



HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

**DRAFT – Register Entry**

1. **DATA BASE No.** P26464
2. **NAME** Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville  
**FORMER NAME (or OTHER NAMES)**
3. **LOCATION** 101 Tate Street, West Leederville
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Lot 404 on Plan 133, being the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 722 Folio 51 together with Heritage Council Curtilage Map P26464-A
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Town of Cambridge
6. **CURRENT OWNER** State of Western Australia
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: \_\_\_\_\_
  - National Trust Classification: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Town Planning Scheme: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Municipal Inventory: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Register of the National Estate: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Aboriginal Sites Register: \_\_\_\_\_
8. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT**  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
*Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville*, comprising a 1929 single storey, brick and tile residence with a rear sleepout which displays some elements of the Inter-War California Bungalow style, along with other elements popular during the mid to late Federation era such as stained glass windows with Australian imagery, set on a suburban block together with a brick outhouse and weatherboard laundry in a garden with informal mixed plantings including a mature Jacaranda tree to the rear, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place was the home of Australia's 23<sup>rd</sup> Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, during his formative years from the age of ten to twenty-four (1939 to 1953) and continued to be the residence of his parents until 1981. Bob Hawke became a notable union leader through the 1960s and 1970s, President of the ACTU 1969-1980, President of the ALP 1973-1978, Federal member for Wills 1980-1991 and Prime Minister of Australia 1983-1991;

as a modest residence in a typical suburban street, the place helps tell a story of a lower middle class family raising a son to become one of Australia's most recognisable and, for a time, powerful figures, and demonstrates the influence of Bob Hawke's family in shaping the public figure he became;

the place is rare as a Western Australian residence closely associated with an Australian Prime Minister, only two of whom to date have had strong links to Western Australia;

the place is associated with long-serving Western Australian politician Bert Hawke, Premier from 1953 to 1959, who inspired and mentored his nephew Bob towards a political career; and,

the place is a good, intact example of a residence from the Inter-War period which remains largely unaltered, retaining a high number of original internal features including: varnished joinery; light switches and door hardware; figurative lead light stained glass and ripple glass; and a sleepout on the rear verandah, as well as external features such as the outhouse and laundry.



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

### DRAFT – Assessment Documentation

#### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

##### 11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history;

*Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* demonstrates the consolidation of metropolitan Perth through the Inter-War years, as suburbs beyond railway stations and brick-and-tile residences with moderately large gardens became the norm for most suburban families.

##### 11(b) Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage;

*Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* is rare as a Western Australian residence closely associated with an Australian Prime Minister, only two of whom to date have had strong links to Western Australia.

##### 11(c) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;

As a modest residence in a typical suburban street, *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* helps tell a story of a lower middle class family raising a son to become one of Australia's most recognisable and, for a time, powerful figures, demonstrating connections between the rarefied world of public life and the mundane world of the majority of the population.

**11(d) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;**

*Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* is a good example of a modest, but well-built 2-3 bedroom suburban house of the 1920s. In this regard it retains considerable evidence of both its original external and internal detailing.

*Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* is a good, intact example of a residence from the 1920s which remains largely unaltered, retaining a high number of original internal features including: varnished timber skirtings, doors and architraves, window frames and a decorative fretwork panel; light switches and door hardware; figurative lead light stained glass in the front door and surround, and circular window, and ripple glass detailing to casement windows; and a sleepout on the rear verandah, as well as external features such as the outhouse and laundry.

**11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;**

*Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* holds special significance for the Australian Labor Party and the labour movement more broadly as the childhood home of one of their key twentieth century heroes, Bob Hawke, as demonstrated by the Western Australian Labor government's move to purchase the place in 2020.

**11(g) Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;**

*Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* was the home of Bob Hawke during his formative years from the age of ten to twenty-four (1939 to 1953), and he continued to visit his parents there regularly until it was sold out of the family in 1981. Bob Hawke was a notable union leader through the 1960s and 1970s, President of the ACTU 1969-1980, President of the ALP 1973-1978, Federal member for Wills 1980-1991 and Prime Minister of Australia 1983-1991.

*Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* was the residence of Ellie and Clem Hawke from 1939 to 1981, whose character and values strongly influenced their son Bob and were later reflected in his public life. Ellie was a leader in the Women's Christian Temperance Union and influential through her teaching and advocacy in improving education for girls, while Clem was a respected Congregational Church Minister.

Bert Hawke, who from 1933 served thirty-five years in State Parliament, including thirty years on the front bench, seventeen as a Minister, fifteen as Labor leader and six (1953-1959) as Premier, was a regular visitor at *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* where he was influential in inspiring and mentoring his nephew Bob towards a political career.

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1 CONDITION**

The house is generally in good condition, commensurate with its age. There is some evidence of localised fretting of the brick mortar, particularly along the eastern elevation.

The application of a later rendered finish to the original rock-faced stone plinth across the face of the projecting section of the front (eastern) façade, suggests that this area has also been affected by rising damp.

Weatherboards to the rear sleep-out and laundry are displaying evidence of splitting and localised decay (particularly to the laundry).

### **12.2 INTEGRITY**

This section explains the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

The house has retained a high degree of authenticity both internally and externally. It has retained the majority of its original materials and general finishes, together with evidence of original door and window hardware and light switches.

The garden has been modified over time, and the original garage has been demolished, but the curtilage remains intact and the traditional relationship between the house, front yard, side driveway and rear yard (inclusive of the original brick outhouse and a modified weatherboard laundry) remains intact.

### **12.3 AUTHENTICITY**

This section explains the extent to which the original intention is evident, and the compatibility of current use.

