

**Maryborough Open House**  
**Maryborough 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012**  
**Self Drive/Guided tour of Maryborough Homes**

*This tour route was created for the Maryborough Open House Day and has been made available for those who choose to self-guide. It is important that visitors do not enter the private properties; the homes are not open for visitation unless they are open on the day for Maryborough Open House.*

The homes of Maryborough are diverse in design, scale and individual structural elements which help to show variety in tastes. Some homes were simplistic and functional while other homes were more decorative and show the status of the occupants.

The typical “*Queenslander*” has four rooms and a central hall with wide verandahs around the central core. The kitchen and bathroom were at the back of the house – sometimes built as a separate structure, and if servants were employed a maids room was located next to the kitchen. If the house was high-set then a laundry area may have been built underneath. The same floor plan and its variations were often used for numerous homes of the same period. The same basic house could be built with a verandah at the front or a verandah that wrapped around the sides and continued around the back of the house. The verandah was often used as a sleep-out which was partly enclosed with lattice screens, these sleep-outs were later filled in to create additional bedrooms.

Timber and tin were widely used on homes of this region but more substantial masonry homes are to be found as well, people were making bricks here in the 1850s for house construction and then with the development of the timber industry and with the proliferation of timber mills it became more economical to build domestic homes out of timber. Earlier homes had their roof sheeted in timber shingles, few home in this area were roofed in slate, most homes ended up being roofed in corrugate iron, while some more modern homes were roofed with tiles. Corrugated iron for roofing was being imported prior to the 1870s.

Some of the early timber mills in Maryborough include: R.M. Hynes National Sawmill, Wilson & Harts Sawmill, James Fairlie as well as others, these three however were close to the central business district. Pettigrew and Sim established a timber mill at Dundathu, it was for this mill that the famous *Mary Ann* Steam Train was built by Walkers. Hynes are still operating, Fairlies Timber mill continued to supply building materials up until the 1980s. They were supplying windows of every description including casements with a wide variety of coloured and patterned glass, casements were made of Pine, Cedar and Silky Oak. Fairlies also manufactured a wide range of leadlight windows as well as leadlight panels for entrance doors, many of which still exist.

In the 1870s a newspaper advertisement in the Maryborough Chronicle was seeking ***Timber Getters to log 30,000 Kauri Pines from Fraser Island.*** Fraser Island, now also known by its Aboriginal name of K’Gari supplied the mainland with an abundance of

timber used in both domestic and commercial buildings. Logging on Fraser Island ceased in the early 1990s.

### **Tour to start outside of Maryborough City Hall**

#### **Free Guided bus tours at 1pm 2pm and 3pm**

*Guided tour to last approximately 45 minutes*

*The guided bus tour will be an adaptation of the self guide of Maryborough Homes and may not take in all of the sites mentioned below.*

*The self-guided tour will take longer than 45 minutes to complete.*

*Tour begins outside Maryborough City Hall on Kent Street facing towards Lennox Street.*

The original Town hall was sited on the opposite side of the street where the present Fraser Coast Regional Council administration building now stands. Remnants of the original town hall were moved to a site in Richmond Street and still stand.

The land the Town Hall sits on was used originally for a Police Station and Court House, a land swap saw the site being identified as a new site for a new Town Hall. The construction of the new Maryborough City hall was begun 1906 and the clock tower was added by 1935, the architect was Robin Dodds and the construction was funded by local benefactor George Ambrose White. There was extensive damage caused by fire in 1990 after which massive conservation works were undertaken to restore the building.

***Turn left into Lennox Street,***

***St Pauls Church and Bell-tower***, the bell-tower was constructed as a memorial to Maria Aldridge who passed away in 1886. The funds for the bells and bell tower were given to Maryborough as a memorial to Maria by her husband Edgar (original owner of ***Baddow House***).

