

THE CONTACTOR IS ONE OF THE ORIGINALS FROM BRISBANE ROAD MICKLEOVER. (IT WAS IN THE COLUMN OPPOSITE THE JUNCTION OF MURRAY ROAD) SEVERAL OF THESE WERE USED TO GROUP SWITCH ALL THE LAMPS FROM THE JUNCTION OF WESTERN RD UP TO RANGEMOOR CLOSE, INCLUDING MURRAY RD AND ALL THE CLOSES OFF BRISBANE ROAD. (AND DARWIN RD & ITS CLOSES).

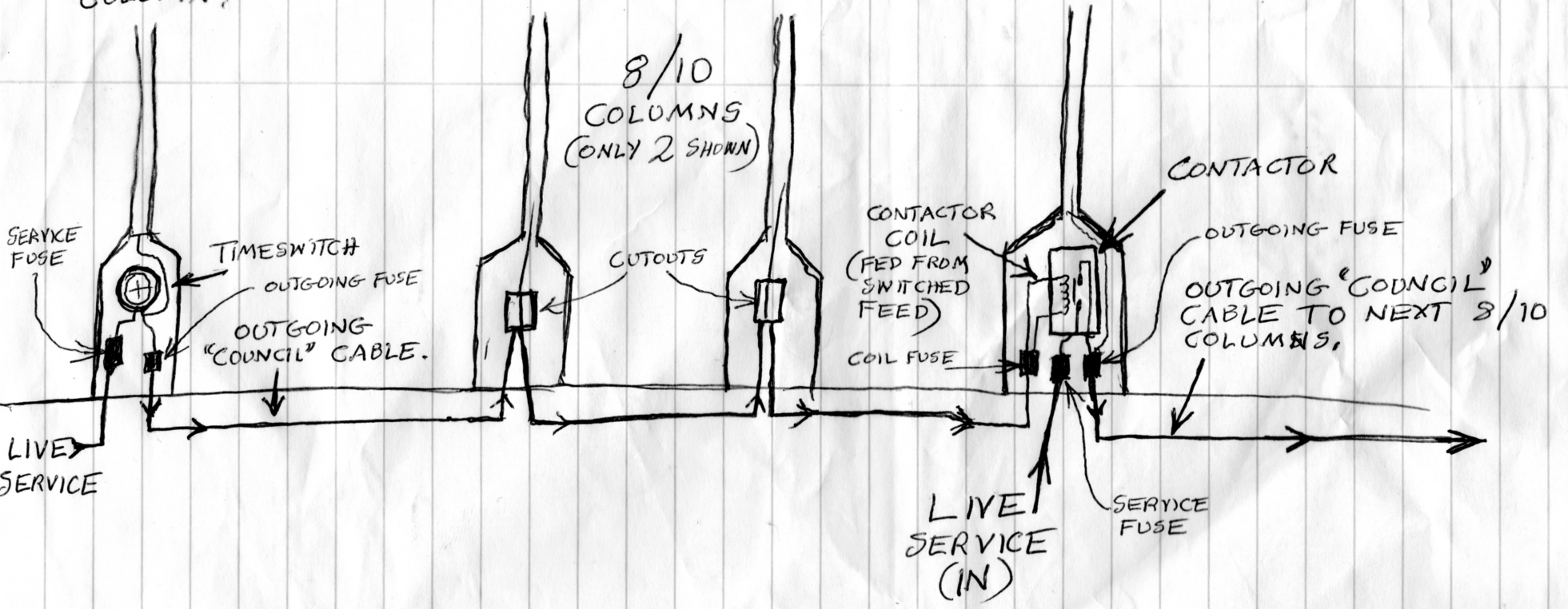
A SANGAMO CLOCK (IN THE FIRST COLUMN ON BRISBANE RD FROM WESTERN RD) SWITCHED THE FIRST 8/10 COLUMNS. IN THE LAST ONE THE SWITCHED FEED WOULD SWITCH THE COIL OF ONE OF THESE CONTACTORS. THE CONTACTOR WOULD SWITCH AN ELECTRICITY BOARD SERVICE ON TO THE OUTGOING CABLE WHICH WOULD SWITCH THE NEXT 8/10 COLUMNS. THIS WOULD BE REPEATED IN THE LAST COLUMN, AND, THUS, 5 OR 6 OF THESE CONTACTORS WOULD SWITCH, VIRTUALLY, THE WHOLE ESTATE FROM ONE CLOCK.

INTERESTINGLY, WHEN THE WHOLE SYSTEM WAS MADE PERMANENTLY LIVE (AROUND 1991) AND INDIVIDUAL PHOTOCELLS FITTED TO EACH LAMP (THATS WHEN THOSE LITTLE G.E.C. LANTERNS WERE FITTED — BEFORE THIS THERE WERE 'OLD' TYPE LESS-GEAR BETA 5's, FITTED AROUND 1971, AND BEFORE THIS ESLA'S WITH 100W TUNGSTENS) — ALL THEY DID WAS TO REMOVE THE CONTROL-POINT CLOCK AND MAKE THIS PERMANENTLY LIVE. THE CONTACTORS WERE LEFT ALONE BUT WITH THE COILS PERMANENTLY ENERGISED. THIS MEANT THAT IF, AS OCCASIONALLY HAPPENED, A FUSE WENT, THE CONTACTOR WOULD "DROP" OUT AND ALL THE CONTACTORS "UPSTREAM" WOULD ALSO SWITCH OFF, PLUNGING WHOLE PARTS OF THE ESTATE INTO DARKNESS.

I'VE DRAWN A ROUGH DIAGRAM OF THIS OLD SYSTEM WHICH WAS UNLIKE OTHER GROUP-SWITCHED SYSTEMS WHICH UTILISED AN EXTRA CORE IN THE MAINS CABLE (HENCE THE TERM "5TH CORE"). THE SAME SYSTEM WITH CONTACTORS WAS USED AROUND TOWN ALSO UP TILL THE LATE 70'S.

1ST COLUMN,

8/10 COLUMNS (ONLY 2 SHOWN)



TIMESWITCH  
OUTGOING FUSE  
OUTGOING "COUNCIL" CABLE.

CUTOUTS

CONTACTOR COIL (FED FROM SWITCHED FEED)  
COIL FUSE

CONTACTOR

OUTGOING FUSE  
OUTGOING "COUNCIL" CABLE TO NEXT 8/10 COLUMNS,

LIVE SERVICE (IN)

SERVICE FUSE