The place was designed as a suburban residence and continues to be occupied for this purpose.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Historian Clare Menck and Annette Green, Greenwood Consulting, Heritage Planning & Policy in January 2021, with amendments and/or additions by the Heritage Council and the Department.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

##### History of 101 Tate Street

Greater Perth is built on Whadjuk Noongar land and *Galup* (Lake Monger) was a traditional Noongar meeting place. It was the site of a massacre of Noongar people by colonists, including militia, in 1830. Soon after, a short-lived feeding depot was established at Lake Monger to encourage Noongar people to keep away from colonists' homes and farms.<sup>1</sup> A Noongar camp remained at the lake until at least the 1920s.<sup>2</sup>

John H. Monger acquired 200 acres south of Lake Monger in the early days of the colony. William Leeder, for whom the district was later named, took land to the east and southeast.<sup>3</sup> Land in the area was taken up for small farms and market gardens, particularly around wetlands. The Fremantle-Perth-Guildford railway was constructed through the district, opening in 1881, which encouraged further settlement.<sup>4</sup>

Monger and Leeder's land holdings were subdivided in the 1890s.<sup>5</sup> As the gold boom brought money and population to Western Australia through the 1890s, suburbs were developed around the town centres at Fremantle and Perth, mostly along the railway. Leederville was gazetted as a municipality in 1896 and Subiaco in 1897. The combined population of the two increased from 4,610 in 1901 to 14,383 in 1911.<sup>6</sup> In 1904, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd took up residence on 40 acres of land between Ruislip Street (then named Ruby Street) and Lake Monger. Their precinct at the top of the hill, overlooking the lake, dominated the working-class suburb for decades.<sup>7</sup>

Tate Street first appears in Post Office Directories in 1897, at which time there were only five residents noted between the railway and Ruby Street. Within five years the number of residents had trebled. Most were towards the railway, with only one

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Menck, Clare, *Thematic History of Western Australia*, research spreadsheet supporting written narrative, prepared for HCWA, June 2018; Wynne, Emma & Trilling, Jo, 'Perth Festival to showcase hidden massacre of Noongar people at Lake Monger', *ABC News (online)*, 22 December 2020, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-22/perth-festival-lake-monger-noongar-people-history-revealed/12998272>
  - <sup>2</sup> unidentified photographer, Aboriginal Camp at Lake Monger (image), 1923, SLWA 054500PD (online)/ 2450B
  - <sup>3</sup> City of Vincent, P17976 Britannia Road Reserve (database entry), in DPLH, *InHerit* (website), <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Inventory/Details/4ad98af8-e7bc-446b-b693-b29e04016466> accessed 13 January 2021
  - <sup>4</sup> Chinnery, Robin, P02208 *West Leederville Primary School*, Documentary Evidence for Register Entry, 2004, p.4
  - <sup>5</sup> City of Vincent, P17976 Britannia Road Reserve (database entry), in DPLH, *InHerit* (website), <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Inventory/Details/4ad98af8-e7bc-446b-b693-b29e04016466> accessed 13 January 2021
  - <sup>6</sup> Stannage, C.T., *The People of Perth: A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, Perth City Council, Perth WA, 1979, pp.240-241
  - <sup>7</sup> Town of Cambridge, P08880 Ruislip Street Catholic Precinct (database entry), in DPLH, *InHerit* (website), <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Inventory/Details/148f6978-5671-4ffb-b4a5-ec7d89c25b0f> accessed 13 January 2021

listed north of Camden Street (later Woolwich Street). By 1915 there were twenty homes listed north of Woolwich Street, the block in which *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* was later constructed. Property numbering was adjusted in 1916-1917 and what had been 115 Tate Street became 101 Tate Street. It remained vacant.<sup>8</sup> A sewerage plan of 1924 shows 101 Tate Street as one of only two vacant lots in the block, although the lots to the rear along McCourt Street were also mostly undeveloped at the time.<sup>9</sup>

The Intercolonial Investment Land and Building Company Ltd acquired parcels of land through Tate and McCourt Streets and began selling them off from around 1903. Lot 404, at 101 Tate Street, was purchased in the name of Harold Murray Regan, minor, of Tamworth NSW in 1907. It subsequently passed to George Schofield, builder, of Maylands in 1919. In 1925 the property was bequeathed to James Lewis Berkley Weir, who sold it in 1926 to Louisa James, married woman.<sup>10</sup>

Post Office Directories record a new house at 101 Tate Street in 1929. The following year, the address is occupied by David C. James. He continues to be listed as resident until his death in 1938, after which Mrs Louisa James is noted at the address.<sup>11</sup>

In May 1939, 101 Tate Street was advertised for sale by auction. The newspaper notice read:

No. 101 Tate Street Leederville

Brick Tiled Roof Residence (stone foundations), comprising two bedrooms 16x12, 14x11; lounge room 16x14; dining room, 19x12; hall 6ft; passage 4x7ft; sleep-out 16x8. Inside bathroom, kitchenette, gas stove, laundry, grano, paths, sewered.

LAND: Being portion of Swan Loc. 391 being Lot 404 on plan 133 C/T Vol 722 Folio 51, containing 75.7 links by 200 links, elevated position close Monastery, tram and school.<sup>12</sup>

Six months later an auction was held at 101 Tate Street to sell off the contents of the home. As well as the headline item, a 'valuable upright grand Eckermann piano', the auction appears to have covered all the furniture and fittings of the home, including lino and hall carpet, mower, garden tools, utensils and 'lots of useful sundries'.<sup>13</sup> It is possible the incoming owners purchased at this auction and retained the original furniture and fittings.

The title for Lot 404 (101 Tate Street) transferred to Edith Emily Hawke in November 1940.<sup>14</sup> Post Office Directories the following year listed the occupant of the residence as Rev A.C. Hawke.<sup>15</sup> As this is the first listing in WA Post Office Directories for the Hawkes, who are known to have moved to the State in the

---

<sup>8</sup> Wise & Co, *Wise's Western Australia Post Office Directory*, Perth WA, 1895-1920

<sup>9</sup> Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department, 'Sewerage Plan', AU WA S634- cons4156 0165, via SROWA RetroMaps, [https://mapping.sro.wa.gov.au/Bob Hawke's House \(fmr\), Leederville , 101 Tate St, West Leederville/map](https://mapping.sro.wa.gov.au/Bob%20Hawke's%20House%20(fmr),%20Leederville,%20101%20Tate%20St,%20West%20Leederville/map)

<sup>10</sup> Certificates of Title Vol.254 Vol.85; Vol.397 Fol.75; Vol.722 Fol.51

<sup>11</sup> *West Australian*, 27 July 1938, p.1, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/42099642>

<sup>12</sup> *West Australian*, 27 May 1939, p.27, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/46394707>

<sup>13</sup> *West Australian*, 28 November 1939, p.13, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/46440776>

<sup>14</sup> Certificate of Title Vol.722 Fol.51

<sup>15</sup> Wise & Co, *Wise's Western Australia Post Office Directory*, Perth WA, 1939-1941

second half of 1939, it is likely the Hawkes lived at *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* before the Post Office Directories, and probably the title, recorded their occupation.

