



THE Big BOOM

BARN BIDI WALKING TRAIL

City of Perth

2 HOURS

This self-guided trail will take up to two hours. You can join in or depart from the trail anywhere along the way.

The trail intersects with the city's free CAT buses servicing East Perth, Northbridge, West Perth, central Perth and the foreshore (except Good Friday, ANZAC Day and Christmas Day).

The iCity Visitor Service in Murray Street Mall (near Forrest Place) offers a free guided tour of this trail, led by our qualified iCity volunteer tour guides. For further information and bookings, email walking.tours@cityofperth.wa.gov.au or phone 08 9461 3333.

Other self-guided walking trails can be accessed by going to www.visitperth.com/walking-tours

Acknowledgement

The City of Perth would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this region, the Whadjuk people of the Nyongar Nation, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

This document is available in other formats or languages on request.

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Visit historic buildings and areas influenced by the gold rush in this trail through Perth city. Discover the 'boom' created by gold in the 1890s, the surge of growth, wealth and prosperity that followed and the enduring presence of this era throughout our city.

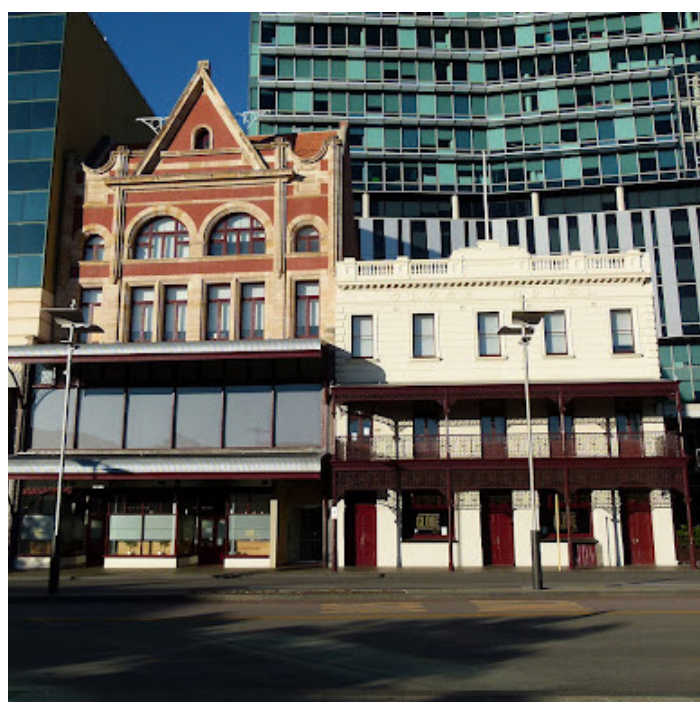


1 PERTH RAILWAY STATION WELLINGTON STREET

Perth Railway Station is a fundamental location in the story of gold in Western Australia. The station was an unloading point for gold transported from the Goldfields east of the city and is one of the oldest operational central train stations in Australia. The original station was built in 1881, but as the railway network grew rapidly, the station building and platform facilities quickly proved inadequate. It was replaced by a larger building in 1894. Additional wings to the east and west completed by 1897 doubled the size of the station and created the building that exists today.

To avoid gold being hijacked, shipments were transported in unmarked carriages with two security guards locked inside with food and beer. It was not uncommon for a gold shipment to go missing when it arrived at the station, as railway authorities would move the unmarked, unclaimed carriage to the side of the tracks. Within a few hours, the frantic Perth Mint staff would be madly searching for the missing gold and the unmarked carriage would be discovered, often containing as well as its valuable cargo, two now slightly intoxicated security guards!

At the traffic lights, cross to the southern side of Wellington Street. Walk west along Wellington Street until you reach the Globe Hotel.



2 GLOBE HOTEL WELLINGTON STREET

The Globe Hotel was constructed c1884. The proximity of the railway line and the visitors the trains brought to Perth was viewed as a prosperous opportunity for local business persons and land owners and resulted in the hotel's expansion c1897. The three-storey hotel provided accommodation and refreshments to locals and visitors and was an important social place. Reimagined and opened to the public in January 2016, The Globe is located in the original Globe Hotel building and neighbouring Bairds Building.

