

**TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK****MUNICIPAL HERITAGE INVENTORY  
PLACE RECORD FORM****LGA Place No: K1****Kensington Bushland****Photograph of the place**

<b>LOCATION</b>	
HCWA Reference Number	
Other Reference Number	
Name of Place	Kensington Bushland
Other names	
Address	Behind Kent St High School
Suburb/Town	Kensington
Local Government Authority	Town of Victoria Park
Map Reference	

<b>OWNERSHIP &amp; LAND DESCRIPTION</b>				
<i>Owner details are kept on the rates data base at the Town of Victoria Park</i>				
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	No.

USE(S) OF PLACE	
Original	Bushland
Present	Bushland
Other	

### HISTORICAL NOTES

The Kensington Bushland Reserve is part of the Municipal Endowment Lands of Victoria Park which were vested in the Municipality of Victoria Park on 1 July 1912 for 99 years. When the Municipality joined with the City of Perth in 1916, the lease was transferred to the Perth City Council. The bushland reserve is zoned Parks and Recreation in the City Planning Scheme, but is still classified urban under the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

Since 1912, various portions of the endowment lands have been transferred, resumed or surrendered. The land surrounding the Kensington Bushland is now used for a variety of land uses, including a recreation reserve (Harold Rossiter Reserve), Police and Citizens Youth Club (PCYC), St John's Ambulance Depot, Kensington Fire Brigade, Kensington Special School, and a City of Perth sand quarry. The clearing of native bushland in these areas and the development of landscaped areas has affected bushland reserves in a variety of ways, such as;

1. The introduction of exotic flora;
2. The quarrying of sand has:
  - (a) created steep pit faces which threaten the stability of the soil;
  - (b) changed the hydrology of the soils in close proximity to the quarry; and
3. The increase in human activity in nearby areas (eg. Harold Rossiter Reserve and the PCYC), also creates increased pressure by trampling of the remaining bushland.

Although development proposals were received by the Perth City Council, the bushland reserve has remained undeveloped. This restriction on development has minimised the changes to the natural state of the ecosystem and, therefore, the conservation value of the reserve has remained high.

### DESCRIPTION

There are a number of small Banksia woodland remnants in metropolitan Perth. However, the Kensington Bushland is one of the few good examples left in the older southern suburbs. It supports a wide range of flora and fauna which, although not rare or endangered, have disappeared from much of the metropolitan area.

At present, the bushland reserve is relatively undisturbed. However, it is coming under increasing pressure from surrounding land uses.

The Kensington bushland reserve is located on the Swan Coastal Plain close to the border of the Bassendean and Karrakatta Dune systems. Research conducted indicates the dominant soil type in the area is Bassendean sand. These sands are remnants of old Pleistocene dunes which have been well leached leaving them both chemically and physically infertile. Localised variations in topography have been caused by the dumping of sand around the reserve.

The flora of the bushland reserve was studied in detail by the Western Australian Herbarium in 1980/81. A total of 206 indigenous and exotic species were identified. These were grouped into the basic vegetation types: Low Woodland, Low Open Woodland and Low Shrubland.

**DESCRIPTION Continued**

A 1990 study documented the vertebrates in the bushland reserve. Twelve species of reptiles and seventeen bird species were recorded. No native mammals were found within the bushland reserve. However, the introduced House Mouse was recorded.

The bushland reserve's high conservation value is attributed to the rich and diverse community of plants and animals it supports, most of which have disappeared from, or are rare in the urban areas south of the Swan River.

CONDITION	Very Good
INTEGRITY	Almost Original Condition

ASSOCIATIONS	ASSOCIATION TYPE

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kensington Bushland has aesthetic and scientific heritage significance. The value of the bushland lies in its natural almost undisturbed state. At one time its use as a collection source for native seeds and plants was important for botanical education. Today it is used for observation only. It is considered important to the community as one of the few remnants of urban bushland in the Town of Victoria Park district.

