

# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

#### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November, 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the historic precinct.

# 11. 1 AESTHETIC VALUE<sup>\*</sup>

Fothergill Street Precinct is significant in exhibiting the aesthetic characteristics of a precinct of mainly Federation period single residences that have stylistic similarities and are constructed in a limited palette of materials. Their style, scale, proportions, components, and materials, together with their similar relationship to the street produce a pleasing aesthetic that is prominent as a complete collection, as groups, in the case of the two groups of houses, and individually. (Criterion 1.1)

Fothergill Street Precinct is significant in exhibiting well-designed modest and medium sized houses in the main. The houses are all well designed examples of their time. (Criterion 1.2)

The houses and streetscape of *Fothergill Street Precinct* have a strong collective aesthetic presence, reflecting a narrow range of styles that form a significant streetscape. (Criterion 1.4)

## 11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Fothergill Street Precinct demonstrates cultural density with its collection of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century residences and also demonstrates changing demographics, the need for replacing deteriorating material, changing technology, and changes in lifestyle, without the loss of the Federation period character. (Criterion 2.1)

Fothergill Street Precinct demonstrates a process whereby a section of Fremantle once under the pressure of more dense development had declined in anticipation of development. Following the removal of that pressure the by then run-down properties were bought by a new wave of owners with an interest in conservation, who arrested the decline and conserved most of the properties in the precinct. (Criteria 2.2)

Fothergill Street Precinct is significant in that five of the residences on the

For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

northern side of the street were constructed by the same contractors, which together with the remaining early twentieth century residences comprises an almost complete example of an early twentieth century street, comprising both workers' cottages and residences of the Fremantle elite. (Criteria 2.2)

As an almost complete example of an early twentieth century streetscape, *Fothergill Street Precinct* is a good historical record of how Western Australians lived in the early years of the twentieth century, and the way in which the residences of the elite, the middle class and the working class existed side by side in that period. (Criterion 2.3)

Among those who have been associated with *Fothergill Street Precinct*, most notable are Sir Henry Briggs, Edith Higham and her husband, J. J. Higham, George Henderson and George Thorpe, who built five of the residences at the north side of the street, and Frederick Instone, who built 30 Solomon Street. (Criterion 2.4)

#### 11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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#### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Fothergill Street Precinct is valued by the local community as an early and almost complete example of an early twentieth century streetscape, as evidenced also by the inclusion of a number of the residences in the interim database for the City of Fremantle Municipal Heritage Inventory. (Criterion 4.1)

Fothergill Street Precinct, especially the two houses at 28 and 29, are a strong visual presence contributing to the local community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## 12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

# 12. 1. RARITY

Fothergill Street Precinct is rare to the extent of its degree of intactness as a late nineteenth and early twentieth century streetscape. (Criterion 5.1)

## 12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Fothergill Street Precinct is a fine representative late nineteenth and early twentieth century streetscape in Western Australia. (Criterion 6.1)

## 12. 3 CONDITION

Most of the places are well maintained. All have been impacted upon by maintenance and change to varying degrees and there is much replacement material along boundary fences, roofs, and verandah structures. Some places have received some poor maintenance strategies. On the whole the maintenance has effected subtle changes but has not

detracted from the historic precinct to a significant degree. *Fothergill Street Precinct* is generally in fair to good condition.

#### 12. 4 INTEGRITY

All houses in the historic precinct remain in use as residences, retaining their original use. The prospect for future conservation remains good and the degree of integrity high.

## 12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

All residences in the historic precinct have been subject to internal and external change. Change has included additions to most residences, alterations to verandahs, boundary treatments, and roofing finishes. The substance of all but one of the houses remains substantially intact. The precinct as a whole retains a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

#### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian, and the physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

The curtilage of the precinct should extend over the whole of the properties assessed and the intervening road reserves.

### 13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The historic precinct comprises 11 residences in Fothergill Street, Fremantle, between Solomon Street and Swanbourne Street, the majority of which were constructed in the decade 1898-1908, of limestone and brick with iron roofs. The street was formerly John Street.

During the 1880s and 1890s, many of the Fremantle merchant class, having acquired the necessary degree of wealth, moved from homes located in the heart of Fremantle, close to their business premises, to the 'more exclusive area... using to advantage the high ground above the township on the east side of High Street.', where they built substantial family homes, generally on large lots, which displayed their wealth and their status.<sup>1</sup> In contrast to the simple dwellings of the majority of the populace of Fremantle, 'the homes of many merchants were of two storeys or more, with basements, towers, and wide shady verandahs.'<sup>2</sup>

In the wake of the Western Australian Gold Boom, the population increased dramatically, and there were increased sub-divisions in the areas to the south, north, and east of the town of Fremantle. In the late 1890s and early 1900s, there was residential development in these areas, including John Street, present day Fothergill Street.

Around the turn of the nineteenth century, two of the largest houses in the historic precinct were built were on vacant land at the top of John Street, at the corners of Swanbourne Street. In 1899, Henry Briggs was recorded as the owner of Lots 25, 30, 31, and 32 of Fremantle Town Lot 798, and in the following year, a residence in the Federation Queen Anne style was built for him at the place (the present 28 Fothergill Street). It was constructed of brick with an iron roof, on a limestone foundation, and with limestone walls to the basement.

The Hon. Henry Briggs, JP, MLC, President of the Legislative Council, (b. Kettering, Northamptonshire), later Sir Henry Briggs, was educated in England, and reached the position of Head Master of the Mottram Grammar School before being nominated by the Board of Governors to come to Western Australia in 1882, to establish Fremantle Grammar School, where

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Brown, Patricia *The Merchant Princes of Fremantle: The Rise and Decline of a Colonial Elite* 1870-1900 (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1996) pp. 159-164.

ibid, pp. 163-164,

Fremantle Rate Books, 1899-1900; and Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert, and Reynolds, Peter A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present (Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989) pp. 132-135.

he remained until 1897.<sup>4</sup> He maintained a lifelong interest in education, and served as a member of an early Commission into technical education, served as a Trustee of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery from 1903, and he was also a member of the Royal Commission on the establishment of a University in Western Australia.<sup>5</sup>

In 1895, Henry Briggs was appointed a Justice of the Peace; and in 1896, he was elected to the Legislative Council. He was President of the Fremantle Branch of the Western Australian Federation League; and in 1897-98, he was one of the Western Australian representatives at the Sydney and Melbourne Sessions at the Australian Convention, which framed the Constitution. From June 1900 to June 1906, he was Chairman of the Committees; and in 1906, he succeeded Sir George Shenton as President of the Council.

