

Four Walking Tours to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Municipality of Fitzroy

*Founding Footsteps*

*Fitzroy's history*

The Fitzroy History Society presents

## City of Yarra Heritage

The City of Yarra has a rich history and is home to a large number of historical buildings and sites that are of interest and value to the community. Council has a strong commitment to the protection and enhancement of the City's rich historical fabric.

Whatever you do in the City of Yarra, you can't help being immersed in history. Whether you are visiting one of our waterways, shopping or dining along one of our retail strips, or driving through our residential areas – heritage sites are all around.

Heritage can relate to a wide variety of places: a building or group of buildings, a site or area, land or a landscape, a memorial, a tree, garden or parkland. It can also relate to the site of a historical event, urban areas, towns, or industrial sites, archaeological sites, as well as spiritual and religious places.

For information about heritage, including a range of heritage walks, and information about the development of the City, visit [www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/planning/heritage](http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/planning/heritage).

## Eastern Walk

ALONG MOOR, GORE AND GREEVES STREETS

**1** *St Mark's Anglican Church* 270 GEORGE STREET

This early Gothic Revival church is one of Fitzroy's oldest buildings. Construction began in 1853, mainly financed by pastoralist Richard Grice, and continued with the gallery and stairs (1865), spire and tower (1876), a new school facing Hodgson Street (1891) and the Vicarage (1910), next to the old Parish Hall and Verger's Cottage (1889). The Social Settlement Building (1926) was built by local businessmen to serve Fitzroy during the Depression. Its welfare work continues today. The Sunday School meets in the first children's library in Australia, donated by Mrs. J.T. Hackett, which has a unique set of four painted glass windows by children's illustrator Ida Rentoul Outhwaite (1888–1960).

**2** *Moor Street* BETWEEN GEORGE & GORE STREETS

The pair of bluestone houses were built c.1850s, the beginning of Fitzroy's great period of bluestone building due to the shortage of bricks during the Gold Rush.

**3** *Cobden Terrace* 209–221 GORE STREET

This Victorian terrace streetscape, incorporating seven houses of varying sizes, is of historical and architectural value due to the decorative brickwork, especially on the parapet and entablature, and cast iron work. It was built in stages from 1869 to 1875. The first, 217–221, were for the local businessman Thomas Kidney and his son William, who lived at No. 221.

**4** *Corner of Gore & Hodgson Streets*

The owner/occupiers of 233 and 235 Gore Street (behind St Mark's Church) were the mason, Thomas Hannaford, and an undertaker and gardener. 'Hodgson House' at 25 Hodgson Street is named after John Hodgson, Fitzroy landowner, grocer and Mayor of Melbourne (1853–4), who was present at the laying of St Mark's foundation stone.

**5** *Church* 258 GORE STREET

Since 1872 this building has been used for a Bible Christian School, a Freemasons' British Templars Lodge, a Tabernacle School, Miss Brook's school, a Church of Christ Sunday School and in 1943 the Church of Christ gave it to Pastor Doug Nicholls to establish the Aboriginal Church of Christ where 'the contemporary Aboriginal movement all started'.

**6** *Corner of Gore & Greeves Streets*

At 278 Gore Street, the Bible Christian Church (1861) has also been used as a Christian Tabernacle, a Church of Christ, and subsequently occupied by S. Tait & Son furniture manufacturer and the Mattei Brothers. The house at 300 Gore Street (1857) is known as 'Captain Wood's House' after the coastal sea captain who lived here from 1865 to 1874. 126–130 Greeves Street and 8–9 Hargreaves Street form a colonial style streetscape. 8–9 Hargreaves Street (1858) have interesting brickwork and are a fine example of early housing close to Smith Street.

