

Changes in transport involved the substitution of trams for trolley buses in the early 1950s and later again by buses. Changes to the rail system included the new Westrail Centre on West Parade (1976) with interstate rail and bus terminals.

The drop in demand for housing in Perth led to lower rents in the 1960s and early 1970s and, with less income, many of the houses and shops became very dilapidated. The health authorities condemned some of the worst of these buildings. Bakers Terrace was condemned in the 1950s, but was later saved and is now State Heritage listed.

1971-2005

Some new residential building took place in the early 1970s with blocks of flats being erected, but the overall decline in residents forced many shopkeepers out. However, an influx of Asian immigrants from the late 1970s did introduce some new enterprises into the area, and they took over the smaller retail outlets.

Larger commercial firms began to move into the area in the 1970s and 1980s. The busy streets — Newcastle, William and Beaufort — were particularly vulnerable and the result was the demolition of numbers of small shops and dwellings. They were replaced by large-scale outlets, warehouses, car yards and small office blocks. Those families who did remain in the old-style houses began to feel out of place.

The situation changed considerably with a later revival of inner city living. Old houses were renovated by young couples and developers moved in, replacing the older homes and business premises with town houses and low-level apartment complexes. A number of old factories were also turned into apartment complexes.

The 1990s saw the beginnings of large-scale urban redevelopment, with much of it taking place after 1994 when the area became part of the newly-created Town of Vincent. Since that time the profile of the area has improved, aided by the increased attention it now receives from a smaller local government authority.

SOURCES AND FURTHER READING IN THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Books

- Darcy, Roma, *Report on Heritage Places in Highgate: Hyde Park Precinct*
Perth: National Trust of Australia, 1990 994.11 HIG
- Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth*
Perth: City of Perth, 1979. 994.11 STA
- Town of Vincent Municipal Heritage Inventory

Vertical Files

- Chinese Market Gardens
Dilhorn House
East Perth Football Club
Graham Farmer Freeway
Lee Hop's Cottage
Loton, Sir William Thorley
Northbridge Tunnel and Tunnel Top
Perth Oval
Robertson Park/Old Bottle Yard

Oral History tapes and transcripts

There are many interviews in the collection with residents and former residents of Perth. Some suggestions are:

- Reg Axford & Harold Munday OH0091
Nick Catania OH0086
Elza Hughes OH0092

Local Studies and History Collection
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SUBURB PERTH



Hotel Northbridge 2004
(formerly Royal Standard Hotel)

Within the Town of Vincent boundaries 'Perth' stretches northwards from Newcastle and Parry streets to Lincoln and Vincent streets, east to Fitzgerald Street and west to West Parade.

HISTORY

Pre 1870

The first inhabitants were Aborigines, attracted to Third Swamp [Hyde Park] and the other wetland areas by the abundance of fresh water and food.

Following European settlement, much of Perth was kept as Crown Land and reserved for future expansion. The exceptions to this were Thomas William Mews' acreage at 'Lakes Perth' and two other land grants, Swan Locations A4 and A3, which were allocated to WB Andrews and AH Stone. The southern portion of Perth was placed under the jurisdiction of the Perth Town Trust in 1838.

Large portions of Perth flooded during heavy winters, but it proved to be ideal for growing vegetables and fruit so the government began draining it in 1850. In 1858 William Phelps, the Colony's Assistant Surveyor, marked out lots around Thompson's and Stone's Lakes and up as far as Lincoln Street. In 1865 nine more farm lots were added in the area bounded by Lincoln, Lord and Beaufort streets.

1871-1890

Several more areas were drained including Second Swamp and five lots at Lake Henderson. Three of the latter were purchased in 1873 by ex-convict James Fox for a market garden.

In 1876 the North Ward was created. This stretched from Roe Street to Vincent Street and encouraged suburban development. The Guildford Track (later Lord Street) was upgraded and several new roads including Summers and Palmerston streets were built. John S Brooking, a surveyor, built a substantial home 'Lakeside' at 106 Palmerston Street in 1885. The same year Richard Gallop was granted four acres of land on Palmerston/Lake Street, where he grew vegetables and planted an orange grove. At the southern end of Palmerston Street were small, wooden cottages for lower income earners, with some small scale factories scattered between them. The opening of East Perth station in 1881 led to

settlement in that part. However, it also changed the geography of the area as streets such as Summers Street and Claisebrook Road were cut in two.

Third Swamp was reserved for public use sometime before 1877 and by 1883 it had become known as Hyde Park. Several weatherboard houses were erected opposite it in Glendower Street at this time.

1891-1899

At the beginning of the 1890s there were few houses as much of Perth was still scrubland. The 1890s Gold Rush brought a huge influx of prospectors to the State, many of whom became permanent settlers. Perth's proximity to the City (further improved by the Barrack Street Bridge in 1894) made the area attractive to settlers, but the excessive demand caused a tent city to develop in Hyde Park.