On completion, Henry Briggs took up residence at the place in 1901, where he continued to reside until 1920. Following the introduction of street numbers, the place was numbered 60 John Street from c. 1904. Following the introduction of street numbers, the place was numbered 60 John Street from c. 1904.

A Sewerage plan (1908) shows the place with a verandah at the front, extending to the front boundary, and a verandah at the western side, at the northwest corner of the house. In the rear yard, there are two water tanks located at the north of the house; an earth closet located by the eastern boundary; and two galvanised iron outbuildings adjacent to the rear boundary at the north-east and north-west corners of the yard. At the east side, the residence is built to the boundary of the lot and Swanbourne Street. Street.

In February 1920, the place was transferred from Sir Henry Briggs to Edmond Power Dowley, who took up residence at the place. The place continued to be occupied by the Dowley family, and was transferred to his daughter, Agnes Mary Elizabeth Dowley. In 1939, she was granted approval to have a garage constructed of jarrah timber with asbestos lining and with a corrugated iron roof erected at an estimated cost of £20, and it was duly built by A. Vernede. She continued to own the place after her marriage to Arthur Trevorah (c. 1941), until it was sold in the mid 1960s. After a brief ownership by M. Del Popolo, during which it was rented to a

Battye, J. S. The Cyclopedia of Western Australia (Cyclopedia Co., Perth, 1912-13) p. 324.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> ibid.

<sup>6</sup> ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> ibid.

<sup>8</sup> ibid.

Fremantle Rate Books, 1900 to 1920. Note: in these years, the place was variously described as villa residence, dwelling house, and cottage.

ibid

Metropolitan Sewerage Fremantle, SROWA Cons. 4156, Item 109, December 1908.

ibid.

ibid.

Fremantle Rate Book, 1920.

ibid, 1920 to 1940-'41

Plan of Proposed Garage at 28 Fothergill Street, Fothergill Street Historic File, Fremantle Library Local History Collection, File. no. 728.3.

Fremantle Rate Books, 1940-41 to 1964.

tenant, the place was transferred to Mary Irene Miragliotta who occupied it from the mid 1960s, and through the early to mid 1970s. 18

In the 1960s and 1970s, various health orders for the place were issued by the Fremantle City Council. In 1962, the order included works to repair and make sound the verandah, repair and replacement of the roof to render it waterproof, and demolition of a shed adjacent to the rear door of the dwelling; and in 1977, the order included repairs to the fretted brickwork and eroded limestone in the walls, repairs to the roof and the corroded auttering on the verandah. 19

The second large residence to be built in the historic precinct (the present no. 29 Fothergill Street) was built on vacant land at Lot 1 of 796, at the south corner of John Street and Swanbourne Street, which had been owned by John Bateman, merchant, of Fremantle, before being transferred to his daughter, Edith Elizabeth Higham, wife of J. J. Higham, in 1901-02.20 In this year, a large two storey 'villa residence' was built for her.21 Constructed of limestone and brick, with an iron roof, in the Federation Filigree style, the place was in a commanding position, on a large block of land.<sup>22</sup> ground level of the residence is some depth below the street levels of both Fothergill and Swanbourne Streets, suggesting that the limestone may have been guarried on site, or alternatively that guarrying had taken place there at an earlier date.

John Joseph (Jack) Higham (b. Fremantle, 1856, d. 1927), after his education in Perth and Sydney, returned to Fremantle and entered the family mercantile business, at that period styled M. Higham & Sons. 23 Marv Higham and her husband, John, had commenced business in Fremantle as bakers and confectioners after their arrival there in 1853; and, after his death in 1856, it was continued and expanded by her into a highly successful mercantile business.<sup>24</sup> In 1882, Jack Higham married Edith Bateman.<sup>25</sup> As noted in Brown (1996), marriages within the second generation of the successful Fremantle merchant families were common, and 'often reinforced commercial bonds and created commercial family networks.'26 In 1886, the alliance between the Bateman and Higham families was further consolidated when Jack's brother, Henry, married Edith's sister, Maud.27

Jack Higham carried on the business as the surviving partner until 1890, when he opened his own business at Pakenham Street, servicing the newly

<sup>18</sup> ibid, 1964 to 1974

<sup>19</sup> ibid, 7 and 29 May 1962, 4 November 1963, and 13 May 1977.

<sup>20</sup> 1 Lot 796, Fremantle Rate Book, 1900.

Notes on Fremantle Historical Society Photographic Collection, 1-19, photo 7 May 1937, at Fremantle Library Local History Collection.

<sup>22</sup> Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert, and Reynolds, Peter A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present (Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989) pp. 108-111.

<sup>23</sup> Battye, J. S. op.cit. p. 747.

<sup>24</sup> Brown, Patricia op. cit., pp. 53-54.

<sup>25</sup> Battye, J. S. op. cit.

<sup>26</sup> Brown, Patricia op. cit., p. 168.