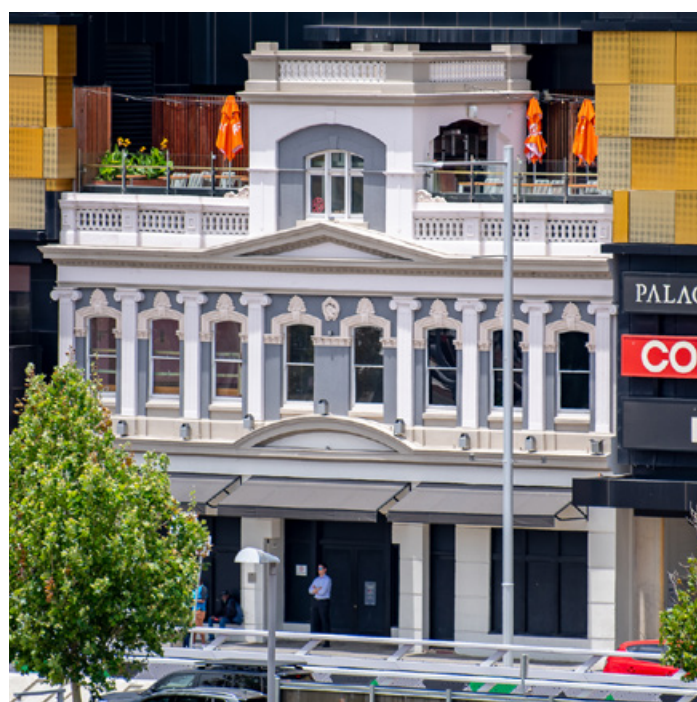
Continue to walk west along Wellington Street until you reach the Wellington and William Street intersection. Cross the intersection and you have arrived at the Royal Hotel.



3 ROYAL HOTEL WELLINGTON STREET

Like the Globe Hotel, the Royal Hotel reflects the rapid growth of Perth during the gold rush. The hotel was originally built in 1882 as a simple two-storey brick building facing Wellington Street. Substantial additions were made in 1894 and in 1906 it was given the Victorian Second Empire style that you see today. Look for the big balconies, where on hot nights residents would choose the balcony's relative coolness to sleep. Also look for the cellar doors down low at street level where barrels of beer would be delivered from horse drawn carts to the hotel basement. The Royal Hotel was redeveloped as part of the Raine Square complex in 2018 and opened to the public in November 2019.

Continue to walk west along Wellington Street until you reach Glyde Chambers (look for the plaque on the cr me wall).



4 GLYDE CHAMBERS WELLINGTON STREET

Just like today, visitors to Perth required transport while in town, hence the need for a 'livery stable' that hired out horses, horse and buggy and could care for horses brought to town by visitors staying at one of the neighbouring hotels. You can see the entrance door is big enough for a horse and buggy.

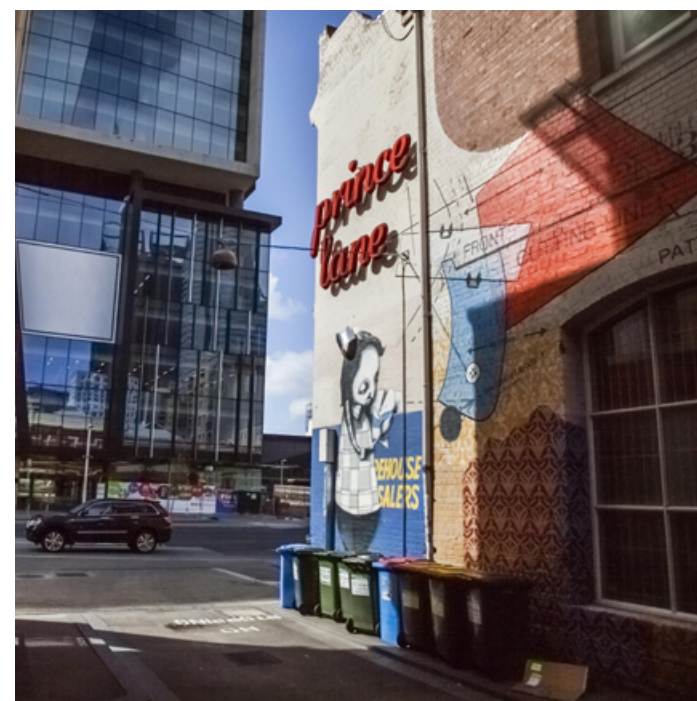
Continue to walk west along Wellington Street until you reach the Wellington and King Street intersection.



