

MICK MICHAEL RESERVE, WEST PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Mick Michael Reserve
Other names	Royal Park Bowling Club
Place type	Urban Park

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	17978
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	413 Bulwer St
Locality	West Perth
Survey	LOT: 256 D/P: 182072 LOT: 257 D/P: 182072 LOT: 258 D/P: 182072
Vol/folio	33/327
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Has some altered or modified elements, not necessarily detracting from the overall significance of the item.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 3</p> <p>Conservation of the place is desirable.</p> <p>Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and retain original fabric where feasible.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The park and the hall in the centre have aesthetic value as a leafy green space located in a dense urban environment.</p> <p>The Royal Park Hall is good simple expression of the Post War International style executed in brick.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the Royal Park Bowling Club which operated from this site from 1965 to 1995 and was well attended by the community.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with Mick Michael who made a significant contribution to the City of Vincent and the wider Perth community.</p> <p>The place has social value for the members of the community who use the place for informal recreation and for those who used the place as a bowling club.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Social/Recreational: Other
Current use	Park/Reserve
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1965-1975; 1998
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	Park/Reserve
Physical description	The former bowling club is a part single and part double storey building with a low pitched gable roof above highlight windows. Sets of French doors open onto the verandahs along both long sides of the building. The former bowling club has recently been sympathetically and handsomely adapted for use as a community facility. The former grounds of the bowling club have been converted into an attractive park with extensive lawns and semi mature trees, together with paths and cycleways which link the resurgent residential area to the east and south of the Reserve to the facilities of Beatty Park and Charles Veryard Reserve.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The building is the former home of the Royal Park Bowling Club, which was an important social institution in the West Perth area. The land which was developed as a club house and bowling greens in 1965, was known as Royal Park until the club closed on 30 June 1997.

It was proposed in 2000 that Royal Park became part of the Vincent Greenway. This was a 2-5 kilometre green parkway linking seven parks in the Town of Vincent, which follow a valley formally occupied by lakes in the Claisebrook Catchment area. The lakes were gradually altered, commencing with the drainage of Lake Henderson (Robertson Park) in 1873 through to the 1970's draining of Smith's Lake. The closure of the bowling club made it possible to link the adjacent Mick Michael Park with Beatty Park.

Mick Michael was a well-known businessman and a prominent member of the local Greek community, whose family resided in the area. Like many of the area's residents, Mick Michael was of Greek origin from the island of Kastelorizo (Megisti), Greece. He was Lord Mayor of the City of Perth from 1982 to 1988 and this brother, Dr Ken Michael AC, was the Governor of Western Australia (2006-2011).

The former bowling club is now the Royal Park Hall which can be hired for functions, and the former bowling greens are now parks, beach volleyball courts and playgrounds.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate that there were few changes to the park and bowling club building until the late 1990s when the three grass bowling areas were removed, the volleyball court added and a second structure beside the bowling club building was erected. The two buildings were later linked. There have been no visible structural changes since then.

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Recreation - Sport Social Services: General Social Services
Associations	
Sources	Landgate Aerial photographs Municipal Heritage Inventory 2014.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



Aerial Photograph 1965. Courtesy Landgate