



The Naming of St Lucia and Ironside

Peter Brown

St Lucia History Group Paper No 5

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Peter Brown
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St Lucia History Group
PO Box 4343
St Lucia South
QLD 4067

Email: slhgcoordinator@gmail.com

Web: brisbanehistorywest.wordpress.com

ST LUCIA HISTORY GROUP RESEARCH PAPER

5. ST LUCIA - NAMING OF ST LUCIA AND IRONSIDE

1. INTRODUCTION

The names 'St Lucia, Ironside, and Long Pocket' did not come into use until the mid 1880s, but for ease of understanding are used herein as the descriptors for the areas now using those names.

When the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement moved from Redcliffe in 1825 the new settlement was known at first as Eden Glassie, (an amalgam of Glasgow and Edinburgh). However by 1826 Captain Logan refers to the settlement as Brisbane Town.¹

Upon the closure of the Penal Settlement in 1842 the adjacent area became the 'Moreton Bay Pastoral District', with Dr Simpson appointed as the first Crown Lands Commissioner on 5 May 1842.² The only town within the Moreton District was the remains of the original convict settlement which retained the colloquial name of Brisbane, although its formal moniker was 'Town of Brisbane'

As closer settlement occurred it was necessary to progressively subdivide the Moreton Bay Pastoral Division into Counties and Parishes, and in 1842 under Governor Sir George Gipps the County of Stanley was formally established. The County encompassed an area of 2 000 000 acres (801 000 ha approx) and at that time had a population of 2 000. The land was approximately within a 40 mile (64 km) radius of the Old Windmill in Spring Hill.

Amongst the many Parishes declared were North Brisbane and South Brisbane; Enoggera became the Parish immediately to the west of North Brisbane later including the villages of Milton and Toowong. The Parish of Indooroopilly adjoined to the west again, the boundary between the two being Toowong Creek, and it later included the suburbs of St Lucia, Taringa, Indooroopilly, Long Pocket, etc.

There was not a mechanism within the New South Wales Colonial Government for giving people addresses, so names of individual areas tended to adopt that of any prominent residential feature in the area. For instance Ambrose Eldridge was one of the first buyers of land on the northern riverbank west of Brisbane in the Parish of Enoggera, and in 1854 built *Milton House*, a substantial dwelling which remains to this day, although in an upgraded form. The adjoining area initially adopted the address of Milton, indeed areas to the west were sometimes referred to as 'West Milton', as there were no other identifiers.³

Robert Cribb established *Lang Farm* in 1853 on the edge western of Toowong Creek in the Parish of Indooroopilly and that being the furthest west habitat 'Lang Farm Indooroopilly' became a descriptor for that general locale and remained so for many years.

When farm land was sold in 1857/1862 in the area of today's St Lucia and Long Pocket, those areas became known collectively as 'Indooroopilly' or 'Indooroopilly Pocket', being a geographical part of the Parish of Indooroopilly. Pocket is perhaps an old-fashioned name today but its dictionary definition of 'isolated area' is applicable today as it was in the 1860s,

¹ Steele J G, *The Exploration of Moreton Bay District 1770 -1830*, 1983, University of Queensland Press.

² QSA, Division of Queensland into Pastoral Districts Counties and Parishes; researched by W Kitson.

³ Brennan J, *A Few Rough Reminiscences of Early Toowong*, 1917, A Darbyshire private papers.

and has led to the areas having a character and a staged development of their own. In 1860 Azariah Purchase gave his address at the far end of today's St Lucia as just 'Indooroopilly'.⁴

It is worth noting here that today's suburb of Indooroopilly did not exist until quite some years after the railway went through in 1875.

When R L Drew purchased land beside Toowong Creek in the vicinity of today's Brisbane Boy's College in 1863, he named the gully that he had purchased the 'Village of Toowong'.⁵ Within two years that name had crept east up Moggill Rd to the junction of Burns Rd with the establishment of the 'Toowong Hotel'. It was a number of years before the name moved east to the area we today know as Toowong Village. However, in the 1865 electoral roll local residents gave their addresses variously as Western Suburbs, West Milton, East Moreton, or Toowong Creek.⁶ East Moreton was the name of the electorate area.

Long Pocket was initially referred to as 'beyond *Lang Farm*',⁷ but by 1867 its current name was in use;⁸ 'short pocket' was almost never used for the future St Lucia area of Indooroopilly Pocket.

In 1864 one of the St Lucia farms was being referred to as 'opposite Hill End'.⁹ As small communities developed they began to take more specific names to guide visitors etc to their homes; by 1865 the eastern end of St Lucia was referred to by its residents as 'Six Mile Reach', and the area in the vicinity of Dart's Mill became known as 'Coldridge', after Mr Dart's *Coldridge Plantation*.¹⁰ The land along the ridge line (today's Hawken Drive/Swann Road) was called 'Prior's Pocket' by the press in the 1870s as it was all owned by T L Murray Prior, a well known businessman in Brisbane (not to be confused with today's Prior's Pocket at Moggill).

The Official Post Office Directory first published in 1868 began to include recognised area names as a way of giving addresses (but actual postal deliveries in 'country areas' didn't follow for many years). The first Directory did not include Indooroopilly Pocket residents as this was still a very small and remote community.¹¹

Indooroopilly remained the general area name; when Dart built his sugar mill at *Coldridge Plantation* in 1868 where the University rowing shed is today, it was known as the 'Indooroopilly Sugar Mill', although Dart called it the 'Coldridge Sugar Mill near Brisbane' when advertising for labour.¹²

When today's Ironside State School first opened in 1870 it was formally called 'Toowong School' by the Board of Education, however it was always known as the 'Indooroopilly school-house' because it was in the area known as Indooroopilly Pocket rather than at the newly rising Toowong.

The Post Office Directory for 1874 for the first time recognised the community of 'Indooroopilly' and listed a few Long Pocket residents such as James Behan, Patrick Carmody and Mary Carr, but not St Lucia residents such as Dart.¹³ By 1876 St Lucia area

⁴ *The Moreton Bay Courier* 28 August 1860 p 3.

⁵ Gregory H, *Arcadian Simplicity – J B Fewings Memoirs of Toowong*, 1990, Boolarong Press, p.28.

⁶ Helen Gregory *Arcadian Simplicity*, p.33.

⁷ Lands & Works Dept Correspondence Received File LWO.A26 Doc 1816 18.8.1865. QSA

⁸ *The Brisbane Courier*, 2 November 1867, p.4.c.6.

⁹ *The Brisbane Courier*, 12 August 1864 Supplement, p.1.c.3

¹⁰ QSA, Lands & Works Dept Correspondence Received File LWO.A26 Doc 1816 18.8.1865; Helen Gregory *Arcadian Simplicity*, p 27.