Continuing demand for housing led to several new subdivisions. 'Central Perth Estate' was developed in 1892 at Lake Thompson. Houses were erected on William, Newcastle, Lindsay and Money streets and several shops along Newcastle and William streets.

Another subdivision was carried out by the Colonial Finance Corporation between Brookman, Moir and Lake streets and Forbes Road, but the practice of having factories interspersed with workers cottages continued. In Lake Street for example, there was also a two-storeyed factory erected for the Australian Boot Manufacturing Co. circa 1900.

Zebina Lane & Co. was responsible for the Westralia (1895), Norwood (1896) and East Norwood subdivisions on the eastern side. A further, more expensive subdivision was the 1896 'Brooking Park Estate'. This consisted of nine lots in the area around Palmerston Street and Orange Avenue.

Some streets in these developments had more than one name, and when the Perth Council took over their responsibility in the 1890s the names were standardised. For example Newcastle Street had Ellen Street in the middle and Mangles Street to the east, but was gazetted Newcastle Street the entire length in 1897. Street signs were also erected and a standardised numbering system introduced.

The development of Hyde Park took place during this period, to include two lakes with bird sanctuary islands in the middle. This attracted some of the wealthier members of the community to its surrounds. Amongst them was George Throssell (later elected

as the State's Premier), who built a substantial home in 1901 overlooking the park.

While the area's proximity to the City meant that those who worked in Perth could walk to work, transport in the area was much improved with the introduction of electric trams along the main routes.

1900-1919

By 1900 Chinese immigrants were well established in commercial market gardening at Robertson Park, Birdwood Square and Stone's Lake. They worked the soil by hand, using makeshift tools and traditional Chinese methods. There were problems with flooding at Robertson Park [Lake Henderson] until 1908 when a special drain was constructed.

Robertson Park was designated as a park in 1913 and Birdwood Square [Lake Poulet] was also turned into a public reserve with a playing field. The latter led to the construction of more substantial homes opposite in Baker Avenue.

In 1907 the Wilson sisters established Ormiston College in Palmerston Street. This was later purchased by Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC) but continued to operate until 1918. Another private school, Bedford Ladies' College, opened at 91 Stirling Street.

Home building peaked around 1897 but with World War I, commercial and residential construction came almost to a halt.

1920-1946

There was a housing boom in the 1920s as many young couples and new migrants from countries such as Britain, Italy and Greece needed housing. The migrant influence meant Continental delicatessens began to appear.

Many local families were severely affected by the Great Depression, which began in 1929, and all commercial development was put on hold.

1947-1970

After World War II the suburb's popularity declined. People preferred the new suburbs as commercial expansion began to encroach on the residential areas, changing the character of the busier streets.



PLACES OF INTEREST

TOWN OF VINCENT

1 Bakers Terrace 156-184 Lake Street

Two-storey row of residences erected in 1897. This row of terrace houses was named after Robert Baker, a cartage contractor who lived opposite at number 163. State Heritage listed.



2 The Maltings cnr Stuart and Palmerston streets

Built as a brewery in 1899 for David William Harwood who established the Perth Pneumatic Maltings Company. In 1907 it was changed to Harwood's Brewing Company until 1913, when the Union Brewery took it over and it became the Union Brewery Ltd (Perth) on 1 January 1914. State Heritage listed. Converted to apartments in 1999.



3 "The Witch's Hat" 148 Palmerston Street

Built circa 1898. Large two-storey residence with a bow verandah and a turret with Gothic influences. Built for William Dartnell, an engineer and one of the designers of the Horseshoe and Barrack Street bridges.



4 Hyde Park cnr William and Vincent streets

An Aboriginal hunting and camping area originally known as Third Swamp. Later a camping ground for the bullock wagoners and men on their way to the Goldfields. Designed as a park in 1898 by Lyall Hall, Hyde Park included two lakes with island bird sanctuaries in the middle. Shelter sheds, picnic and barbecue areas, two playgrounds for children and a rotunda were all added in subsequent years. It has remained a popular park and in more recent years has been home to the annual Hyde Park Fair. State Heritage listed.



5 15 Throssell Street

Built in 1901 for George Throssell, the second Premier of Western Australia and MLC for the Eastern Province from 1907 until his death in 1910.



6 206 Newcastle Street (cnr Newcastle and William streets)

Erected in 1935 in the Art Deco style. Originally the Midland Bus Co. depot and offices. Later a restaurant and offices.



7 Hotel Northbridge 196-198 Brisbane Street

Built 1897-1898. Originally known as the Royal Standard Hotel, it was built at the time of the early Gold Boom.



Early records indicate that there was a shop as part of the hotel building. The Swan Brewery took over the hotel from 1915.

