



**VINCENT HERITAGE**  
A FUTURE FOR OUR PAST

# researching and conserving your heritage place

useful tips and resources



TOWN OF VINCENT





## Researching and Conserving Your Heritage Place : some useful tips and resources.

By owning and maintaining a heritage place, you are actively contributing to the Town of Vincent's rich cultural environment. Heritage places help to create the character that the Town is well known for and which make the area a sought-after and desirable place to live.

This brochure has been produced to assist you with researching the history of your property and conserving it for the future. It is also part of the Town's commitment to assist the National Trust of Australia (WA) and the Heritage Council of WA in educating and fostering awareness about heritage in our local communities.

### Where do I start?

First of all, note what you already know about the place - the street number, lot number, physical characteristics of the place, and any changes that you think might have occurred since it was first built. Also note any nearby landmarks such as churches or schools, as well as the closest intersections and nearby streets. This information will help you with your research.

### Where Can I go?

Town of Vincent Heritage Website & Local Studies Library

- Web: [www.vincent.wa.gov.au](http://www.vincent.wa.gov.au)
- Local Studies Library - Town of Vincent Library

Loftus Recreation Centre, Cnr. Loftus and Vincent Street  
Leederville 6007  
Telephone: (08) 9273 6534

To gain a general overview of your property and the history of the area in which it is located, it will first pay to go to the Town's Heritage Website to view the thematic history of the Town compiled as part of the Municipal Heritage Inventory Review in 2004. This history covers Indigenous occupation of the area through to developments and subdivisions occurring in the early part of the 21st century. The Local Studies and History Collection Library, located within the Town of Vincent Library, also holds historical information relating to the Town, its development and its residents.

### Certificate of Title

Department of Land Information - LandSearch WA  
1 Midland Square (cnr Morrison Road and Great Northern Hwy)  
Midland  
Telephone: (08) 9273 7373 Web: [www.dli.wa.gov.au](http://www.dli.wa.gov.au)

Here you can obtain land information for your property. A search for a Certificate of Title can identify the exact land details and the ownership. Historical Title Searches can also be undertaken which can trace ownership back to the first registered owner and show changes of mortgages and ownership. Remember that these searches can become expensive, so always check you have the right information before you ask for it to be photocopied or printed.



## Post Office Directories

JS Battye Library  
Third Floor of Alexander Library  
Perth Cultural Centre, James Street, Perth  
Telephone: (08) 9427 3111 Web: [www.liswa.wa.gov.au](http://www.liswa.wa.gov.au)

Post Office Directories are located in the JS Battye Library, on the third floor of the Alexander Library Building. The Post Office Directories record postal information from 1893 to 1949. The Directories list every street in Perth in alphabetical order, along with names of people who resided on that street for any given year. Keep in mind that some street names and street numbers have changed over time. The information is on microfilm and generally one film is allocated for each year.

The Directories are organised into sections - Perth City and surrounding suburban streets, country towns, trades and professions, alphabetical listings, and one section for official records associated with medical, ecclesiastical, population and agricultural information. If you have obtained a Certificate of Title for the place you are researching, you can sometimes match up the names on the title with the names in the street directories.

## Photographs

The JS Battye Library also holds photographs relating to Western Australia. While you may not find photographs specifically relating to the place you are researching, you can often find photographs that show the surrounding area or street in which your place is located. This can provide some excellent contextual information such as telegraph poles, tramlines, nearby buildings, gardens or roads.

It may also be possible to trace previous owners who might have old family photographs or memories which they may be willing to share with you.



## Municipal Rate Books

State Records Office  
Ground Floor of Alexander Library  
Perth Cultural Centre, James Street,  
Perth  
Telephone: (08) 9427 3360 Web:  
[www.sro.wa.gov.au](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au)

Rate Books can provide information such as when an owner first started to pay rates, who owned the property, for how long, their occupation, the occupiers (if the property was leased) and the construction material of the dwelling. Many Rate Books are located in the State Records Office, on the ground floor in the Alexander Library in the City. Remember you'll need to know the Ward in which the place is currently located (in Vincent it will either be Mount Hawthorn Ward or North Perth Ward) as well as the lot and subdivision numbers.

## Other Places to Try

The following places may also provide some assistance when researching, although their libraries are varied and hours open to the public may be limited, so always check with them first before visiting.

## Heritage Council of Western Australia

108 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth  
Telephone: (08) 9221 4177 Web: [www.heritage.wa.gov.au](http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au)

The Heritage Council has a library that holds information on places that have been researched by the Council, as well as general reference sources about the care and conservation of heritage buildings. Some material is available for downloading from their website. It may also be useful to use the 'Place Register' tab on their website to locate information on State Heritage Places located near your property. The assessment documentation that has been compiled for those places may be helpful for your research.

## National Archives (WA)

384 Berwick Street, East Victoria Park  
Telephone: 9470 7500 Web: [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

The National Archives hold Commonwealth Government records such as electoral rolls, journals and Parliamentary papers. The website has useful hints on how to conduct historical research.