¹¹ *Official Post Office Directory of Queensland (Meyer's) 1868*, CD Archive Books, UQFL

¹² *The Brisbane Courier*, 2 September 1872, p.1.c.7.

¹³ *Official Post Office Directory of Professions, Squatters and Trades of Queensland 1874 (R P Whitworth)*, CD Archive Books, UQFL

residents Pitman, Watt and Skinner were listed as residents of Indooroopilly too.¹⁴ The general term in use for the whole area still seems to have been Indooroopilly Pocket.¹⁵

With and the naming of Toowong station in 1875, that area grew as a commercial centre and the original Village of Toowong alongside Toowong Creek was absorbed within the general area. In 1880 Toowong got its own school and the existing (Ironsides) one was renamed 'Indooroopilly State School' and later still 'Indooroopilly Pocket State School'.

With the establishment of Local Government, Indooroopilly Pocket became part of the Division of Indooroopilly in 1880; in 1890 the name changed to the Division of Taringa, which then became the Shire of Taringa in 1903.¹⁶ These changes lead the Post Office to establish specific postal areas and hence addresses, but the Postal Service was not surprisingly somewhat confused! Up to 1890 the formal postal addresses were given correctly as part of 'Indooroopilly'. In 1890 the Post Office Directory changed the name to Taringa to match the Division name change.¹⁷ The Post Office Directory in 1891 had two bob each way and referred to the area as Indooroopilly and Taringa, but the following year the whole peninsular was officially Taringa.

By 1893 the Directory used 'St Lucia Estate', and for the first time 'Ironsides', as the only addresses on the peninsular, both being noted as in Taringa. By 1896 the Directory was using 'South Toowong', no doubt reflecting delivery centres and routes.

In 1925 the City of Brisbane was formed and St Lucia became part of the Toowong Ward, but in 2008 boundaries were amended yet again and St Lucia ended up in Indooroopilly Ward, although that name was changed to Walter Taylor Ward.

2. THE NAMING OF ST LUCIA

There was not much need for a name for the area during the 1850s and 1860s as the population was sparse. The peninsular had been sold off by the Government between 1852 and 1860. The survey had split the land into two by a track (now Carmody Rd) running down the middle of the peninsular, and then into approximately fifty acre (20.24 ha) lots either side thereof.

Much of the high ground on the south and east side was bought by speculators and 'land-banked'. The names of well-known landowners such as Cribb, Henderson, and Murray-Prior, crop up in the records.¹⁸ Most of the land on the south side – the alluvial river flats, was farmed for cotton, sugar and other crops, and for dairy cattle. Well known local families such as the Carmody's, the Darts, the Watts, the Strongs, and the McDougalls, all farmed there successfully.

The economic good times of the 1870s led to the opening of the Brisbane to Ipswich railway, with stops at Toowong and Taringa. In turn, land sales boomed near the railway stations and populations grew. Major immigration programmes brought more people to the area, and the subdivision of Toowong into housing estates proceeded apace.

In the future St Lucia, sugar growing and milling had become uneconomical. Better land and rain in areas on the coast had enabled larger farms and larger mills to be established by farmer co-operatives.

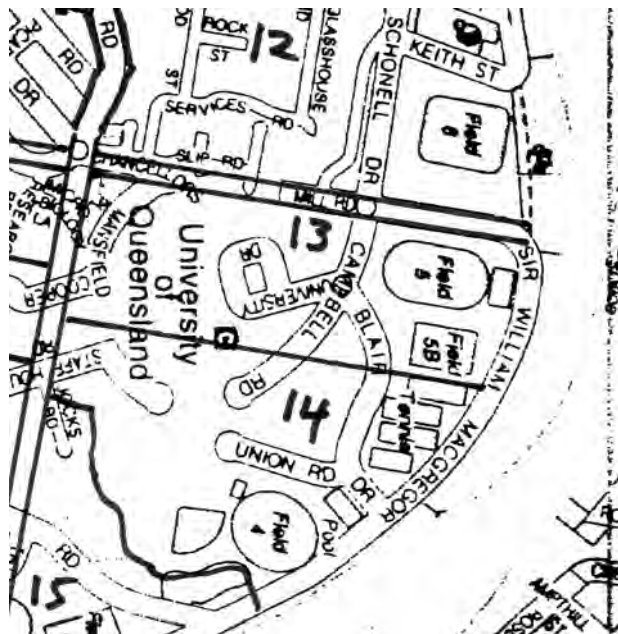
¹⁴ *Official Post Office Directory of Professions, Squatters and Trades of Queensland 1874* (R P Whitworth), CD Archive Books, UQFL.

¹⁵ *Queensland Fruit and Veg News* 18 June 1959 p 745 John Oxley Library.

¹⁶ Andrew Darbyshire SLHG Paper No. 6 *Representing St Lucia* 2004.

¹⁷ Post Office Directory 1890 The State Library of Queensland.

¹⁸ Prof. Robinson's 1952 Manuscript *The University of Queensland and other Universities* Fryer Library.



In 1882 William Dart sold his *Coldridge Plantation* on Portions 13 and 14, to a William Alexander Wilson and a William Cossham. In settlement Dart granted them a substantial mortgage, meaning he still had a keen interest in the area.¹⁹ Wilson was a Merchant in George St and may well have been buying sugar from Dart for many years. Both Wilson and Dart were active members of the Primitive Methodist Church. Another mortgage was taken out with James Taylor. Wilson and Cossham renamed the farms as *The St Lucia Sugar Plantation*.²⁰

In 1884 those two Portions were on-sold firstly by the partnership of Wilson and Cossham, to Wilson alone, and then by Wilson to a Company formed by him called '*The St Lucia Riverside Land and Investment Company Limited*'; it had seven initial shareholders, all local businessmen, including Wilson himself.²¹ A copy of the 'Schedule' within the Articles of Association of the Company, referring to the Company purchasing *The St Lucia Sugar Plantation* follows. This is the earliest discovered written use of the name St Lucia.

On completing the two sales above, Wilson was able to pay out the mortgages to Dart and Taylor. He then loaned money to the *Company* for it to purchase the land from him – a type of 'vendor finance'.²²

St Lucia is a half-anglicised form of Santa Lucia or Sainte Lucie. According to tradition Lucia was a native of Syracuse who distributed all her possessions to the poor rather than let them become a dowry to the pagan man to whom she had been betrothed by her parents. This was at the height of persecution by Emperor Diocletian in the year 303, and she suffered martyrdom. Her feast day is 13 December.²³

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arbitrators, or umpire respectively, who may determine the amount thereof, or direct the same to be taxed as between solicitor or client, or otherwise, and may award by whom and to whom, and in what manner, the same shall be borne and paid.

