

# Harrisville, Peak Crossing & Flinders



- 1 **Royal Hotel, Lot 1 Dunns Avenue:** The hotel opened in 1875. It burned down prior to 1920 and was replaced by the current building. It has a prominent position and people enjoying a drink on the verandah can look right up the main street of the town.

In 2002 the Royal Hotel was transformed into the 'Fat Cow Motel' and served as the main location for production of the television series of the same name by Brisbane-based production company "Hoodlum Entertainment".

- 2 **Police complex, 75 Church Street:** A police station began operating in Harrisville in 1871. The neat timber complex now contains a station, a residence and a tiny lockup, built in 1896.
- 3 **Lower Queen St houses:** Below the businesses, on the southern side is a row of traditional houses and cottages.
- 4 **Post office and residence, 26 Queen Street:** The Post Office building is typical of the 1950s. The residence at the rear is a c1900 lowset timber house with verandahs.
- 5 **Harrisville Butchery, 28 Queen Street:** Small timber shop with a projecting street awning.
- 6 **Former Pugsleys Store, 30 Queen Street:** Gable-roofed timber shop with a projecting street awning.



- 7 **Commercial Hotel, 32 Queen Street:** A licence for this hotel was granted to Ellen Butler in 1901. The original hotel burned down in 1939 and the present two-storey building was constructed later the same year.

- 8 **Former Royal Bank of Queensland, Queen Street:** Opened in 1905. The left-hand side contains the elaborate entry to the banking chamber, the right-hand side was a residence.



- 9 **Newsagent, 37 Queen Street:** This single storey shop has a highset residential wing at the rear.
- 10 **Faulkners Store, 39 Queen Street:** Originally one storey, the second storey was added in 1909. Two well-known occupants were Ted Faulkner who had a shoe shop in one side and Stan Cross who had a barber shop in the other side.

- 11 **Memorial Park, 43-47 Queen St:** The entrance gates to this small park are a World War I Memorial. Inside the park is a memorial honouring the centenary of Harrisville 1863-1963 and early settler Robert Dunn.

- 12 **Former Harrisville Railway Complex, Eagle Street:** A branch railway line opened to Harrisville in 1882 and was extended to Boonah in 1887. For many years, the railway was very busy, carrying passengers and produce including milk and cream. Weekly stock sales were popular and older residents can remember carts lined up from the railway gates and along the main street. The railway line closed in 1964.

- 13 **Harrisville School of Arts, 49 Queen St (cnr Hall St):** The School of Arts is believed to have started in 1889, using rented premises. The first part of the Hall was built in the early 1890s and it has been extended several times. It has always played an important role in the life of Harrisville people.



- 14 **Uniting Church, Cnr Queen and Hall Streets:** A combination of the original Presbyterian Church built in 1891 and a Methodist Church which was built near Peak Crossing in 1884, moved to Harrisville in 1926 and moved to this site in the 1970s.

- 15 **Former Harrisville Hospital, 12-14 Hall Street:** In 1911, a private home owned by Charles Kucks was converted into a private hospital. Additional timber buildings were later added. The hospital was taken over by the state government in 1926 and closed in 1973.

- 16 **Harrisville State School, Hall Street:** The earliest school building on the site dates from 1899.

- 17 **Harrisville Historical Village, 52 Queen Street:** The main building on site is Elanda House, built in the late 1890s for J.F. Burnett and reputedly named after a paddle steamer.

Other buildings include Carney's Creek State School which opened in 1890. A famous attraction is a rain gun, used (unsuccessfully!) during the great drought in 1902.

- 18 **Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 54-58 Queen Street:** Mass was first celebrated in Harrisville in 1873 in a local hotel. The present church was opened in 1909.

- 19 **Upper Queen St houses 60-78:** Along the northern side of the street, and also into North St, are a group of interesting houses and cottages.

#Note. Also see the Harrisville Cemetery on the corner of Warrill View-Peak Crossing Road.

- 20 **The Cedars, Warrill View-Peak Crossing Road:** William Dunn, brother of original Harrisville settler Robert Dunn, selected 60 acres here c1863 to grow cotton. His original house was moved to the current site and extended about 1900. The property was bought by the Boyle family about 1923. The name refers to white cedars which grew on the property.

- 21 **Former Railway building:** This area was originally called Flinders and was a railway siding on the Fassifern line from Ipswich to Boonah. The front building was used as a railway residence. It is now a private home.

- 22 **Former Butcher shop, Flinders Dolomite Road, Peak Crossing:** Originally a butcher shop run by Marcus Fischer. When his own shop closed, Mr Fischer went to work for Fernie Winks at Peak Crossing.

- 23 **Flinders Uniting Church, Warrill View-Peak Crossing Road, Peak Crossing:** Flinders Congregational Church was opened in 1872. The current church building replaced it in 1929 and was built by local builders Walter Florence and Charlie Meier.



- 24 **Former Butcher shop, 26 Fassifern Street, Peak Crossing:** c1900 owned by Fassifern (Fernie) Winks. The slaughtering was carried out at a slaughter house outside the town and owned by Len Winks.

The shop was bought in 1956 by Lew and Arona Bauer who operated it until it closed. In 1996 it became a real estate agency.

- 25 **Catholic Church, 28-30 Fassifern Street, Peak Crossing:** The first Catholic church was opened here in 1882. A larger church designed by architect Coutts and Sons of Ipswich was opened by Archbishop Duhig in September 1914. In 1987, it was substantially altered.
- 26 **Peak Crossing Community Hall, 33-35 Hall Street (cnr Fassifern Street) Peak Crossing:** The hall was designed by architect Henry Wyman and built by contractor A.F. Shelback. The opening in August 1926 was celebrated with a ball.

# **Note.** Additional information on areas outside of Harrisville, Peak Crossing & Flinders Townships is contained in the PDF titled 'Harrisville & District' including details on:

- Peak Crossing State School and residence, Ipswich-Boonah Road, Peak Crossing.
- Pump, Warrill View-Peak Crossing Road, Peak Crossing.

## Historical Facts

- ☞ In the early 1860s, the Queensland Government began to encourage closer settlement in country areas.
- ☞ As one of these initiatives, Ipswich Agricultural Reserve was established around Warrill and Warroolaba Creeks. In this reserve, land was surveyed into small blocks and made available for settlers.
- ☞ The land was fertile and by 1864, there were already 27 thriving farms. Most were growing cotton, taking advantage of a world-wide shortage during the American Civil War. Other crops were oats, maize, potatoes and tobacco.
- ☞ In 1870, merchants George and John Harris bought land from early settler Robert Dunn and established a store and a cotton gin (a machine to separate seed from cotton). The property was sold to Cribb and Foote in 1873.
- ☞ By the mid-1870s, cotton growing had declined but Harrisville continued to advance. A railway branch line was built in 1882 and was an added incentive to development. The town soon had its own hospital, School of Arts, school, churches, banks and post office.
- ☞ Normanby Shire Council was established in 1891, meeting in a building at Mutdapilly. The boundary was altered in 1903 and the Shire Hall was then relocated to Harrisville. In 1949, Normanby Shire amalgamated with Moreton Shire and this in turn has now amalgamated with Ipswich City.
- ☞ In 1839, surveyor Robert Dixon began the process of accurately mapping Queensland by establishing an accurate baseline. He measured out a distance of three miles (about 5km) using three wooden rods each 10 feet long (about 3m). Trig points were then set up on top of Mt Walker and Flinders Peak and Dixon took readings from both ends of his baseline to both mountains. Using these angles and the three-mile distance he had measured, he could then calculate any other distance. A cairn was erected as a Bicentennial Year project in 1988.