

Bridgetown Heritage Walk



Funded by the Heritage Council of Western Australia.



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SAVING HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE



View from Smith Street across Belvedere and bowling green to Sutton's Lookout c.1930s. BHS 95.401

The Blackwood Valley was home to the Pibulmun and Wadandi people, the traditional owners of the land. Bridgetown, explored by Augustus Gregory in 1845 and gazetted in 1868, was built near Goorbilyup (the Blackwood River) from 1857. The area had long been managed and farmed by the Indigenous people, but they were dispossessed by the new settlers who purchased land for agriculture. Bridgetown thrived, but by the 60s orcharding and dairying fell from favour, and land was subdivided for housing. The town is now rising steadily and is renowned for its tourism, beauty, and peaceful environment.

References:

1. Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Local Heritage Survey 2019 with particular thanks to Michelle Donaldson
2. www.trove.nla.gov.au
3. Bridgetown Self-Guided Walk 1999, Bridgetown Historical Society
4. State Register of Heritage Places (inHerit)

Consultants: Bridgetown Historical Society 2022

© Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

Created by Bridgetown Historical Society Inc. January 2022

1 Zinnecker's Garage 154 Hampton Street

Heritage place #18986

Alfred Maximillian Zinnecker, born in Maryborough Victoria, and his wife Jane, came to Bridgetown in 1921 and built a house that year on Hampton Street. In 1927 Alfred Zinnecker built a garage adjacent to this house, known as Zinnecker's Garage. It now houses the Visitors Centre and Brierley Jigsaw Gallery.



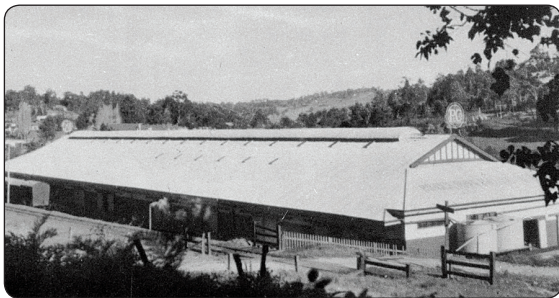
Zinnecker's Garage. BHS 10-21

2 Paterson & Co Fruit Packing Shed 166-168 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #03220

The Packing Shed was one of the largest fruit packing sheds constructed in Western Australia in the 1930s, built during a boom period for apple exports when the apple industry was undergoing considerable development and promotion. The building was one of two commercial sheds opened in the 1930s in Bridgetown.

This industrial shed (used for fruit sorting, packing and loading onto trains) was innovative for its time, due to the scale of the building and the construction techniques used, without the need for internal load bearing walls or pillars. Original floor at dray height was removed with the advent of mechanical loaders. Adjacent to the rear of the building is a railway siding, used for loading fruit goods onto the train for transport to market. This was one of only two private commercial sidings in Bridgetown. The packing shed was originally installed with the most modern grading machinery available in Australia.



Paterson & Co Fruit Packing Shed. BHS 10-654

3 Bunbury Street

The earliest maps c.1868 of Bridgetown's townsite, surveyed and set out in lots by T Campbell Carey show Bunbury Street as the Northern Boundary. Eventually the railway, that was constructed and opened in 1898, would run through repossessed land in Lots 35, 36 and 37.

4 Bridgetown Ambulance Hall 179 Hampton Street

Bridgetown St John Ambulance Sub Centre was built in 1959 on the corner of Hampton Street and Lockley Avenue, the first purpose-built sub centre for Bridgetown and built by local builder Moyes & Son at a cost of £5,490. Whilst in use as the Bridgetown Ambulance Hall, flag poles stood either side of the front portico, to fly the National and St John Ambulance flags. In 1980 an extra garage bay was added by Neville Millwood at a cost of \$9,413. A small office addition c.1994, on the south side, enclosed the original side entry to the building. It is now FATS a café/Christmas shop/gallery.



Bridgetown Ambulance Hall. BHS 10-417

5 **Bridgetown Fire Station** 175 Hampton Street

The Bridgetown Volunteer Fire Brigade was formally established in December 1949. In September of the following year, it was reported that members of the Bridgetown Advancement Policy Pool had decided to call a meeting of bond holders to obtain approval for the sale of a block of land in Memorial Park to the WA Fire Brigades Board at an estimated cost of £100.

The purchase of this land proceeded and the purpose-built station, which was constructed by AD & D Dalton, was officially opened by the Chief Secretary, Mr G Fraser, on 11 September 1954.

This was part of the progressive development of fire brigades and stations in country towns by the Western Australia Fire Brigade Board during the immediate post-war years and, like most other fire stations of the period, it was designed by architects Duncan, Stephen & Mercer.

The ironwork signage 'Bridgetown Fire Station' (created by local artist Gordon Holdsworth) was originally set on the pediment above the original garage aperture but was reset on the pediment of the new engine house in 2010.



Bridgetown Fire Station. BHS 10-414

A town fire in December 1948 was the catalyst to form a town fire brigade, which eventuated in December 1949.

6 **Memorial Park** Hampton Street

Heritage place #6621

By 1946, the Bridgetown Advancement Policy Pool committee, led by Chairman Dr Noel Williams, had raised £550 to buy land in the centre of Bridgetown to create a memorial park. In 1947 the land, comprising of four acres, was offered to the Road Board. In 1948 the Memorial Park war memorial entrance was designed by Mr Wally Dusting (as it stands today) in honour of the men and women who fought in WWI and WWII and built at a cost of £500. The War Memorial was moved from its location on the corner of Henry and Hester Streets to the Memorial Park on 15 January 1952 and the park was officially opened on Anzac Day 1952.

7 **Bridgetown Infant Health Clinic and Sister's Quarters, 173 Hampton Street**

In 1950, plans for a purpose-built Infant Health Clinic were drawn up by architectural firm William G Bennett & Associates. This firm had designed the first model Infant Health Centre in Perth in 1934. Work did not begin until early 1953 and the building was officially opened on 17 September 1954 by Mr E Nulsen, Minister for Health. The Centre included a consulting room, a room behind with two breast feeding cubicles, and a central waiting room and a toilet for public use. A private section consisted of the Sister's quarters, living space, bedroom, kitchen, laundry and bathroom.

8 **CWA House** 171 Hampton Street

The Bridgetown CWA Hall is a simple post-WWII domestic design, with a red brick façade and tile roof. The side and back walls have a weatherboard skirt, with flush-panel fibrous cement sheeting to the upper walls.

The new building was opened by State CWA President Mrs Spencer and the Road Board President Mr W Jones on 27 September 1955. In 1962, a powder room and toilet were built on, along with an access ramp to another entry along the northern side.

9 **Bridgetown Hotel** 157 Hampton Street

Heritage place #3195

The first hotel on this site, converted from a store formerly owned by Abraham Moulton, was The Emerald Isle in 1879 owned by former convict, Thomas Ashbee. Joseph Daw became the new owner in 1895 and renamed it the Bridgetown Hotel. When the Hampton Street road level was raised in the early 1900s, entry into the bar was down some steps. The hotel was demolished in 1911 under new owner Frank Willmott (later an MP and leader of the Country Party) and rebuilt, with additions in 1939 and a major renovation in 2004. Remnants of the original foundations are visible in the basement. Of the many stories about the hotel, a memorable early one is of a visiting circus elephant tied to a veranda post while its trainer refreshed himself at the bar. A loud crash from outside revealed a missing elephant and post. Both later retrieved.



Bridgetown Hotel. BHS 95-155

10 Original site of war memorial Cnr Henry/Hester Streets

Discussions to commemorate the men who served and died during WWI began in 1919 but funds permitted only a granite memorial. Mr Gordon Holdsworth designed and sculpted the memorial, which has a bronze soldier with the accoutrements of war by his side, symbolizing the spirit of the Australians at the outbreak of war, standing in readiness to go forward at the call of Empire.