Submission may be made order of court.

118. The submission to arbitration shall be subject to the provisions of "The Interdict Act, 1867," or any other subsisting statutory modification thereof, and shall be made a rule or order of the Supreme Court of Queensland upon the application of either party, and such party may instruct counsel thereto for the other parties.

WINDING UP.

¹⁹ Certificate of Title No 72410, later Vol. 496 Folio 150 Portions 13,14.

²⁰ Articles of Association *St Lucia Riverside Land and Investment Co Ltd* Queensland State Archives as sourced by A Darbyshire.

²¹ Articles of Association *St Lucia Riverside Land and Investment Co Ltd*.

²² Certificate of Title No 72410, later Vol. 496 Folio: 150 Portions 13,14.

²³ John Kerr 2002 *Christ Church St Lucia 40 Years* p13.

WINDING UP.

How losses to be borne. 119. In case the Company is wound up, the surplus assets shall be applied, first, in repaying, *pari-passu*, all moneys paid in respect of calls made in the winding up, and secondly, in repaying, *pari-passu*, all other paid-up capital; but this clause shall be without prejudice to the rights of the holders of shares issued under special conditions.

Distribution of assets in specie 120. If the Company shall be wound up, the liquidators whether voluntary or official may, with the sanction of a resolution passed at an extraordinary meeting, divide among the contributories, in specie, any part of the assets of the Company, and may, with the like sanction, vest part of the assets of the Company in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of the contributories, as the Liquidators, with the like sanction, shall think fit.

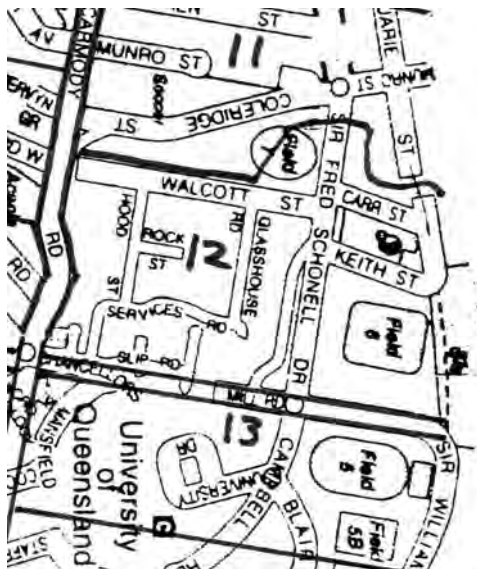
SCHEDULE.

An Agreement made the second day of October, A.D. 1884, between WILLIAM ALEXANDER WILSON, of Brisbane, in the colony of Queensland, Grocer, hereinafter called the vendor, of the one part, and JOHN WARREN WHITE, of Brisbane, afore said, on behalf of the Company hereinafter mentioned, of the other part.

Whereas the said vendor is the proprietor of the property known as the St. Lucia Sugar Plantation, and of certain other property and effects connected therewith, and more particularly described in the Schedule hereto. And whereas a Company is about to be formed under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1863, having for its objects amongst other things the acquisition of the said property and working thereof. And whereas the Memorandum and

Extract from the 1884 Articles of Association of
The St Lucia Riverside Land and Investment Company Limited
showing in the last paragraph the earliest discovered written use of the name St Lucia,
in The St Lucia Sugar Plantation.

Courtesy Queensland State Archives, researched by Andrew Darbyshire



Having sold his main plantation to Wilson and Cosham in March 1883, William Dart, the sugar farmer, then purchased half of Portion 12, an adjacent area that had grown sugar cane. Its boundaries using today's names were approximately: the river, Smythe Creek (which divides Macquarie St), Walcott St, Carmody Rd, back through the International House area and across oval No 6 to where the Toowong Rowing Club shed is today.

Just a few months later the first subdivision sale recorded on the peninsular provided the eventual name for the suburb: 'St Lucia Estate' was advertised for sale by auction on 8 October 1883. It was not on the land owned by the 'The St Lucia Riverside Land and Investment Company Limited, but on William Dart's Portion 12 next door. However

the relationship between Dart and Wilson was obviously close because the newspaper advert a few days before the auction said the auctioneer *has received instructions from W A Wilson Esq. to sell...* the Dart land.²⁴

Indeed when the land did not sell well, Wilson ended up progressively buying almost 80% of the blocks from Dart.²⁵ It was presumably Wilson's close involvement that saw the use of the name *St Lucia Estate*. The estate included a street called St Lucia St, now part of Sir Fred Schonell Dr. A copy of the Sales Lithograph follows.

Two years later, the estate now owned largely by Wilson, had a name change and was re-advertised for sale, but this time under the name *Princess Bridge Estate*, with a proposal for a cross river bridge to join up with Boundary St at Hill End.

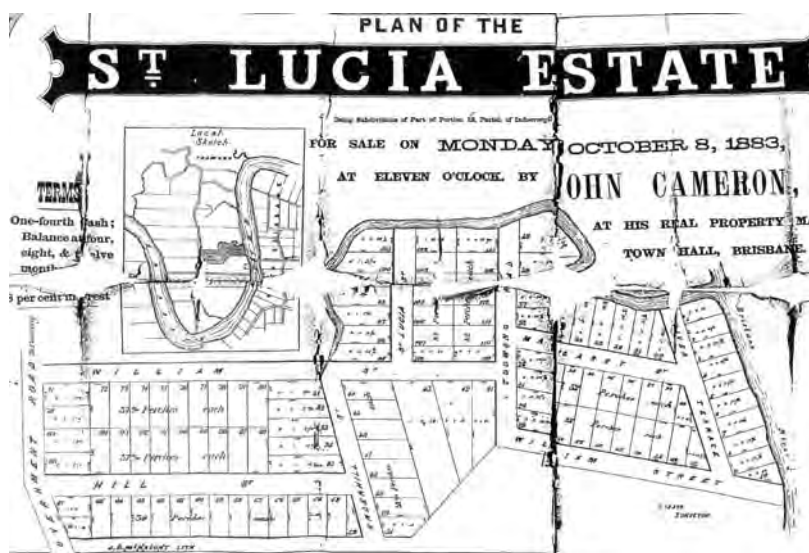
In February 1885 some of the *St Lucia Riverside Land and Investment Co Ltd* land, on Portion 13 and part of 14, was advertised for sale by auction as a second *St Lucia Estate*. This estate also had a St Lucia Rd, but it was a potential renaming of the track known now as Carmody Rd.