Edith Emily Hawke (nee Lee, 1897-1979) and Arthur Clarence Hawke (1898-1989) were both born and raised in South Australia. They married in 1920 and were known to all as Ellie and Clem. They had two sons, John Neil (1921-1939) and Robert James Lee (1929-2019), the younger of whom was to become internationally recognised.<sup>16</sup> Ellie and Clem Hawke lived at their Tate Street home for forty years. Bob lived with them until 1953, when he was 24, and was a regular visitor thereafter.

The Hawkes' new residence in Tate Street was described in Bob Hawke's 1982 biography as:

... a cottage on a rise of Tate Street, Leederville. Their new home had a meagre front garden, generous back garden, five rooms, screened-in back verandah, stained glass kookaburras set in glass panels in the front door and a porthole window in the hall.<sup>17</sup>

The earliest available aerial photograph, from 1953, shows the property largely as it remains in 2021. The laundry and outhouse are already evident. A free-standing asbestos clad 9' x 16' garage, (erected in 1944), is also in place on the southern boundary of the property, towards the rear of the house.<sup>18</sup> The garage was removed in 2006.<sup>19</sup> A photograph of the Hawke family in the rear yard in 1950, probably looking west, shows a neat lawn with shrubbery along the fence-line behind.<sup>20</sup>

The 1953 aerial photograph is not clear enough to determine the layout of the garden. However, the curved front entry path and angled rear path from the back door to the outhouse are both evident at this time. Much of the front and rear yard appears to be lawn. A 1964 image gives a clearer view of the garden. A narrow garden bed runs along the front property boundary and there is probably a low front fence. There also appears to be a low border of plants beside the front entry path and possibly a garden bed in the triangular area between that path and the driveway. A neat hedge appears to be in place along the southern property boundary from the street front to the garage.

Beyond the garage, the property boundary is marked by a mix of overgrown hedge, larger trees and shrubs. A large portion of the rear yard is lawn. An area at the rear of the house, extending from the back door to the front of the garage, is probably paved. A path extends from the back of the house, past the outhouse and laundry, to a back gate accessing the rear lane. In the extreme northwest corner of the site, next to this gate, is a small outbuilding, which seems to have been removed in the 1980s. There are moderate size trees around the outhouse and laundry. Garden beds appear to wrap all sides of the rear lawn. Mature trees are evident along the rear boundary. Subsequent photographs suggest the large Jacaranda tree in the southwest corner of the yard was already in place at this time. Trees along the northern fence-line appear to be within the neighbouring property.

---

16 D'Alpuget, Blanche, *Bob Hawke: the Complete Biography*, Simon & Schuster, Cammeray NSW, 2019, pp.1-11

17 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.30

18 'No.101 Tate Street – A.C. Hawke' (file), City of Perth, 138/44, supplied in digital form by Town of Cambridge

19 Aerial photographs, 1953-2020, Landgate Mapviewer, <https://map-viewer-plus.app.landgate.wa.gov.au/index.html>

20 1950 image reproduced in Hawke, Hazel, *My Own Life*, Text Publishing Co, Melbourne, 1992, p.27



By 1965, there is a border of shrubs around the rear lawn, including the north side of the garage. Through the Hawke's ownership, the trees and shrubs were allowed to grow substantially, particularly the Jacaranda tree and trees by the front north corner of the house and overhanging the garage. The latter two were removed or substantially pruned back around 2000. A large tree grew near the rear gate through the 1990s but was removed around 2006.<sup>21</sup>

Photographs of Bob, Clem and Ellie Hawke outside *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* taken in 1974, show the residence as it remains in 2021. Some light vegetation suggests there was a garden bed bordering both sides of the front entry path near to the driveway at the time.<sup>22</sup>

Ellie Hawke was moved to aged care at Subiaco Home of Peace in 1978, following a stroke. She died in 1979.<sup>23</sup>

After Ellie's death, the title for *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* passed to Clem (Arthur Clarence Hawke). He sold the house in 1981 to Tai Sun Chan, plastic surgeon, of Nedlands. Chan discharged the mortgage on the place in 1996.<sup>24</sup> The house appears to have been mostly leased for residential use under Chan's ownership.

The portion of the backyard closest to the house appears to have had some landscaping work undertaken in 2006, including the construction of a retaining wall to separate the less-manicured rear garden area, and the barbeque was likely an addition at this time.<sup>25</sup>

By this time, West Leederville was considered a well-located inner-city suburb, close to work places, public transport, universities, sport, recreation and shopping precincts. Tenants at *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* remember it as a great place to live.<sup>26</sup>

In May 2019, Bob Hawke died at home in Sydney aged 89.<sup>27</sup> In December 2020, the State Government purchased 101 Tate Street, on account of its association with Bob Hawke, for \$1.45 million. The Premier, Mark McGowan, acknowledged that the previous owner had maintained an awareness of the place's historical significance.<sup>28</sup>

In 2021, *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* is under residential lease. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is the responsible agency, managing it for the State.

- 
- 21 Aerial photographs, 1953-2020, Landgate Mapviewer, <https://map-viewer-plus.app.landgate.wa.gov.au/index.html>
- 22 Davidson, Three images of Bob Hawke with his parents at Tate Street, *West Australian Newspapers*, 1974, at *Westpix (website)*, <https://www.westpix.com.au/results.asp?W=4&F=0002&Step=1&rowx=2>
- 23 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.469
- 24 Certificate of Title Vol.722 Fol.51
- 25 Aerial photographs, 1953-2020, Landgate Mapviewer, <https://map-viewer-plus.app.landgate.wa.gov.au/index.html>
- 26 Evan Menogue, tenant 2008-2009, email to Clare Menck, 26 January 2021
- 27 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019
- 28 McGowan, Mark, 'Historic Bob Hawke family home to be preserved', *Media Statements (website)*, Government of Western Australia, 27 December 2020, <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/12/Historic-Bob-Hawke-family-home-to-be-preserved.aspx>