The bells had originally arrived aboard the ship ***S.S. Eastminster*** along with 282 immigrants, after the ship left Maryborough it sailed into a cyclone and disappeared – never to be seen again. The bells have recently been restored and have been re-fitted into the tower. One of the top corners of the bell tower was struck by lightning in 2009, the lightning strike blew a big chunk of brickwork down into the street. It was quite eerie to pick up a piece of the brickwork to see the blackness of the burn and to smell the burnt damage caused by a single bolt of lightning.

On the opposite side of the street is the ***Railway Station built in 1882***, it has an extremely long platform, the trains would be driven in and then reversed back to the main line to go in their direction of travel. Maryborough West is where the trains stop now and passengers are bussed into Maryborough or Hervey Bay. There are plans for the extension of the shopping centre which will see much of the platform demolished while the front will be retained as an additional entrance. One of the two original World War 2 Air Raid Shelters built for the railway station survives, its signage reads ***“For Rail***

*Passengers Only*” too bad if Maryborough was being bombed and you didn’t have a rail ticket.

The *Belles-Vue Hotel*, on the opposite corner, has had a massive amount of work carried out on it over the last couple of years. Originally a mattress and furniture factory established by Frederick Popp and later a private Hotel. Prior to 1920 it was called *The Coffee Pallace* owned by Mr. Hansen, he had extensive modifications carried out including fitting the building out with Wunderlich pressed metal purchased from *Stupart’s Draper Palace*.

Accommodation here was available early on and by the 1950s there was a rabbit warren of more than 50 bed rooms, travelers coming into Maryborough aboard the train would use the hotel for any accommodation that they needed. The *Belles-Vue* also had a dining room which serviced both the guests and the rail passengers. Much of the early furniture survived until recent times. In the 1920s alterations saw new shop fronts on the Lennox Street side being installed with the doorways being created with leadlight panels that match the surviving examples – some of these elements still survive and are in storage. In the early 1980s when further alterations were made to the Lennox Street side the 20s shop fronts were removed and the new 80s shop fronts with the red tiles were installed, at this time a number of the iron beds were pulled apart and used as reinforcement in concrete flooring!

The building fell into a state of some disrepair but has been brought back to life by its present owner John Perrin.

Fragments of wallpaper, linoleum and other artifacts from the interior have been donated to the *National Trust Interiors Resource Centre*.

*Continue along Lennox Street*

*At Lennox and Alice Street go through the lights.*

The fire-station site was once the site of an early morgue and then was later used for a school. This site was exchanged for the present site of the Central School. The original fire station was located in the centre of Town.

Continue along Lennox Street past *Brennan & Geraghty’s Store Museum* and adjacent houses. The larger residence at number 66 Lennox Street was built in 1904 for Catherine Geraghty, the house was called *Uskerty* after the Irish birthplace of Catherine’s mother Ann Brennan. The furnishings were sold off at the end of 1973, but the interior has retained much of its original paint finish – the original timber Venetian blinds survive but are stored until some works are carried out to enable them to be re-installed.

The fence is a reconstruction of the original and was replaced in 2010 – the colour scheme is a match to the original finish. The same fence was used on a number of homes

in Maryborough and with the same decoration, the fence was made by Fairlies Timber Mill.

The cottage at number 62 Lennox Street was built at the rear of the site in 1873, it was moved about 1894 to its present location and enlarged, its interior is largely unpainted and has darkened to a mellow brown. The fence in front of the cottage is original and dates from 1894, it has been refinished in linseed oil and red oxide pigment and the gate has been finished with whitewash – this kind of finish was cost effective and easy to apply although when we repainted the fence in 2010 it was surprising to find out that whitewash (which was an inexpensive product) was very expensive, we have since tracked down a recipe for making whitewash from scratch.

Both homes are owned by the National Trust of Queensland and have had varying amounts of restoration work undertaken, the colour schemes are original to both homes.