So where did the name St Lucia come from? In 1951 Prof. F W Robinson and Prof. J C Mahoney had a discussion with son of William Dart the sugar miller, W H Dart (1867-1952), who was born on the property. In the written record of that discussion W H Dart said that W A Wilson was *born on the island of St Lucia*.

A transcription of the Church Register from Mr Wilson's wedding in 1873 shows his place of birth recorded as 'St Lucia, West Indies', and the register was signed in his own hand.²⁶

A search of the hand-written immigration records shows that the Wilson family, including 18 year old William arrived in Australia in 1863, and his place of birth is entered as 'St Lucia, West Indies'.²⁷

William Dart had named his plantation *Coldridge* after his place of birth in Devon England; and this influenced Wilson to rename it after his place of birth – St Lucia, West Indies. No doubt the similarity of sugar growing in both places influenced his decision.



Sales Lithograph, 'St Lucia Estate' part Portion 12
Collection: John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

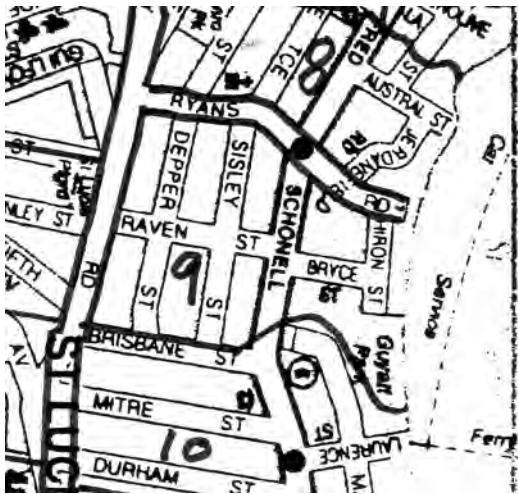
²⁴ *The Moreton Bay Courier* 6 October 1883 – Auction sales, researched by A Derbyshire.

²⁵ Certificate of Title No 59843, later Vol. 407 Folio: 83 Portions 12 part.

²⁶ Society of Australian Genealogists, Church wedding register, W A Wilson, Reel 209.

²⁷ Register of Assisted Migrants into Sydney Film No 2139 State Library of Queensland.

3. THE NAMING OF IRONSIDE

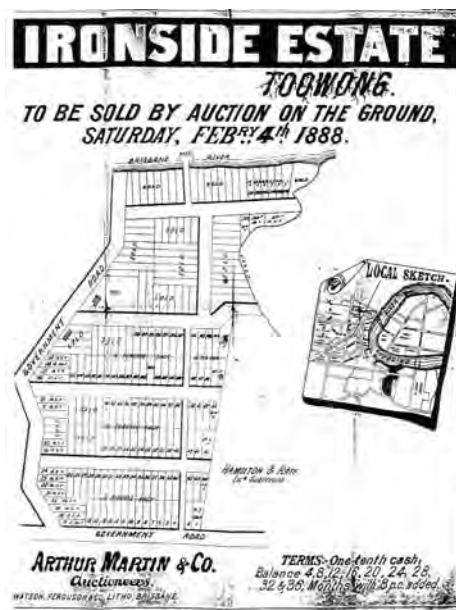


Not content with his involvement in the *St Lucia Estate*, William Alexander Wilson together with a John Potts purchased about 20 acres (8.1 ha) closer to Toowong - Part of Portion 9, in April 1885.²⁸ This land was bounded by today's Ryans Rd, Carmody Rd, Raven St, most of Guyatt Park and the river frontage of Hiron St.

In May 1885 the land was advertised for sale by auction as *Ironside Estate*. Only part of the Sales Lithograph is available. The estate was re-advertised in 1888.

Following his 1952 discussion with W H Dart, son of William, Prof. Robinson wrote Wilson gave it the name Ironside (not Ironsides) in honour of his wife, Miss Lydia Matilda Ironside whom he married at Penrith near Sydney in 1873.²⁹

Marriage records confirm this marriage and the name Ironside: William Alexander Wilson married Lydia Matilda Ironside, at Penrith, Colony of NSW on 22 January 1873.³⁰



Sales Lithograph, 'Ironside Estate' Portion 9C
Collection: John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

4. THE WILSON FAMILY

William Alexander Wilson came to Australia with his parents and siblings in 1863.

His father John Wilson and mother Martha went to St Lucia WI in 1839 as Irish missionaries at the time of the emancipation of negroes, and two of their children, Catherine and William,

²⁸ Certificate of Title No 3013, later Vol. 30 Folio: 031 Portion 9C.

²⁹ Prof. Robinson's 1952 Manuscript *op cit*.

³⁰ Registration of Marriages Database Pioneers NSW 1788 State Library of Queensland and NSW Marriage Registration Transcription Ref. No 1873/3650.

were born there. With John's health failing the family returned to Ireland in 1845 or 1846, after the birth of William but before the birth of the next two children.³¹

William was educated in Ireland (which at that time was part of the United Kingdom before partition), where John was a teacher and William entered the grocery trade in the town of Enniskillen.³² The whole family moved to Sydney in 1863; the Register of Assisted Migrants entering Sydney gives the following information:³³

18th January 1863

Immigrant ship: *Coldstream*

Wilson	John T	age 53	farmer	born Sidore, Co.Fermanagh	(1810)
	Martha	age 43		Caledon, Co. Tyrone	(1820)
	Catherine	age 20		St Lucia West Indies	(1843)
	William A	age 18	farmer	St Lucia West Indies	(1845)
	John TM	age 17	farmer	Caledon, Co. Tyrone	(1846)
	Margaret	age 15		Caledon, Co. Tyrone	(1848)

William initially lived at Wollongong but according to his obituary:

entered upon commercial life and took a position of trust in Penrith. There he remained for several years. His mind however, was made up for the Ministry, and he left his position at Penrith to enter upon a course of theological study, which he successfully completed and was ordained a minister of the Primitive Methodist Church of New South Wales. He laboured as such for a number of years. But his health failed him, and he resigned the ministry and went to Brisbane, where for seventeen years he carried on a successful business.³⁴

On 22 of January 1873 he married Lydia Matilda Ironside at the Church of England, Church of St Stephens the Martyr, in Penrith, Colony of New South Wales. The Minister at what is now a Cathedral was the Rev. John Vaughan. On the marriage certificate William's occupation is given as 'Gentleman'. Lydia was aged 26.³⁵

The following is a transcript from the actual Church Wedding Register, signed by both William and Lydia, showing names and places of birth, and this confirms again William's place of birth as St Lucia, West Indies.³⁶

Transcript from the Church Register of St Stephens, Penrith, for the marriage of William Alexander Wilson to Lydia Matilda Ironside

RECORD No. 28

DATE	January 22 nd 1873
NAMES	William Alexander Wilson
CONDITION	Bachelor
BIRTH PLACE	St Lucia West Indies
AGE	29
RESIDENCE	Wollongong
PARENTS	John and Martha (maiden name Kerr) Wilson
FATHERS RANK	School Teacher

NAMES	Lydia Matilda Ironside
CONDITION	Spinster

³¹ *The Sydney Morning Herald* 26 October 1901 p.11.