<sup>25/06/2004</sup> 

discovered gold fields.<sup>28</sup> Subsequently, he moved into business in house, land, and general estate agency and valuing business 'on a large scale.', in which he was later joined by his son, Frank Gayton Higham (b. Fremantle, 1886).<sup>29</sup> J. J. Higham was active in public life, representing the business ward of the Municipality of Fremantle for seven years; from 1897, following the death of W. E. Marmion, he represented Fremantle in State Parliament; and he served also as Chairman of the Technical School Advisory Board, and Trustee of the Fremantle Cemetery Board.<sup>30</sup> He became a Justice of the Peace in 1897.<sup>31</sup>

On completion of the 'villa residence' Edith and Jack Higham took up residence, with their family of four sons and a daughter. In 1905-06, the place was recorded as 57 John Street, and in addition to the villa residence, outhouses were recorded. In 1907-08, the Rate Book recorded also stables and a cottage at the place. 34

A Sewerage plan (1908) shows the large lot with the main residence of stone construction fronting John Street, near the corner of Swanbourne Street. Steps lead down to the place from John Street, and the house has timber verandahs at the west side and the front (facing north), with a return to the east side; a timber section extends across the rear; and extending from the south-west end, there are a brick addition and closet, with a further timber addition to the rear again. The outbuildings comprise four timber buildings, located to the southeast and south of the main building, in proximity to the eastern and the southern boundaries of the lot, and include the stables. At this period, Bellevue Street was re-named Higham Street and later reverted to Bellevue Street, its present name.

The Higham family continued to reside at the place through the first decades of the twentieth century.<sup>38</sup> In the 1940s, the place was occupied into flats, one at each floor.<sup>39</sup>

The present 27 Fothergill Street was also built at the turn of the nineteenth century, for one of the Fremantle merchants and his family.<sup>40</sup> It was constructed of limestone and brick with an iron roof.<sup>41</sup> In the 1990s, the place was extensively renovated, including re-roofing, re-plumbing, and re-

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Battye, J. S. op. cit.,
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ibid.

ibid.

ibid; and Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia (P. W. H. Thiel & Co., Perth, 1901) p. 31.

Battye, J. S. op. cit.

Fremantle Rate Books, 1905-06.

ibid, 1907-08.

Metropolitan Sewerage Fremantle Cons, 4156 Item 109, 1908.

ibid.

<sup>37</sup> ibid

Fremantle Rate Books, 1900-1922.

Fremantle Rate Books, 1940-41.

The West Australian Real Estate Liftout, 31 May 1997, p. 45. The owner was not identified and no research has been done on Rate Books to establish the name due to the constraints of the brief.

Photograph in ibid; and site visit by Robin Chinnery, March 2001. Note: Rate Book records of this place were not included on the File Fothergill Street op. cit.

wiring.  $^{42}$  The original front four rooms and entry hall retain some of their original features.  $^{43}$  At the rear, is a section with a pressed metal ceiling which may have been part of the original construction; and this opens to a modern addition, which has been built on two levels, made possible by the slope of the land to the south, which includes an undercroft, laundry, and cellar.  $^{44}$ 

In 1901-02, at Lot 2 of 28/9 of Fremantle Town Lot 799, owned by George Henderson, contractor, and George Thorpe, a 'cottage building' was built, probably by Henderson given his profession. It was one of a trio of cottages of the same design. The present numbers are 18, 20, and 22 Fothergill Street. The cottages were constructed of limestone and brick with an iron roof, in the Federation Bungalow style.

On completion, the cottage with the present no. 20 was sold to John Alexander Naylor (b. Fremantle, 1867, d. 1940), baker. It is most likely that he purchased the place as an investment property as Fremantle Rate Books record that the place was rented to tenants throughout his ownership from 1901-02 to the mid 1920s. Among the early tenants was Harry Everard, traveller.

In 1908, the sewerage maps show the dwellings in the historic precinct, and the stone cottage. Following the introduction of street numbers, the place was numbered 52 John Street, and then 52 Fothergill Street from 1922 to 1935-36, when it was re-numbered to the present number, 20 Fothergill Street.<sup>51</sup>

In 1925-26, 52 Fothergill Street was transferred to James Frederick Orton, who resided there throughout the period of his ownership of the place (1925-26 to 1935-36). Subsequently, the place continued to be owner occupied by successive owners for most of the twentieth century, other than for a short period in the early 1950s, when it was tenanted. Among the owners in the post World War Two period was Wilfred Ernest Green (1956-72), lumper.

In 1963, Fremantle City Council gave approval for additions to 20 Fothergill Street, comprising an open verandah at a cost of £50, and replacement of part of the existing structure at the rear comprising dining room, kitchen,

ibid.

ibid.

ibid.

Fremantle Rate Book, 1901-02. Note: the Lot was vacant prior to this date.

Metropolitan Sewerage Fremantle, SROWA Cons. 4156 Item 109, December 1908.

Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert, and Reynolds, Peter A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present (Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989) pp. 144-147.

Ibid; and Erickson, Rica (Ed.) The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre-1829-1888 (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1987-88) p. 2299.

Fremantle Rate books 1901-02 to 1925-26.

ibid, 1903-04.

ibid, 1905-06.

ibid, 1925-26 to 1935-36.

ibid, 1935-36 to 1995.

ibid, 1956-72.

bathroom and laundry at a cost of £10,000.<sup>55</sup> Comparison of the 1908 sewerage map and the 1984 Land Use Survey Plan indicates the extent to which the place has been extended.

In 1901-02, Lots 2 and 3 of Fremantle Town Lot 798 (the present nos. 24 and 26 Fothergill Street), was vacant land, owned by George Henderson and George Thorpe, who were engaged in building the trio of cottages at the adjoining land on the west.<sup>56</sup> In 1902-03, two 'dwelling houses' were built for them on the Lots; on completion, Henderson took up occupation of one of the houses (3 of 791), and the other was leased to tenants (2 of 791).<sup>57</sup> The pair of villas was constructed of limestone and brick with iron roofs.

In 1903-04, Henderson's residence Lot 3 of 791 (the present 26 Fothergill Street) was transferred to Captain Percy Townley, Master Mariner, who took up residence at the place, which was recorded as cottage, 58 John Street, from c. 1904. He owned and occupied the residence until it was transferred to John Murray in 1916-17, who took up residence at the place. The place changed hands in the mid 1920s, early 1940s, and mid 1950s, and remained owner/occupied throughout the period 1917-60. In the latter period, the owners were Salvatore and Maria Travia who owned the place from 1956 to 1990, leasing it to tenants for part of the later period. During their ownership, in 1959, Fremantle City Council approved an application for a verandah at the place.