The larger house is privately rented, and the cottage is used to house the *National Trusts Interiors Resource Centre Collection* and is open by appointment only – it is however open for the Maryborough Open House Day. *Brennan & Geraghty's Store Museum* is open on a daily basis

*Turn right into Ann Street*

*Turn Left into Ferry Street*

*Turn Right into Queen Street*

On the corner of *Queens and Ferry Street* stands the Lamington Hotel, originally built in 1864 and named after the *Ariadne*, which was the first ship to bring immigrants direct to the Port of Maryborough in 1862.

The *Ariadne Hotel* Built for John Thomas Morphy who had married Ann Taylor on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1862, she was 18 years old and a passenger on the ship *Ariadne*, Moore was a crew member (Steward) and 25 year old. Their daughter Anastasia Ariadne was born at the Hotel in 1864. The first license was issued to John Thomas Morphy on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1864.

In 1864 the Ariadne Hotel was described as a house near the ferry in Ferry Street, most pleasantly situated. Will be an accommodation to persons traveling by the new southern road, and for residents to the Upper Mary. It has 7 bedrooms and 4 sitting rooms.

Prior to opening the Ariadne Hotel Morphy advertised as a house painter, glazier, paper hanger and plumber and also ran a boarding house in Lennox Street. After leaving the hotel he returned to house painting. On the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1864 he advertised that due to increased trade he had taken Charles Walker into partnership. Morphy's death was reported on 30 September 1876 aged 41 years, a native of Philadelphia.

The hotel was re-built in 1928 and renamed the Lamington Hotel.

### *Queen Street*

Further along Queen Street is **Mavis Bank** and at the end of Queen Street is **Baddow House**, both of these homes are open for the Maryborough Open House Day.

### *Turn Right into Pallas Street*

**Oonooraba** (an Aboriginal term meaning Gathering Place) - **50 Pallas Street** on the left hand side, a large timber home, was designed by George Henry Addison for Solicitor James Stafford in 1892. James Stafford was the third Mayor of Maryborough and one of many local gardeners who grew flowers, and in particular chrysanthemums, for entry in the Wide Bay Pastoral and Agricultural Show.

Stafford had established extensive pleasure garden here with the original gate entrance being located on Ann Street - but with subdivisions the property has decreased in size leaving just the grounds immediately around the house. The tennis court located behind the house was demolished around 1940 and the existing house built at that time.

Oonooraba retains some original interior decoration, the central ceiling in the main hall is made of leadlight and coloured glass. The original timber dado in the hall survives and the walls in the principle rooms are wallpapered, there are also some intact lead lights inside the home. The ceiling leadlight started to deteriorate and its weight was helping the deterioration to accelerate, the present owners have had the ceiling panels restored to ensure that they survive.

There was originally a cast iron balustrade which ran around the house but this was removed around the 1940s and replaced with the existing timber infill. The house for many years was home to the Bezant Family who spent a lifetime collecting things to furnish the home. An auction here in the early 1990s saw the house and contents being offered for sale and one of the last great local house collections being dismantled.

Originally the top of the plinths (at the base and top of the stairs) were planter boxes which James Stafford had grown flowering plants – these had been filled in and became home to the cement frogs which sat there for many years until being replaced by Mr. Bezant with the lions which now take pride of place. The frogs still exist but have been removed from the property – I am hopeful of getting hold of them to take a mould.

**Eskdale House** (opposite) was built in 1864 for James Dowzer, and purchased by Edward Bernard Crescent Corser in 1866.

A two storied home of bricks made on the property, Eskdale has had its original verandah roofline altered with the cast iron being added around 1883. The home still retains its original cellar which is unusual in this area. The roof of Eskdale House was originally

slate and was replaced many years ago, the chimneys were sheered off just below the roofline at that time but the fireplaces made from local Cedar survive.