A roll of honor with the 16 names of Bridgetown soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice on one side and on the other three sides are the names of 190 men who enlisted from the Bridgetown district. At the summit stands a bronze wreath symbolizing victory.

The memorial was unveiled by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Francis Newdegate, on 11 November 1921.

The memorial was moved down into Memorial Park in mid-January 1952 and was rededicated on Anzac Day when the Memorial Gates were also dedicated.

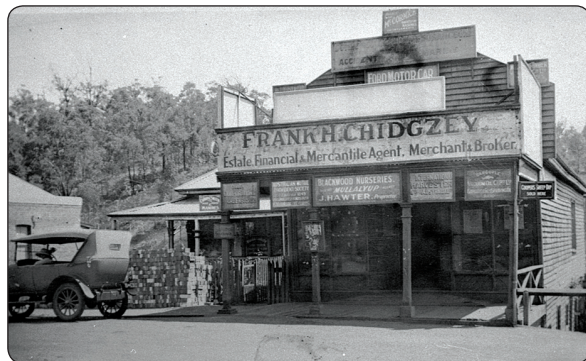


The War Memorial on Henry Street before it was relocated. BHS 95-410

11 E Day & Co 145-147 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #2997

Business partners Emma Jane Day and Ern Hill first operated a store in Steere St near the Terminus Hotel from 1898. When the lease on the land expired in 1899, they towed the building down to its current location at the corner of Hampton and Henry Streets. The store was known as E Day & Co and sold a wide range of merchandise, advertising itself as Universal Providers. The building was substantially upgraded in 1902. Emma Jane transferred ownership of the business to her daughter Millicent in 1904, who then sold it to Mr H Lake in 1907. Frank Chidgzy ran his Estate Agency and Brokerage from the building for some years, followed by the Wilson family who operated Bon Marche Drapery for fifteen years until 1948. Other uses associated with the building include the Kookaburra Tea Rooms, a Chemist, Billiard Rooms, storerooms and living quarters, and the Emporium Bistro.



Chidgzy (formerly E Day & Co). BHS 10-151A

12 Bon Ton Tea Rooms and Confectionery 141 Hampton Street

This business was established in the early 1900s by the Misses E & M Hadlow. They sold the business in 1913 to Miss E Walker. It changed hands several times over the next few years. In early advertising patrons were promised 'a hot meal at any hour before midnight, quickly and neatly served!'

Tea as we know it is integral to Australian life – but the First Nations people drank infusions from many native plants for health and well-being long before Cook set foot on Australia. For genteel women, who weren't allowed into pubs or hotels, tea rooms were created in the late 19th century to provide them with a safe space to chat and employment. Bridgetown had several tea rooms that operated well into the 20th century.



Bon Ton Tea Rooms. BHS10-004A

13 The Strand Boarding House 127 Hampton Street

The legendary Mrs Minnie 'Ma' Walker ran The Strand Café from around 1924, which was one of the three shops of the building now occupied by the Bridgetown Newsagency in Steere Street. Her catering skills were renowned. She later established The Strand Boarding House on Hampton Street, which she operated until her death in 1944. The kitchen and dining areas of the boarding house were in the building of the current Pharmacy 777, with the sleeping areas (now demolished) alongside in the community kiosk area. She was affectionately known as 'Ma' due to her motherly and generous nature. Many of 'her boys', as she called her boarders, were the recipients of her kindness – she never let anyone go hungry. Though she had an uncanny knack of discerning the waster and the scrounger, those who tried 'to put it over' her were generally sorry when she had finished with them.

14 Blechynden's butcher shop 121 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #3584

Classified by the National Trust in 1993, this building, constructed 1906/07, was first used by Herbert and Clarence (Clancy) Blechynden who advertised as *H & C Blechynden Pioneer Butchers*. They commenced their business in 1898. The butcher's shop is one of the longest, continuously operated, butcher shops in WA.



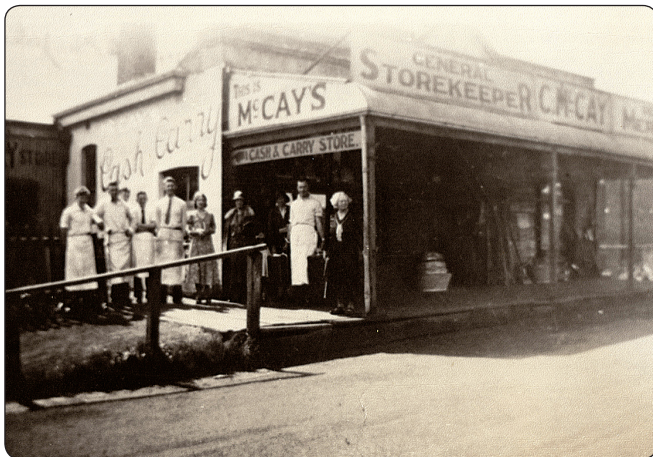
Blechynden Butchers. BHS 10-457

Clancy's butcher's buggy, fully restored by the Men's Shed, is on display in the Ag Society.

15 JR Walter & Co (McCay's, Stables IGA) 109 Hampton Street

Heritage place #3585

Jack Walter built the first store on this site around 1904. He sold general produce. After five years, when his store faltered, Walter returned to his farm, Peninsula. Charles McCay bought the business and renamed it McCay's. The store expanded and was redeveloped over the years becoming a department store by the 1950s, still under McCay's name, with separate entrances for drapery, groceries, shoe ware and the like. The former entrances are visible in the present building which now operates as an IGA. A stable still exists in the basement.



McCay's. BHS 95-549

16 Solicitor's Office 107 Hampton Street

The front elevation of the building is constructed of stone with brick quoining around door and window openings and there is a decorative brick detail (dentils) at eaves level. The side elevations are of stretcher bond brickwork. The front door with fanlight and the two double-hung sash windows are typical of the era although the existing front door is not original. The building has an iron roof and central chimney. The office was built for Mr Percy Ewing c.1925 and the building purposely had an old-style look. He had reportedly been travelling to Bridgetown from Bunbury on a casual basis since 1908 and realised the need for a permanent legal practice in the town.

17 National Bank 97 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #00246

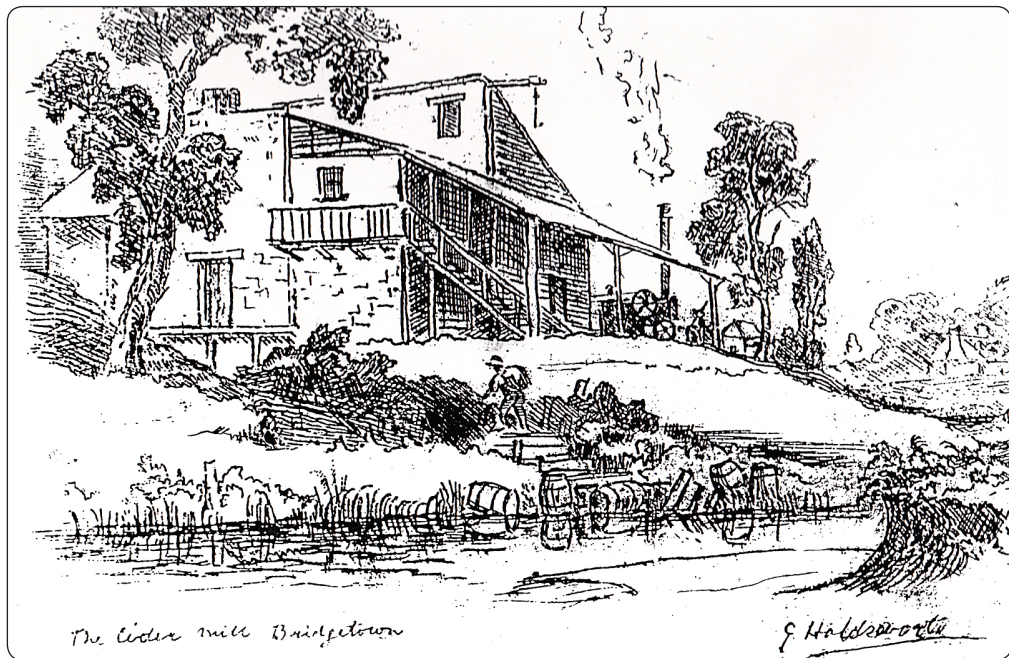
This strikingly fine brick building was built in 1909 for the National Bank. It contains many moulded decorative motifs, metal ceilings and fittings of polished jarrah. The living quarters for the manager were equally well-appointed and included a stable, chaff house and buggy shed. Little has changed to either the original internal or external structure, though there were two later additions, north and south, in the 1950s. The building remained in use as a bank until the 1970s. It is now used as offices.

