

## Princes Hill Heritage Walk

In 1855 the whole of the area now known as Carlton, including Princes Hill and North Carlton, formed part of Princes Park on the South Ward of the municipality of Melbourne. The Crown land between the cemetery and Pigdon Street was subdivided by the government in 1876-79. The 1879 survey plan shows the new street grid, bounded on the west side by part of the former Princes Park carriage drive (now known as Bowen Crescent).

The street layout of Princes Hill was by government survey, as had been the case with North Carlton, and this ensured that planned and regular development occurred from the outset. By 1878 at least twelve dwellings had been erected, and development continued rapidly thereafter. With the exception of a few blocks to the north of the area, few vacant sites remained after the First World War.

In Princes Hill, both the streets and generous rear service lanes appeared in the government subdivision, leaving less to the whims of private developers. The use of service lanes was a deliberate Victorian-era design feature to separate the utilitarian functions from formal ones. The subdivision design also enhances the aesthetic beauty of streetscapes, consisting of decorative house facades and gardens that were viewed, as a whole, over low fences. Utilitarian features such as driveways, crossovers, stables and garages were deliberately minimised in the streetscape.

### Landscape character

The original planning of the area, with wide streets and parks along two of the four boundaries, has created a precinct with a sense of spaciousness that contrasts with the closeness of the predominant row houses development and the small front setbacks and gardens. The overwhelming dominance of one storey housing, interspersed with a maximum of two-storeys, is a key factor which enhances this spacious character. In addition, specific landscape elements such as the wide Pigdon Street boulevard, with its significant avenue of palms and adjoining reserves, and the adjoining Melbourne General Cemetery and Princes Park, all enhance the period landscape character in the area.

### Commercial and civic development

Commercial development in this area was minimal. Apart from the traditional corner shop, most of the shops were developed in a strip along Lygon Street.

Public and community buildings are few, but significant places that date from the area's early period of development include the Princes Hill Primary School, in Pigdon Street. At the southern end of the precinct is St Michael's Anglican Church and hall, on the corner of McIlwraith and Macpherson Streets, opposite the Melbourne General Cemetery.

### Transport

The Royal Park to Clifton Hill railway, part of the Inner Circle Railway, opened in May 1888, with North Carlton station located at the corner of Park and Arnold Streets. Tramways, active from the 1880s, facilitated residential development within the area and commercial development on its perimeter. The Inner Circle passenger train link from Clifton Hill to Melbourne (Princes Bridge station) was completed in 1901 and operated until 1948 which explains the popularity of Princes Hill and North Carlton for housing development in the Edwardian and inter-war eras. Good and near original examples of large interwar houses face Lygon Street (see Ridgeway house, 471-475 Lygon St, 1926 and Dr Chambers house and surgery, 609-615 Lygon St, 1926).

### Main development period

The main development period evident in the Princes Hill area is that of the Victorian and Edwardian-eras era with a contribution from some well preserved inter-war buildings.

*The walk is approximately 3.5 kilometres in length.*

*The walk starts at the intersection of Lygon and Pigdon Street.  
Walk south along Lygon Street (towards the city).*

### Dr Chambers House and surgery



The Dr Chambers house and surgery at 609-615 Lygon Street was created in 1926.

The Dr Chambers house and surgery is a large well-preserved and distinctive attic-style English Domestic Revival style brick, tiled and stuccoed house and surgery set on a major corner site built for a local doctor. It has unusual twin gabled upper level sleep-porches (now enclosed), original fence, as well as strutted eaves and patterned brickwork.

### Shop Row, 569-583 Lygon Street



This shop row stands as a reminder of days where the people of Princes Hill would have relied on shopping strips like this for a majority of their needs.

This shop row was located at a tram stop which allowed people from outside of the local neighbourhood easy access to the shops, and provided convenient access to goods and services for tram commuters on their way home after work. It is not uncommon to see clusters of shops like this at tram stops all over Melbourne.

### Roman Catholic School



The Roman Catholic School at 543-551 Lygon Street was created in 1935.

The School is a single storey red brick gabled building clad in terra cotta tiles, with cross shaped finials at the apex of the main gables. The school building has a distinctive loggia.