HISTORIC THEME/Subtheme	CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE
Community Efforts/ <i>Environmental Conservation</i>	Aesthetic
	Scientific

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS****Management Category: Category A**

Worthy of the highest level of protection: recommended for entry into the State Register of Heritage Places which gives legal protection; provide maximum encouragement to the owner under the Town of Victoria Park Perth Planning Scheme to conserve the significance of the place; development requires consultation with the Heritage Council of Western Australia, the local authority and the Victoria Park Heritage Advisor; a more detailed Heritage Assessment/Impact Statement to be undertaken before approval given for any development. Incentives to promote conservation should be considered.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY	DOCUMENT TYPE
Peter Deague, Parks & Gardens Dept. Town of Victoria Park	Oral Information, 1997
Kensington Bushland Management Plan	Report
Cathy Taylor, Friends of Kensington Bushland	Oral Information, 1997

**TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK****MUNICIPAL HERITAGE INVENTORY  
PLACE RECORD FORM****LGA Place No: K2****Kent Street High School****Photograph of the place****The main entrance to Kent Street High School.**

<b>LOCATION</b>	
HCWA Reference Number	
Other Reference Number	
Name of Place	Kent Street High School
Other names	
Address	Kent Street
Suburb/Town	Kensington
Local Government Authority	Town of Victoria Park
Map Reference	

<b>OWNERSHIP &amp; LAND DESCRIPTION</b>				
<i>Owner details are kept on the rates data base at the Town of Victoria Park</i>				
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	No.
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**One of the earlier buildings in the school complex.**



**Some of the newer buildings at Kent Street High School.**



**The entrance driveway to the school, flanked by trees.**



**The row of pine trees on the edge of the school property.**

<b>CONSTRUCTION DATE</b>		1939	
Source/Details			
<b>USE(S) OF PLACE</b>			
Original		School	
Present		School	
Other			
<b>CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:</b>			
Walls	Brick		
Roof	Tile		
Other			

**HISTORICAL NOTES**

In 1932, the Director of Education for WA ordered a survey with the results showing a post primary population of students residing in Victoria Park and surrounding areas. These students were required to travel to Perth for high school. After pressure from local groups, action got under way to release land for a secondary school. Eventually in 1938 a 10 acre site was chosen. Approval for the building, costing £15,000, was given in 1939. Plans show that the school comprised a single storey brick building of eight classrooms, an administrative area and ablution blocks. Kent Street Central School began at the start of the school year in 1940 with an enrolment of 354 pupils. The head teacher (Principal) in its inaugural year, until 1942, was James Woods.

The school grew rapidly. Excess students were accommodated in a number of temporary places including two classes at Victoria Park Primary School. New building programmes started as early as 1942. The longest serving principal to Kent Street High School was Eric McGrath, who oversaw a number of changes in his time from 1943-1956. In 1957 a record 1,733 students enrolled at the school. Continuous changes to the school facilities led to more classrooms, a hall, a swimming pool and improved library resources.

One of the biggest changes to the school programme was the introduction of an aeronautics course in 1979. This attracts students from all over the metropolitan area.

Many students of Kent Street High School have become prominent names in WA. A few include M Jeffrey, Governor of WA; Rod Marsh, Australian Test Cricketer; Kerry Anne Wells, 1972 Miss Universe, the Vlahov family, and a variety of WA Sport Representatives.

**DESCRIPTION**

Kent Street High School can be accessed along a driveway through an avenue of peppermint trees. The school is a complex with buildings of different building styles around a large area of playing fields. Along Rathay Street there is a long double row of pine trees that stand out prominently on the skyline.

The original group of buildings have a predominant red-brown face brick dado below the window sill, and rendered and painted wall from window sill to the underside of the eaves. There are 12 light double hung timber windows. The roofs are moderately pitched and hipped with terracotta brown 'marseille' tiles.

The entry porticos have a definite 'Art Deco' feel, with horizontal banding at the gutter line, a capped parapet hiding the roof, and a slight taper towards the top of the parapet.

The theme of the earlier buildings, with a red base and painted above, has been carried through into the later buildings, so, even though the styles are quite different, there is a cohesiveness to the whole complex.

CONDITION	Good
INTEGRITY	Fair

ASSOCIATIONS	ASSOCIATION TYPE

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kent Street High School has aesthetic, historic and social heritage significance. Although the various buildings have been built in different styles at different times, there is a cohesiveness to the complex.

Opened in 1940 the School has served the local community for 57 years. The specialist aeronautical course draws students from further afield. Some well known West Australians, including the Governor of WA, Sir Michael Jeffrey, (retired 2000) attended Kent Street High School.

HISTORIC THEME/ <i>Subtheme</i>	CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE
Community Efforts/ <i>Education</i>	Aesthetic
	Historic
	Social

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Management Category: **Category B**

Requires a high level of protection: provide maximum encouragement to the owner under the Town of Victoria Park Town Planning Scheme to conserve the significance of the place. A more detailed Heritage Assessment/Impact Statement to be undertaken before approval given for any development. Incentives to promote conservation should be considered.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY	DOCUMENT TYPE
Pearce, Janet (Compiler), Kent Street Senior High School: the first fifty years. 1940-1990. Printed in 1990.	Booklet.