18 Maslin House 81 Hampton Street

Heritage place #6625

Maslin House is a small cottage of iron and handmade wire-cut bricks, fronting Hampton Street, which now sits below street level at the original road height. It is one of the oldest houses in Bridgetown located within the central commercial district. The two-acre town Lot 16 in Bridgetown was originally purchased by John Douglas in 1869, then sold to Thomas Maslin in 1877. Thomas and his eldest son, James Maslin, built the house on the property and James took up residence here with his wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth's skills as a midwife meant the front rooms were used early on to care for women 'lying in' prior to and following childbirth.

A second timber cottage was transported to the rear of Maslin House around the early 1940s and an addition of a gallery and workshop space was adjoined to the northern side of Maslin House in 1984/85. The original building flows through to this extension (pottery/gallery). Hand-hewn floor boards can still be seen in the building as well as pressed metal ceilings. The house has been used as a boarding house, grocery and vegetable store, dwelling, and, from 1986, has been run as Bridgetown Pottery Tearooms (Restaurant), with the gallery used for public art exhibitions and similar functions.



Cidery 1918 drawn by Gordon Holdsworth.



Early John Fowler road locomotive 16161 at Giblett's farm, Tweed Road. BHS 10.485

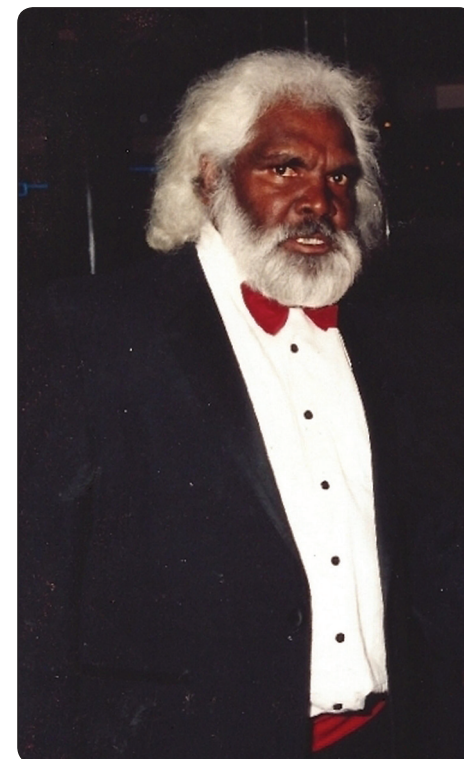
19 Bridgetown Cider Factory 73 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #2965

The purpose of forming a cider factory was to make use of the abundant surplus apple crops in the district. The Bridgetown Co-operative Cider Company was formed in November 1917 by Mr Robert Crawford of the Freemasons' Hotel. Shares were sold for £1 each and the objects of the company were the manufacture and sale of cider and other by-products of apples and other fruit. Mr Henry Smith, from Gloucester, England, was the manager of the cider plant and he made all the machinery. The factory was opened on 24 April 1918 by Miss Rose Barnett. The apples were dropped through a trap door at street level into a hopper, where they were crushed and rolled. Cider was sold in the local pubs for sixpence a long sleeve (16 oz or ~ 500 ml). The factory closed in 1919 but was resurrected as the Occident Cider Company in 1920. This company also folded within the year and closed permanently.

20 Colin 'Coke' Carlin memorial 53 Hampton Street (by the footbridge over Geegelup Brook)

Cullen Tea Day Jumpbaring, known locally as Colin 'Coke' Carlin was a Nyamal man born on Country near Marble Bar. He endeared himself to the Bridgetown community from when he first arrived in 1957. Colin developed polio as a child and, aged six, came down to Perth for treatment. He did not see his mother again for 34 years. Raised in various Perth institutions he came to Bridgetown as a youth and gained employment as a farmhand with the Gifford family where he stayed for many years. Colin was active in the Repertory Theatre and sporting groups as both player and coach. In later life he became adept at public speaking. Many people remember chats with Colin on the bench outside the Freemasons' Hotel where he often sat. He did not drink alcohol, but always had a bottle of Coke in his hand – hence his nickname.



Colin Tea Day Jumpbaring

Bridgetown was settled at the confluence of Country of the Pibulmun, Wadandi, Kaneang and Menang, Bibbulmun people of the South West WA.

21 Henry's House and site of Moriarty's blacksmith 29 Hampton Street

Heritage place #26209

The house was built by Blacksmith John Moriarty in 1890 and is a typical example of a simple late-nineteenth century brick house in Western Australia. One of the earliest sites of manufacture and trade in Bridgetown and a thriving business on the main route through town, this Blacksmith and Wheelwright's shop was established in 1864 by Cornelius Denny. Later John Moriarty was his apprentice. Between 1894 and 1900 John Moriarty lived and worked at 29 Hampton Street. He moved the blacksmith business further along Hampton Street as he was in business in 1909 in new premises. By 1911 there were four blacksmiths operating in town. George Douglas Henry, who was a storeman, and his wife Frances (née Parsonage) resided here from 1949 until the 1980s hence the reference to the property as 'Henry's House'. George was born in Bridgetown in 1922. The shop was demolished in 1947.

This is also the site of the blacksmith (and wheelwright) cooling pool.

22 Allview 7 Mount Street

inHerit State register #6627

Built in 1888 by Joseph Smith for Lewis Moulton (son of the first police officer Abraham Moulton). Lewis' original house on this block was a 2-bedroom mudbrick hut with a shingle roof. He married Helena Giblett in 1887 and she won the National Lottery, which enabled them to build a substantial house. Below the house the land was used as the town's vegetable garden and later Allview became a boarding house. It is now a private residence.



Allview. BHS-250A

23 Ford House 1-3 Eedle Terrace

inHerit State register #3207

Ford House was built in 1896 by John William Blechynden Jnr for William Ardagh Gardner (WAG) Walter and his wife Lucille Jane Walter (née Thomson, granddaughter of John Septimus Roe Esq Surveyor General). The five-acre lot was part of John Blechynden Snr's original freehold property called Bridgedale. Ford House was named after Walter's father's house in Taunton, Somerset, UK, of which it also imitates the ground floor design. WAG Walter was the first Resident Magistrate in the South-West and the Mining Registrar during the tin boom in Greenbushes. WAG Walter remained at Ford House for only nine years. Subsequent owners include Kate Allnutt (daughter of John Allnutt the first orchardist in Bridgetown) and Ernest Thomas Moyes (King's Messenger to King George V). It is now a private residence and guest accommodation.

24 Austin's Ford Eedle Terrace

There were numerous fords across the Blackwood River (Goorbilyup) at low water near to Bridgetown. Austin's Ford was used by Surveyor Robert Austin in 1845 when he surveyed the Blackwood Valley, and it is located where Geegilup Brook enters the Blackwood River, adjacent to Ford House. The first bridge over the Blackwood River was built at this location in 1862 but was washed away in a massive flood before it could be used.