In May 1992, when the place was advertised for sale at \$275,000, it was reported that restoration work on the place was 'almost complete', the only remaining areas on which work was required being the verandah and the original tuck pointing, and the rear garden. In 1992, the present owners, Katherine Price and David Cyril Phillips bought the place.

In 1899, Frederick Instone, plumber of Fremantle, purchased Fremantle Town Lot 797 1A (30 Solomon Street) from Clara Ulrich, who resided with her husband, Joseph, at a four room dwelling (1898) on the adjacent lot, which fronted Mary Street (the present Solomon Street). This is the present 30 Solomon Street. Circa 1902-03, Instone built a cottage on his lot, at the corner of John and Mary Streets, fronting the latter. It was built as an investment property, and let to various tenants throughout Instone's ownership, including Wallace Elias Solomon (b. Fremantle 1878, d. 1950), son of the prominent Fremantle merchant, Mayor of Fremantle and

In Fothergill Street File, Fremantle Library Local History Collection.

Fremantle Rate Book, 1901-02.

ibid, 1902-03.

ibid, 1903-05 the lot number was changed from 798 to 791 per Rate Books.

ibid, 1906-17.

ibid, 1917-60.

ibid, 1956-92.

In Fothergill Street File, op. cit.

Sunday Times Home Guide, 10 May 1992, p. 12. Note: Fremantle Rate Books record John Anthony Richmond and Michele Silvia Scott as the owners following Salvatore and Maria Travia.

Fremantle Rate Book 1992; and Telstra Telephone Directory Perth, 2000/01.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> Fremantle Rate Books 1898-1903.

ibid, 1900-1903.

parliamentarian, Elias Solomon.<sup>67</sup> Having resided there as a tenant from 1908-09 to 1913-14, he continued to reside there after the place was purchased by Anna Rosetta Solomon, from 1913-14 to 1920-21.<sup>68</sup> In that year, the place was transferred to Theodore Back, who took up residence there with his family, in whose ownership and occupation the place continued until the mid 1980s.<sup>69</sup>

It has not been possible to date to establish the construction date of the present 28 Solomon Street. However, the place had been built by 1905-06, and is shown on the sewerage map of 1908, as 70 Mary Street.<sup>70</sup>

In 1922, John Street was re-named Fothergill Street, possibly to end confusion with John Street, North Fremantle.<sup>71</sup> The new name honoured a former Mayor of Fremantle (1909-10), Mr. E. H. Fothergill.<sup>72</sup> Mary Street was re-named in 1951-52.

There appear to have been relatively few changes to the buildings in the historic precinct in the period 1925-60.

In the post World War Two period, there was an influx of European immigrants, many of whom took up residence in areas in proximity to the urban centres of Fremantle and Perth, leading to a change in the demographic composition of the local populace. Some of the residences within the historic precinct were purchased and/or occupied by such families; however, the exteriors of most of the residences show little if any evidence of the change.

On the south side of the street, the large lot sizes at nos. 27 and 29 Fothergill Street appear to have remained unchanged from the 1920s to the 1960s. In the 1960s, the area of the former lot was reduced, when a new residence was built at 27b. The exterior of the place is covered in limestone brick to blend with the neighbouring residences. 27b Fothergill Street was re-designed by Ken Norrish, and has been described as 'homely stressed funk'. The exterior of the place is covered in limestone brick to blend with the neighbouring residences. 27b Fothergill Street was re-designed by Ken Norrish, and has been described as 'homely stressed funk'.

In the late twentieth century, at a number of the residences in the historic precinct 'extensive work' was carried out. The street had been in decline while under pressure for the development of high-density residential purposes. During the 1960s, while this matter was being decided, the housing stock fell into decline in anticipation of redevelopment. Following the failure of the move to achieve higher densities, these properties offered

Metropolitan Sewerage Municipality of Fremantle, December 1908, op. cit.

Erickson, Rica (Ed.) *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre-1829-1888* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1987-88) p. 2895.

Fremantle Rate Books 1909-1922.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> ibid, 1920-85.

Fremantle City Library and Information Service to Ms. Jo Von Hofman, in File Fothergill Street op. cit., 11 September 1991.

ibid.

The West Australian Real Estate Weekly, 19 August 1995, p. 47. Note: it has not been established within the research for this assessment whether the residence was built as two storeys, or whether the second storey was added as part of the re-design.

ibid.

Sunday Times op. cit.

relatively cheap alternative accommodation for younger poorer and bettereducated people. The foundation of the Fremantle Society, the stimulus of interest in conservation, and the re-discovery of Fremantle lead to the revival and conservation of houses in Fothergill Street.<sup>76</sup>

The front facades of the majority of the residences within the historic precinct retain the features of their original construction. The streetscape has been described as conjuring up 'a striking image of how it must have looked at the turn of the nineteenth century.'<sup>77</sup> The dates err somewhat, as a number of the residences in the historic precinct were constructed after the turn of the century; however, the streetscape has retained much of the aesthetic quality of the place in the pre-World War One period. It is representative of a historic precinct of residences built almost entirely in the Federation period, in the Federation Bungalow, Federation Filigree, and Federation Queen Anne styles.

In 1998, Fremantle City Council compiled an interim database for the Municipal Heritage Inventory. The following residences in the historic precinct were included, nos. 25, 26, 27, and 29, all of which have also been listed by the Fremantle Society with the exception of no. 26.

In 2001, all the residences in the historic precinct continue to be occupied as residences.

#### 13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Fothergill Street Precinct comprises 11 residences and one vacant lot in Fothergill Street, Fremantle, between Solomon Street and Swanbourne Street, the majority of which were constructed in the decade 1898-1908, of limestone and brick with iron roofs, though some of them now have zincalume or tiled roofs.