5 KING STREET

Named after Britain's King William IV, King Street is one of the best-preserved gold rush period streetscapes in Perth. First a residential street with working class cottages surrounded by coal yards, blacksmiths and laundries, the wealth brought by gold turned it into a bustling area for small business. Milliners, shoemakers, dentists and druggists had shops here and the proximity of the railway made it an ideal site for warehouses and wholesalers supplying the Goldfields.

Continue to walk west along Wellington Street until you reach Prince Lane.



6 PRINCE LANE

On the eastern side of Prince Lane you can see warehouse doors, some at street level and others on the top storey of the building, each with a lifting beam above the door. A pulley would be attached to this beam and goods lifted off or onto horse drawn carts. You can see there is quite a contrast between the face of the buildings in Prince Lane where the heavy lifting was done and the King Street facades of the same buildings where sales offices and management were located.

Walk south through Prince Lane until you reach Murray Street. Walk east along Murray Street until you reach the Murray and King Street intersection.



7 CITY HOTEL CORNER KING AND MURRAY STREET

The City Hotel was designed by William Wolf, architect of nearby His Majesty's Theatre. It was constructed in 1898 and continues to operate today as The Belgian Beer Caf . As the hotel was not as close to the railway station as The Globe or Royal Hotels, the City Hotel provided a minimal amount of accommodation. However it had a large bar capacity and was the pub of choice for the warehouse workers of King Street.

Cross to the southern side of the Murray and King Street intersection. Continue to walk south along King Street until you reach the Hay and King Street intersection.



8 HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE 825 HAY STREET

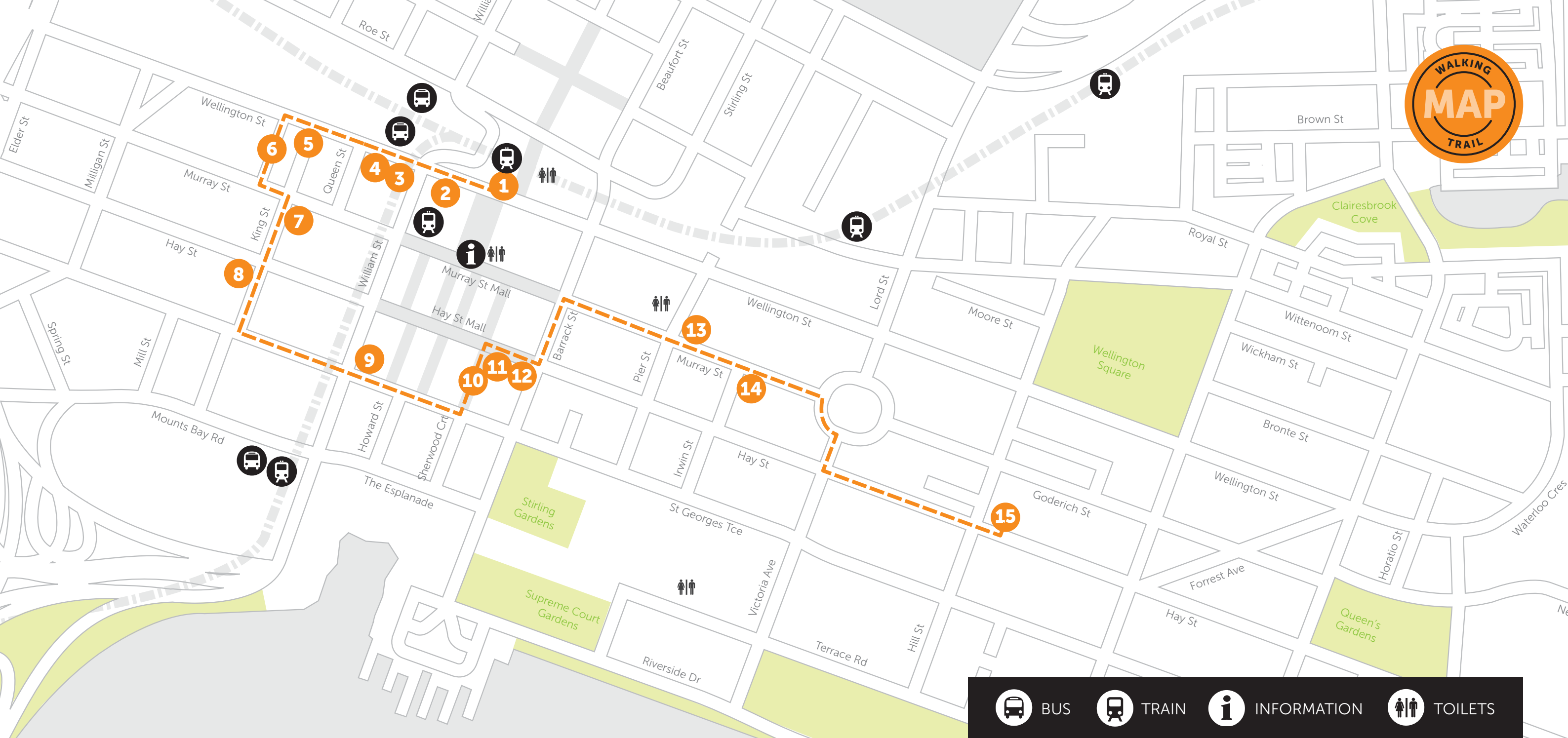
His Majesty's Theatre was opened on Christmas Eve 1904 with a large celebration attended by many of Perth's distinguished people. The theatre's design reflects the class structure that was starting to emerge in the city, partly due to the new wealth created in the gold boom. The balcony was created for the upper echelons of society, and "the Gods" for the working class. The poorer folk entered the theatre from a side entrance on King Street to ensure that the classes did not mix. His Majesty's Theatre is the only remaining Edwardian theatre operating in Australia. The Museum of Performing Arts, located downstairs from the theatre, tells the story of the many famous people who have performed there. For visiting times, call (08) 9265 0900.