The house is still fitted with a water reticulation system which may date from the same period as the same system used at Baddow House (1883). Both systems have a rooftop tank, underground brick beehive water tank and a hand pump. The system worked by filling the roof top tank from rainwater collected in the gutters, when the tank filled it overflowed into underground beehive tank, when the tank in the roof emptied water would be pumped back into it from ground level. Both houses retain the beehive tanks and the roof top tanks.

Eskdale was a setting for social and charity events, the property had over five acres of gardens and featured three tennis courts, stables and a gymnasium, the property also had a fernery and a raised geometric garden which still survives, sections of the gardens were partitioned off with large lattice screens. Early photographs show much detail of the gardens and it is possible to pick out the plant varieties that were growing at various times.

### ***Turn right into Ann Street***

***Charlcombe***, on the right hand side was built in 1916/1917 for Edward Stewart Corser in readiness for his marriage to “Meg”. The original roof was tiled but the weight proved too much for the house so it was replaced with corrugated iron. During a hail storm in 1966 the roof and internal ceilings were damaged, the original ceilings were of pressed met. *Charlcombe is open for the Maryborough Open Day.*

Next door to ***Charlcombe*** (at 352 Ann Street) is the original gardener’s cottage for ***Eskdale House***.

Opposite ***Charlcombe*** is Eskdale Park which was the original site for a mental asylum. Eskdale Park is now a popular sports ground.

### ***Continue straight on and head back towards Ferry Street***

***340 Ann Street*** is a 1950s brick home in the new fashionable style. This home has wonderful finishing detail such as the leadlight windows and the leadlight French Doors.

***337 Ann Street - Qwmboram*** was built in two stages, initially constructed in 1890 and later extended. This home had an identical fence to that of the Geraghty home in Lennox Street and painted exactly the same. The large tree in the front garden is from the earlier period of the house.

### ***Turn left at Ferry Street***

### ***Go past Bunning***

**130 Ferry Street** on the left is **Hazelton** which was built for the Tarrant family. Tarrant established the first Ford dealership in Australia in 1906.

The original picket fence was replaced around 1920 with a red brick fence with iron railings, the fence featured capitols and lion head decorations moulded out of concrete. The fence was replaced several years ago with a “replica” made out of besser block. The iron railings, original capitols and lion heads were saved from the demolished fence and re-used.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarrant did not have any children, after their deaths the house and its treasures were inherited by their maid, who eventually put the property and its contents up for auction. The auction held here in the mid 1980s saw the contents sold off over a two day period.

Mrs. Tarrant’s Wedding Dress is now on display at the Maryborough Wide Bay and Burnett Historical Society in the School of Arts building.

The exterior of the house was originally painted pink. Until recently the house retained its stenciled frieze decorations in the four principle rooms, they were highly artistic and well executed – We had hoped to trace them and keep a record of them in the **National Trust Interiors Resource Centre** before they disappeared but were too late – however some photographs of them are in existence..

**Turn right into Kent Street (at the traffic lights)**

On the right is the former **Girls Grammar School** built in 1883 – the cast iron balustrade is the same as on **Eskdale House** and on the left is the former **Boys Grammar School** built in 1881.

Further down on the left hand side (just beyond the school crossing) is the original Immigration Barracks which now forms part of the Central; Primary School.

**Take the next left into John Street**

At John and Sussex Street stands St Stephens Church

**Go past the traffic lights (to Golden Chicken) and turn right at North Street.**

**Corner of North and John Streets** – (31 North Street) This home was built for Syd Fowler, the manager of the Bungalow Theatre.

Its construction is typical of high set Queenslanders but with the addition of the theatrical arch over the front stairs, this masonry archway is original to the home. Although there is a new front door the original sidelights and the front windows survive.

Next door is the ***Point Lookout Croquet Club*** which was established in 1898 – this is the oldest croquet club in Queensland and is still a favourite past time for some of the local who live in the “*Queenslanders*”.