25 Bridges over the Blackwood River (Goorbilyup)

inHerit State register #2995

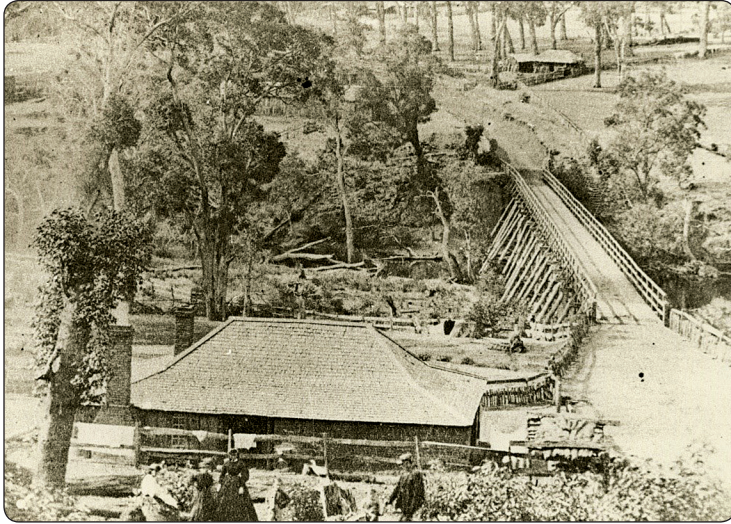
Bridge #1 over the Blackwood River was at Austin's Ford (below Ford House), constructed in 1862. It was swept away by flood waters before it could be used. Bridge #2 was built in 1862 further upstream, adjacent to Bridgedale on Hampton Street. Due to poor footings, this bridge swayed so in 1888 bridge #3 was built using convict labour. This bridge also ran from the end of Hampton Street but skewed south-east of the Blackwood police station. Heavier traffic needed a stronger bridge and bridge #4 was built in 1936 by the Main Roads Department. This bridge used milled timber. The fifth, and current, wooden bridge was built in 1981, at a time when wooden bridges were being phased out. This ran alongside bridge #4 but angled to the south-east. The remains of the pylons to bridge #4 can still be seen below the northern parking bay beside the bridge, when the river is low. A full essay on Bridgetown's bridges can be found on www.bridgetownhistoricalsociety.org.au.

The railway bridge (#1) was built in 1910/11 and opened by Mr J Nanson in July 1911, who travelled by train to Manjimup with an enthusiastic entourage.

26 Police Reserve/Riverwood, 24399 South Western Highway

inHerit State
register #6626

The Police Reserve was noted on early maps c.1864 and included the Geegilup Police Station (Blackwood #1) on the banks of the Blackwood River (Goorbilyup). When the police station moved into new premises in town (148 Hampton Street) in 1880, the buildings fell into disrepair and were rented out. In 1895 it was reported by a Bridgetown correspondent that: 'We are glad to see ... £200 [has been placed on the estimates] for repairing the old police quarters for our doctor's residence. This sum should make it a comfortable dwelling.' In January 1897 it was announced that the new doctor's quarters were nearing completion. It is now known as Riverwood House and is a private residence. The provision of a house for a resident doctor in the mid-1890s was an important step towards the establishment of a well-serviced rural township.



Original police station and bridge #2 in 1868. BHS 10-490

The Police Reserve/river flats was a key meeting place for the First Nations people of this area.

27 Bridgedale 1-7 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #00241

Bridgedale is a single-storey house constructed of red clay and limestone bricks made onsite, with a corrugated iron roof and three red brick chimneys. Bridgedale originally had a shingle roof (as did the single men's hut) but these were not waterproof. Built c.1862 for John Blechynden and his family, the home was a residence until the late 1960s when it was bought by a group of concerned residents and handed over to the Shire, who then gave the building to the National Trust. Bridgedale is historically significant as the first brick dwelling in Bridgetown and home to the first town settlers, John Blechynden and his family. The single men's hut was the first school in Bridgetown and the wooden trough was created from a single tree trunk.

28 Shop-front home 30 Hampton Street

Heritage place #6624

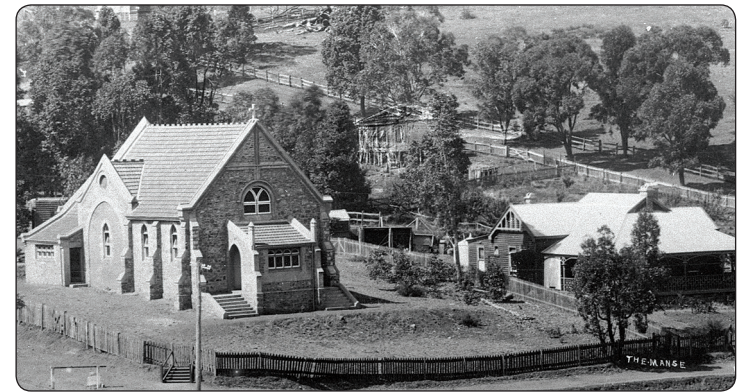
The Old Town Haberdashery, said to have been built by the Blechynden family in 1903, is a good example of a shop-front home. Doors opening onto the verandah may have been the entrance to the shop selling pins, cloth and thread or men's clothing and accessories. The house is now a residence but has been tea rooms and Scroungers Antique/secondhand shop.

The railway was extended past this house in 1911. Noise and smuts would pervade the house.

29 St Paul's Anglican Church and hall 36 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #0252

Built in 1911, to replace an earlier timber-frame church, it was designed by FW Steere in a Federation Gothic style with an adjoining timber hall. It is constructed of locally sourced granite (possibly from Allview) and faced in Donnybrook stone. The land was donated by Miss Walter. Mr John Allnutt laid the foundation stone, and the first minister was the Rev GH Devlin. There are magnificent sculptural pieces within the church that were created by Gordon Holdsworth. Services are held on Sundays.



St Paul's Anglican Church and manse. BHS 10-007A

30 Trainmen's Barracks 16 Phillips Street

inHerit State register #0250

Built in 1949/50 to accommodate train drivers, firemen and guardsmen working on the railway, the barracks have a distinct 1950s character. The design of the buildings was used as a model for other barracks in the State. Originally consisting of twenty-four, small, 8 feet by 10 feet rooms, with one male ablution block and a kitchen/dining room, the barracks demonstrate the importance of Bridgetown as a rail centre in the South-West. In the 1980s the complex was leased from Westrail and used for worker accommodation by Greenbushes Tin NL. It is now a boutique hotel.

31 Nelson House Lodge 38 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #0247

Originally intended as a railway hotel, Warner's Hotel was too far from the railway station when it opened in July 1899. It was sold to R Crawford in 1902 and renamed Freemasons' Hotel. In 1904 the original licence was transferred to the current Freemasons' Hotel (cnr Steere and Hampton). Around the time of WWI, a large sign was painted on the back wall, visible from the railway line, advertising the building as a Coffee Palace. Coffee Palaces were developed with the backing of the temperance movement as an alternative to pubs. Mesdames Cumming and Wilson offered accommodation and meals, but no alcohol as advertised in the local press:

Bridgetown Coffee Palace, Hampton Street. MRS. CUMMING proprietress. THE MOST COMMODIOUS COFFEE PALACE IN BRIDGETOWN. Special attention to visitors! Every comfort of a home for boarders! Excellent stabling! Bath room and every convenience! Spacious balcony! First class table. *The Blackwood Times*, 1914.

During WWII this building served as an Italian internment hostel. The POWs wore a bright burgundy uniform to stand out, so escape was difficult. Jesse Brierley took ownership in 1948 and the building was again used for tourist accommodation and functions.