Fothergill Street rises at a steady gradient from Hampton Road as it reaches its steepest gradients in the Solomon to Swanbourne Street section, falling away across the historic precinct from north to south also. The most striking overall initial impression of this section of the street is its visual harmony and the fact that all but two houses are, in the main, constructed of materials and in the style of the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, the Federation period. One of the exceptions is 28 Solomon Street, which on the surface appears much later, but elements of the fabric including the location in close proximity to boundaries and cast iron wall vents betray the age of the underlying fabric. The other residence that differs from the main aesthetic themes is near the top of Fothergill Street at 27b and this is an eclectic style building of the late 1960s and later, which contrasts sharply with the other residences in the street in terms of its relation to its boundaries, height, massing and architectural language. 27a is yet to be developed and remains a vacant lot.

Fothergill Street has a roughly east west orientation, with all but the two houses on Solomon Street having their fronts facing Fothergill Street. The

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Pers. Com. Ron Davidson 3 May 2001.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;' ibid

street itself is a wide bituminised road, wide enough for a carriageway in each direction and kerbside parking on both sides of the road. There are tanalith (Chrome copper arsenic or CCA) treated power poles on the northern side of the street and footpaths on both sides. The northern footpath is concrete and the southern side is mainly bitumen paved. There is no consistent street tree planting and there appear to be two types of elm at intervals, together with callistemons as verge plantings, together with other assorted tree types. In front of many of the houses there are additional plantings such as Vinca, Pelargoniums, Alyssum and the like, that add to the richness of the streetscape. Fences of a variety of types, retaining walls, or the buildings themselves delineate all front and side boundaries.

The eastern end of the street terminates on a section of Stevens Reserve on Swanbourne Street that is not highly developed or cultivated, while the western end crosses Hampton Road and runs alongside the Fremantle Prison and terminates at Fremantle Oval, and reveals fine views of the city of Fremantle.

The street is a residential subdivision, with all lots laid out along the contours, with a north-south orientation along the long axis of the rectangular lots. All houses remain in use as residences.

The residential development in the street comprises 10 late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses and one late twentieth century house. The 10 late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses are made up of five individual houses, a pair of houses that were once identical (22 and 24 Fothergill Street), and a set of three houses that were once identical (18,20 and 22 Fothergill Street), and all of these sets are located on the north side of the street. The buildings are predominantly limestone construction with brick quoins, and most have corrugated metal roofs with narrow eaves overhangs and tall masonry construction chimneys. All have been modified to varying degrees. All houses with the exception of 27b and 29 Fothergill Street are set close to the street and, with the exception of 27b, have full width front fences delineating property lines. With the exception of 28 Solomon Street and 27b Fothergill Street, the pattern of development, style of buildings, pattern of elements, and construction material are remarkably uniform and give rise to a pleasing aesthetic impression.

A brief description of the individual properties follows.

28 Solomon Street (Lot 27)

28 Solomon Street is a single storey rendered brick and black and blue concrete tiled roof bungalow rendered in a Post World War Two style that reflects the Mediterranean influences of its immigrant owners. There is a low rendered brick retaining wall along most of the two street frontages and a narrow garden separating the house from the boundary. The garden has plantings of shrubs and palms. A set of steps leads up to the tiled floor front verandah. A low 'heritage' style fence tops the Fothergill Street side of the retaining wall. The street trees comprise young palms on Solomon Street and a Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*) on Fothergill Street.

The house has a hipped format tiled roof set at about 22 degrees pitch

without chimneys extending through the roof. The walls are rendered brickwork with face cant brick sills to windows. There are several cast iron wall vents in the Fothergill Street side of the building, which are typical of the style employed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The windows are bronze anodised aluminium in a horizontally proportioned format and each window has a metal roller shutter over it. The verandah has a balustrade wall with piers at regular intervals upon which polygonal concrete columns are mounted, and these in turn support a flat metal deck roof verandah.

According to the documentary evidence the house was built between 1905 and 1906. The appearance of the house has been altered by the removal of the iron roof and its replacement with a lower pitched tiled roof, removal of chimneys, remodelling of verandahs, replacement of opening treatments, and the rendering of the external walls, together with the construction of a plain attached garage assembly on the Solomon Street side of the lot.

## 30 Solomon Street (Lot 1A)

30 Solomon Street is a single storey tuck pointed brick and stucco and corrugated zincalume roof bungalow rendered in Federation Queen Anne style. There is a low bagged brick retaining wall along Solomon Street and part of Fothergill Street, with piers at intervals and a plain picket panel fence between the piers in Solomon Street and a high wall with intermittent piers runs along the Fothergill Street boundary. There is a front garden separating the house from the boundary and the plantings include Roses, Bottlebrush Trees (Callistemon spp.), Bougainvillea (Bougainvillea spp.), growing in mulched beds. The side garden includes palms. The Fothergill Street plantings include Peppermint Trees (Agonis flexuosa), and Grape Vine. A set of steps leads up to the brick paved floor front verandah. The street trees include two young lemon trees on Solomon Street and Chinese or Siberian Elm and Bottle Brush in Fothergill Street with plantings of Pelargonium and Vinca along the foot of the boundary walls.

The front of the house is symmetrically arranged around the front entry with the flanking rooms emphasised with bay windows and gables over these bays, to which tiled decorative panels have been applied. The verandah, which extends along the Solomon Street elevation and part way along the Fothergill Street elevation, is separately pitched off a wall plate and has a bullnosed profile roof. The house has a hipped and gabled roof set at about 35 degrees pitch and tall brick chimneys with stucco. The walls are constructed in white tuck pointed brick with brick arches over openings. There are cast iron wall vents at a high level on both elevations that are visible from the street. The windows to the original section of the house are all single pane double hung sashes and those in the front elevation are set in pairs. Under the main windows a set of tiles is attached to the wall and these panels are framed with stucco architraves. The front door is panelled and glazed with sidelights and a hopper light over the door and all the glazed panels are filled with stained glass leadlights. The verandah has stop chamfered posts, a St. Andrew's cross balustrade and elaborately

Apperly, R., et al., op. cit. pp. 132-135.