The original verandahs were removed sometime between the 1930s and 1950s, but were replicated by the current owner during renovations completed in 1999.

8 Dilhorn House 2 Bulwer Street

This heritage-listed mansion was designed by Talbot Hobbs for William Thorley Loton and erected in 1897 at a cost of £4,684. Loton, a wealthy merchant with large land holdings in the north-west of the State, was Lord Mayor of Perth from 1901 to 1903 and knighted in 1923. After Lady Loton's death in 1927, Dilhorn had various owners and was used as a boarding house. In 1952 the Commonwealth Government purchased it for £13,000 for the headquarters for various army units and later the Army Museum of WA. In 2001 it was sold to a private buyer.



9 Perth Oval Lord Street

William Loton sold Loton's Paddock to the Perth City Council in 1904 to be used as a public reserve. In 1906 it was adopted by the East Perth Football Club as its home ground. It became officially known as Perth Oval in 1910. An open-air picture garden operated near the entrance gates during summer from 1911 to 1921. In 1932 large metal gates were erected to provide an impressive new entry to the ground. A new grandstand and clubrooms followed in 1956 and the orientation of the ground was changed from east-west to north-south. When East Perth's tenancy finished in 2004, the oval was revamped as a multi-purpose rectangular sports stadium and leased to the Perth Glory Soccer Club. It was renamed Members Equity Stadium. A further upgrade to make the ground suitable for Super 14 rugby will be carried out during 2005-06. Perth Oval was heritage listed in 1998.



10 Lee Hop's cottage 176 Fitzgerald Street

Built on the corner of Robertson Park [Lake Henderson] in 1903 by Dr Daniel Kenny who had purchased the property in the 1890s. Lee Hop occupied the cottage from 1903 to 1914. Altogether around six Chinese men worked the 18 acres of market garden. Lake Henderson was filled in during the early 1920s and by 1928 the market gardening had ceased. Later residents of the cottage included the park's first caretaker, James Imray. Owned by the Town of Vincent since 1995, conservation works were completed in 2003 by Central TAFE students from the Aboriginal Programs Centre. Leased in 2003 to Great Mates WA, an organisation which assists disadvantaged and at risk youth.



11 Robertson Park 176 Fitzgerald Street

A natural wetland known originally as Lake Henderson, it was first drained in 1852 for market gardening. James Fox, an ex-convict, worked the land there and by 1893, when it was sold to John Chipper, several farm buildings had been erected. Sold to Dr Daniel Kenny in the 1890s who built a four-roomed brick and iron cottage there in 1903. Used as a Chinese market garden. Established as a council reserve in 1913, tennis courts and pavilion built in 1929, children's library and playground established in 1930s. A recycling bottle factory operated on the south-east corner.

In 1990 and 2004 there were extensive upgrades to tennis facilities. Conservation work and recreation of a wetland began in 2002.

12 Brisbane Street Post Office 115 Brisbane Street

Constructed in 1896 with living quarters alongside for the postmaster. Now listed with the National Trust.



Town of Vincent is a TravelSmart town and encourages residents to walk, cycle or catch public transport for local trips.



It's how you get there that counts

13 Masonic Temple 110 Brisbane Street

Designed by WG Bennett and built in the Art Deco style in 1936. St Cuthbert's Lodge, which was dedicated to the 'Great Architect of the Universe'.



14 Perth Mosque 427-429 William Street (cnr William and Robinson streets)

Designed and built by Din Mohammed in 1904, with funds raised by Muslim camel drivers who were originally from Pakistan. These men drove the camel teams which carried supplies from Perth to the Goldfields.



15 Perth Vietnamese Buddhist Temple 45 Money Street

Erected in 1990. Shrine in the temple garden depicting a four-headed Thai Buddha was a gift from a Thai national.



16 Loton Park Tennis Pavilion 29 Bulwer Street (cnr Bulwer and Lord streets)

Erected circa 1917 with a wide, raised verandah for spectators. The exotic planting on the bank at the rear was done when the pavilion was built. State Heritage listed.



17 Birdwood Square (Lake Poulett) cnr Beaufort and Brisbane streets

Part of Perth's original chain of lakes and later drained. Used as a rubbish tip between 1870-1890. Named after Lord Birdwood, a prominent general during World War I. Later developed as a playing field and used for hockey and baseball.

18 Brisbane Hotel 292 Beaufort Street (cnr Beaufort and Brisbane streets)

Built circa 1920. The upstairs guest rooms attracted travellers as there were also horse stables at the rear. In the 1960s the hotel housed a prestigious upstairs restaurant and from the 1990s the second floor was converted to a space for the Effie Crump Theatre. The hotel and theatre were closed for extensive renovations in 2003. The hotel reopened under new management at the end of 2004.



19 Shops 452-460 William Street

Built 1915. Row of two-storey shops with retail premises on the ground floor and living quarters above.