Warner's Hotel c.1899. BHS 95-476

32 Site of Nurse McAlinden's maternity hospital 56 Hampton Street

'Satisfaction is everything - Nurse McAlinden - 20 years' experience. Tel 55.' (*Nelson Advocate* 27 Jan 1927)

Alice Harriet McAlinden (née Reeve) arrived in Bridgetown, aged 19, from the Warren district. Her maternity home stood on this site, a lying-in home or hospital where mothers could give birth with the help of a midwife. She delivered over 1,000 babies in Bridgetown. Nurse McAlinden had seven of her own children and died in Bunbury, aged 79, in 1951. A bench under the oak tree on this site honours her work.

33 Scott's Hotel 78 Hampton Street

Heritage place #239

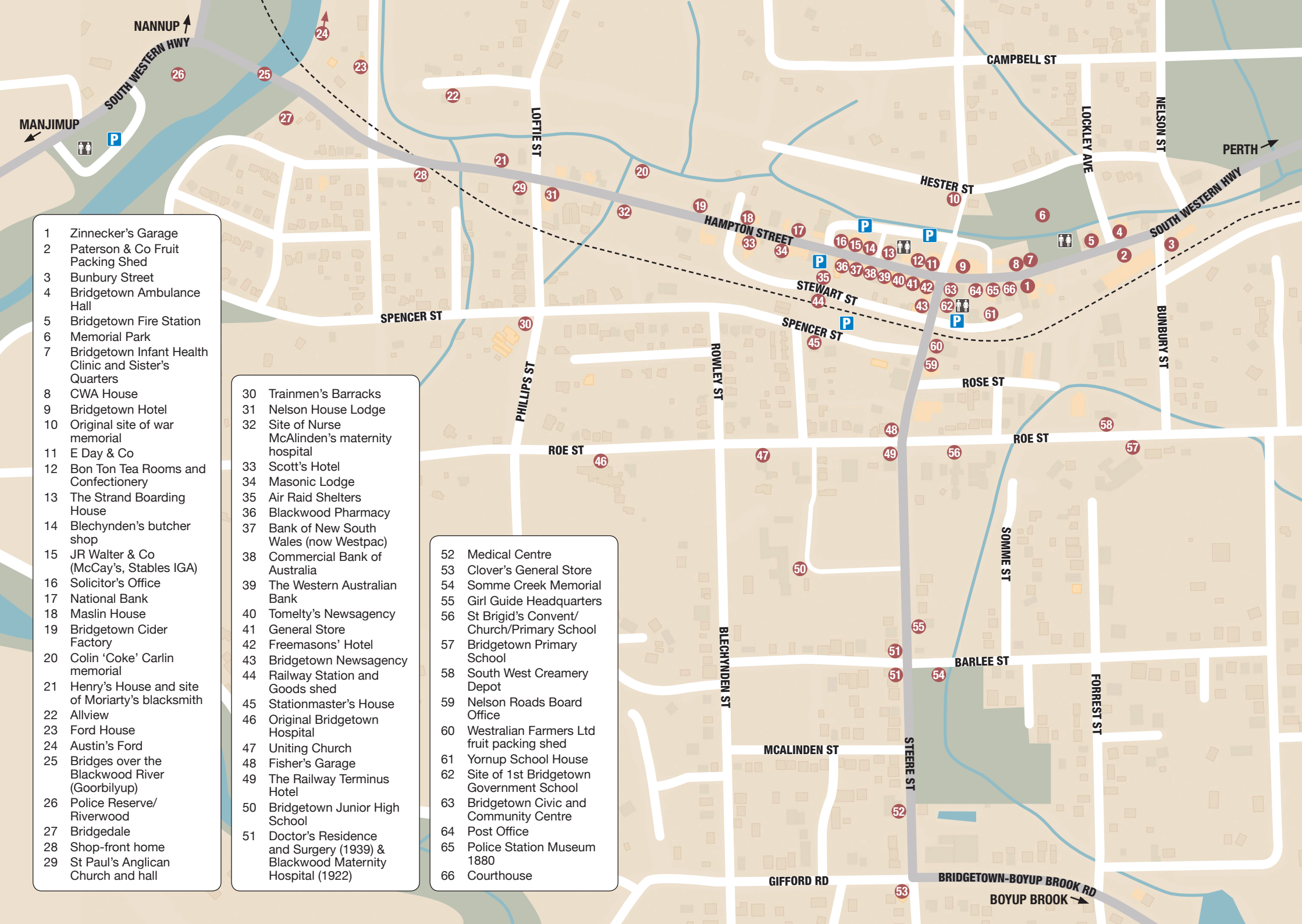
The original building, known as Farmer's Rest Hotel, was built in 1876 by Henry James Doust, one of the early settlers in Bridgetown, and has the initials HJD and the date 1876 on the parapet. In 1908 Doust rebuilt the store and additions were made to make the current hotel as it stands today. The lease of the hotel was taken over by James Scott in 1890 and the Scott family eventually purchased the hotel in 1915 (no relation to the current owner).

Scott's Tavern is significant as the oldest remaining public house in Bridgetown. A photograph in the State Library of Western Australia dated c.1905, shows the current building facing the corner of Hampton and Stewart Streets, with the original second-storey verandahs to both street frontages. The history of the town suggests that the major additions were a direct response to the increased demand for accommodation for visitors and travellers, in the years immediately after the opening of the railway line in 1898.



The corner of Steere/ Hampton Streets was bituminised in January 1933 employing susso men for this work. By 1939 Hampton Street was bituminised.

Farmer's Rest Hotel. BHS 10-254



- 1 Zinnecker's Garage
- 2 Paterson & Co Fruit Packing Shed
- 3 Bunbury Street
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- 5 Bridgetown Fire Station
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- 7 Bridgetown Infant Health Clinic and Sister's Quarters
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- 30 Trainmen's Barracks
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- 36 Blackwood Pharmacy
- 37 Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac)
- 38 Commercial Bank of Australia
- 39 The Western Australian Bank
- 40 Tomelty's Newsagency
- 41 General Store
- 42 Freemasons' Hotel
- 43 Bridgetown Newsagency
- 44 Railway Station and Goods shed
- 45 Stationmaster's House
- 46 Original Bridgetown Hospital
- 47 Uniting Church
- 48 Fisher's Garage
- 49 The Railway Terminus
- 50 Bridgetown Junior High School
- 51 Doctor's Residence and Surgery (1939) & Blackwood Maternity Hospital (1922)

- 52 Medical Centre
- 53 Clover's General Store
- 54 Somme Creek Memorial
- 55 Girl Guide Headquarters
- 56 St Brigid's Convent/Church/Primary School
- 57 Bridgetown Primary School
- 58 South West Creamery Depot
- 59 Nelson Roads Board Office
- 60 Westralian Farmers Ltd fruit packing shed
- 61 Yornup School House
- 62 Site of 1st Bridgetown Government School
- 63 Bridgetown Civic and Community Centre
- 64 Post Office
- 65 Police Station Museum 1880
- 66 Courthouse

34 Masonic Lodge **82 Hampton Street**

inHerit State register #0245

The Bridgetown Masonic Lodge (Bridgetown Lodge No 60, United Nelson Lodge No 903 SC) was founded in 1899 under the Scottish constitution by nine local freemasons. In continuous use for its original purpose, the building opened in 1910 on land donated by Henry Doust. This purpose-built red brick (on stone plinth) and corrugated iron building has played an important role in the community. The uncommon design and finish of the gables and ventilation turret is notable.

35 Air Raid Shelters in carpark next to bakery at 102 Hampton Street

In 1943 two air raid shelters were constructed at the top end of the car park below the railway station. The trenches extended down towards Hampton Street and were roofed with thick corrugated iron. A slide was built into the bank above so that if the railway station was bombed, people could run across the road, jump down the slide and into the trenches. An estimated 60 people could fit into the two trenches. The railway station also had trapdoors inside, which led to a breezeway for people to escape the platform. (Information courtesy of Fred Luff who lived in the adjacent Bridgetown Bakery from 1946 for several years).