³² Summer R, *More Historic Homes of Brisbane*, 1982, National Trust of Queensland. pp 56, 118.

³³ Register of Assisted Migrants *op cit*.

³⁴ *The Sydney Morning Herald* 26 October 1901 p.11.

³⁵ NSW Marriage Registration Transcription Ref. 1873/3650.

³⁶ Society of Australian Genealogists *op cit*.

BIRTH PLACE Parramatta
 AGE 26
 RESIDENCE Penrith
 PARENTS John and Priscilla (maiden name Abbott) Ironside
 FATHERS RANK Storekeeper

HAND WRITTEN SIGNATURES William Alexander Wilson
 Lydia Matilda Ironside

Wilson moved with his wife to Brisbane not long after their marriage (first born Priscilla 1874 was not born in NSW³⁷), and set up as a grocer at York St Spring Hill (now probably York Parade).³⁸ Two years later he was at the same address but his occupation was given as 'surveyor'.³⁹ By 1883, when he was in the process of subdividing St Lucia Estate, he had a business as a grocer in *Erin House* George St,⁴⁰ close to the corner of Queen St, in the block that included Tritton's furniture store and factory.⁴¹ This site is now the headquarters of Brisbane City Council. It is said that Wilson 'habitually wore a walking coat and a tall hat'.⁴² He seems to have kept his shop there until 1887, but by 1885 he was noted as having a private residence at Jane St (off Montague Road) West End.⁴³

Wilson was a successful storekeeper, sugar grower, and sawmiller who owned several large buildings in Brisbane City, and was an active member of the Primitive Methodist Church.⁴⁴ By the mid 1880s Wilson had purchased over five acres (2 ha) of land further up on Montague St Hill End. The address of his grocers shop changes to Gray Rd (off Montague), Orleigh Estate West End in 1888, and remains there until 1891 but not after.⁴⁵ In 1892 he is recorded as being a storekeeper, and the following year a produce merchant, both times in Montague Rd.⁴⁶ There is no record of his business or residence anywhere in Brisbane after 1893.

In 1885 Wilson either purchased three acres (1.2 ha), or more likely subdivided a larger holding to achieve Sub 1 of Portion 45 Parish of South Brisbane, being on the south side of an existing road; the whole of Portion 45 having been originally purchased in 1854 by J P Wilkie. He later also purchased, or subdivided some adjoining smaller lots, which have a similar Title history to the main three acre blocks. In 1886 Wilson took out a mortgage on the land (and possibly other securities) of eleven thousand five hundred pounds from the Bank of New South Wales. In 1888 this was replaced with mortgage No 189488 to FT Gregory, CR Woodward and JHO Beit for six thousand pounds; in 1892 after the earlier death of Gregory the mortgage was transferred to Woodward, Beit and J Moir. A further mortgage No 216885 of unspecified value, was given by Woodward and JHO Beit alone in 1889 but with J Moir joining them in 1892. In 1894 both mortgages were transferred to a new sole mortgagee, William Beit Another mortgage No 248436 for one thousand pounds had been given by Louis Hope in 1891 and whilst no record of cancellation is recorded it may well have been when the 1892 mortgages were taken out.⁴⁷

³⁷ NSW Register of Births Deaths and Marriages website accessed December 2006.

³⁸ Post Office Directories 1876 p117.

³⁹ Post Office Directories 1878/79

⁴⁰ Post Office Directories 1883/84

⁴¹ Mary Howells and Ann Fallon *Cairngorm Cultural Heritage Report 1997* sourced by C Dyer.

⁴² Prof. Robinson *op cit.* Doc 493

⁴³ Post Office Directories 1885/86, 1887

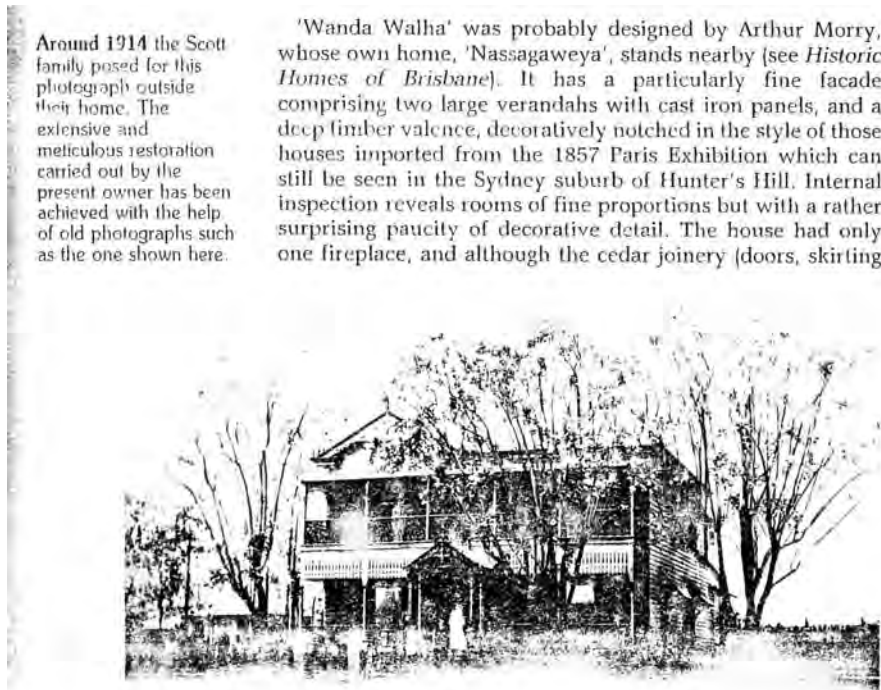
⁴⁴ Morrison W, *The Aldine History of Queensland Illustrated*, 1888, Archive CD Books.

⁴⁵ Post Office Directories 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891.

⁴⁶ Post Office Directories 1892/93, 1893.

⁴⁷ Certificate of Title 79766 Vol 542 Folio 6 WA Wilson 1885; adjacent Titles in the name of Wilson and later Scott inspected at Titles Office but not purchased.