*Continue south along Lygon Street, and turn right into Macpherson Street (north of the Melbourne Cemetery).*

### Melbourne Cemetery

The first burial in the Melbourne General Cemetery was in 1853. It is 43 hectares in size and hosts the graves of many people of significance to the State of Victoria.

The Melbourne Cemetery is located within the City of Melbourne.

### Spanish Mission House



The house at 218 Macpherson Street, Princes Hill was created in 1926 (reconstruction of an 1886 core).

The house is a minute but distinctive Spanish Mission style renovation of an 1880s house with uncommon Cordova pattern roof tiles, clinker brick and stucco walls and a miniature mission bell tower as a chimney.

### St Michael's Church Complex



St Michael's Church fronting McIlwraith Street was constructed in 1885 in a Gothic Revival style. It is noted for its distinctive clerestory running along the roof ridge.



The Church Hall fronting Macpherson Street was constructed after the Church building and is noted for its restrained polychromatic brickwork and decorative roof vent.

The Church and Hall group form a strong corner element in Princes Hill.

*Turn right into McIlwraith Street*

### Transition style houses



The semi-detached houses at 55-61 McIlwraith Street were constructed at the transition time between the Victorian and Edwardian eras which is evidenced in the mixing of the styles. The buildings are noted for their decorative gables, the red brickwork, terracotta tiled roof (popular in Edwardian-era buildings), and cast iron decoration and front fences (popular in Victorian-era buildings).

*Turn left into Paterson Street, and then left into Wilson Street*

### House, 97 Wilson Street



The house at 97 Wilson Street is noted for its elaborate roof, particularly the turret.

### House, 31 Wilson Street



The houses at 27, 29 and 31 Wilson Street were built for a local businessman, George Godfree over a seven year period. Number 27 was constructed in 1893. 29 Wilson Street was built in 1896, and 31 Wilson Street was built in 1899. The buildings are noted for their large front setbacks, and each demonstrates architectural features and techniques popular at their time of construction and as such help to illustrate the evolution of building styles over that period.

This building is noted for its unusual verandah design and elaborate cast iron lacework.

### House, 29 Wilson Street



This building was constructed in 1896, and is noted for its distinctive neo-gothic gable ends and windows.

### House, 27 Wilson Street



This building was constructed in 1893, and is noted for its use of red bricks and timber verandah fretwork.

The front garden layout is largely intact and is comparable to the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works drainage plan from 1902 which showed a large circular front lawn and circular path.

*Turn left into the service laneway located south of 27 Wilson Street*

### Former Dyeing and Waterproofing Works



The former factory / warehouse building located at the rear of 12 Wilson Street is a reminder of a time prior to segregated zoning which sought to strictly separate industrial and residential uses.

Dotted around the service laneways in North Carlton and Princes Hill are a series of factory and warehouse buildings. These also serve as a reminder when people required work places which they could walk to.

This building is noted for its fading signage, which reminds us of the previous use of the site as a dyeing and waterproofing factory.

*Backtrack along the service laneway past 27 Wilson Street*

### Princes Hill Community Centre



Located behind 14-16 Arnold Street is another former warehouse building. This building at one point operated as a hat factory.

The building is now occupied by the Princes Hill Community Centre which currently provides classes in arts and creativity, health and wellbeing, and music.

*At the Community Centre turn right up the service laneway between Arnold and Wilson Streets.*

*These laneways were used to service the properties, facilitating the delivery of goods such as coal and provided convenient access for the clearing of the outhouses.*

*Many of the stables and warehouses which originally abutted these laneways have now been adapted to serve as dwellings. As you walk along the section of this laneway to Richardson Street you will notice a wide range of building types including single storey garage buildings, former stable buildings, and residential conversions.*

*Turn left into Richardson Street and then right into Arnold Street*

### Princes Hill Secondary College



The Princes Hill High School at 47 Arnold Street was created in c1973 for the Education Department. The building won the 1973 RAI (Vic) Bronze Medal in the General Building Category.

The Princes Hill High School is significant as a major and well-preserved Brutalist style education building design by Jackson and Walker, with all of the attributes of the style being use of off-form concrete and unfinished concrete block work, expression of form such as in stair wells, and exposure of services.