36 Blackwood Pharmacy **110 Hampton Street**

Heritage place #242

The date on the parapet of this shop is the year that Francis Ick, Pharmacist, commenced business in temporary premises. In 1911 he erected this purpose-built store, which is the only commercial premise remaining in Bridgetown with its original bullnose verandah. Post-1924, when the Blackwood Pharmacy was taken over by Mr WL Nelson, the name was changed to Nelson's Pharmacy. During the 1980s it was Capricorn Tearooms.

37 Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) **112 Hampton Street**

inHerit State register #00243

An inter-war period of prosperity in the region saw the Bank of New South Wales move into this new building in 1938. The architectural style of the building is Inter-War Stripped Classical. The original entry is no longer used and has been replaced with a window. The upper storey has a large lounge, four bedrooms, bathroom and kitchenette and was originally used by the resident manager and family. The building has always been used as a bank.

38 Commercial Bank of Australia **116 Hampton Street**

Heritage place #3582

Built by Messrs Gibbs and Moyes in 1910, for just under £1000, included a banking chamber, manager's room, strong room and upstairs living (five rooms and a spacious hall). Now an accountant's practice.

39 The Western Australian Bank **122 Hampton Street**

inHerit State register #03581

This was the first bank building constructed in Bridgetown, in 1903. The original building contained a residence for the manager and family at the rear with an area at the front for commercial use. Mr Arthur Sherwood was the manager for over fifteen years until he moved from the area in 1920. In 1927 the Bank of NSW acquired the Western Australian Bank and continued operating in the building until 1938, when it moved to its new premises – two buildings to the south. A new façade creating three shop fronts was then extended to the street. The smallest of the three spaces was Mr John Fleeton's Men's Hairdressers for many years. Salvairs Watchmakers was another early tenant. More recently, Country Roses Café, Botanical Vault and Mulberry Tree Café have been tenants. If you stand back and look at the frontage from the other side of the street you can see the original front gable of the bank building.



The Western Australian Bank. BHS 95-212

40 Tomelty's Newsagency 128 Hampton Street

John Tomelty opened Tomelty's Newsagency on this site in 1914. After his death in 1926, his son Harold ran the shop until the early 1930s. Harold and his wife Ivy were active in the local Repertory Club, musical concerts and the church – both were talented musicians. The building was demolished prior to the new Commonwealth Bank branch opening in 1964 and operating until 2019. It is now the Ruby Medical Centre.



Tomelty's Newsagency. BHS 95-101

Bridgetown was granted Historic Town status in 2000 and was listed by the National Trust. It boasts a remarkable resemblance in 2022 to its original streetscape dating from 1868. It is the oldest town in the South West of WA. Convicts were used to create the road from Donnybrook to Bridgetown in 1861, opening up the area to settlers.

41 General Store 130 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #02996

Of jarrah weatherboard construction with an iron skillion roof, the original shop on this site is now at the rear of the building. This small, original shop from the 1900s traded as Veale's Dressmakers/Tailor, possibly from 1907, and has a floor of wide timber boards. The current shop facing Hampton Street is a functional Inter-War era shop. This building has only had minor alterations since it was constructed in 1938/39 and consists of three internal rooms each with its own fireplace.

42 Freemasons' Hotel 2 Steere Street

inHerit State register #248

The Freemasons' Hotel was built by the Bunning Brothers in 1904. The location was chosen to take advantage of the nearby railway station. Although alterations have been made in the public areas over the years and the Hampton Street wing extended in 1939, many of the original features can be seen in the main dining room. 'Roaring Bob' Crawford was the notable first publican who promoted the Freemasons' as 'the latest, largest and leading hotel in Bridgetown ... and a Magnificent Sanatorium.' The cuisine under the superintendence of Mrs Crawford was reported as being of a character to satisfy the most fastidious taste. Crawford was a great benefactor, supporting the arts, sporting clubs, students, and the diggers of WWI. On Saturday evenings he would place a gramophone on the balcony and play music to the crowds milling in the street below.



Freemasons' Hotel 1923. State Library of WA, Image 008254PD

The First Nations people called this Blackwood region Geegelup – the name was probably taken from the local Aboriginal term for the fresh water crustaceans found in the local brook, which the Pibulmun people called 'gulgies'. But the white settlers wanted an Anglicised name and chose Bridgetown, being a bridge by the town. The barque Bridgetown was also the first ship to take wool clips from Bridgetown to Europe.

Fifty-six town lots of 2½ acres were sold for £5 per lot, many of these lots going to ticket-of-leave men. There were also investors from Perth who quickly onsold their lots for a profit. So much for Surveyor TC Carey's notion that it would only ever be 'a mere country village'. Bridgetown hasn't stopped growing.

43 **Bridgetown Newsagency** 16 Steere Street

The first use of this building is uncertain but was three separate shops; Tozer & Co occupied it from the mid-1920s selling quality gentlemen and boy's clothing. The Strand Café and Walker Dining Rooms also occupied part of the building from around the same time and had prominent signs facing the railway line to catch the eye of new arrivals. From 1945 the Laurel Lending Library and bookshop was established here by Miss Stanley, also Kirby's Store and various other businesses. Converted to a single shop, it is now a newsagency.



Tozer & Co and Strand Café. BHS 10-089A

44 **Railway Station and Goods shed** 11 Stewart Street, Railway Reserve

inHerit State
register #0256

The railway station was opened on 1 December 1898 and the district flourished with growth of the timber and fruit growing industries. The precinct comprises railway lines, a weatherboard and corrugated iron station with a passenger platform, a double-gabled corrugated iron goods shed (constructed 1914), a 5-ton goods crane, a loading gauge and significant plantings of Oak, Cape Lilac, Ficus and Kurrajong trees. In June 1988 the Station was decommissioned and in 2005 the railway closed.



Railway Station and Goods Shed. BHS 95-330

45 **Stationmaster's House** 1 Ethel Street

This single-storey residence, with clay tiles over a gable-hipped roof and weatherboard exterior, was built in 1925. It is a good example of an inter-war bungalow, which was occupied by the various stationmasters until 1988. The first stationmaster's house, c.1898, was at 17 Steere Street.

When the railway was extended to Bridgetown in 1898, the townsfolk were ecstatic. Not only could they avoid the rough sandy roads to Bunbury, but their fruit could be transported quickly by rail, almost on the same day it was picked. This advancement in transport coincided with the advent of reefer ships, or refrigerated ships, that prevented fruit and meat spoiling as they sailed to Europe.

46 **Original Bridgetown Hospital** 90 Roe Street

inHerit State register #257

Built as a residence for the Regional Surveyor in 1887, it was converted to a hospital in 1899 with minimal changes to the original floor plan. In 1936 an operating theatre, maternity wing, x-ray, and dark room were added, along with a separate cottage to create a nurses quarters. The hospital closed in 1978 and is now used as a camp school.



Original Bridgetown Hospital. BHS 95-256

47 Uniting Church 106 Roe Street

inHerit State register #0258

Originally a Wesley Methodist Church, built in 1899 in the Victorian free gothic style it was the first permanent church in Bridgetown. Mrs WAG Walter laid the foundation stone. The first Minister was Rev FW Hart. In 1977 the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Union churches joined to become the Uniting Church in Australia.

48 Fisher's Garage 32 Steere Street

Bon Fisher ran a Garage and Service Station on this site from the early 1930s, selling popular makes of vehicle – Buick, Pontiac, Chevrolet and eventually the Australian-produced Holden when it commenced production in 1948. The business moved to a bigger site at the corner of Hampton and Nelson Streets in the 1960s and became Fisher Motors – which later became Kordics.