Wilson built a grand house for his family and named it 'Wanda Walha', now 15 Gray Rd West End, and it is understood that he also built other houses on the Lot for renting out. Attached is an extract from the book by Ray Summer *More Historic Homes of Brisbane*, which pictures the house and gives a full description.⁴⁸



Around 1914 the Scott family posed for this photograph outside their home. The extensive and meticulous restoration carried out by the present owner has been achieved with the help of old photographs such as the one shown here.

'Wanda Walha' was probably designed by Arthur Morry, whose own home, 'Nassagaweya', stands nearby (see *Historic Homes of Brisbane*). It has a particularly fine facade comprising two large verandahs with cast iron panels, and a deep timber valence, decoratively notched in the style of those houses imported from the 1857 Paris Exhibition which can still be seen in the Sydney suburb of Hunter's Hill. Internal inspection reveals rooms of fine proportions but with a rather surprising paucity of decorative detail. The house had only one fireplace, and although the cedar joinery (doors, skirting

'Wanda Walha' an extract from the book by Ray Summer *More Historic Homes of Brisbane*.

The house has been restored and stands today in its almost original form:



2004 Photograph of Wanda Walha 2005

In the Electoral Roll for 1891 his address was still given as George St but had changed to Queen St by 1893, which possibly meant that he still owned property there.⁴⁹

The name Hill End has wandered off course in recent maps; *Hill End Estate* was developed in the suburb of West End in the area on the west side of Montague St opposite Toowong. The

⁴⁸ Summer R, *op cit*.

⁴⁹ Microfilm rolls 0380 V9, V12, V15 State Library of Queensland.

name Hill End Tce remains today where the South Brisbane Sailing Club area is. What today is called Hill End, on the east side of Montague St, was in fact the *Orleigh Estate*, whose name is memorialised by Orleigh Park on the riverfront facing St Lucia and Orleigh St.

As stated earlier William Wilson purchased the sugar cane farms on Portions 13 and 14 Parish of Indooroopilly in 1882. The previous owner, William Dart, had named the farms *Coldridge Plantation* after his place of birth in Devon England. In a similar fashion Wilson renamed them the *St Lucia Sugar Plantation* after his place of birth - St Lucia in the West Indies. The cane farms also perhaps reminded him of the sugar-growing island.

In 1951 Prof. F W Robinson and Prof. J C Mahoney had a discussion with W H Dart (1867-1952) son of William Dart, the sugar miller. In the written record of that discussion W H Dart said that W A Wilson was *born on the island of St Lucia*.

Also in 1951 Prof. Robinson received a copy of a letter written that year by William Buckle, son-in-law of William Dart the sugar miller, to his brother-in-law W H Dart, who also said that Wilson was *born in St Lucia*. They were not wrong!

A different reference says that he was *a sea captain from the island of St Lucia*⁵⁰ but this is not correct. He returned to Ireland as a baby and his adult life seems to have been centred around grocery and merchandising.

Mr Wilson was in 1884 a founding shareholder and director in the *Brisbane Land and Investment Company*, formed to purchase the property known as *Stewarton Sugar Plantation* at Brookfield. The Company went into voluntary liquidation two years later with a loss of £5000.⁵¹

In 1885 Wilson purchased 500 shares in the *Victoria Bridge Saw Mills and Steam Joinery Company Limited*. Another shareholder buying in at this time was William Dart, but not long after the Company went into liquidation. Wilson was appointed one of the liquidators, but in 1887 the Company records note that he himself had resigned 'through insolvency'.

This is a mystery, because less than a year later Wilson and Dart became part of the founding shareholders in a new company *West End Saw Mills and Steam Joinery Company Limited*. The Company took over the land and assets of the *Victoria Bridge Saw Mill Co* and had its registered office at Montague St, South Brisbane.

As a substantial land owner, Mr Wilson was an elected member of the Indooroopilly Divisional Board from 1885 to 1887.⁵² In this position he would have had an opportunity to influence such matters as ferries, buses, trams, roads and the proposed bridge to West End.

In 1891 Wilson was still living at *Wanda Walha*, as Andrew Darbyshire has found a request from him to the South Brisbane Municipal Council, for gas lights to be installed on Montague Rd.⁵³

In 1892 the *West End Saw Mills Company* was wound up voluntarily, and directors called upon to discharge a mortgage they had guaranteed to a bank.⁵⁴ It is noted that *The St Lucia Riverside Land and Investment Company Limited* went into liquidation in 1892,⁵⁵ and Wilson may have had personal financial problems there too.

⁵⁰ Marilyn England, 2003 Paper, *The Dart Family of St Lucia*.

⁵¹ Sugar, Queensland State Archives File A/12578 23. 6296 researched by A Darbyshire.

⁵² Andrew Darbyshire SLHG Paper No. 6 *Representing St Lucia* 2004.

⁵³ A. Darbyshire *In pursuit of Post Offices* Dec 2003.

⁵⁴ Articles of Association researched by John Kerr *op cit*.

⁵⁵ Certificate of Title No 72410, *op cit*.

Wilson's name appears in the Post Office Directory for year 1893 and earlier, but not in following years, as he returned to Sydney with his family.

Ray Summer notes that *Wanda Walha* had a number of tenants from the early 1890s, and that the land was subdivided in 1912 into 50 Lots including 8 houses as the Gray Rd Estate⁵⁶. The subdivision created Ryans Road behind *Wanda Walha*. It is interesting to note that Wilson was not registered as becoming insolvent on the Title, and the mortgagees transferred their mortgage to just one of them – William Beit in 1894 and he didn't try to trigger a transfer of Title to himself for non-payment of interest, presumably preferring to remain an investor, perhaps collecting rents, until the land value improved from the disastrous levels of the 1890s financial crash.

William Alexander Wilson had died in 1901 but this is not noted on the Title. What specifically triggered the subdivision by Beit in 1912 is not known but Queensland Trustees acting as attorneys for William Beit, were selling up his station property *Ascot* and all its furniture just months before the subdivision of Gray Road. Beit himself returned overseas and died in Honolulu in 1922.⁵⁷ Part of the subdivision was dedicated for road purposes - Ryan Street behind *Wanda Walha*.

Robert Scott, who had been a tenant of *Wanda Walha* from 1907, purchased the house on 50 perches (1264 m²) and at least 27 perches (682 m²) of adjacent land in 1914.⁵⁸ It remained in the Scott family for three generations during which time it was converted into flats, and in 1931 the house was advertised as having rooms available for Board and Residence.⁵⁹ In the 1980s the house was undergoing restoration by Mr J H Bath.⁶⁰ The author has made contact with the current (2006) owners of *Wanda Walha*, the Berglind family but they have no knowledge of the history of the house or the Wilson family.