**7** *The Collingwood and Fitzroy United Friendly Societies Dispensary* 114 GREEVES STREET

In 1871, 15 branches of lodges in the area established the Collingwood & Fitzroy United Friendly Societies Dispensary for the supply of medicines, bandages, etc. to their members. After some years in Smith Street, this assembly hall and dispensary was built in 1884. It has been described as a 'superb example of a Renaissance and Classical boom building' and, as an extremely fine corner streetscape, it is of statewide importance.

Lt. Richard Keiran, son of the first chemist, James Keiran, died of wounds he received at Gallipoli in 1915, aged 26. The dispensary was here until 1968; it has subsequently been occupied by Russian community groups and is now known as Russian House.

Sketch of St Mark's by James Blackburn, 1854

Nellie May Thompson, 261 Napier Street, c1890 © Yarra Libraries

**8** *George Street School* 450 319 GEORGE STREET

In 1853 Hugh Templeton established the North Collingwood National School n. 450 on George & Greeves Streets corner. In 1872 the Education Department took over the school and a new building was constructed in 1874 with caretakers premises added in 1888. The playground was enlarged in 1914 and 1961 and the new Infants Block added in 1970. During the Depression Rev. Bill Nicholls from St Mark's provided free meals for the pupils. Famous early pupils include: John Latham (1887–1964, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia), Robert Best (1856–1946, solicitor, Fitzroy Councillor and Mayor, State and Federal minister); and George Keartland (1848–1926, a naturalist after whom a bird, flower and Hills are named).

**9** *Napier Hotel* CORNER NAPIER & MOOR STREETS

In 1916 (the year of 6 o'clock closing!) the Carlton Brewing Company bought the old 'hotel', built in 1866 for M. L. Lever, from Montgomeries Brewing Company. The new hotel, built by W. Cooper, is of architectural significance as its design incorporates a symmetrical composition around an unusual square tower with rose bush decoration. The interior still has its pressed metal dados and many Art Nouveau decorative elements.

## Walking through the history of Fitzroy

The suburb of Fitzroy, which was previously known as the Fitzroy Ward of the City of Melbourne, was named in 1850 after Sir Charles Fitzroy, Governor of New South Wales (1846–54). This was an appropriate choice at the time, as Victoria did not separate from New South Wales until 1851.

In the years leading up to 1858, the citizens of the Fitzroy Ward petitioned for their own local governing body, separate from the City of Melbourne. On 9 September 1858, Victorian Governor Sir Henry Barkly issued the proclamation which created the Municipality of Fitzroy.

On 29 September, the first election was held and seven Councillors were elected. The first Fitzroy Council meeting was held the following day. Prior to the building of the Town Hall, Council meetings were held at local hotels and then at municipal chambers in Webb Street. The Fitzroy Town Hall was opened in 1874, with extensions, including a new tower and the library, being added in 1887–88.

## Walking map routes

The four walking routes in this brochure have been developed by the Fitzroy History Society and incorporate historic houses, hotels and other sites of significance within Fitzroy, especially sites that relate to the early years of Fitzroy's self-government.

This publication was produced with the assistance of the City of Yarra.

Nicholson Street 1864  
© Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria



## Western Walk

ALONG HANOVER STREET AND MOOR STREET ●●●●●●●●

### 1 *All Saints' Parish Hall* KING WILLIAM STREET

This important example of a nineteenth century pre-fabricated iron building was constructed in 1854. The 1855 rate books record H. Hyslop occupying an iron store on the site. First mention of the Hall is made in the 1865 rate books when the Wesleyan Church occupied the site. The Hall has a rendered masonry facade and the iron structure behind was manufactured by Edwin Maw of Liverpool. Iron Doric pilasters divide the side elevations into panels lined externally with corrugated iron sheet.

### 2 *Wills' House* 35 HANOVER STREET

The two storey stone townhouse at 35 Hanover Street was built in 1854 by E. Wills, a stonemason who supplied stone for the first Princes Bridge and early parts of Parliament House. The home was tenanted in the late 1860s and Wills sold it in 1869. The facade comprises three bays with a centrally located entrance. The window openings and wall terminations have quoinwork decoration. There is a simple cornice and a parapet nameplate.

