

HIGHGATE HILL POLICE STATION, LOCKUP & QUARTERS (FMR), PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Highgate Hill Police Station, Lockup & Quarters (fmr)
Other names	Highgate Police Station, Lockup & Quarters
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	4282
State Heritage Register:	12 May 2000
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995 Classified by the National Trust Classified 11 Sep 2000

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	57 Lincoln St
Locality	Perth
Survey	LOT: 800 D/P: 64064
Vol/folio	LR3158/551
Reserve	RES: 6245

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Exceptional Essential to the heritage of the area. Rare or outstanding example. Consider for nomination for State Register of Heritage Places if not already included.
Management category	Category 1 The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.
Statement of significance	<p>This former Police Station is a good example of government architecture in the Federation Bungalow style in the early 1900s.</p> <p>The Police Station represents the development of the Western Australia Police Forces, dating from its construction in 1897 as a part of the gold rush era and public works boom, to the 1960s and its changes in use.</p> <p>Highgate Hill Police Station is a feature of the development of the North Perth suburb, its construction represents the need for a permanent police station in this area.</p> <p>This place is the first police station built in Highgate, and represents the continued presence of law and order in that suburb.</p> <p>This place is valued by the local community for being a landmark feature of the Highgate townscape. It is also highly valued for its continued and reliable presence in the community as a police station from 1897 to 1940.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Governmental : Police Station
Current use	Governmental : Other
Other use	Transport/Communication: Communications -Other

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1897; 1906; 1956; 1968
Walls	Brick
Roof	Corrugated metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Federation Bungalow
Physical description	<p>The Station & Lockup and Police Quarters are single-storey brick and iron buildings. The Station was constructed in a standard bungalow style with verandahs on all sides and consisted of a charge room and two cells.</p> <p>The Quarters were built in a Federation Bungalow style with three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and external bathroom. Additional structures have been added to link and extend the buildings. Considerable setback from Lincoln Street- hard surface. The quarters faces Smith Street and has a minimal setback more residential in nature.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The subject place comprises a former Police Station and Lockup, constructed in 1897 by W. Young on Perth Lot 1088 (Crown Reserve 6245). Tenders were called on 26 March and awarded on 7 May 1897 with completion scheduled for 7 August that year. The maintenance contract was awarded to W. C. Mirfim and the station was officially opened on 1 November 1897. It consisted of a charge room and two lock-up cells. A water tank was situated originally on the south-east corner of the verandah and an earth closet (EC) and soak well on the property's north-east corner.

In 1899 constable Michael Leen was in charge of the station. He remained until 1901. At this time a cow was kept in the fenced-off back half of the Police Station block.

The suburban police station dates from the initial development phase of Highgate Hill. It is shown on the c1897 PWD sewerage plans.

It is interesting to note that the plans for its construction were examined by Robert J. Haddon, W.B Hardwick and Hillson Beasley, architects at PWD. Beasley was Chief Architect at PWD and responsible for a number of prominent buildings in the Vincent area and Haddon later became a notable architect and author in Melbourne, and Professor of Architecture at Melbourne University.

The original plans included the police quarters but they were not erected until 1906. The builder was C. H. Carter and the contractor and the contract price of 500 pounds. They consisted of a living room, three bedrooms, kitchen and outside bathroom and they were first occupied by the officer-in-charge, Corporal Patrick O'Halloran. He was still there in 1910 but by 1915 Sergeant John Kingston was in charge.

The officer-in-charge of Highgate police station was allocated seven foot constables. In May 1898 two of these, McArthur and O'Conner were shot at while trying to apprehend a man with a rifle at the Brisbane Hotel in 1928. This shooting, which upset many of the local residents, also helped the Police Commissioner's lobby for the introduction of a firearms licensing system in WA. The first police constables in the Colony were appointed by Governor Stirling in 1829 but by 1850, only approximately 20 had been employed. A police force was established in 1851 in response to the arrival of convicts. In 1871 its number had grown to 146 and there were 36 police stations.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A Police Act, passed in 1892 was amongst the early legislative acts passed after full self-government was granted in Western Australia in 1890. Other police stations opened around the time of Highgate one were Claremont (1895), West Perth (1897), Fremantle (1897), North Fremantle (1897), Leederville (1898), Subiaco (1898), Beaconsfield (1898) and East Fremantle (1899). These were opened in response to the population growth - and suburban expansion - which was a result of the gold rushes. The Highgate Station was closed on 2 December 1940 following the opening of a new Inglewood Police Station.

In late 1941 or early 1942, the central wireless section serving the police force was covertly moved from police headquarters into the Highgate Station and lock-up as a result of Japan's entry into World War II. Its call sign was VKI - Licence No. 1258. The location of the wireless section was kept secret at that time, as it was considered a prime bombing target. The wireless antennae was attached to the 38 metre tall sewer vent on the corner of the station block. A further response to Japan's entry in the War was the connection of all police stations to the system on 30 June 1942.

It is possible that during this time the station was also used by the Commonwealth Department of Defence for communications purposes as it was not uncommon for Commonwealth Departments to use local police facilities. The police wireless service had been established in 1930 with its transmitter at Wireless Hill in Applecross until 1936 when it was moved to the Central Police Station. In 1949 the Highgate Station became the centre for vehicular communications which led to the formation of the Traffic Branch and Road Traffic Authority (RTA). In 1956; the wireless section was moved into the larger Police Quarters, and the building was extended to accommodate additional equipment and services.

In June 1959, just three years after its location was disclosed, Police Commissioner J.M O'Brien reported: The Wireless Station in Lincoln Street, Highgate Hill, operates a 24 hours service; and in addition to the two way Morse system which enables the department to communicate direct with the headquarters of other Police Forces within the Commonwealth, it is now possible to send to and receive messages by radio telephony from all District Police Offices in the State, with the exception of Broome. The cars used for patrol duty in the Metropolitan area, the police launch, four vans and 37 other motor cars and utilities are also fitted with two way wireless sets while all police stations within the radius of the metropolitan area are now equipped with wireless and receiving sets.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Constable (later Sergeant) S. C. 'Jimmy' Austin was officer-in-charge of the wireless section from 1930 to 1966. The quarters were furthered enlarged in 1968 with the addition of a new plant room and a carport. In 1975, the final year of its operation at Highgate, VKI had radio connections with all the metropolitan police stations 338 vehicles and two launches plus links interstate and a country network of 39 base stations and 95 mobiles. In 1975 the Wireless Branch, known initially as the Radio Section and later again, the Communications Section, was transferred to Police Headquarters in East Perth.

The Highgate Hill Police Station continued to be used by the WA Police Service, and later occupied by the Road Safety Section and Bicycle Education unit. In 1999 the former Highgate Hill Police Station and lock-up and quarters were entered on the Register of Heritage Places on an Interim basis. As of 2024 the subject place is home to the Western Australian Police Historical Society (WAPOL Historical Society) museum.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards show the aforementioned increase in structures in the late 1960s added to the existing two main buildings on the site. More additions were built in the late 1990s, though by 2003 these had been removed, and replaced. In 2006 the structures were adjusted again, with the removal of the previous additions. Leaving the original two buildings alone. In 2012 a small building was added which has remained. There have been no visible changes to the subject site since then.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION		
Historic theme	Governing: Law, Order and Defence Infrastructure: Transport and Communications Residential: Single Storey Residence	
Associations	W. C. Mirfim Michael Leen C. H. Carter Corporal Patrick O'Halloran	W. C. Mirfim Michael Leen C. H. Carter Corporal Patrick O'Halloran
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