During the ceremonial opening of His Majesty's Theatre in 1904, the key stuck in the lock of the ornate black gates at the front of the theatre. To its owner Thomas Molloy's dismay, the gates had to be broken open with a pickaxe. In 1981, before the reopening of the theatre after an extensive restoration, an employee was sent to unlock the gates. Again the key stuck and the gates had to be broken open with a hammer!

As you walk along St Georges Terrace to the next site, get a feel for the high rise offices and how the 'Big Boom' continues with minerals exports from Western Australia reaching \$170 billion (AUD) in 2020.

Continue to walk south along King Street until you reach the King Street and St Georges Terrace intersection. Walk east along St Georges Terrace until you reach the St Georges Terrace and William Street intersection. Cross the intersection and you have arrived at the Palace Hotel.





9 PALACE HOTEL
CORNER ST GEORGES TERRACE AND WILLIAM STREET

By the mid-1890s, there were so many gold seekers looking for a place to stay that hotels could not be built quickly enough to accommodate everyone. The Palace Hotel was built in 1897 by John De Baun, who was determined to build one of Australia's most significant hotels. No expense was spared in the construction of the Palace, which upon opening was considered one of the most beautiful and elegant hotels in the country.

The Palace Hotel remained a prominent up market hotel until the 1970s and many a mining deal was discussed in its bars and restaurants in that time.

This was the site of the first hostel (hotel) in Perth. At one stage a much simpler building, the Leeder Hotel, was owned by William Leeder who also owned land where the suburb of Leederville now is. The hotel on the site also was called the Freemason's Hotel because it housed the first Masonic Lodge in Perth.

Continue to walk east along St Georges Terrace until you reach London Court.



10 LONDON COURT
BETWEEN HAY STREET MALL AND ST GEORGES TERRACE

Next door to the Theatre Royal, this mock Elizabethan reproduction of a 16th century London street was built in 1937 as a gift to Perth by the charismatic and debonair millionaire, Claude de Bernales. This arcade is a true reflection of his attachment to England and features ornate mechanical clocks depicting two jousting knights at the Hay Street entrance and St George slaying the dragon at the St Georges Terrace entrance.

De Bernales made his fortune buying and selling mining equipment in the Goldfields, although his business practices were questioned when the machinery gained a reputation for poor quality and his acceptance of mine leases in payment for machines angered the miners. Despite this, he always focused on making a good first impression on the miners, changing into a full business suit carried in a suitcase on his bicycle before cycling into each miner's camp.