### 3 *Houses* 9-23 KING WILLIAM STREET

This row of eight two-storey bluestone houses with rendered facades, parapets with simple mouldings and six-paned well proportioned windows were all built from 1854-1860s for four different owners who, with subsequent early owners and occupants, are representative of Fitzroy's background in business, politics and the theatre. Nos 9-13 were built for James Sloane, pioneer, and 15-19 for William Bates, merchant, and later MLC. No 21 was built from 1854-1863, owners/occupants included two jewellers, an ironmonger and a comedian. No 23 was built 1854-1868 for H. Powell, a stonemason.

### 4 *Stables* BACH LANE

These stables, hayloft and groom's quarters were built for Robert Wallace Best, who was a Fitzroy alderman from 1883-97 and Mayor in 1888-9. The stables are at the rear of Best's residence, Langridge House in Nicholson Street, which was built in two stages in 1881 and 1888.

### 5 *Houses & former Shop* 6-8 MOOR STREET

Alexander Jamieson of Little Napier Street is recorded as having built a store on this site in 1854, followed by a stone house in 1856, and a two storey shop and dwelling in 1860. Jamieson was a grocer here from 1858, and lived at 2, 6 and/or 8 Moor Street until 1907.

### 6 *Site of prefabricated iron house* 40 MOOR STREET

A prefabricated iron house, manufactured by E. T. Bellhouse of Manchester, was imported and placed on this site in 1853. It showed Bellhouse's patented system in which cast iron columns are shaped to receive the corrugated sheets. The house was removed in 1970 and re-erected at the National Trust's iron house museum in South Melbourne.

### 7 *Apps' funeral parlour, stables, mortuary & houses*

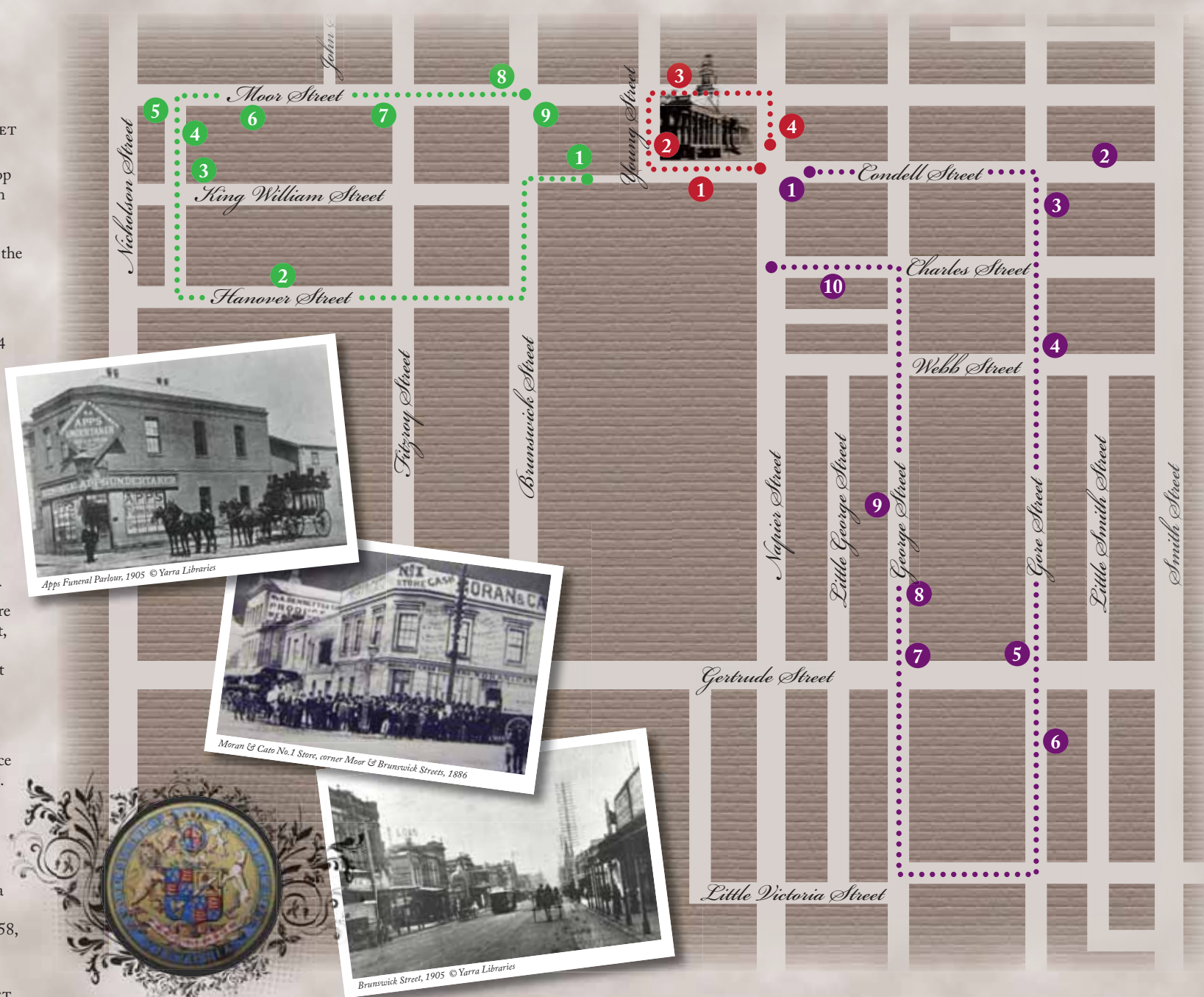
265 FITZROY STREET, 55 MOOR STREET & 65-73 MOOR STREET  
Apps' funeral parlour operated on the corner from 1868, with their stables opposite at the John Street corner from 1891, and the chapel and garage from 1936. The houses opposite date from 1890, and were occupied by Apps' descendants.