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worked timber friezes and lattice panels, all of which are made of modern machined timbers.

The Fothergill Street side of the building comprises the original house and a substantial addition to the rear that is designed in the spirit of the original house and has a lantern light over the main space. Horizontal high level windows are set in a strip across the top of the walls and these are set with stained glass leadlights.

The appearance of the house has been altered by the replacement of the iron roof with zincalume, remodelling of verandahs, the replacement of the boundary fence and the addition to the rear.

18 Fothergill Street (Lot 1)

18 Fothergill Street is one of three identical houses built by Henderson and Thorpe in the Federation Bungalow style. <sup>79</sup> The others are at 20 and 22 Fothergill Street. Each house is a single storey tuck pointed brick and ashlar limestone front and random rubble side wall construction house, with a steeply pitched roof and separately pitched verandah roof. Each presents a gable roof over the principal front room to the street and has a return front and side verandah, with the main entry set at the end of the side verandah. The rear sections of the original houses are constructed in random rubble limestone with brick arches and quoins and hipped corrugated iron roofs and tall rendered chimneys. Over the course of time, each house has been subject to change in a variety of minor ways, leaving the overall relationship between the three houses abundantly clear.

There is a low brick and pipe railing fence along the front boundary to number 18. The house is built on the western boundary and 20 Fothergill Street is built on the eastern boundary leaving space for a driveway between this property and the house.

There is a narrow front garden separating the house from the boundary. The side of the house is taken up by a concrete driveway. There is a single cypress street tree. A set of steps leads up to a wooden floor side verandah.

The front of the house is asymmetrically arranged with the front room and its broken pedimented gable being the dominant element, replete with semicircular gable vent and sunburst pattern gable timbers. The verandah, which extends along the front of the building and down the east side to the main entry, is separately pitched off a wall plate and is supported at its perimeter on rendered masonry piers, with tuck pointed brick tops. house roof is hipped and gabled with a corrugated iron roof and a tall roughcast rendered chimney on the eastern side of the house. boundary wall to the west has a blind niche. The front wall retains its ashlar limestone walls, tuck pointed brick quoins and arches, with stucco sills. The side walls are random rubble brickwork. The windows to the original section of the front section of the house are all single pane double hung sashes in a group of three with single windows to other rooms. The front door is panelled and glazed with sidelights and a hopper light over the door

ibid pp. 144-147.

and all the glazed panels are filled with stained glass leadlights. The verandah has rendered brick balustrade with a stepped motif that is indicative of Inter War design and construction.

A framed construction addition has been attached to the rear of the house.

The appearance of the house has been altered by the loss of the original balustrade, the construction of a brick fence, loss of some timber detail, the installation of a driveway, and painting of some stonework, and the construction of an addition.

# 20 Fothergill Street (Lot 2)

20 Fothergill Street is one of the group of three noted above. There is a bagged brick pier and panel fence at the front boundary, with a wrought steel top and wrought steel gates. The house is built on the western boundary and 22 Fothergill Street is built on the eastern boundary, leaving space for a driveway between this property and the house.

There is a narrow front garden separating the house from the boundary. The side of the house is taken up by a brick paved driveway that terminates at a timber pergola carport, and a screen to the rear garden. The eastern boundary wall is covered with ivy (*Hedera spp.*). There is a Bottle Brush street tree, together with an unidentified street tree alongside the driveway.

The front of the house is asymmetrically arranged in the same manner as its two neighbours. The gable has been rendered, resulting in some loss of detail in terms of the treatment of the gable vent. The verandah is separately pitched off a wall plate and is supported at its perimeter on stop chamfered timber posts with post brackets. The house roof is hipped and gabled with a zincalume custom orb profile roof and the chimneys appear to have been removed. The front wall retains its ashlar limestone walls, tuck pointed brick quoins and arches, with stucco sills. The side walls are random rubble brickwork. The windows and doors match number 18.

A buff coloured concrete block construction addition has been attached to the rear of the house.

The appearance of the house has been altered by the loss of the original balustrade, the construction of a brick wrought steel fence, loss of some timber detail, the installation of a driveway, rendering of the gable, painting of some stonework, and the construction of an addition.

## 22 Fothergill Street (Lot 3)

22 Fothergill Street is one of the group of three noted above. There is a bagged brick pier and panel fence at the front boundary, with a timber filigree top and framed lattice construction gates. The house is built on the western boundary and is set well off the fence line of 24 Fothergill Street.

There is a narrow front garden separating the house from the boundary. The side of the house is taken up by a brick paved driveway that terminates at a lightly framed carport. The eastern boundary fence is covered with ivy. There is a Paper Bark (*Melaleuca spp.*) street tree, together with an unidentified street tree alongside the driveway to number 20.

The front of the house is asymmetrically arranged in the same manner as its two western neighbours. The verandah is separately pitched off a wall plate and has a bull nosed profile roof, which is supported at its perimeter on stop chamfered timber posts with a plain timber frieze between post tops, and post brackets. The verandah has a replacement timber floor. The house roof is hipped and gabled with a zincalume custom orb profile roof, with a tall face brick chimney with a corbelled top. The front wall retains its ashlar limestone walls, tuck pointed brick quoins and arches, with stucco sills. The side walls are random rubble brickwork. The windows and doors match number 18.

A face brickwork construction addition has been attached to the rear of the house.

The appearance of the house has been altered by the loss of the original balustrade, the construction of a brick timber fence, loss of some timber detail, the installation of a driveway, and the construction of an addition.

24 Fothergill Street (Lot 3)

24 Fothergill Street is one of a pair of identical villas built by Henderson and Thorpe in the Federation Bungalow style in 1902-3. The other is at 26 Fothergill Street. Both houses are single storey white tuck pointed brick and black tuck pointed ashlar limestone front and random rubble side wall construction houses, with steeply pitched gabled roofs and separately pitched verandah roofs. Both present a gable roof over the principal front room to the street and have a return front and side verandah with the main entry set at the end of the south facing verandah. The rear sections of the original houses are constructed in random rubble limestone with brick arches and quoins and hipped corrugated iron roofs and tall rendered chimneys. Over the course of time, both houses have been subject to change, leaving the overall relationship between the two houses very close.