## Bob Hawke

Bob Hawke (Robert James Lee Hawke) was born in Bordertown, South Australia, in 1929. In 1935, the family moved to Maitland, South Australia. Early in 1939, Bob's elder brother Neil died of meningitis, leaving Bob an only child. Within months, the family relocated to Western Australia to make a new start.<sup>29</sup>

In 1942, when he was 13, Bob won a scholarship to Perth Modern School. From there he went on to study Law at the University of Western Australia (UWA) from 1947, followed by an Arts degree majoring in Economics. He was active in sport, student politics (including a term as Guild President) and Christian youth movements. In 1952, he won a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University, which he attended from 1953 to 1955.<sup>30</sup> On his return he married long-time fiancé Hazel Masterton before spending two years in Canberra doing post-graduate studies at the Faculty of Law at the Australian National University (ANU). Hawke's academic field was wage arbitration, particularly the history of setting the basic wage. From this academic background, Hawke moved to Melbourne in 1957 to take up a position representing the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) in the Arbitration Commission, fighting for increases to the minimum wage.<sup>31</sup>

Hazel and Bob had four children, one of whom died soon after birth. Although Bob was declared Victoria's Father of the Year in 1971, he was rarely home and Hazel was largely responsible for raising their family.<sup>32</sup>

After considerable success through the 1960s having wages increased through the Arbitration Commission, in 1969 Hawke was elected president of the ACTU. He retained the position until 1980, when he resigned to stand for Federal Parliament. He also served as National President of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) from 1973 to 1978. Hawke had a significant public profile by this time and had long been touted within the party and by the media as a likely parliamentary candidate. He was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1979 for services to trade unionism and industrial relations.<sup>33</sup>

Bob Hawke was elected to Federal Parliament as Labor member for Wills, Victoria, in October 1980. Early in 1983, he replaced Bill Hayden as Leader of the Opposition, three weeks before an election which Labor went on to win. From March 1983 Bob Hawke was Prime Minister of Australia. He won four elections before Paul Keating successfully challenged him for the leadership in December 1991. Hawke left Parliament soon after. He pursued various business and charity interests. Hazel and Bob separated in 1994. In 1995 Bob married his biographer, Blanche d'Alpuget. In May 2019, he died at home in Sydney, aged 89.<sup>34</sup>

Hawke was widely acknowledged by both sides of politics as a successful Prime Minister. Although initially his early union involvement leaned left, he was later strongly supported by the ALP's right faction. Both within the ACTU and as Prime

---

<sup>29</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.4, 20, 27-30

<sup>30</sup> The Rhodes Scholarship is the oldest (first awarded in 1902) and perhaps most prestigious international scholarship programme, enabling outstanding young people from around the world to study at the University of Oxford. Rhodes Trust, the Rhodes Scholarship <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/> Accessed 20 April 2021.

<sup>31</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.31-101;

<sup>32</sup> Hawke, Hazel, *My Own Life*, Text Publishing Co, Melbourne, 1992

<sup>33</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019

<sup>34</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019

Minister he trod a largely centrist path. He achieved many economic and industrial relations reforms, including floating the Australian dollar and negotiating the Prices and Incomes Accord in 1983, reducing tariff protections, and passing the *Industrial Relations Act* (1988) to replace 80-year-old legislation governing workers' rights. Passionately opposed to racism, he led unions and later the government in boycotting South Africa during apartheid, established the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and extended the visas of Chinese students in Australia following the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

The Hawke government ended moves to dam Tasmania's Franklin River, established four World Heritage Areas to protect Australia's natural environment, initiated Landcare and was influential internationally in preventing mining in Antarctica. Hawke introduced the Family Allowance Supplement in a bid to address child poverty. He introduced the *Sex Discrimination Act* (1984) to improve professional opportunities for women. His government established Medicare, replacing the 1970s Medibank on a firmer basis. Internationally Hawke raised Australia's profile, having already been involved in the International Labour Organisation Governing Body (ILO) through the 1970s and travelling widely as Prime Minister. He was instrumental in establishing Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 1989. In 1990, he approved Australia joining a combined United Nations military force to push Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.<sup>35</sup>

Hawke was a flamboyant leader. His public image was that of a larrikin, the life of every party, speaking the language of the working classes (often loudly and coarsely) and beloved by ordinary people. In an era when men did not cry, Hawke was unashamedly moved to tears in public on numerous occasions. He was an enthusiastic sportsman. After decades of excessive alcohol consumption, he gave up drinking before entering Federal Parliament and remained teetotal through his term as Prime Minister. In debate, he was ferocious. In public, he frequently received a rock-star's welcome. His own expertise in economics coupled with his social concern for working people governed much of his politics. He is remembered as having a genuine passion for the concerns of low-income workers and their families. He placed great value on conciliation and consensus and retained friendships across politics and in both labour movements and big business. His government's success through the 1980s has been attributed to a strong Cabinet, which he ran in a collegiate manner much of the time.<sup>36</sup>

#### 101 Tate Street Associations with Hawke family

When the Hawke family arrived in Western Australia, Clem was assigned as Congregational Minister in West Leederville. Where previous parishes had provided a manse and benefits such as firewood, farm food or a car, at West Leederville the Hawkes were expected to find their own accommodation and received only an unskilled labourer's wage. Hence the family bought the house at Tate Street.<sup>37</sup>

---

<sup>35</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019; National Museum of Australia (website), 'Bob Hawke', <https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/prime-ministers/bob-hawke>; National Archives of Australia (website), 'Robert Hawke: during office', <https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/australias-prime-ministers/robert-hawke/during-office>; both accessed 26 January 2021

<sup>36</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019

<sup>37</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.4, 20, 27-30

Hazel Hawke in her autobiography gave a description of the house as she knew it when she was dating Bob:

The Hawkes lived in West Leederville near Lake Monger, a suburb a little up the status from Mount Hawthorn [where Hazel's family lived]. Theirs was a solid brick and tile house, and Ellie Hawke took much pride in it. Although their limited finances meant it was modest, there was an air of comfort and gentility about it. One room, at the front of the house, served as a study for Clem Hawke, and Bob's bedroom was a closed-in section of the back verandah – a space just big enough to fit a single bed, a small wardrobe, a bookshelf and a side-table placed under the louvred window where he could study. He liked this room. It gave him a bit of separation from the rest of the house, and from his parents.<sup>38</sup>