### 8 *Labour in Vain Hotel* 197A BRUNSWICK STREET

George Hyde was the first licensee of this 11 room stone hotel from 1849 to 1866, and it operated until 1926. After many decades as a milk bar, it was reopened as a hotel in 1998, in the theme of its former existence.

### 9 *Bennetts' Buildings* CNR MOOR & BRUNSWICK STS

Bennetts—grocers, confectioners and ironmongers—occupied this corner in 1876, and expanded into the larger three storey buildings alongside in Moor Street and Brunswick Street. Moran & Cato took over the grocery business on the corner in 1886, leaving Bennetts as produce merchants and ironmongers until the early 1900s.



## Fitzroy Town Hall Precinct Walk ●●●●●●●●

The Fitzroy Council first met in 1858 at the Royal Exchange Hotel in Gertrude Street, and then for several years in Webb Street. The present Fitzroy Town Hall was constructed here in two stages, the northern wing in 1873 and the remainder 15 years later.

The site bounded by Napier, Condell, Young and Moor Streets had been a market from the 1850s, and other community facilities were later located there – a weighbridge, firebell, Police Court, and later a fire station.

### 1 *Condell Street*

The market initially occupied the Condell Street frontage, and the Inspector of Weights & Measures was placed at the site in 1870. The Police Court was rebuilt on the site in 1889, and being a State Government facility, the foundation stone was laid by the Chief Secretary, Alfred Deakin.

### 2 *Young Street*

The market also occupied the Young Street frontage, together with a weighbridge at the southern corner, and a firebell at the northern corner. The original Police Station dated from 1900, and has since been rebuilt.

### 3 *Moor Street*

As well as the market along the street frontage, there was an Enginehouse, and a Fire Station from 1891. The Fitzroy Rifle Club had a miniature range here from 1907 to 1918. The Fitzroy School of Arts (1907-1916) and the Old Age Pensions Office (from 1918) were also along the site, probably located in the Town Hall basement now occupied by the Library.