Walk north through London Court until you reach Hay Street Mall. Look up toward the southern side of the mall to see the Metropole Hotel and Theatre Royal.



11 THE METROPOLE HOTEL & THEATRE ROYAL
HAY STREET MALL

Built in 1897, the Theatre Royal was the first purpose built theatre in Western Australia. The locals considered the theatre exceptional for its time, with its 'red plush and glitz, and a roof that could slide open on hot nights'. Thomas Molloy built the Theatre next to his Metropole Hotel, and went on to create the landmark His Majesty's Theatre less than a decade later. Molloy, the son of a Pensioner Guard, started his working life as the manager of Cooperative Stores in Perth, then became a baker in Goderich Street. He grew to be a prominent member of the community, serving terms as Town Councillor, Mayor, and as a member of the Legislative Council. However, many believed that his greatest achievement was the introduction of barmaids to Perth!

Molloy was determined to be knighted and in 1931 became a papal knight commander of the Order of St Gregory after which he used the title 'Sir'. He began calling himself Sir Thomas and insisted all who did business with him did likewise. He ensured this dream lived forever when, scandalously, he buried his wife under a headstone reading "Lady Mary Molloy".

Walk east through Hay Street Mall until you reach the Hay and Barrack Street intersection.



12 MCNESS BUILDING
CORNER HAY AND BARRACK STREETS

McNess Royal Arcade (1897) is a great demonstration of the wealth that poured into Perth from the Goldfields. Designed by American architect William Wolf, it was described as an extravagant building with a generously designed interior and exterior. The owner of the building, Charles McNess, was a scrap metal trader and ironmonger who made his fortune during the gold boom by purchasing property, eventually expanding into mortgage broking.

Cross to the eastern side of the Hay and Barrack Street intersection. Walk north until you reach Murray Street. Turn right on to Murray street and walk east until you reach the Murray and Pier Street intersection.



13 GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
CORNER PIER AND MURRAY STREETS

Built in 1894 and designed by George Temple Poole, the building was home to the Government Printer, which was responsible for printing papers for Parliament, The Government Gazette (still in publication) and scientific papers prepared by officers. Its ventilation system was innovative for the time, allowing airflow throughout the building.

Walk east on Murray Street to the Irwin Street intersection.



14 FIRE STATION NO.1 & MUSEUM
CORNER MURRAY AND IRWIN STREETS

At the time of its construction in 1901, this fire station was state-of-the-art and was the first purpose-built fire station in Australia, replacing the Perth Town Hall. By this time the fire department was in a better financial position and could afford to purchase its own horses, kept in unlocked stables and trained to respond to the sound of the alarm bell. On the sound of the fire alarm the horses would trot into place under the fire equipment harness where the firefighters would harness them up and be under way within 18 seconds. This was a vast improvement on previous procedures at the Perth Town Hall. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services operates a free Education and Heritage Centre on site, open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am to 3pm.

Walk east on Murray Street to Victoria Square, the location of Royal Perth Hospital.



15 THE PERTH MINT
CORNER HAY AND HILL STREETS

This was the final destination for the raw product from the Goldfields. The Perth Mint formed the prospectors' finds into coins to be used as currency in the rapidly increasing economy. The Perth Mint was one of three branches of the British Royal Mint in Australia. It was constructed in 1899 to process the huge amounts of gold that were coming from the Goldfields and was seen as a symbol of Perth's status in the British Empire. By the time of The Perth Mint's construction, income from gold was responsible for nearly 90 per cent of the colony's wealth. The Mint operated under British control until 1970, when ownership was transferred to the Western Australian Government. Today The Perth Mint is renowned as Australia's specialist precious metals mint and a major tourist attraction. It is one of the oldest mints in the world still operating from its original location, and is open to the public daily. Telephone: 08 9421 7222.

Although The Perth Mint never fell prey to a large robbery throughout the gold boom years, small thefts occurred. One of the supervisors, Mr William Dark, forced workers to stay back late on a number of occasions searching for missing gold which he accused them of stealing. The gold was never found and it was later discovered that Mr Dark himself was the culprit, slipping the gold into his pocket!