***Turn left at Lennox Street and continue to the next traffic lights at Woodstock Street***

The homes in this stretch of Lennox Street are grander than in other areas of Maryborough. Drive past number ***296 Lennox Street*** which is open for the Maryborough Open House day.

On the corner of Lennox and Woodstock Street stands ***Carinya*** which was built in the early 1930s for Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Williams and designed by POE Hawkes. The home features its own porte-cochere finished with Doric columns and the roof is fitted with Marseilles tiles. The home still has its original front fence and garage at the rear. ***Carinya*** originally had views to the river.

The Steering Wheel and Society and Home published in their June 1934 edition a feature article on this home, in part it reads:

*“The entrance hall is richly papered. Polished hardwood flooring and blended columns on crafttext finished bases are attractive features. The main reception room has a large circular bay with upholstered seats and Luxfer light casements. The walls are papered in gold tint, with polished hardwood floor and fibrous plaster ceiling. This room opens into the large dining-room, from which it is divided by blended Corinthian columns. The walls are paneled in maple and papered above. An ornate fibrous plaster ceiling and rich doors complete a perfectly balanced ensemble.”*

***Turn left at the lights and then turn left at the next street - John Street***

This section of John Street has numerous examples of “***Queenslander***” houses with both cast iron and timber balustrades.

***237 John Street*** This is an excellent example of ***Maryborough Brown***. Not all homes were painted in colours that we perceive as traditional colour schemes, it was common in Maryborough for timber houses to be painted in a brown fence coat, wood preservative or other cheaper treatment – sometimes the front and back walls were painted in house paint but other cases such as this house were treated as you see here. This house constructed after the 1920s has its coloured glass casement windows intact.

***Continue past the divide in the road and turn left at Churchill Street***

***John and Churchill Street***

*Watsons House, also known as Glenolive* was built in 1912 for a local dental surgeon Harry Watson. The property was extended in about 1920 when the distinctive octagonal shaped verandah rotunda room added which was finished with its own turret.

This home has some original leadlight windows and once featured its own billiard room which was later used as a music room. The home was purchased in the 1960s by the Meincke family who had collected a large array of musical instruments and created their own private Music Museum, the house became known as the *Music House* or *Music Museum*. The collection of musical instruments have long since disappeared.

***Continue to the stop sign and cross Lennox Street***

On the corner is a home built in 1935, the six magnificent *Cuban Royal Palms* were planted when the house was completed.

***Continue to Elizabeth Street***

On the left (just before Elizabeth Street) are two houses with pressed metal used as a decorative element to the exterior – a few examples such as these survive in Maryborough.

***Turn right at Elizabeth Street***

This beautiful tree lined street boasts a great collection of houses, the riverside houses date from the 1880s while the homes on the other side of the street date from 1900. The riverside homes are best viewed from the river.

***Turn right into North Street***

At the end of Elizabeth Street and on the left is number **14 North Street - *Stirling***

George Stupart acquired the property in the 1890s and extended the existing house which he named ***Stirling***. Stupart owned a large department store in the centre of town, the building still stands. Stuparts Drapery Palace (also known as Stuparts Emporium) was opened in 1871 and stocked with a large variety of household goods, floor coverings, clothing and what ever else they could purchase for discerning customers. George Stupart named his house *Stirling* after his birthplace in Scotland. This house had its own library and its collection dissipated after 1939.

George Stupart died in 1919, his wife Matilda continued to live at *Stirling* until her death in 1939.

The home was renovated in the 1990s, the sale notice in front of the home gives an insight into the interior.

Opposite at number **9 North Street** is another good example of a low-set timber home, the front fence is new but the pierced timber valance is original to the home, note the lattice wall and door to the side verandah – this provides a safe lockable sleep-out for hot summer nights.

**Green Gables** on the corner of North and Lennox Street and its next door neighbour **Misty** were built in the 1880s as one house and moved to this site and divided around 1903. Local legend has it that these two houses were moved from Dundathu after being swept off its footings in an early flood and then moved to their present site after the flood waters subsided and sold as two houses. *Although unconfirmed it does make a nice story.* It was (and still is) common to move timber buildings from one site to another.