*Turn left into Paterson Street and continue along Bowen Street its continuation*

### Princes Park

Princes Park is a major park for the residents of Parkville and Princes Hill. The park is located within the City of Melbourne.

The Park was originally a wooded section of land. The land was reserved for public open space by a grant in 1873.

Princes Park is remembered by many as the former home ground of the Carlton Football Club.

### Spartels Flats



Spartels' flats at 18 Bowen Crescent were created in 1937.

The Spartels' flat block is significant as a two-storey distinctive Moderne style parapeted flat design, using cuboid forms, cantilevering concrete balcony and hood, wrought-iron balustrade, corner window cut-outs and steel-framed windows. The fence is original

### House with Kangaroo Finial



The house at 54 Bowen Crescent was constructed in 1911.

This residence represents a very individual approach in design in contrast to the more conventional Edwardian houses in surrounding streets. It makes innovative use of terracotta elements including roof tiles, balusters, chimney capping, and a kangaroo finial atop the roof.

### Inner Circle Railway



The house at 70 Bowen Crescent, was the former Gatehouse for the former Inner City Railway. This railway line once linked Royal Park station with Clifton Hill station. The line was opened in 1901 and operated as a passenger line until 1948, and carried goods trains until 1981.

If you look around the area surrounding the former gatehouse residence you will see remnants of the former railway line. If you were to follow the capital city trail which follows the former railway line you would find more rail infrastructure including railway stanchions, tracks, and the Electricity Substation in North Fitzroy.

*Turn right at the Capital City Trail which follows the former railway line route*

### Hardy-Gallagher Reserve



In 1971 the railway reserve land bounded by Garton, Lang and Park Streets, and Solly Avenue and Holtom Street West was 'black banned' by the Trades Hall Council when it was proposed to build a factory there. The Carlton Association, Fred Hardy and Norm Gallagher became involved in a battle to retain the land as open space. Mr Gallagher was jailed for 14 days after scuffles between demonstrators, workers and unionists. The land was saved as open space and is now known as Hardy-Gallagher Reserve.

### Former North Carlton Railway Station



The North Carlton Railway Station was opened in 1885, and used by passengers until 1948.

The former Railway Station is now used as a Neighbourhood House.

*Turn right into Wilson Street*

### Princes Hill Primary School



Princes Hill Primary School was opened in 1889.

### Princes Hill Village



The aged care facility at 300 Pigdon Street was opened in 1961. It was constructed for the Royal Freemasons' Homes of Victoria.

The building has been recently renovated and now has an additional two floors of units atop it.

*Turn right into Pigdon Street*

### Ormuz, Orotava and Oruba



The three houses built at 299-303 Pigdon Street were constructed in 1899-1900.

The names represent names of passenger ships that were contemporary of that time. The houses are noted for their distinctive parapets, intact front fences and verandah decoration.

*Return to Wilson Street and continue east to Lygon Street*

### Lime's Grove



Lime's Grove is an elaborate two-storey house constructed in 1891. It is located at 265 Pigdon Street.

The house is noted as an exceptionally fine example of boom style terrace architecture. The elaborate cornice and parapet, lions head medallions, and pedimented verandah are particularly notable.

### Arts and Crafts Bungalow



The house at 207 Pigdon Street was created in 1928-29.

The house is significant as a well-preserved Arts and Crafts Bungalow style design, with broad arched and buttressed porch, strutted eaves and shingled window hoods, fine lead lighting, clinker and stucco wall finish and tiled gabled roof forms. The fence is also significant showing the Asian influence on the style.

*To return to the start of the walk, walk east along Pigdon Street back to Lygon Street*

*End of Walk.*

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The information from this walk was sourced from:

- [“North Carlton Conservation Study”](#), Nigel Lewis and Associates, 1984
- [“City of Yarra Heritage Review”](#), Allom Lovell and Associates, 1998
- [“City of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas 2007”](#), Graeme Butler and Associates, 2007

If you would like information about the history of Princes Hill, contact:

[Carlton Library](#)

667 Rathdowne Street, North Carlton

[Carlton Community History Group](#)

<http://www.cchg.asn.au>