

Supreme Court Gardens

The area in which Supreme Court Gardens now sits was the original Port of Perth. Complete with buried jetties the port now lies under landfill which was started in about 1880.

Although the enclosure was still described as a 'waste land' in the 1920s, photographic evidence from the early 1900s indicates that some effort had been made to improve the grounds, with grass lawns and perimeter plantings of trees and shrubs such as *Washingtonia* palms.

The Old Court House Law Museum

The Old Courthouse is the oldest building in central Perth.

In 1837, eight years after the European settlers first arrived, Western Australia's first Supreme Court was opened in what is now known as Stirling Gardens. Designed by Henry Reveley, the colony's first Civil Engineer, and completed in 1837, the building, described as "chaste and appropriate", cost £698 to build.

During its early life, the building was used for many other purposes, serving not only as a court room, but also as a church, school, theatre, concert hall, immigration depot and community centre.

Stirling Gardens

Stirling Gardens were first used by colonial botanist James Drummond as an acclimatisation garden in the 1830s. Many of the current mature trees were raised from seed here, along with grapes and other overseas fruits which were tried for their suitability for the Western Australian climate in this spot.

In 1965, after the Botanical Garden had been moved to a more spacious site in King's Park, Stirling Gardens were reworked with Toodyay stone retaining walls and shallow pools which were designed by the City of Perth Parks and Gardens Department.

Government House

The first "Vice Regal" residence in Perth was a tent on the corner of St George's Terrace and Barrack Street, Perth (now Stirling Gardens), which gave way in 1832 to a temporary wooden building in the same location.

The "new" Government House was built in 1837 and, from the beginning, was totally inadequate for its purpose. Apart from such defects as roofs leaking, termites consuming the flooring, and the porous walls absorbing moisture, the House lacked accommodation for visitors and facilities for the large functions expected of the Vice Regal establishment.

Eventually this situation was remedied when the Foundation stone of a new Government House was laid on 17th March, 1859. This building was designed by Lieutenant Colonel Edmund Henderson, Comptroller of Convicts, with assistance from Richard Roach Jewell, Colonial Clerk of Works. Construction extended from 1861 until 1864, involving convict labour and skilled workmen for specific tasks.

In 1899 a Ball Room was added to a design by the Government Architect of the day, Mr John Grainger, whose son was the well-known composer, Percy Grainger.

St George's Cathedral

The first St George's Church, located to the north-west of the present Cathedral, was opened in 1845. Nine years later, the Right Reverend Matthew Blagdon Hale was consecrated as the first Bishop of Western Australia and the Church of Saint George became Saint George's Cathedral.

As the population of the colony increased a much larger cathedral was felt to be necessary. Bishop Hale discouraged the project, maintaining that *"there was neither sufficient money nor resources of other kinds for building a great Cathedral"*.

The second Bishop of Perth, the Right Reverend Henry Hutton Parry, had different ideas and established a building committee to organise the construction of a new Cathedral. They chose as architect for the project Edmund Thomas Blackett.

Built in English Victorian Gothic Revival style, using bricks made of clay from the area now called Queen's Gardens and stone trimmings quarried on Rottnest Island, the Cathedral was consecrated and opened by Bishop Parry on 15th November, 1888.

Old Treasury Building

No one can fail to be impressed by the graceful lines of the Central Government Office buildings or Treasury Group. Described as some of Australia's finest and most dramatic free classical style buildings, the group includes the original General Post Office (1889), the Lands Department (1893) and the Titles Office (1897). The overall designs for these buildings were created by architect Richard Roach Jewell and reflect the nineteenth century custom of keeping government departments centrally located. The Titles Office was designed by George Temple-Poole. It was one of Temple-Poole's last projects in that role, as he resigned in 1897.

Vacated by the State Government in 1993, the building stood empty and deteriorating for nearly 20 years. It is now undergoing a major conservation and adaptation project, which will transform it into a hotel due to open in 2015.

Perth Town Hall

Said to be the only convict-built capital city town hall in Australia, the Town Hall was built between 1867 and 1870. It was designed by Richard Roach Jewell and James Manning in the Victorian Free Gothic style to reflect its important role in the administration of the colony.

Throughout its history the Town Hall has been the site of many colourful political debates and provided home for many of the administrative and operational functions of the early colony. It has been used as a market, a telegraph office, military recruiting office, home to the City Fire Brigade and has even served as a camel stable for the explorer Ernest Giles!

The Heritage Brasserie

Newspaper House and its news printing halls and presses were constructed for the Centenary of The West Australian in 1932. Along with its companions, The WA Trustee Co (built in 1925) and The Royal Insurance Building (1932), this group of building were all designed by by the local architectural firm of Hobbs, Smith and Forbes.

In 2008 the City of Perth granted approval to Brookfield Multiplex for the construction of the 46-storey Brookfield Tower. The approval included strict conditions on maintaining the heritage values of the buildings along St Georges Terrace, thus these building, plus the Old Perth Technical School were meticulously restored and form the entry points for the complex as a whole.