49 The Railway Terminus Hotel 36 Steere Street

inHerit State register #253

Joseph Smith, former convict and pioneer of Bridgetown, built his home, general store and boarding house in 1894, using hand-made bricks from local clay, which were evident in recent restorations. In late December 1897 he leased it to publican James Pulbrook who changed the name to the Railway Terminus Hotel on account of the imminent opening of the railway line to Bridgetown. It quickly gained a reputation as a place for a drink, merriment and song. Joseph Smith's son Jack later owned and operated the hotel from 1912 to 1922. Various owners added to and altered the building over the years, the Swan Brewery being the last owner from 1967 to 1975 when they gifted it to the town. It has since been run as a Youth Centre and the Bridgetown Family and Community Centre. Interestingly, the former beer garden, which is now a playground, retains some of the mature trees that were planted (Araucaria, London Plane) and therefore are significant to its history.



The Railway Terminus Hotel. BHS 10-255

50 Bridgetown Junior High School 48 Steere Street

As early as 1936 the Road Board had noted that Bridgetown needed a high school because the State School on Roe Street was overcrowded as was the Bunbury High School. Bridgetown Junior High School was completed in 1954 on the site of the livestock sale yards (which were moved to the river precinct) and opened in November that year. An inspection of the new building in 1953 revealed 'a glorious view from every window ... The entrance hall is finished with terrazzo and chromium, the huge library, science and three classrooms are to be enamel finished to high window height ... There is also an office, staff room and pantry. Each classroom will have a visual education screen and wonder heater. Two perfectly appointed toilet blocks, large shelter area and storage rooms complete this beautiful building.' The contractors, William Moyes and Sons, had many difficulties including a shortage of bricks, but the building was finished in September for students to attend in the last term of the year. It was noted in 1952 that there would be at least 70 post-primary students to attend the Junior High School. Technical and commercial classes were included to meet the criteria for five subjects. The first headmaster was Mr Alan Loneragan.

51 Doctor's Residence and Surgery (1939) & Blackwood Maternity Hospital (1922) 64 & 66 Steere Street

Dr Noel Williams (medical practitioner and surgeon) came to Bridgetown in 1934 and worked with Dr Ferguson, whose practice he bought in 1945. They lived firstly at Nelson House Lodge on Hampton Street then purchased the land on the corner of Steere and Barlee Streets on 5 September 1936. Dr Williams, his wife Dorothy and family built the house on this block in 1939, and Dr Williams applied for the construction of a crossover over the drain on Barlee Street so he could access his garage. The brick and concrete alcove adjoining the footpath on Steere Street was built by Doctor Williams for parents to park their prams while attending the surgery. It is now a private residence.

The building is significant for having been a purpose-built Maternity Hospital, the first in the Blackwood–Warren District. *The Bunbury Herald and Blackwood Express* reports 3rd February 1922: 'A Nurse's Enterprise. One of the most recent erections is the Blackwood Maternity Hospital, owned by Nurse Juliette Mesnil. It is a very commodious building and is designed according to the most modern hygienic principles.' Then used as a boarding house by Miss Klopper. It is now a private residence.

Nurse Mesnil came to Bridgetown in 1921 and later married Mr Charles Bond. She died in 1945 having run the Maternity Hospital for many years.



52 Medical Centre 88 Steere Street

The house was built in the mid-1920s for Frank Chidzey, adjoining land where he had established an extensive market garden. Described when it was put up for auction in 1935 as 'a commodious brick residence containing six large main rooms, spacious hall, maid's room, kitchen, bathroom, large verandahs all round, one complete side fitted with glass sliding frames, ideal as a conservatory or sleep out. Outbuildings: motor garage, wash-house, wood shed and man's room. One of the most convenient and up-to-date residences in Bridgetown.' Possibly built by George Ausden, a builder in Bridgetown who was responsible for several prominent homes in the town. Used by Drs Randall Harding and Ann Whitehead and then by Dr Nigel Jones in 1972, who, together with Dr Michael Dewing, established the current Medical Practice in 1979. With additions to the original building, and with an increase in health practitioners, it is now a functioning medical centre.

53 Clover's General Store Steere Street

Bought by Thomas Clover and his wife Grace in 1948 from Les and Nell Sussmill (who had owned it since 1930 as a general store), the store originally had Shell petrol bowsers in front. There have been many owners since Tom and Grace ran the store. The bowsers were removed c.1978. The liquor shop was added c.2002 along with the cedar weatherboards and bullnose verandah.



Clover's General Store. Courtesy A & E Barber

54 Somme Creek Memorial Cnr of Barlee and Steere Streets

A monument of two freestanding granite blocks located in the Somme Creek precinct, commemorates the twenty-three Bridgetown men who were killed in action during the Battle of the Somme in France in WWI. One plaque lists the names of the men killed and the other provides an overview of the history of the Battle of the Somme. The memorial was unveiled on 23 July 2016, exactly 100 years after the Battle of the Somme, on which day in 1916 the Australians engaged in intense fighting and captured the village of Pozières.

The RSL focuses on the welfare and support of veterans and Allied Service personnel and their families who have served our nation in uniform. Men and women from all over Australia volunteered to fight for Australia when called to arms and many lost their lives. Memorials are an important way of not forgetting their sacrifice that we may be free.

55 Girl Guide Headquarters 63 Steere Street

The Bridgetown branch of Girl Guides was established in 1916 and following the donation of land in 1926, a purpose built hut was constructed in 1934. In early 1935 *The West Australian* reported on the opening of the new Bridgetown Girl Guide headquarters, consisting of a main hall, adjoining rear hall and kitchen and an attached skillion-roofed store room. The main hall is accessed from ground level at the front, but the sloping site means that the rear hall/kitchen wing is elevated at the rear, requiring an external stair. The rear storage room is set at ground level and the timber cladding is of a different cut to the front portion, indicating it is likely a later addition. An externally expressed brick fireplace is located at the eastern end of the main hall. What appears to be the original signage for the Bridgetown Girl Guide Headquarters remains across the front of the entrance porch. This appears to have been a relatively early example of a purpose-built Guide hall as newspaper reports indicate that the first building of this type was erected in Geraldton in March 1929.

The Girl Guides 8 April 1916 — The first meeting of the Bridgetown No. 1 (Rose) Company of Baden Powell Girl Guides was held on Tuesday evening. Mrs I E Stephenson was elected President of the company. The girls will meet every Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9 pm. It was agreed to form three patrols, the following being appointed patrol-leaders, Misses Eileen Scott, Gertie Blechynden and Miana Blechynden with the Misses Attie Laverty, Dorothy Gannaway and Greta Boundy, as Corporals. We understand there are vacancies for a few girls who may desire to join and become foundation members of the company. Miss Minna Blechynden has also been appointed secretary and treasurer of the No. 1 Company.

56 St Brigid's Convent/Church/Primary School 130-170 Roe Street

inHerit State register #00259

The first Catholic wooden church/school was built in 1894 on the corner of Steere and Roe Streets. This was replaced in 1904 when the present St Brigid's church building was completed to serve both as school and church. The Infants School was housed in a separate weatherboard building. This cluster of buildings looked over the original Agricultural show grounds on the corner of Roe and Steere Streets. In the same year the ground floor of the convent was completed and staffed by the Sisters of Mercy. In the 1920s a second storey was added to allow for boarders. The Parish Hall, constructed in 1925, was used as a school. In 1956 the present school opened.



Catholic Church and Convent. BHS 95-257

57 Bridgetown Primary School 179 Roe Street

inHerit State register #02963

The Bridgetown State school was built in 1914, removed from its Steere Street location (which was built in 1870) due to increasing danger to students from road and rail traffic. Initially comprising of just the granite and brick building facing Roe Street, it contained 4–5 classrooms, with sash windows and three brick chimneys. The weatherboard classroom nearest to the school's oval was originally a Newlands school. Various other buildings have been redistributed around the oval. The first Headmaster was Mr LE Stephenson. When the Junior High School on Steere Street was opened in 1954, the school became solely a primary school.

