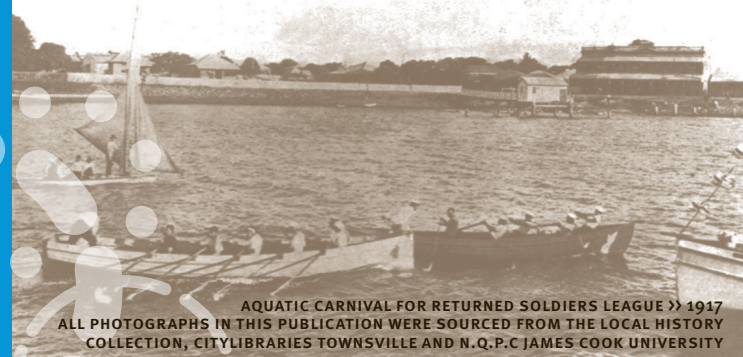




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## SOUTH TOWNSVILLE » MAP



AQUATIC CARNIVAL FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS LEAGUE » 1917  
ALL PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS PUBLICATION WERE SOURCED FROM THE LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION, CITYLIBRARIES TOWNSVILLE AND N.Q.P.C JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY



ROSS CREEK » 1906



### TRAIL 3. »

## South Townsville & Port

VIEW OF CITY, ROSS CREEK AND SOUTH TOWNSVILLE FROM CASTLE HILL » 1914



**WALKING » ALLOW 50 MINUTES FOR THE  
SHORTENED TRAIL AND A FURTHER 35 MINUTES  
FOR THE EXTENDED TRAIL. ALLOW LONGER FOR A  
LEISURELY STROLL.**

**CYCLING » ALLOW APPROXIMATELY 40 MINUTES  
FOR THE COMPLETE TRAIL.**

THIS BROCHURE COVERS THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF WALKING  
TRAILS, DESIGNED TO REVEAL TOWNSVILLE'S RICH HERITAGE.

THE WALKS WILL HELP YOU EXPERIENCE THE CITY'S DIVERSITY  
OF HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE, LUSH TROPICAL GARDENS  
AND IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF NATURAL ATTRACTIONS. THEY ARE  
FILLED WITH INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION AND HUNDREDS  
OF PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES. WE HOPE THE WALKING  
TRAILS WILL ACQUAINT YOU WITH SOCIAL AND CULTURAL  
EXPERIENCES THAT CREATE LIFETIME MEMORIES.

#### BUILDINGS »

01. VICTORIA BRIDGE
02. AUSTRALIAN HOTEL
03. ROW OF TIMBER-FRAMED  
SHOPS
04. QUEENSLAND TEACHERS  
UNION
05. SHAMROCK HOTEL
06. WHARTON REEF LIGHT
07. MARITIME MUSEUM OF  
TOWNSVILLE
08. METROPOLE HOTEL
09. 24 ARCHER STREET
10. FORMER WOOL STORE
11. SOUTH TOWNSVILLE  
STATE SCHOOL
12. ST JOHNS CHURCH,  
HALL & RECTORY

13. ALLEN STREET CORNER SHOPS
14. COMMONWEALTH HOTEL
15. ST PATRICK'S CHURCH & HALL
16. NELSON STREET  
HERITAGE PRECINCT
  - I. 40 Nelson Street
  - II. 32 Nelson Street
  - III. 27 Nelson Street
  - IV. 17 Nelson Street
  - V. 15 Nelson Street
  - VI. 20 Nelson Street
  - VII. 3 Nelson Street
17. FORMER BUTCHER SHOP
18. FORMER OVERSEAS  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
CENTRE
19. VICTORIA PARK
20. REPUBLIC HOTEL

TRAIL 3. » SOUTH TOWNSVILLE & PORT



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON  
TOWNSVILLE'S HISTORY PLEASE  
CONTACT TOWNSVILLE  
CITY COUNCIL ON 13 48 10.



TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL





PALMER STREET AND SOUTH TOWNSVILLE

**01. VICTORIA BRIDGE**

Victoria Bridge is the only swing bridge in Queensland and one of the few surviving in Australia. It was completed in 1889 and was the first permanent bridge built across Ross Creek. It linked the city and the port and contributed greatly to Townsville’s early economic and urban development. The bridge would open to allow ships to sail up Ross Creek.

**02. AUSTRALIAN HOTEL**

This two-storey brick hotel was opened in 1888. The Australian was on the route of an infamous pub crawl from port to city. In the 1930s Errol Flynn, who later became a Hollywood film legend, stayed in this hotel whose premier room is now called the Errol Flynn Room.

**03. ROW OF TIMBER-FRAMED SHOPS**

This building is a replication of a type of timber-framed commercial premises once common along Palmer Street. Photographs taken in 1903 show that Palmer Street was a combination of shops interspersed with two-storey hotels.

**04. QUEENSLAND TEACHERS UNION**

Constructed c1948 as a four-unit dwelling, this building is unusual for its use of concrete bricks during a time when the production of concrete bricks was uncommon in Townsville. The matching front fence adds to the symmetry of this neo-Georgian style building.

**05. SHAMROCK HOTEL**

The Shamrock opened for business in 1889. The hotel’s construction utilises a unique combination of brick beneath an upper story of timber. The Shamrock is also one of the hotels on the ‘Port to City Pub Crawl’.

**06. WHARTON REEF LIGHT**

Now an attractive streetscape feature, this navigation beacon was relocated to Palmer Street in 1990, after 75 years of service protecting ships from the treacherous reef at Princess Charlotte Bay (Far North Queensland).