Hazel recalled sitting with Bob in his sleepout after dinner many evenings while he studied, accompanied (often draped in) his Persian cat Boof.<sup>39</sup>

Hawke's parents were known for their hospitality and generosity, especially to anyone in need. When living in the Congregational Church manse in Bordertown during the Depression, they gave food and lodgings to many suffering hard times. Ellie, a teacher with a passion for girls' education, several times had students live at the manse to rescue them from lives of domestic servitude. Friends of Bob Hawke in later years noted that his home was also frequently open to people needing help or a place to stay, an openness learnt through his childhood.<sup>40</sup>

Ellie Hawke was a passionate member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), the focus of feminism of her time, as alcohol was a major contributor to violence against women and children. WCTU's motto, 'Agitate, Educate, Legislate', profoundly influenced Bob; its commitment to sobriety less so. Ellie was an extremely hard-working woman, giving endless hours to parish and civic causes. Often her Maitland house was full of women working together on whatever project she was embedded in at the time.<sup>41</sup> She continued to be heavily involved in WCTU work in Perth, although less often in her own home. Hawke later recalled developing a resentment towards WCTU as it took her away from home so often.<sup>42</sup>

Hazel Hawke described Ellie as having a reputation for 'doing things properly'. She 'would pursue any discussion vigorously' and was known for her intensity and a propensity for speaking her mind, however uncomfortable it might make others. However, Hazel remembered her as 'overwhelmingly welcoming'. She was a full time teacher, while also taking on boarders to supplement the family income and giving large amounts of her time to supporting Clem's pastoral work and other church duties. Her 'formidable energy', 'intensity', 'thoroughness' and 'vitality' were mirrored in her son, along with a will to win and a love of games (for Ellie, bridge and croquet, for Bob, cricket and tennis and later golf).<sup>43</sup>

Ellie Hawke was ambitious for her son, pushing him to achieve academically and telling people when he was still living at home that he would one day be Prime

---

<sup>38</sup> Hawke, H., *My Own Life*, 1992, p.34

<sup>39</sup> Hawke, H., *My Own Life*, 1992, p.40; D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.48

<sup>40</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.18-19

<sup>41</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.23-24

<sup>42</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.30-31

<sup>43</sup> Hawke, H., *My Own Life*, 1992, p.35

A 1950 photograph (p.27) shows three young women boarding with Hawkes at the time. It is not known where they were accommodated in the two-bedroom house, as the front room is believed to have been Clem's study.

Minister. She was later credited as inspiring him to seek powerful roles, including ultimately the prime ministership.<sup>44</sup> Bob in later life acknowledged how much he owed to his mother, whose high expectations had got him through the scholarship application process to Perth Modern School, and who continued to coach and encourage him through his studies, enabling his high achievement.<sup>45</sup> Her failing health was a factor contributing to Hawke's efforts to stay sober in the latter 1970s.<sup>46</sup>

Bob had a very close relationship with his father Clem. Remembering the 1940s, Bob in later years reflected of his father:

we had a lovely, natural relationship... I just spent most of my time at home. I had a lot of friends but it was such a place of love and happiness. And I didn't want to be anywhere else really. I feel so sorry for kids who don't have a happy home life because it makes a difference to the whole of the rest of your life.<sup>47</sup>

From 1941, Clem enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) as a home-front chaplain. He served until 1945.<sup>48</sup>

A friend recalled meeting Clem and Ellie Hawke for the first time at a Tate Street bridge evening:

We sat down for our game: the tang of austerity dominated the card table and I had the feeling that Mr Hawke [Clem] was observing me, rather than I, him. Yet he was completely self-contained and when the conversation touched on personalities in student politics, he showed something of a disdain for those in the scrabble for power. Somehow, Clem Hawke intruded as a presence, gently, powerfully, intelligently, as, I suggest, he pervaded his son's life.<sup>49</sup>

Clem Hawke was remembered as having a strong desire for consensus on major social issues, especially between clergy of different churches. He had been an ALP office bearer as a young man and contemplated a political career for himself, but later felt that his contribution to the movement had been to raise his son for future leadership.<sup>50</sup> He was remembered as thoughtful, quietly spoken, disciplined and kindly, with a notable clarity of thinking.<sup>51</sup>

Bob Hawke consistently denounced racism throughout his public life, often against the tide of public or political opinion. He attributed his passion against racism to a commitment to the 'Brotherhood of Man' that his father had both taught and demonstrated to him.<sup>52</sup> In 1952, Hawke became friends with a Sinhalese Buddhist student, who was struggling with life far from home in a country still dominated by the White Australia policy. Hawke brought him home to Tate Street and 'encouraged him to treat the Tate Street house as his own'. Aware that Asian students had a very difficult time in Australia, Hawke subsequently founded the Australian-Overseas Student Club and launched a (failed) effort to build an

---

44 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.49-30, 423

45 Hawke, H., *My Own Life*, 1992, pp.142-143

46 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.469

47 Bob Hawke, quoted in Hawke, Bob & Reilly, Derek, *Wednesdays with Bob*, Pan MacMillan Australia, Sydney, 2017, p.33

48 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.39

49 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.57-58, quoting Bob Rogers

50 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.756, 943

51 Hawke, H., *My Own Life*, 1992, p.36

52 Mike Rann, quoted in Pieters-Hawke, *Remembering Bob*, p.92

International House to cater to overseas students' needs.<sup>53</sup> In later life he was very active in promoting relationships between Australia and Asia.

