

# COTTAGES, 5-15 COWLE ST, WEST PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Cottages, 5-15 Cowle St
Other names	
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	17992
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Individual building or group

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	5 - 15 Cowle St
Locality	West Perth
Survey	
Vol/folio	
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p><b>Considerable</b></p> <p>Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity.</p>
Management category	<p><b>Category 2</b></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>This group of cottages are rare intact examples of cottages in the Victorian Georgian style with minor differences in detail demonstrating individual expression.</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 group of cottages 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

<b>Original use</b>	Residential: Single Storey Residence
<b>Current use</b>	Residential: Single Storey Residence
<b>Other use</b>	

### CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

<b>Construction date</b>	1896; c1899; 1912
<b>Walls</b>	Brick
<b>Roof</b>	Corrugated metal sheeting
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Georgian

#### Physical description

The adjoined dwellings at No. 5 and No. 7 Cowle Street are identical in design with the name 'Lena Cottage' inscribed on the stepped pediment of No. 5 'Ivy Cottage' on No.7.

The two dwellings feature front verandahs with a bullnose roof supported by turned timber posts and filigree angles and valance. The front windows are a pair of spaced double hung sashes.

The dwellings are a pattern book model borrowed from the eastern states where detached dwellings were often constructed in similar details to form rows or terraces.

No. 9 Cowle Street is a brick and iron dwelling constructed in the Victorian Georgian style of architecture, featuring the typical symmetrical features of this style with a central doorway and casement windows either side. The subject house is a detached cottage located between parapet side walls. The dwelling has a single room frontage and the front entrance and hallway extend along the eastern boundary of the dwelling. The dwelling features a bull nose verandah supported by timber turn posts.

No. 11 and 15 Cowle Street are brick and iron dwelling constructed in the Victorian Georgian style of architecture, featuring front verandahs no. 11 with a bullnose roof and no. 15 an awning roof both supported by turned timber posts.

### CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

<b>Physical description</b>	Both properties have narrow frontages with a minimal setback from the street.
<b>Condition</b>	Good
<b>Integrity</b>	High
<b>Authenticity</b>	High

### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Cowle Street was named circa 1870 after James Cowle, a government surveyor who surveyed the allotments in the area. It borders Dorrien Gardens, a recreation area development on the former Lake Henderson. Market gardening activities were carried out on the bed of Lake Henderson after it was drained in the early 1870s; the drain running through Dorrien Gardens, Robertson Park and beyond. The European gardeners were followed by Chinese market gardeners who operated until the early 1920s.

The earliest residence in the street date from 1884, and at least 10 existing places are shown on the 1897 PWD sewerage plans. In the 1950s the Perth City Council acquired the vacant land behind the residences on the north side of the street and established a soccer ground, Dorrien Gardens Reserve, on the former lake bed.

Lot Y198 encompassing what are now Nos. 5, 7, 9 and 13/15 Cowle Street was sold on 6 October 1875 for £9 pounds. John Elsegood, the original owner of this land also owned Y199 and Y201. Mr Elsegood was contracted to erect the Perth-Albany-Eucla telegraph line in the 1870s. In 1897, he was the proprietor of the City Hotel on the corner of Murray and King Streets and in the 1880s he established the Guildford brickworks.

The subject dwelling at No. 5 Cowle Street 'Lena Cottage' first appears in the City of Perth Rates book in 1900 with the owner being Mr John Campbell, a Railway employee, who built the two cottages at No. 5 and No. 7 Cowle Street. Campbell resided at No. 5, and rented out No. 7 or 'Ivy Cottage' (rented to Mrs Collins in 1900). Campbell sold both of the properties in 1913. This information correlates partly with the information in the Wise's Postal Directory which shows that J. C. Campbell resided at No. 5 (numbered No. 3 in the Wise Postal Directory in 1900) and Joseph Collins at No. 7 (listed as No. 5).

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Wise's Post Office Directories also indicate that both Nos. 5 and 7 Cowle Street were generally leased, with rapid turn overs in tenancies. In 1909 No. 5 and No. 7 Cowle Street are listed for the first time as the numbers by which they are known today, with the occupier of No. 5 being Mrs Margaret Foley and Mr William Opie residing at No. 7 Cowle Street. Prior to 1909 the numbering of the two dwellings is irregular with No. 3 being listed as what is now No. 5 and No. 5 listed as what is now No. 7 Cowle Street.

The longest occupant to have resided at No. 5 Cowle Street was Mrs Annie O'Conner (a dress maker) from 1941 until at least 1949 and the longest one at No. 7 Cowle Street was Mr John Baker from 1923 until at least 1949. The Bakers had four children - Bill, Jack, Ronald and Joyce. Bill, a footballer, played for West Perth and was a member of their 1941 Premiership team. After he joined the army during World War II he played with an army team and coached the younger enlisted men. Harold Mundy, a neighbour from No. 28, said that as young boys, he and Jacky and Billy Baker would *'walk right down the river to the foreshorelike Spring Street. Right around, picking up bottles that the yachtsmen had thrown out. We got a sugar bag and carried them all the way back up there to get a halfpenny for them... each. It was worth it. Better than nothing.'*

The residence at No. 9 Cowle Street appears on the 1897 PWD sewerage plans, and it is first listed in the City of Perth Rates Books that year. The house was built in 1896 by Michael Park, a retired civil servant who resided there until 1904. The Post Office Directories list him there early on and then some turnover until the Ferrie family in the 1930s. One of their daughters married 'Checker' O'Keefe, another West Perth footballer, and the other married Doug Irvine, also a well-known sportsman. By 1949 No. 9 was occupied by Mrs Catherine Irvine.

No. 13 & 15 (No. 11) Cowle Street was constructed by Pierce Mangan in 1912 and rented to Cecil Farley that year. A number of changes in tenancy followed. In 1930 it was occupied by Alfred Mills and in 1949 by Jack Lynch. Mr Mangan owned a number of other properties in the area, including No. 15 Cowle Street and the family home at No. 48. On his death the properties passed to his children and were eventually disposed of in 2000.

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate that the subject places received replacement roofs around the 1980s and early 2000s. No. 13 & 15 had an extension added in the early 2000s as well. Aside from these, there is very little visible change to the subject places.

<b>Historic theme</b>	Cultural Life: Domestic Life Peopling WA: Demographic Development
<b>Associations</b>	
<b>Sources</b>	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