## National Trust of Australia (WA)

Old Observatory

4 Havelock Street, West Perth

Telephone: (08) 9321 6088 Web: [www.ntwa.com.au](http://www.ntwa.com.au)

The National Trust of Australia (WA) is an independent community organisation that plays an important role in heritage education and advocacy. It also holds research information on places that have been classified by the Trust. The Trust may also be able to give advice on conservation issues and legal documents such as conservation covenants. If you are researching a place that has been classified by the National Trust, they will most likely have some material to help you with your research.

## Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Stirling House

49 Broadway, Nedlands

Telephone: (08) 9386 3841

The Royal Western Australian Historical Society and similar local Historical Societies are voluntary organisations which collect and record local history information. Many of them have good photographic records that can be copied for a fee and lots of local knowledge.

## Some Useful References for Researching and Conserving your Heritage Building

### Reference Books

*Looking After Heritage Places: The Basics of Heritage Planning for Managers, Landowners and Administrators*, Pearson and Sullivan, Melbourne University Press (1995)

*A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, Angus & Robertson (1989)

*Australian Houses of the Forties and Fifties and Australian Houses of the Twenties and Thirties*, Cuffley, The Five Mile Press (1993)

*How to Restore the Old Aussie House*, Stapleton, The Flannel Flower Press (1983)

*Caring for Old Houses*, Evans, The Flannel Flower Press (1988)

*Australian House Styles*, Stapleton and Stapleton, The Flannel Flower Press (1997)

**Remember:** many texts are written in the Eastern States. Western Australian architecture and building styles can date differently from the Eastern States and, in some cases can be as much as two decades after the style first appeared in Melbourne or Sydney. This is one reason why West Australia's built heritage is so valuable and interesting.

## Brochures & Guides

The Heritage Council of Western Australia produces and stocks many brochures and guides to help people understand their heritage places and to undertake maintenance and renovation works that will respect the age of the building. Some of the brochures and guides are free and others are available for purchase.

Brochures that are available free of charge from the Heritage Council at 108 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth, or that can be downloaded from their website at [www.heritage.wa.gov.au](http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au) include:

- Caring for Your Community's Heritage
- Insurance of Heritage Properties
- Valuing Our Heritage

Brochures and guides that are available for purchase from the Heritage Council include:

- Cleaning Stone Masonry
- Maintaining an Old House
- Masonry Renovation
- Rising Damp and its Treatment
- WA's Building Heritage: Useful References
- Removal of Paint from Masonry

For a full list of publications produced and stocked by the Heritage Council, visit their publication website at [www.heritage.wa.gov.au/e\\_pub\\_list.html](http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/e_pub_list.html) or call into the Heritage Council offices at 108 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth.

## Websites

The web is a tremendous resource for locating information on heritage places and how to care for and manage them. A simple web search using the terms cultural heritage or built heritage can produce thousands of results.

Some of the best and most applicable websites to consult are:

- Australian Heritage Directory - [www.heritage.gov.au](http://www.heritage.gov.au)

This is a comprehensive website covering all aspects of heritage. It is a gateway to government and non-government heritage

sites throughout Australia and includes links to funding sites and professional directories amongst many others.

- Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) - [www.icomos.org/australia](http://www.icomos.org/australia)

Australia ICOMOS is responsible for the 'Burra Charter', the document which underpins the principles of heritage conservation and management in Australia. The ICOMOS site contains articles and papers relating to heritage conservation in Australia and provides links to Australian and International heritage websites.

- Heritage Council of Western Australia  
[www.heritage.wa.gov.au](http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au)

The Heritage Council's website is Western Australia's most comprehensive heritage website. It contains case studies on the development of heritage places within the State, information on insuring heritage places in Western Australia, details on funding programs operating within the State and a list of publications relating to heritage conservation and management. It also has a complete list of places that are of significant cultural heritage value to the State.

- World of Old Houses - [www.oldhouses.com.au](http://www.oldhouses.com.au)

This website contains extensive information on how to care for and renovate heritage houses. It also has links to some tradespeople who have specialist skills in the industry.

## Directory of Heritage-related Consultants and Professionals

The Heritage Council of Western Australia has compiled a list of professionals who are involved with heritage assessment, architecture, planning and trades in Western Australia.

This list can be accessed via the Heritage Council website on:

<http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/pdfs/pubList/section2/>



## Directory\_of\_Consultants.pdf

The list is currently in review and an updated list should be available soon. Because the current list is a number of years old it is advised that you check the White Pages for current phone number and address details.

Should you have any questions about the information in this brochure, you can contact the Town of Vincent and speak to one of the Town's Heritage Officers. Please telephone **(08) 9273 6000**.

## Acknowledgment

The information in this brochure is based on the information contained in the document 'Researching Old Places' produced by the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the Australian Burra Charter, and the Town of Vincent freely acknowledges the use of these documents.

## DISCLAIMER

Any statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith but on the basis that the Town of Vincent, its agents, associated organizations and employees are not liable (whether by reason or negligence, lack of care or otherwise) to any person for any damage or loss whatsoever which has occurred or may occur in relation to that person taking or not taking (as the case may be) action in respect of any representation, statement or advice referred to above.

People with specific requirements can request this brochure in Braille, a language other than English, large print, on computer disk or audiotape

Photographs courtesy of Town of Vincent Local Studies Collection