Hawke as a young man is remembered as 'emotional', 'prone to moral indignation' and with 'an urge to comfort the depressed, the despairing and the sick'. In this he reflected his parents, with all three displaying a desire to rescue those in need.<sup>54</sup>

Hawke was known in his union work and political life as confrontingly honest and disarmingly trusting, sometimes naively so. The 'honesty and honourableness of his upbringing' strongly formed in him these characteristics.<sup>55</sup> His skill as a negotiator has been attributed to the 'capacity to listen, patience and soothing diplomacy' he inherited from his father, and the 'honesty and determination' inherited from his mother.<sup>56</sup>

Bob Hawke has been described as having a 'religious fervour' in his nature, particularly his approach to defending a cause. He somewhat transferred the fervour and passion for the downtrodden of his former Christian faith to his union activities. 'It was a slight change of emphasis only for the excessively combative Christian scholar to become the excessively combative rescuer of the workers'.<sup>57</sup> Although he abandoned the church, 'Christian principles were in Hawke's bones and he found their expression not in lifeless Sunday ritual but in the vibrant, communal, morally cohesive and uplifting labour movement'.<sup>58</sup>

Blanche d'Alpuget's biography of Bob Hawke attributes the stimulus of Hawke's interest in politics to his relationship with Clem's brother Albert Redvers (Bert) Hawke. Bert Hawke was already a career Labor politician being groomed to become Premier through Bob's youth. He came weekly to Tate Street to dine with the family and play bridge with Clem and Ellie. Bert Hawke had no son of his own and took Bob on as a favourite nephew, becoming both a beloved uncle and a political mentor. d'Alpuget identifies Bert Hawke as 'a critical figure in Hawke's development and later success'.<sup>59</sup>

Bert Hawke was respected by both sides of politics. In 1958, a Sydney commentator described him as 'the only Labor politician who might have carried on the Chifley tradition of balanced and effective leadership'. After a time working for the WA union movement, he won the seat of Northam for Labor, and held it for over twenty years. He was lobbied to move to Federal politics, where it was widely believed he had a good chance of becoming ALP leader and potentially Prime Minister, but he chose to remain in Western Australia. Hawke served 35 years in State Parliament, including thirty years on the front bench, seventeen as a Minister, fifteen as Labor leader and six (1953-1959) as Premier.<sup>60</sup>

In the latter 1950s, when Bob and Hazel were in Canberra, Bert Hawke (then Premier of Western Australia) invited Bob to stand as a Labor candidate in Western

---

53 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.52-54 (quote from p.52)

54 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.63-64

55 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.246

56 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.490

57 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.113-123, quote pp.122-123

58 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.582

59 D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.37

60 Pendall, *Son of Labor*, 1974, pp.1-2, 360, quote p.1 from John Graham, *Sydney Observer*, 13 December 1958

Australia. Bob declined.<sup>61</sup> Bert Hawke's biographer described him as 'an effusive, bubbling type of individual who lived Labor politics', with 'the zeal of a missionary and the ability to enthuse those around him'.<sup>62</sup> Bob Hawke reflected in the 1970s that his uncle 'embodied... what Labor leadership should be about'. In the context of Labor as a broad collective of groups seeking social change, inclined to fight one another, Bob believed a leader needed to be, as Bert Hawke was, 'a good bloke whom people like as a fellow'. Bob's description of Bert Hawke as 'warm, humble, liked by ordinary people... very articulate, a good debater, clever, witty' mirrors how Bob was later described, with the exception of 'humble'.<sup>63</sup> Bert Hawke was a Labor leader in an era when Labor was led by 'honourable, compassionate men'.<sup>64</sup> He introduced Bob to John Curtin, then Prime Minister, when Bob was ten years old. Throughout his life, Bob held Curtin in the highest esteem, considering him Australia's greatest Prime Minister.<sup>65</sup>

Hazel Hawke described Bert as 'an intimate of the family', so much a part of Tate Street that his presence added to her initially feeling 'a little overawed' by the Hawke household. Bert was often at Tate Street on weekends, a jovial presence. He and Clem together showered effusive compliments on Bob, a point of difference for Hazel with her own family culture of quiet encouragement.<sup>66</sup>

Comparing the childhoods of Gough Whitlam and Bob Hawke, d'Alpuget notes that 'round the dinner table in Hawke's childhood, conversation had been about distress in the parish and the appropriate verses of inspired writing that could offer guidance', in contrast with Whitlam's upper middle class discussions of literature or national and international affairs. Hawke family interactions focussed on 'the common man', which was a strong influence in Bob Hawke's later engagement with unionism and politics.<sup>67</sup> Hazel Hawke remembered a slightly different style of dinner conversation:

I sat around the Hawke dinner table listening to lively talk of sport, politics or church affairs. There I missed the easy, personal exchanges about the work-a-day world, and the people in it, that I was used to at home, and that kept us in touch with each other as individuals, knowing each other's work and friends. I would have liked a combination of the two – in both houses.<sup>68</sup>

In the early 1950s, despite his teetotal upbringing, Hawke became a heavy drinker. Because of his mother's temperance views, he did not drink at home. Friends recall him sneaking into his sleep-out bedroom late at night, drunk, to avoid encountering his mother:

I used to get him into bed – he was sleeping on the back verandah – and we'd creep around the side of the house. There was a watertank there where he could have a wash. Then I'd get him up the steps, through a flywire door and into bed.<sup>69</sup>

---

<sup>61</sup> Hawke, H., *My Own Life*, 1992, pp.70

<sup>62</sup> Pendall, *Son of Labor*, 1974, p.70

<sup>63</sup> Pendall, *Son of Labor*, 1974, quoting Bob Hawke, pp.206-207

<sup>64</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.583

<sup>65</sup> Hawke & Reilly, *Wednesdays with Bob*, 2017, p.36

<sup>66</sup> Hawke, H., *My Own Life*, 1992, pp.34-36, quotes p.34

<sup>67</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, p.212

<sup>68</sup> Hawke, H., *My Own Life*, 1992, pp.38, 186

<sup>69</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.54-55 (quote, Jack Knight, p.55)

After a near-fatal motorbike accident during his first year at university, Hawke pushed himself to achieve. At university in the 1950s, Hawke appeared to have two personalities, one the gregarious hard-drinking life of the party and the other a thoughtful, respectable church youth leader of poise and eloquence. Those who knew him in both spheres considered the more introspective Hawke more genuine. This was the Hawke who was known at home at Tate Street.<sup>70</sup>

Bob Hawke began dating Hazel Masterton in 1948. Much of their courtship took place within the church community and within their respective family homes. Hazel later reflected 'the influence of home was very strong on us'. Hazel was welcomed into the family at Tate Street, where she often spent weekends through their six-year engagement.<sup>71</sup> Bob and Hazel married in 1956.