There is a low rendered brick and pier and wrought iron palisade fence along the front boundary with wrought iron gates. The house is built close to the eastern boundary and set well back from the western boundary with a pea gravel bitumen drive on the western side of the lot.

There is a generous front garden between the house from the boundary and the plantings include grass, Hibiscus (*Hibiscus spp.*), Roses, a Weeping Mulberry Tree (*Morus nigra*), Plumbago (*Plumbago carpensis*), Gums, Holly (*Ilex spp.*) and Lavender (*Lavendula spp.*). There is a simply constructed flat roof carport on the west side of the house. There is an Elm street tree. A set of steps leads up some paving beyond the front gate.

The front of the house is asymmetrically arranged with the front room and its plain rough cast gable and bay windows being the dominant element. The verandah is separately pitched off a wall plate and is supported at its perimeter on stop chamfered timber verandah posts, which have timber fillets fitted to the post tops. The roof is a replacement custom blue orb roof painted in red and cream bands. There are birdboards under the eaves. The house has a painted corrugated zincalume custom orb roof and there

ibid pp. 144-147.

are two tall brick chimneys with rendered stucco panels and cornices. The front wall retains its ashlar limestone walls, tuck pointed brick quoins and arches, with stucco sills. The side walls are random rubble brickwork, with roughcast rendered gables. The windows of the front section of the house are all single pane double hung sashes in pairs in the bay section and single windows to other rooms. The front door is panelled and glazed with sidelights and a hopper light over the door and all the glazed panels are filled with stained glass leadlights. The verandah has a simple timber balustrade and timber steps down to ground level.

The appearance of the house has been altered by the construction of a carport, replacement of roof sheeting, and the reorganisation of the gardens.

26 Fothergill Street (Lot 2)

26 Fothergill Street is the second of the pair of identical villas built by Henderson and Thorpe in 1902-3. The other is at 24 Fothergill Street.

There is a low rendered brick and pier fence along the front boundary and the tops of its piers and its gates have been removed. The house is built close to the eastern boundary and set well back from the western boundary with a brick paved driveway.

There is a generous front garden between the house and the boundary and the plantings include grass, Hibiscus, Roses, Daisies, and Lavender. There is a simply constructed pitched roof carport on the west side of the house located towards the rear of the property. There is an Elm street tree.

The front of the house is identical to 24. The verandah is separately pitched off a wall plate and is supported at its perimeter on stop chamfered timber verandah posts. The verandah roof has a replacement custom blue orb roof. The house has a corrugated zincalume custom orb roof and there are two tall brick chimneys with rendered stucco and cornices. The front wall retains its ashlar limestone walls, tuck pointed brick quoins and arches, with stucco sills. The side walls are random rubble brickwork, with roughcast rendered gables. The windows and doors match those at 24 Fothergill Street. The verandah has a simple timber balustrade.

The appearance of the house has been altered by the construction of a carport, the removal of elements of the front fence, re-roofing and the reorganisation of the front garden.

27 Fothergill Street (Lot 2A)

27 Fothergill Street is a single storey re-pointed brick, ashlar limestone, and stucco construction bungalow with a corrugated zincalume roof rendered in Federation Bungalow style. There is a masonry and wrought steel fence along the Fothergill Street boundary, with wrought steel gates. There is a front garden separating the house from the boundary and the plantings include Pelargoniums, Alyssum, Vinca, Frangipanni, Stephanotis (Asclepiadaceae) and Aspidistra (Lillaceane). The street tree is a Bottle Brush and there are plantings of Pelargonium and Vinca along the foot of

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Apperly, R., et al., ibid pp.144-47.

the boundary wall.

The front of the house is symmetrically arranged around the front entry with the flanking front rooms emphasised by pairs of windows to the front rooms. The verandah, which extends along the whole frontage, is separately pitched off a wall plate and has a bullnosed profile. The house has an 'M' format hipped roof set at about 35 degrees pitch and tall brick chimneys with stucco cornices. The walls are constructed in ashlar limestone with brick quoins reveals and arches over openings. There are cast iron wall vents at a high level. The windows are single pane double hung sashes and those in the front elevation are set in pairs. The front door is panelled and glazed with sidelights and a hopper light over the door and all the glazed panels are filled with stained glass leadlights. The verandah has stop chamfered posts, with timber fillets and a frieze of cast aluminium lace. It also has a timber floor. The whole assembly is a reconstruction.

There is a skillion roof over the rear section of the house and an addition of rendered masonry attached to this section. A masonry water closet is set in the garden on the eastern boundary.

The appearance of the house has been altered by the replacement of the iron roof with zincalume, remodelling of verandahs, the replacement of the boundary fence, and the addition to the rear.

27a Fothergill Street (Lot 81)

This is a vacant lot.

27b Fothergill Street (Lot 82)

27b Fothergill Street is a single storey masonry construction house with a part second floor framed construction section. There is a limestone fence that extends part way across the front boundary. There is a front garden separating the house from the boundary and the plantings include a Fig Tree (*Ficus caracus*), Poplars (*Populus spp.*), and Olive Trees (*Olea europaea*).

The front of the house is asymmetrically arranged around the entry on the western side. The side walls are built close to or on the lot boundaries. The design is an eclectic assemblage of new and recycled materials and the whole building visually recedes from the street frontage. The front section is set close to the street and is constructed in limestone with a low arched pediment with a single centrally located window. This is part of the single storey section of the house that stretched deep into the lot and has a zincalume hipped roof. The first floor section is set well back into the lot and has a framed wall construction and curved roof, and this element nestles into the gable roof so that it is not a prominent feature.