**07. MARITIME MUSEUM OF TOWNSVILLE**

The Maritime Museum is home to exhibitions and memorabilia from Townsville’s colourful maritime past. From the tragic tale of the SS Yongala to the development of the Townsville Port, the museum offers visitors an engaging experience. The 1930s Pier-Master’s Office, originally built on the Townsville wharves and the 1886 Bay Rock Lighthouse are composite parts of the museum’s architecture.

**08. METROPOLE HOTEL**

Built in 1887 the Metropole was nicknamed ‘the first and last’ as it was the first hotel wharfies and sailors encountered on the ‘Port to City Pub Crawl’ and the last stop before returning to the port. The hotel underwent major internal changes in 2008.

**09. 24 ARCHER STREET**

This dwelling is Townsville’s first display home. It was built by Buffa & Company in late 1913 and is the only known example in Townsville, and possibly Queensland, of an entirely prefabricated concrete house.

**10. FORMER WOOL STORE**

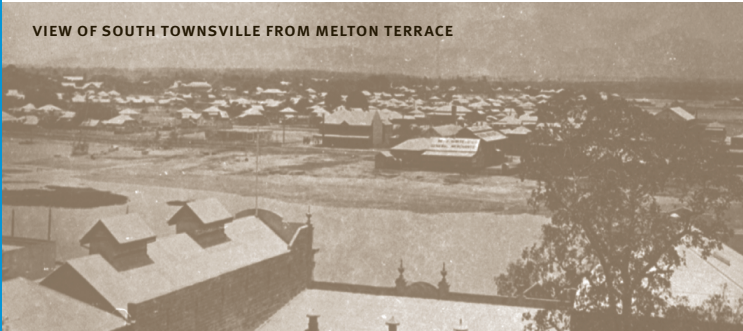
This warehouse was erected in 1899 for the New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Company for the storage of wool. Wool was one of the first exports from the Port of Townsville after its founding in 1864. Note the close proximity of this building to the railway line.

**11. SOUTH TOWNSVILLE STATE SCHOOL**

Opened as Ross Island State School in 1884. The building with the large skylight is the original classroom. The adjacent wing was relocated from Ravenswood School in 1923. The school has a colourful history, pupils initially struggled with shifting sand hills, a swamp in the playground, feral goats and book eating rats.

**12. ST JOHNS CHURCH, HALL & RECTORY**

The first church in South Townsville was built on this site in 1886. The current church built in 1907, replaced two earlier churches destroyed by cyclones.



VIEW OF SOUTH TOWNSVILLE FROM MELTON TERRACE



VIEW OF TOWNSVILLE HARBOUR >> 1957

**13. ALLEN STREET CORNER SHOPS**

The corner shop played an important role not only as a supply centre but also as a meeting place. Almost all the corner shops in South Townsville were owned at one time by Chinese storekeepers.

**14. COMMONWEALTH HOTEL**

Built in 1901 this brick structure with timber verandahs catered to the needs of the single male workforce, offering meals and accommodation. The hotel was named in celebration of Federation and the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia.

For the shortened trail, proceed along Allen Street towards the city to Building Marker 21. For the extended trail, proceed along Allen Street towards the ocean and Building Marker 15.

**15. ST PATRICK’S CHURCH & HALL**

Opened in 1930 this building is a beautiful example of a ‘Spanish Mission’ style church. It was at the hall that Eddie Mabo, renowned land rights activist, established a community school in the 1970s and 1980s.

**16. NELSON STREET HERITAGE PRECINCT**

Nelson Street is a fine example of South Townsville’s historic streetscapes. The dwellings are largely cottages in the style of the workers dwellings. Note the railway tracks still in-situ at the intersection with Morey Street.

**I. 40 Nelson Street** - A 1917 worker’s dwelling of an unusual style, and rare in Townsville. The dwelling’s first occupant was Thomas E. Robertson, who was part-owner of the well-known drapery firm of Inglis Smith & Company.

**II. 32 Nelson Street** - Built just after WWII, this unique masonry home once featured a rooftop swimming pool, probably the first private swimming pool in Townsville.

**III. 27 Nelson Street** - A very fine and largely intact example of a worker’s dwelling c1920.

**IV. 17 Nelson Street** - Good example of a prefabricated house, c1910.

**V. 15 Nelson Street** - Early worker’s cottage predating 1905.

**VI. 20 Nelson Street** - ‘Kerngoo’ is a good example of an 1890s worker’s dwelling, associated with the working class Marnock family for almost a century.

**VII. 3 Nelson Street** - Featuring a lovely curved art deco entry, this house appeared on the site around 1919.

**17. FORMER BUTCHER SHOP**

This small shop was built in the early 1950s and purchased by local butcher William (Bill) Scown in 1954. The old butcher shop was sympathetically restored in 2003.

**18. FORMER OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTRE**

This building was erected c1913 to house the Overseas Telecommunications Centre. The first ship-to-shore radio transmissions in North Queensland were made through this building as was the first commercial radio broadcast (1935).

**19. VICTORIA PARK**

At the turn of the 20th century Victoria Park was regarded as the best football ground in Townsville. It was named in honour of the jubilee of Queen Victoria and was gazetted a park in 1887.

**20. FORMER REPUBLIC HOTEL**

Formerly known as the Empire Hotel, this building is the ‘twin’ to the Commonwealth Hotel. It was built in the same year and was designed by the same architects.



REGATTA LAUNCH ROSS CREEK