Even when he was a very public figure, Bob Hawke still often stayed at Tate Street when he was in Perth. In 1964, when working on a wage case in Perth, Bob and Hazel relocated for several months to Perth, living for some time with Clem and Ellie at Tate Street. Their older children, Susan and Stephen, attended West Leederville Primary School, where Bob had also been a student.<sup>72</sup>

In heated times during Bob Hawke's career his family was also subject to public vitriol. This was particularly fierce when he led opposition to apartheid-era South African sporting teams visiting Australia in 1971. Ellie and Clem Hawke received abusive phone calls at Tate Street, accusing Ellie of birthing a monster and saying she should have strangled him at birth.<sup>73</sup>

A friend of Bob and Hazel's daughter Susan recalled visiting 101 Tate Street in the 1970s when the two young women were visiting Perth during a university vacation. She recalled that Ellie Hawke 'still had some of Bob's school books on the shelf' in the sleepout that had been Bob's room, as well as his student desk. It felt like a 'time capsule' and made a great impression on the young woman. She reflected that 'having seen something very personal of Bob's boyhood' helped her understand 'the drive and intelligence of the man, but also the loving support of his family and their ambition for their son'.<sup>74</sup>

On a visit to Perth c.2009, Bob Hawke re-visited *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* which was then rented to a house-share of private tenants. It was already well known by tenants that the place had been Hawke's childhood home. Former tenants remember trying to guess who slept in Bob's room and being surprised to learn, following his visit that he had had the pokiest space of all, in the sleepout, which by that stage was used as a broom cupboard and had a very sloped floor.<sup>75</sup> Hawke's efforts to visit the place decades after it passed out of Hawke family ownership indicate that the place held some significance for him.

In announcing that the government had purchased *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* in 2020, after Bob Hawke's death the previous year, Premier Mark McGowan stated:

---

<sup>70</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.56-57

<sup>71</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.59-61, 88; quote p.59 from Hazel Hawke

<sup>72</sup> Hawke, H., *My Own Life*, 1992, pp.98

<sup>73</sup> D'Alpuget, *Bob Hawke*, 2019, pp.268-269

<sup>74</sup> Marjorie Johnston, quoted in Pieters-Hawke, Sue, *Remembering Bob*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2019, p.89

<sup>75</sup> Comments from former tenants on a Facebook post by Sarah Mills Menogue, 27 December 2020; Evan Menogue, email to Clare Menck, 26 January 2021



The unremarkable suburban home of a Congregationalist Minister and a schoolteacher raising their son reminds us how a seemingly ordinary childhood can lead to extraordinary achievements. It is highly probable that family time spent in this house in West Leederville would have shaped his views and been instrumental in giving him both the deep principles and the 'lovable larrikin' character that he will always be remembered for.<sup>76</sup>

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* comprises a 1929 single storey, brick and tile residence, together with what appears to be a contemporary brick outhouse and a modified weatherboard laundry. These are located on a 612.6m<sup>2</sup> suburban block, which abuts Tate Street along the eastern boundary and Wisher Lane along the western boundary.

The main streetscape setting is dominated by single storey houses dating from the Federation and Inter-War eras, with some post-war infill and additions. Mature street trees (predominantly Brush Box, [*Lophostemon confertus*]) frame the streetscape views both along the street and towards the houses.

The house is framed by a narrow path along the northern boundary and a driveway along the southern boundary. The front section of the driveway is of traditional red concrete, off which a curved, red concrete path which is likely original, leads to the front steps. The front boundary is defined by a modern, scalloped timber picket fence, while the other boundaries are variously fenced with flat-topped timber palings, corrugated fibrous cement, brick, and brush panel.

The front yard is landscaped with a combination of lawn and flowerbeds, the latter featuring informal mixed plantings. The rear yard is predominantly lawn, with a Jacaranda tree (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) in the south-west corner, a grape vine growing over a trellis on the southern side of the laundry and brick outhouse, and a raised planter bed around the rear sleepout. A low retaining wall indicates the approximate alignment of the rear of the former garage, which was located at the end of the driveway.

#### House - Exterior

The house is typical of many modest but well-built 2-3 bedroom suburban houses of the 1920s, in that it displays some restrained elements of the Inter-War California Bungalow style (particularly in the detailing to the front porch and double gable), but also retains elements and finishes that were popular during the mid-late Federation era.

The main façade features tuck-pointed face brickwork, with a contrasting rendered string course and a rock-faced stone plinth. The gable-hipped roof is clad with terracotta tiles, with rams-horn finials at the apex and gable ends.

A full gable extends over the projecting wing on the northern side of the main façade. This has a flush panelled face, slender vertical battens, wide battened eaves, and taper-cut bargeboards. A matching part-gable aligns with the front wall of the main entrance, while both the main body of the house and the front porch

---

<sup>76</sup>

McGowan, 'Historic Bob Hawke family home to be preserved', 2020

have hipped roofs. The only other feature of the roofscape is a simple face-brick chimney, which is located partway along the southern side.

The southern half of the main façade is occupied by a right-angled porch, which wraps around the eastern and southern sides of the entrance hall. This features half-height, tuck-pointed brick piers, which flank brick balustrade walls. The piers and balustrades have rendered caps, and the end piers are topped by pairs of timber posts that are linked by a simple, semi-circular cross piece. Red concrete steps, framed by low curved walls, lead up to the timber-floored porch. The shape of the porch is emphasised by the floorboards, which run east-west across the front section and north-south along the side section, meeting at the diagonal.

The main entrance has high-level sidelights, which align with a glazed panel at the top of the door. The leadlight glazing features rectangular panes of rippled glass, inset with a stained-glass tree branch that extends across the combined width of the door and sidelights. The branch is finished with a simple array of leaves and gumnuts, and is the 'perch' for a single kookaburra to the southern sidelight and a pair of kookaburras to the door panel. Along each of the side walls of the porch (adjoining the original lounge room and main bedroom) there is a large circular window with a rendered frame. These have complementary branch and kookaburra stained-glass designs.

The east, south, and west façades each have a triple casement window shaded by a simple raked awning. Each window section has plain glazing topped by two small rectangular panels of ripple glass. The awnings have simple timber framing and tiled roofs. Along the north façade there is a mix of smaller casement and double hung windows with no awnings.

Along the northern half of the west façade there is a weatherboard and fibrous cement lean-to sleepout, with timber steps leading down to the back yard.

#### House - Interior

The house comprises an entrance hall, central east-west passage with a small return in front of the bathroom, the original dining and lounge rooms, two original bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, and sleep-out.