### 4 *Napier Street*

The Police Court was relocated from Webb Street to Napier Street in 1865. The Town Hall has its foundation stone laid by Mayor Edward Delbridge in July 1873, and was opened a year later. The original Police Court and single storey Municipal Chambers and Offices were later replaced, with the foundation stone below the tower being laid by Mayor George Clausen in July 1887, and that of the Library wing laid by Mayor Robert Best in December 1888.

## Southern Walk

ALONG GORE AND GEORGE STREETS ●●●●●●●●

### 1 *Former Buck's Head Hotel* CORNER NAPIER & CONDELL STREETS & *Houses* 32-42 CONDELL STREET

The Buck's Head Hotel was built in 1871 for Joseph Snadden. A hotel had existed on the same site since 1854. Snadden became licensee in 1857 and purchased the premises in 1864. The row of six terrace houses at 32-42 Condell Street was built by Joseph Henderson and William Stitson, bricklayers, for Joseph Snadden, of the neighbouring Buck's Head Hotel. Numbers 32-38 date from 1867 and numbers 40-42 from 1879.

### 2 *House* 93 CONDELL STREET

This simple brick cottage was built in 1852, making it one of the earliest surviving buildings in Fitzroy. The side entrance and French windows give the house a charm and atmosphere reminiscent of contemporary Sydney buildings.

### 3 *House* 202 GORE STREET

Built in 1874 for Dr Henry Whitcombe, the house served as a Doctor's Residence and Surgery until 1900. It is typical of houses built by affluent professional men of the period.

### 4 *Union Club Hotel* CORNER OF GORE & WEBB STREETS

The first hotel on this site was opened in 1847. The original name of the hotel – the Collingwood Hotel – reflects the fact that the original Collingwood was the Fitzroy ward of Melbourne from 1847-57. The hotel's name was changed to the Union Club Hotel in 1886.

### 5 *Hotels* CORNER OF GORE & GERTRUDE STREETS

The Builders Arms Hotel was built in 1853 and is one of three hotels still operating in Gertrude Street from an original count of 14. In 1856 the Royal Arch Hotel was on the opposite north-east corner. It had become known as the Civil Service Club before it was closed in 1910 and demolished.

### 6 *Houses* 12-72 GORE STREET

This is regarded as one of the finest groups of early terrace home architecture in Melbourne. Most of the houses date from either pre-1858 or c1870 (the "pre-boom" period); there are however a pair of houses that were built in 1880. The author Marcus Clarke lived at No 28 between 1869 and 1871, and Sir Anthony Brownless, Vice-Chancellor and founder of the medical school at the University of Melbourne, lived at No 18 from 1886 to 1888.

### 7 *Former Royal Exchange Hotel* 185 GERTRUDE ST

In 1858, the Royal Exchange Hotel stood on this site. The newly-established Fitzroy Council met at this hotel until the early 1860s, when the first municipal chambers were built in Webb Street.

### 8 *Site of Alfred Deakin's birthplace* 90 GEORGE ST

Alfred Deakin, the second Prime Minister of Australia, was born on 3 August 1856 in a single-storey cottage that stood on this site (then called 46 George Street, Collingwood).

### 9 *Boston Villa* 119 GEORGE STREET

This house, set well back from the street, is believed to have been built in 1865 for William Candy, a herbalist. On the settlement of Candy's will in 1898, his real estate included "land, frontage 66ft to George St, by 119 ft to Lt George St, on which is erected an eight roomed brick dwelling and out offices".

### 10 *Former Lewis & Whitty blacking factory*

52-54 CHARLES STREET

This factory served the nationally important boot and shoe industry of Collingwood and Fitzroy. Its architectural significance arises from the adoption of the Flemish gable form and Flemish bond brickwork.

●●●●●●●● *Eastern Walk see overleaf...*

*Fitzroy Town Hall Opening Ball, 1874*