1927/1928 (which is the earliest link we can find so far to the Newman Road house and EJ Caldwell) on land that had a Caldwell connection from at least 1923.

I will try and get the Historic Titles this week so we should know more then.

EJ is still living there with one of his daughters (Ralda) in 1958, 35 years later and 10 years prior to his death - not sure if he was still there any later - still have more checking to do. No sign of Lillian by this stage.

Anyway I've compiled everything I've got so far into two very basic documents - a family tree (as we understand it at this stage) and a timeline of sorts (both of which I have attached). I have also attached the birth info from BDM re EJ and Lily's parents and siblings.

I have records of two of their children, but I know there was at least one other child, a daughter Ralda, but I can't access her (or any other later children's) birth records as it looks like they were born after the 1917 historic records cut-off date.

Also it was mentioned somewhere that EJ was a compositor although I can't find the reference for that now, but in at least one census/electoral roll he is listed as a printer - which is kind of cool given both my partner and I are print journalists by trade.

Anyway, I hope this helps! We are really keen now to dig a bit more and we will flick anything we get your way. We'll see you at the Chrome St Festival anyway.

Cheers - Linda

Clifton Hill Corley Photos: A Snapshot of Moorooka in the 1970s.

Listening to an ABC radio interview with Denis Peel about the Corley photograph collection held in the State Library of Queensland was the impetus for me to become a volunteer to help try to identify the photos that Denis had painstakingly photographed in the library. Identifying the reels from Annerley, Yeronga, Yeerongpilly and a small part of Tarragindi kept me occupied for a fair while as I walked my dogs around the streets, but then I became intrigued (and quietly hopeful) about my whether my own house was featured in the collection. I am fortunate to live in the lovely locality of Clifton Hill in Moorooka in a house built in approximately 1926 as part of a dedicated War Service Home Estate of 125 blocks established for returned World War One service people. I knew the name of the family who had lived in our house, but wanted to know more.

I, too, went to the library and photographed various reels from the large boxes, and when I saw my neighbour's house, I prepared myself for either disappointment or satisfaction. Flipping the photo over, there was our neighbour's house on the other side, and in the very corner, the fence post of our house. But, no photo of our house.

Ultimately, however, I was able to identify 45 photos of houses on the estate of the 119 houses that were built on the original subdivision of Clifton Hill. The Corley collection provides a unique insight into this collection of 1920s timber and tin houses. While the overwhelming majority of the houses survive on their original blocks, renovations have altered most of them at least in some small way. The 1970s Corley photos make us step further back, to before the days of raising and building in under, to the times before carports and garages have come to dominate the streetscape, to when some verandahs were still open and some enclosed in glass louvres or fibro, and timber battens skirted nearly all of these houses.

The Corley collection added another layer of information to the previously identified original householders on the Clifton Hill Estate. I was then able to match most of the 45 photos to the householders' names, and then some to the catalogued photos of soldiers from the *Queenslander* on the SLQ database or in the digitised newspapers on *Trove*. Looking at the electoral rolls enabled me to tie some of the original house names to the photos and the people. Thanks to the Corley photos the picture was becoming clearer.



One such house is over the road from me (D97-1). Although it has now just been sold, it had remained in the same family since 1929. The soldier who lived in it had been a stockrider before the war, and returned to Australia after being discharged with rheumatism. According to family notices, the family's children were born in the house, as was common in those days. By the early 1930s the house had been called *Linfield*, after the Irish house owned by the Lloyd-Ap-John family, and the name hung from its front yard letterbox, until it was knocked over and replaced earlier in 2016. The Corley photo gives a hint of how it looked in its original presentation, and it will be interesting to see what happens to this house as it passes from its old family to its new.



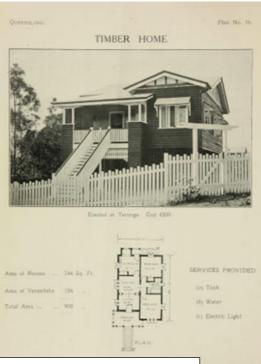


Figure 4: Plan 16, *Designs of Homes for Selection by Applicants*, War Services Homes Commission, May 1927.

Another house (D94-15), in Delville Avenue, was built for George Booker, an accountant, who enlisted at the age of 42 in 1915. George and his wife, Madeline, did not live long in the house, for both died in the early 1930s, and George left no will. By the 1940s, the King family were living here, and in the 1970s, this house, standing in a prime position high on Clifton Hill, was one of the few that had been bricked in, as shown in the Corley photo.

The *Designs of Homes for Selection by Applicants* published in May 1927 by the War Services Homes Commission Queensland Branch shows us what this house would have looked like, what the services were, and how much it cost in the 1920s. As the house is currently being renovated, only time will tell how close to the original the end result will be.

These are just 2 of the stories that have been enriched by the Corley photos. The identification of the Corley photos in the Moorooka area, as lead by Denis Peel, has proven a most intriguing project, which has allowed a multiple of insights into the houses, the people who lived in them, and the history of the localities. I look forward to the next instalment in the project, as interest grows and the number of suburbs involved expands.

Kate Dyson, October 2016.

ANALYSIS

Engaging the community of Moorooka:

The demonstrated success of the project to date through the accumulated research data and the response to the public presentations of the results paved the way for engaging the community in this phase of the project.

Printing the individual house photos at A4 size made the identification process easier and more enjoyable for the volunteers. The ASHG thanks Councillor Steve Griffiths and the Moorooka Ward office for their enormous assistance in this.

Story gathering and recording:

The stories collected in Moorooka are interesting and distinctive. They describe the building of the houses, the changes in the landscape, and as importantly, many significant events in the lives of the residents.

This part of the project has the potential to become a significant collection of house, street and neighbourhood histories that contribute to the larger social history of Brisbane.

Process Improvements:

The route map and spreadsheet of start points for each reel provided some useful assistance for volunteers in establishing Co**rley's route**.

The methods developed by Daniel Joynes for utilizing aerial photos and BCC detail plans have made it possible to be a lot more certain about the identity of missing houses.

Dating the Moorooka photos:

It hasn't been possible to establish an exact time period in which the Moorooka photos were taken. The evidence of the 19 Barford Street house photo proves that this photo is taken before November 1973. There are no photos of corner shops in this part of the collection. (Previously newspaper banner headlines at corner shops have enabled a date of the photo to be established). As yet no Corley calendars (which would give the year ahead) from this area have emerged.

ASHG website

Making the spreadsheet data available on the ASHG website has extended the reach of the project. In future it would be beneficial if work in progress on spreadsheets and route maps could be included with regular updates as this would aid the "detection process".

Looking forward:

Planning is underway for:

Stage Three: Tarragindi 2017.