58 South West Creamery Depot 159 Roe Street

The South West Dairy Co-op Ltd (Sunny West Butter) depot received butter fat from the Bridgetown district to send to the Manjimup or Bunbury butter factory. It was originally housed in a building adjoining Westralian Farmers Cool Store, but it burnt down in 1936. A new building was erected on Roe Street c.1936 and formed the first bay or receiving room for a gravitational butter factory. It was predicted to become one of the most important butter manufacturing centres of the South West. This didn't eventuate post-WWII because of the poor financial situation.



Sunny West Co-op Dairies Ltd. BHS 10-388

59 Nelson Roads Board Office 19 Steere Street

inHerit State register #03583

Nelson Roads Board was established in 1887, mostly to build and maintain roads. The first chairman was John Allnut. At a salary of £12 per annum, from which he had to buy his own stationery, Mr J Kurtz was the first Secretary (Shire Clerk). There were no rates levied until 1903 so their funding was from cart, carriage, and dog licences. The Office was completed in 1908. Known as Nelson Roads Board Offices until 1917 (when it became Bridgetown Road Board), the building was briefly a library and then left vacant. In 1943 the building was occupied by the Army and used as a Prisoner of War Control Centre. The Control Centres were located on railway lines for ease of transport. Each one was manned by a captain, a private and an interpreter. The building is now privately owned.



Nelson Roads Board. BHS 95-282

60 Westralian Farmers Ltd fruit packing shed 17 Steere Street

inHerit State register #17301

Westralian Farmers Ltd was established in 1914 and was the largest co-operative organisation in Australia. The Westralian Farmers fruit packing shed was built in 1935 on the site of the original Stationmaster's house (c.1898). The sheds extended for some distance down the railway line, but much was removed in the 1970s. The sliding doors for access to the goods train for loading apples are still visible. Currently Blackwood Hydraulics.

1936 ... *in the Westralian Farmers' packing shed at Bridgetown apples are a business. In fact, people in Bridgetown seem surprised that anyone should want to EAT apples.*

On one side cases were being nailed together and labels pasted on the ends by men who worked with the speed and dexterity of long practice. On the other side men packed apples beside a grading machine for all the world like a team of shearers. The work is ... paid so much a case and they are out for a tally ... The case is placed on an inclined stand beside the grading bin and the apples are whipped from the bin, wrapped in tissue paper and packed in the case in one movement which takes a practised packer barely a second ... Every hour the men move up the grader to the next bin so that each man will have a turn on the larger grades which are quicker to pack ... The grades are "Extra Fancy," "Fancy" and "Choice." After packing ... the lids are clamped on and nailed. Still on rollers, the cases are pushed through ports into the cool store, where they remain at a temperature of 32 degrees until shipment. Each grower's fruit is graded separately ... The shed can grade and pack approximately 1,000 cases a day. There are over 200 varieties of apples, but the main export varieties are Jonathan, Cleopatra, Dunn's Seedling and Granny Smith, which mature early, and Yate, Doherty and Rome Beauty, which are the later varieties.



Westralian Farmers Fruit Packing Shed. BHS 10-411

61 Yornup School House 5 Civic Lane

Built by the Education Department on land given by Mr Peter Patterson at Springside (South Western Hwy ~ 4.5 km north of Yornup) and opened in December 1908 with Miss MacNamee the first teacher. Springside State School was attended by children of farming families in the area and from the Fettleers camp at Glenlynn Siding (opposite the Glentulloch Road turnoff).

The school and quarters were relocated to Yornup in 1929 due to the closure of the Fettleers camp. School was conducted in the Yornup Hall during the school's relocation. The school was used as a community centre for a variety of projects until 1996 when the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes relocated it to 5 Civic Lane as part of a proposed heritage precinct. The building was used for a community craft group and early childhood music classes for some time, following which the Shire decided to wholly lease the building to the Bridgetown Historical Society for use as an office, meeting room and archive space.

62 Site of 1st Bridgetown Government School 1 Steere Street

The first public school building in Bridgetown was completed in 1870 from bricks made on site. Pupils had until then been taking lessons at the premises of John Blechynden. The schoolhouse remained in use until 1936 when a new school was built on Roe St. The old building then became the Courthouse and, later, offices for various government departments until it was demolished in 1982 to make way for the present Lesser Hall and car park. The earliest pupils didn't always bow to authority: on one occasion when denied a week's Christmas holiday break by their stern schoolmaster they cheekily petitioned his superior in Bunbury, Mr A Cole. The teacher had to rescind his order following this petition.

By 1869 there were 14 school students taught at Bridgedale. Although no bricks were available to build a school, funds (£40) were raised to augment a Government grant to build a schoolroom 18 x 30 feet in 1870.



The first school with later extensions used by Government departments. BHS 95-421

63 Bridgetown Civic and Community Centre 1 Steere Street

inHerit State register #249

The Mechanics' Institute occupied this site, constructed by local builder Joseph Smith in 1877. It was a large hall used for social gatherings, meetings, library, dances, weddings and film showings. Bessie Moyes on piano accompanied the silent pictures, twice a week, for 10 shillings a performance. The need for bigger facilities as the town grew saw its demolition in 1934/35.

The present building, built in 1936, incorporates an Inter-War Federation Free Classical style with elements of Contemporary/Art Deco and includes the Town Hall, Lesser Hall, Council Chambers and Shire administration offices. It was classified by the National Trust in 1994. The corner entrance, now closed, was originally into the Commonwealth Bank, which left in 1964 when its new premises were built on Hampton Street.



The Mechanics' Institute. BHS 95-505

64 Post Office 142 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #240

Communication was very important for a newly settled area. John Blechynden operated the first postal service from his home at Bridgedale in the early 1860s and mail was often delivered to remote homesteads by Mounted Constable Abraham Moulton when on patrol. Later, Moulton's wife Esther became the Post Mistress, which operated from their store. A new Post Office and residence opened in 1888 boasting the latest in telegraphic services. May Moulton, the daughter of Abraham and Esther, was the town's first telegraphist. Regular mail became more reliable when train services commenced in 1898. The present building was constructed in 1912 adjacent to the original, which was demolished in 1980.



Original Post Office. BHS 95-253

65 Police Station Museum 1880 148 Hampton Street

inHerit State register #254

By 1879, the original police station by the river was beyond repair – leaky and draughty. The new police station was built in 1880 and Constable John Bovell continued as the town’s policeman until 1888. Two cells were originally built, but later a storeroom was converted to a cell. A stable and exercise yard were out the back. The policeman’s living area – the entry from the verandah – was originally much larger but was reduced to its present size to make way for the Police Quarters built in 1907. The Police Station remained in use until 1970 when a new station opened on Steere St, though licence renewals were still transacted here until 1973. The adjacent Police Quarters are currently occupied by Shire employees.



Police Station, Lock-up and Police Quarters. BHS 10-405

66 Courthouse 150 Hampton Street

inHerit Place #2961

Prior to the construction of the Courthouse in 1893, the adjacent Police Station was used to hear court cases. Local Magistrates such as John Allnutt or John Blechynden presided over mostly minor cases that included petty theft or public drunkenness. WAG Walter was the first Resident Magistrate for Bridgetown c.1898. In 1936 the court moved to new premises and this building was variously used by the Repertory Theatre, the WA Agricultural Dept, the town library and latterly the Community Resource Centre. Major additions to the front and rear of the building in the 1950s have obscured many of the original features, but what was the court room and the adjacent judge’s chambers can still be determined.



Courthouse (Lt) with Police Station behind, late 1890s. BHS 95-252



View over Geegilup Brook to Daws Hotel (white building), opp Post Office with small school #1 building behind. Mechanics' Inst. on right, c.1890. BHS 95.544



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