Lydia Matilda Ironside is described in the marriage certificate as a 'spinster' of Penrith.⁶¹ The Wilsons had two daughters and three sons⁶², one of who⁶³ died at a young age; they also had one child stillborn.

Priscilla Martha Kerr Wilson (known as Cilla)	born 1874
Named after Lydia's mother Priscilla and William's mother Martha – maiden name Kerr.	
Margaret Susannah Wilson (known as Magie)	born 1876
Possibly name after William Wilson's sister Margaret, and grandmother's name Susannah Wilson	
John Alexander Ironside Wilson	born and died 1879
Named after Lydia's father John Ironside	
William Alexander Ironside Wilson (known as Will)	born 1880
Named after his father WA and his mother's maiden name.	
Unnamed	stillborn 13 March 1882
John Perry Wilson	born 1885
Named after either of his grandfathers – both John	

⁵⁶ *The Brisbane Courier* 23 May 1912 p 8; 3 June 1912 p 8.

⁵⁷ *The Brisbane Courier* 13 March 1912 p 7; 16 March p 8; 29 March 1922 p 8.

⁵⁸ Certificate of Title 79766 Vol 542 Folio 6 WA Wilson 1885; adjacent Titles in the name of Wilson and later Scott inspected at Titles Office but not purchased.

⁵⁹ *The Queenslander* 7 September 1907 p 14; *The Brisbane Courier* 29 August 1931 p 5.

⁶⁰ Ray Summer *op cit*.

⁶¹ Registration of Marriages Database Pioneers NSW 1788 State Library of Queensland and NSW Marriage Registration *op cit*.

⁶² Queensland Death Certificate Lydia Matilda Wilson nee Ironside.

⁶³ Toowong Cemetery Burial Record Portion 13 Section 48 unmarked grave No. 12.

Mrs Lydia Wilson died on 7 December 1890 age 45, of ‘Valvular disease of heart (mitral)’⁶⁴ and was buried at the Toowong Cemetery in 1890. Her grave already contained her young son John Ironside Wilson and a stillborn child, both of whom died earlier.⁶⁵ When Mrs Wilson died her residential address is given as Montague Rd West End.

Neither postal records nor electoral rolls show Mr Wilson as being in the Brisbane area after 1893. Mrs Wilson’s cemetery plot had room for other family members, but none were interred there. There is no monument of any sort on the gravesite, which is unusual considering the status of William in the community and his reverence for his wife.

On 22 June 1892 Mr Wilson re-married to Emily Louisa Addison, daughter of Rev J Addison, Minister of the Toowong Primitive Methodist Church, at the church.⁶⁶ Emily was a teacher in the Public Education system.⁶⁷ She was 73 when she died in 1937 (i.e. b.1864), and there were no children recorded to this second marriage.⁶⁸

About this time, and maybe with considerable financial difficulties, he moved away with his new wife and four children, who then were aged between 7 and 18. He returned to Sydney where he re-entered the ministry of the Primitive Methodist Church and remained for ten years.⁶⁹

Mr Wilson died on 24th October 1901 at 173 George St, Redfern, Sydney of ‘consumption of the lungs’ (tuberculosis) aged 56, after several months of illness.⁷⁰ At the time his occupation was given as ‘Primitive Methodist Minister’, and he was buried at the Primitive Methodist section of the Rookwood cemetery, two days after his death. He lived for about seventeen years in Queensland (possibly 1874-1891) and twenty in New South Wales (possibly 1863 - 1874, 1891 - 1901).⁷¹ Mr Wilson’s funeral was very well attended by Ministry people and family, including his wife, his remaining son and two daughters, and his brother and two sisters.⁷²

Transcription of the Church Register for the wedding and the copy of the Death Certificate for W A Wilson, together with associated information was researched by Ms Valerie Garton at the Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney.

Son John Perry Wilson died 27 September 1901 aged 16 at Redfern, Sydney (Reg 1103/1901) just weeks before his father.⁷³ The John P Wilson living at Gray Rd in 1912 was probably thus from a different family, and is perhaps a coincidence.

Son William Alexander Ironside died in February 1908 also at Penrith (Reg 2855/1908), age 27; the headstone reads ‘Will our brother, Cilla and Magie’ so it is presumed that he didn’t marry.⁷⁴ No search has been done of the Probate Index⁷⁵.

Daughter Priscilla married Arthur Alexander Weiler in 1908 at Sydney (Reg 9567/1908). Newspaper reports in 1914 show that an Arthur Alex Weiler had been before the courts many times for matters such as fraud, and was subsequently jailed on various occasions; he

⁶⁴ Queensland Death Certificate *op cit*.

⁶⁵ Toowong Cemetery Burial Record *op cit*.

⁶⁶ *The Brisbane Courier* 5 June 1892 p 4.

⁶⁷ *The Queenslander* 23 April 1892 p 799.

⁶⁸ NSW Death Certificate 1901/015154 William Alexander Wilson; *The Brisbane Courier* 26 Oct 1901 p5

⁶⁹ *The Sydney Morning Herald* 26 October 1901 p.11.

⁷⁰ *The Brisbane Courier* 26 October 1901 p 5.

⁷¹ NSW Death Certificate 1901/015154 William Alexander Wilson.

⁷² *The Sydney Morning Herald* 28 October 1901 p 8.

⁷³ Death Certificate No 11103, also Rookwood Cemetery Headstone; *The Brisbane Courier* 1 Oct 1901 p5

⁷⁴ Death Certificate No 2855 and Headstone transcription.

⁷⁵ *The Sydney Morning Herald* 7 March 1908 p.8.

apparently had a gambling addiction.⁷⁶ In 1917 Priscilla took action in the Divorce Court against Arthur seeking ‘dissolution of the marriage on the grounds that the respondent had been imprisoned for crimes for the statutory period’.⁷⁷ In 1920 the couple were granted a ‘degree absolute’.⁷⁸ The court records are held at the National Archives.⁷⁹ There is no record of any children being born.⁸⁰ Priscilla is recorded as dying in NSW in 1941 aged 57 under her maiden name of Wilson at Burwood NSW (Reg 21279/1941).

Daughter Margaret married Walter Lewis Caspersonn in 1920 (Reg 2668/1920). A W L Caspersonn had enrolled in the Imperial Forces in World War I;⁸¹ he died in 1955 in Balmain (Reg 17319/1955). There is no record of any child being born; Margaret was buried under her maiden name in 1937 aged 51 at Burwood (Reg 23480/1937) perhaps indicating that she was divorced too, although no further information on this has been found.⁸²

It would thus seem there are no living direct descendents of W A & L M Wilson and the family generally did not have good health and extended lives.