**Green Gables** and **Misty** have decorative bargeboards and both are dripping in cast iron.

**Turn left into Lennox Street**

**The Brolga Theatre** was built on the site originally used for Wilson Harts Sawmill - built about 1881. This sawmill supplied timber for domestic and commercial buildings in other parts of Queensland as well as for Maryborough. When first laid, the parquet flooring in Parliament House, Brisbane, was supplied by Wilson Harts of Maryborough.

**Continue down Lennox Street**

**The corner of Lennox and Walker Streets**

**Parkview also known as Lucy's Cottage** dates from 1874 and was built for convict Edward Priddy. The house is constructed of timber but its original kitchen behind the house was constructed of brick

The cottage is one of several homes in Maryborough with its original timber shingled roof intact under the corrugated iron. The dormer window was added in the 1980s and at the same time the timber stables located next door were demolished when the property was subdivided and a new brick home built in its place.

**St Michaels Convent** built in 1893 for the Sisters of Mercy, this was the same year of the devastating floods which were the highest recorded floods in this region – the flood levels and markings are to be found at the Bond Store Museum in Wharf Street. The Convent has been restored and forms part of St Mary's Primary School.

In the 1890s the Sisters of Mercy were buying a dozen bottles of **Medicinal Quinine Wine** at a time from Brennan & Geraghty's Store – their handwritten order still exists as do the accounts.

**Turn left at Queens Park (Sussex Street)**

**Turn right into Bazaar Street**

The Cenotaph was sculptured in Italy to a design by POE Hawks. The monument features a Soldier, a Sailor, an Airman and a Red Cross Nurse -they each stand on their own buttress and standing over them is the winged figure of Victory. Recent restoration works have just been completed

***Follow the road around to Bazaar Street***

The Post office is on the left built in the 1870s, by 1882 when the new contraption called the telephone became fashionable a telephone exchange was installed – this was the first country telephone exchange in Australia, other exchanges had been installed in major cities prior to 1882. This building is one of many structures which make up the Wharf Street Precinct. Wharf Street boasts a large number of historic structures including the Court House, the Customs House, the Bond Store, J.E. Brown warehouse (now the Military Museum) Gatakers (now Gatakers Art Space) the Waterside Workers Hall, the Queensland Boarding House, and the historic three storied Criterion Hotel.

Opposite the Post Office and on the right hand side of Bazaar Street is ***St Mary's Church*** which is open for viewing as part of Maryborough Open House.

***Continue along Bazaar Street to Kent Street***

***Stuparts Drapery Palace Bazaar and Kent Street***

Stuparts were supplying Wunderlich pressed metal for interior and exterior work, they also supplied floor coverings, soft furnishings, textiles, shoes, clothing, toys and other household requisites. The business traded under Stuparts name until 1977 when it was acquired by David Jones, it was later closed after which its ground floor was divided into smaller retail spaces.

***Turn right into Kent Street***

There are many other homes of historic character in Maryborough but all of them could not be included in this tour. Exploring the residential streets will bring visitors to a large array of homes from all walks of life. Many of the owners and occupants of these homes spend a great deal of time in restoration and renovation activities which help to keep the homes alive for generations to come.

This tour saw a number of homes with various cast iron patterns used as decorative elements. There were numerous foundries here which were making cast iron products to their own design, these were sold here and to other Australian Colonies. By the late 1880s there were large shipments of stoves made in Maryborough being shipped to other ports around the Colony of Queensland, some of those stoves remained in Maryborough – few survive in their original homes. One shipment alone from the ***Albion Foundry*** saw 19 dray loads of stoves being shipped to Brisbane.

We still have foundries here in Maryborough that are capable of casting iron products for restoration activities.

Finish at *City Hall*.