28 Fothergill Street (Lot 1)

28 Fothergill Street is a residence built in 1900 in the Federation Queen Anne Style. The original section of the house is single storey white tuck pointed brick Flemish and English garden wall bond brick construction with

ibid pp. 132-135.

a random course limestone foundation storey on the west side, and steeply pitched hipped roofs and a separately pitched verandah roof. The visual focus of the house on Fothergill Street is the main room bay window, the deep limestone foundation wall and the surrounding verandah, together with the roofscape and its two tall rendered chimneys. The ground rises sharply along both Fothergill and Swanbourne streets, and this combined with the siting on the street boundaries gives the place visual prominence.

The house is built on the Fothergill and Swanbourne Street boundaries and it is the only house in the study area located in this manner. On the western side of the house, the only open ground in front of the house is taken up with a driveway.

The house is asymmetrically arranged with the front room and its bay window being the dominant element. The verandah, which extends along the front of the building and down the west side to the one of two entries, has a separately pitched roof off a wall plate and is supported at its perimeter on stop chamfered timber verandah posts which are recently fabricated members. The roof is a replacement custom blue orb roof painted in red and cream bands.

The windows are all single pane double hung sashes. The two main doors are set in deep recesses and are panelled and glazed with sidelights and a fixed light over the door. The verandah has a simple timber balustrade and timber steps down to ground level, with timber boards to the floors, all of which appear to be recent material.

The Swanbourne Street elevation is constructed in English garden wall bond brickwork and comprises the skillion end of the front verandah, a recessed entry and three double hung sash windows. Several sections of wall have been rendered as a repair strategy. The main house roof is hipped and the ancillary rooms on the north side of the building have a parapet wall facing the street, with a mono-pitch roof extending to the west.

On the north-west corner of the original house there is a two-storey addition constructed of rendered masonry, with a south facing balcony. This is visually distinguished by its rendered finish and small-scale gabled roof, which contrast with the remainder of the house.

The appearance of the house has been altered by the construction of an addition to the north-west corner, replacement of roof sheeting, replacement of verandah material, the construction of a limestone boundary wall on Swanbourne Street, and the reorganisation of the gardens.

29 Fothergill Street (Lot 12)

29 Fothergill Street was built in 1901-02 in the Federation Filigree style. It is built on the largest lot in the street and is set well back from its boundaries, leaving generous areas of land for gardens. The land falls away from the street towards the south so that the ground floor of the house is well below street level, and the siting at the lower level reduces the visual presence of the house in the overall streetscape.

29 Fothergill Street is a two storey tuck pointed brick and black tuck pointed

ashlar limestone and stucco construction house, with concrete tiled main roof and corrugated asbestos verandah roof. There is a bagged brick and face brick retaining wall and fence along Swanbourne Street and Fothergill Street, with piers at intervals. There is a generous amount of open space around the house that has no formal landscaping, but there is a large number of trees scattered around the space including Peppermint Trees, Pepper Trees (*Schinus spp.*), Tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*), Eucalypts and Olive Trees. The street trees comprise a young Siberian Elm in Fothergill Street and new plantings in Swanbourne Street.

The front of the house is symmetrically arranged around the front entry doors at both ground and first floor level, with the flanking rooms emphasised with pairs of double hung sash windows. A set of steel steps leads up from street level to the verandah and the main front entry at the first floor level. The verandah, which extends along the full width of the Fothergill Street elevation and the western elevation, is separately pitched off a wall plate and pitched corrugated asbestos roof. The house has a hipped roof set at about 30 degrees pitch and stout stucco finished chimneys. The principal walls are constructed in tuck pointed ashlar limestone with brick quoins, reveals and arches. The front door is panelled and glazed with sidelights and a hopper light over the door and all the glazed panels are filled with stained glass leadlights. The verandah has a concrete floor at ground floor level, but all other elements are timber. It has a simple timber balustrade and decorative lacework fixed to the verandah posts and beams at both levels.

The Swanbourne Street side of the building comprises the original house and a substantial two-storey addition to the rear, with a masonry ground floor and framed and fibro clad upper storey. A steel stair leads from the garden to first floor level. The addition appears to replace a rear verandah.

The appearance of the house has been altered by the replacement of the iron roof with tiles and corrugated asbestos, remodelling of verandahs, the replacement of the boundary fence and the addition to the rear.

#### 13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Fremantle and East Fremantle are rich in terms of retention of cultural heritage places. There are many historic precincts in the City of Fremantle that retain a high density of places that would warrant inclusion in the Register of Heritage Places. The historic precincts range in size and include such places as the West End commercial precinct, the Ord Street precinct, Knutsford Street precinct and many others.

Fothergill Street Precinct is quite small and remains remarkably intact as well as reflecting subtle change that reflects changing demographics, the need for replacing deteriorating material, changing technology, and changes in lifestyle. Like many areas in Fremantle and elsewhere, larger residences have been though a period of being divided into flats and subsequently have been returned to single residences.

In common with other precincts in Fremantle, the Fothergill Street precinct is readily definable in an aesthetic and historic sense.

## 13. 4 REFERENCES

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#### 13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

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#### 14 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

There should be no demolition of significant places within the historic precinct. All of the houses in the historic precinct are considered to be significant places. Fothergill Street Precinct should be protected by the conservation of the existing heritage buildings, street frontages, and gardens, together with careful management of the public domain. The character and intactness of the historic precinct should be conserved and strengthened, and new development should be controlled to retain the heritage significance of the historic precinct. The need for the evolution of the historic precinct should be recognized and change managed to conserve the visual harmony of the historic precinct.

To achieve these aims the following management strategies should be implemented: -

The Historic Precinct included in the State Register and under the City of Fremantle's Town planning scheme should be delineated to coincide.

Development guidelines specific to the precinct that are based on the Statement of Significance should be prepared to guide new development, together with alterations and additions to heritage places within the precinct. The guidelines should refer to the importance of retaining the heritage stock, the design of any new places and the need to respect the existing scale, proportions, and plan form of the existing buildings and streetscape guidelines. The guidelines should emphasise the need to evaluate change in an overall context for the precinct.

Guidelines should relate to the broad historic precinct management strategies, or an overall precinct management strategy for residential precincts.