5. THE OFFICIAL SUBURB OF ST LUCIA

For many years after the development of the various estates, the peninsular was known simply by the name of the estates at either Indooroopilly, Toowong, or after 1890, Taringa. The first Official use of the area name St Lucia may have been in 1889 when a Post Office service was provided at the *St Lucia Ferry* which operated for a while from the *St Lucia Estate* across to Boundary St, Highgate Hill.⁸³

The Map ‘Brisbane & Suburbs 1904’ shows the first discovered use of St Lucia in a generic form across the east end of the peninsular.⁸⁴ The names St Lucia and Ironside were used to describe suburbs, as opposed to Estates, on the official map of 1927.⁸⁵

The Post Office introduced ‘postal numbers’ in 1936, with St Lucia Taringa and Toowong codes being SW1, Indooroopilly and Long Pocket SW2, West End S1, Yeronga S3 etc⁸⁶. By 1955 St Lucia had its own postal number, SW6.⁸⁷

The Refidex from 1926 right through to 1965 used three suburb names for the area, but without definition between them:

‘St Lucia’ with the word situated over the area towards the end of today’s Sir Fred Schonell Dr.

‘Ironside St Lucia’ with the word situated over the area of the school.

‘Taringa’ with the word situated over the area between Gailey Rd, Sir Fred Schonell Dr and Ryans Rd.

From this it can be seen that the original Ironside name had moved completely from its original area near Guyatt Park to the school area up on Swann Rd. This was possibly because the Ironside Post Office ceased to exist circa 1910 (although the Guyatt general store remained trading), thus leaving the Ironside School as the only remaining representation of the name.

⁷⁶ *The Brisbane Courier* 17 February 1914 p.10; 23 July 1914 p.4.

⁷⁷ *The Sydney Morning Herald* 6 July 1917 p.8.

⁷⁸ *The Sydney Morning Herald* 24 March 1920 p.9.

⁷⁹ National Archives Series A10071 Control symbol 3147646 Barcode 3147646.

⁸⁰ NSW Register of Births Deaths and Marriages website accessed December 2006.

⁸¹ National Archives Series B2455 Barcode 9269425.

⁸² NSW Register of Births Deaths and Marriages website accessed December 2006.

⁸³ A. Darbyshire, 2004, *Posties Cops and Ferrymen Paper* No 7 St Lucia History Group.

⁸⁴ Map Brisbane & Suburbs 1904 Fryer Library G9004.B67.S15.1904.B7.

⁸⁵ *1927 Brisbane and Suburbs St Map*, John Oxley Library Maps 841.12.00016.

⁸⁶ *The Courier-Mail* 22 June 1936 p 19

⁸⁷ Brisbane map 1943, BCC Archives; *Refidex* for 1943 – 1955. Post Office Directory 1939.

The Refidex for 1966 only has the name St Lucia on it, and that repeated three times, covering the three areas referred to above.

The four-digit postcode system was introduced across Australia in 1967 based on delivery rounds, with St Lucia allocated its own number of 4067, although in later years the University was allocated a separate number – 4072. Toowong was allocated 4066; Long Pocket was considered part of Indooroopilly/Taringa both of whom were given the number 4068.⁸⁸

Ian Venables tells us that on the same day in 1967 that the postcode changed from letters and numbers to just numbers (SW6 to 4067), telephone letters and numbers changed to six digit numbers only.⁸⁹ Nanette Asher says that the prefix ‘U’ of Toowong and St Lucia changed to a ‘7’.⁹⁰ Ian also says that car registrations changed from numbers only to letters and numbers about that time but others suggest it was in fact late 1950s. Also the 000 number previously used only for FIRE now became the general number for FIRE POLICE and AMBULANCE and also at about this time the ‘Red Phone’ was introduced with a charge of sixpence⁹¹

Mr Ian Hutchings Principal Cartographer Place Names, Department of Environment and Resources Management advised the following in a phone conversation 17 November 2005:

The Department are responsible for naming towns, suburbs, and natural features such as creeks. Local Government is responsible for naming artificial features such as parks and streets. The Queensland Place Names Act of 1958 was the first of its kind, and any name that was on a map produced by the Surveyor General was recognised as an approved name. [Thus St Lucia and Ironside were both formally recognised.]

In 1975 a Government Committee reviewed place names in Brisbane and a new Place Names Act and boundaries map was gazetted on 16 August 1975. The suburb of St Lucia formally came into being, containing also the neighbourhood of Ironside (specific area not indicated).

Boundaries on previous maps had traditionally run down the middle of the road but a committee member from the Post Office persuaded the Committee to adopt the ‘rose garden’ approach to locating the exact boundary. Under this approach the boundary was deemed to be ‘behind the (front) rose garden,’ so that houses on both sides of any street had their post boxes in the same suburb – allowing the one postman to deliver to both sides of the street. (Thus from 1975, properties on the St Lucia side of Gailey Rd were transferred from the suburb of St Lucia to that of Taringa.)

Since 1997 the DNR has been progressively relocating suburb boundaries from the ‘rose garden’ to the rear property line.⁹²

Today the whole peninsular is known as St Lucia, although some maps do still show Ironside as being the area around Ironside St and the Ironside State School. The Ironside name extended south over Carmody Rd from *Ironside Estate* over one hundred years ago, when the school was renamed to reflect its postal address – Ironside Post Office and Store in 1895. The land on the south side from *Ironside Estate* was hilly and unsuitable for economical building – even today much of it is occupied by a gully and the Emmanuel Scout Den and the Girl Guide hut. No other buildings were in the vicinity of the school so this area was unnamed – until it adopted the name of the school, appearing first on the 1927 map. Perhaps because *Ironside Estate* was by then bisected by St Lucia Rd, and the Post Office component of *Ironside Post Office and Store* closed in 1911 the locale of Ironside shifted its position.

⁸⁸ Burke K, *The Stamp of Australia*, 2009, Allen and Unwin, p.156.

⁸⁹ I Venables speaking at SLHG meeting 22 October 2011

⁹⁰ Email Nanette Asher 28 November 2011.

⁹¹ *Inala District Gazette* December 1960. JOL

⁹² Pers. Comm. Mr Ian Hutchings Principal Cartographer (PI Names) Department of Natural Resources and Mines 17 November 2005.

The Government Gazette of 16 August 1975 is still current and recognises St Lucia as having the status of 'suburb'. It is separated from its neighbours generally by Toowong Creek, Gailey Rd, the southern leg of Indooroopilly Rd, and Sandy Creek through the Golf Course.

Under the same Gazette, Ironside is recognised as a 'neighbourhood' within St Lucia.

These days suburb and town names are the responsibility of the Queensland Place Names Board, and street names the responsibility of the Street Name Nomenclature Officer of the Brisbane City Council.