

HOUSE, 54 COWLE ST, WEST PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	House, 54 Cowle St
Other names	
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	17994
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 29 Dec 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	54 Cowle St
Locality	West Perth
Survey	LOT: 60 D/P: 414285
Vol/folio	2959/947
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Considerable</p> <p>Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 2</p> <p>Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The place has aesthetic value as a fine and intact example of the Federation Queen Anne style which is a landmark in the streetscape.</p> <p>The earlier portion of the building is likely to reveal evidence of detail of Victorian Georgian style.</p> <p>The place reflects the expansion and development of residential buildings on the city fringes during the rapid population increase of 1890's gold boom and the early years of the twentieth century.</p> <p>The place is closely associated with Alfred Roworth and market gardens which operated in the vicinity until the mid 20th century.</p> <p>This place is valued by the community for the continuity of its presence in the streetscape which contributes to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE

Original use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Current use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Construction date	1884; 1904
Walls	Brick
Roof	Corrugated metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Federation Queen Anne

Physical description

The dwelling is a Federation Queen Anne Bungalow constructed from brick and red corrugated iron sheeting.

It has a front facing gable with a small awning over the bay window. There are three sash windows located on the bay. This front section of the dwelling is an addition to the original rear part of the dwelling that was constructed c1884.

A separate skillion verandah extends along the façade of the dwelling and is supported by turned timber posts. Two stucco bands situated at the top and bottom of the windows run along the façade. The front door is situated next to the bay window and two sash windows are located past the front door. Two brick chimneys are in the rear section of the dwelling and have rendered corbelled and decorative elements. The dwelling has a hipped roof. The front of the dwelling is built on limestone blocks. A rendered brick pier fence delineates the property from the street of which a concrete paved pathway leads to the front entrance of the dwelling. A manhole is located under the skillion addition, allowing access under the dwelling. A corrugated sheeting shed is located a few metres behind the dwelling and a brick toilet is also located behind the dwelling, close to the property boundary with No. 48.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Cowle Street is located on the former Lake Henderson. In the 1870s Charles Street became a major road in the area and settlers established dairy farms and market gardens along the lake's length, such as in the area along Cowle Street. The land of Lake Henderson was taken up quickly for market gardens, one area was bought by James Fox, at what is now Robertson Park. Perth town Lot Y207 was sold for 9 pounds in June 1870.

This dwelling (No.54) includes the oldest cottage to have been constructed in Cowle Street, which is one of the five oldest remaining houses in the Town of Vincent.

The land was purchased by market gardener Walter Edward Joseph Gallop (Joseph) who also owned the adjacent lots, number Y219, 220 and 221, totalling about 16,000 square metres (four acres). Gallop had arrived in Western Australia in 1829 with his brothers Edward and James. Joseph Gallop died in the 1890s and the land was passed onto his two daughters. Gallop Street, located nearby, is named after him. Gallop constructed the house in 1884 and sold the property shortly afterwards. Mrs T. W. Williams purchased the property in 1884 and then around 1887 sold it to George Bandy, a carrier and later Post Office official, and his wife Elizabeth is listed.

The house was built in two stages, the first being a square cottage with verandahs at the front and rear, and a shingled roof. George Bandy applied for a building licence in 1904 and additions to the front which were more elaborate were carried out shortly afterwards. At some stage the original shingled roof was also replaced with corrugated iron. The City of Perth Metropolitan Sewerage Plan shows that No. 54 is different from most of the dwellings along the street due to this 1904 front extension. The front rooms of the dwelling were widened as compared to the rear and the bay window which projected from the facade was also a distinguishing feature. George Bandy was a keen gardener, and his orchard was well-known to the young lads of the area. To stop them stealing his fruit and mulberries, he planted a hedge of briar roses along the rear fence and set bee hives under the fruit trees. He also bred racing pigeons on the property and held several speed awards.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1908, the property was re-numbered from No. 40 to No. 54 due to the increase in dwellings along the street. Between 1932 and 1935 there were short term residents living at the property. This reflects the transient nature of lifestyles during the Depression era.

In 1940 it was listed as vacant and in 1940/1941 the property was sold to Alfred R. Roworth, who was already the owner of No. 40 since 1927. The 1949 Post Office Directory shows Arthur G. Chick as the resident. In 1936 the site of Dorrien Gardens was cleared and in the 1950s the Perth City Council established a soccer ground behind the dwellings on the north side of Cowle Street.

In 1941, Alfred Roworth also purchased Nos. 44 and 54 in order to expand his nursery business which operated on reclaimed land at the rear of No. 40. The land at the rear of No. 54 was subsequently used for seeding beds.

In the 1940s the Perth City Council commenced discussions to further extend Dorrien Gardens. In a land transfer undertaken in the 1970s the land of which the subject place is located was purchased by the Perth City Council and transferred to Mr A. R. Roworth in exchange for land to the north of the subject property. Roworth gained as compensation Nos. 28 - 30, 32, 60 and 70A and 70B. Once transferred to the City of Perth the land north of the subject place was consolidated with the existing land that formed Dorrien Gardens. The same thing happened to part of the Mangan's property (No. 48) and, according to John Mangan his mother, Mrs A Mangan, had a written agreement with the Perth City Council that any unused land would be sold back to her. Unfortunately, this agreement only lasted while she lived and the land that was left over was sold to a neighbour rather than back to the Mangan family. In 2007 Alfred Roworth still owned Nos. 28-30, 32, 40, 44, 48, 54, 60, 62 and 70A and 70B.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate that the form and extent of the residence have changed little since that time, with the exception of a new roof installed in 2021. The residences either side of the subject place were demolished around 2016 to make way for a new apartment development.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Peopling WA: Demographic development Cultural Life: Domestic Life Governing: Government and Politics Economy: Commerce	
Associations	Alfred Roworth	Owner and businessman
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