The floors in all of the main spaces, likely original, are finished with 110mm wide polished timber boards, the walls are plastered and painted and the ceilings are generally panel and batten with coved cornices. The ceilings to the entrance hall, front bedroom and original lounge room each have a decorative moulded plaster central panel. The flush ceilings to the central passage and original dining room are likely to be later replacements.

The original lounge and dining rooms have splayed corner fireplaces but these have been blocked up. Both of these rooms, together with the entrance hall and original main bedroom, also have simple picture rails.

The most distinctive feature of the interior is the dark, stained and varnished joinery to all of the main rooms (which is consistent with the period of construction). Of particular note are the architraves. The sides of the door and window frames are wider at the base than the top, tapering in along the outer edge. Above this, each opening has a shallow triangular head, which curves upwards at either end to form a slightly projecting block. Original brass door plates and knobs, window latches and casement stays remain in situ through much of the house.

Other original timber elements include the four panel doors (two vertical recessed panels topped by two horizontal recessed panels); splay-topped skirtings; a fretwork panel over the opening between the entrance hall and passage; a timber mantle over the former fireplace to the original dining room; a coat rack on the eastern side of the passage niche outside of the bathroom; and a built-in cupboard on the western side of this niche. Prominent timber blocks were also used as the mounting plates for the original push-button light switches, several of which are still intact and in use.

Kitchen and bathroom fittings have been altered over time, and the built-in cabinetry in the kitchen appears to date from the early post-WWII period (as does the built-in cupboard to the sleep-out).

The sleep-out is a simple functional space with a timber sloped floor (consistent with it originally being a rear verandah), painted brick and fibrous cement walls, a part-height partition dividing the room into two spaces, built in cupboards along part of the western side, mismatched windows and a board and brace external door.

#### Outbuildings

The original external outhouse is a small brick building with a curved corrugated iron roof and concrete floor. The original toilet has been replaced and the current toilet is still functional.

The outhouse is adjacent to, but detached from, a simple open-fronted timber-framed laundry. The latter has modern flat-pan sheeting to the shallow-pitched raked roof, a concrete floor, a mixture of weatherboard and translucent corrugated acrylic external cladding, and flush panel internal lining.

On the southern side of the laundry and outhouse a timber trellis supports a mature grapevine which extends over the concrete pathway.

The original detached garage near the south-western corner of the house and a small shed at the north-western corner of the site have been demolished and these areas have been redeveloped as part of the lawn.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **Principal Australian Historic Theme(s)**

- 4.1.2 Making suburbs
- 5.2 Organising workers and work places
- 5.6 Working in the home
- 7.2.3 Working to promote civil liberties
- 7.2.4 Forming political associations
- 8.5.2 Helping other people
- 8.11.1 Celebrating folk heroes
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
- 8.13 Living in cities and suburbs

#### **Heritage Council of Western Australia Theme(s)**

- 107 Settlements
- 306 Domestic activities
- 401 Government and politics
- 603 Local heroes and battlers
- 605 Famous and infamous people

### Single-story Residences c.1929

The Inter-War Period (1915-1940) was an era of change for the Perth metropolitan area. WWI changed the dynamic of Australian society and, leaving behind what was thought to be the war to end all wars, Australia moved into a decade of positivity and optimism. People's high spirits were fuelled by the economic boom, allowing families to grow which resulted in high birth-rates.

During this decade, the population of Perth's metropolitan area increased from over a third of Western Australia's population to over half. Rapid urbanisation demanded that the metropolitan area expand. Beginning in 1922 and reaching a peak in 1928 this period of growth featured a focus on both quality and quantity of houses as well as the installation of utilities. Development led to increases in transportation infrastructure including tramways, bus routes and vehicle access. The ideal home of the Inter-War Period was a one-story house situated on a large block of land with a garden.

The Wall Street Crash abruptly ended Australian optimism, bringing the country into the Great Depression. Perth's metropolitan housing expansion ended, but development did continue with the government setting up work-schemes and projects for building and repairing roads, constructing public buildings and installing water and sewerage.<sup>77</sup>

A search of the Historic Heritage database lists almost 10,000 single storey residences with over 7,000 in the metropolitan area. Of these 747 were constructed between 1925 and 1935, ten of which are entered in the State Register. Of these, the following are somewhat comparable to *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville*:

- P3562 *Darjeeling, Roleystone* (1932) - a substantial timber and corrugated iron residence and guest house in the Inter-War Old English style, set into mature, informal gardens.
- P799 *Ferniehurst*, East Fremantle (c.1925) - a single storey residence designed as a late example of the Federation Bungalow style which is an excellent example of a single storey residence constructed in the inter-war period as a late use of the Federation Bungalow.
- P17150 *Tudor Lodge*, Mount Lawley (1922; 1939) - a single-storey brick and stucco tiled-roof dwelling in the Inter-War California Bungalow style.

### Houses associated with Prime Ministers

There is one other former Prime Minister's house in the State Register of Heritage Places:

- P7935 *John Curtin's House*, Cottesloe (1923) - the place was the family home of John Curtin, journalist, political activist, Labor politician, leader of the Australian Labor Party and Prime Minister of Australia. Curtin was the first representative of a Western Australian electorate to be Prime Minister of Australia, serving from 1941 until his death in 1945. The place is associated with Curtin during the time he was Prime Minister.

---

<sup>77</sup>

Taylor, P (2018) Inter War Architecture: Residential Precincts in the Perth Metropolitan Area. Notre Dame University Student Placement, September to November 2018, pp. 2-4.

### Premiers' Houses in Western Australia

Although there are no other Prime Minister's houses in the Historic Heritage database, there are a few noted as having been constructed or occupied by former Premiers of Western Australia. Two are on the State Register:

- P1882 *Mitchell House, Northam* (1905) – Constructed for Sir James Mitchell, Premier 1919-1924.
- P1874 *Fermoy House (fmr), Northam* (1897) – built for George Throssell, Western Australia's second Premier.

One further Premier's house is on the State Register as part of P2915 *Guildford Historic Town*:

- P3351 *Scaddan House, Guildford* (1907) – Constructed for John Scaddan, Premier from 1911 to 1916. It is thought that Scaddan resided at the property when he became Premier. (In 1994 it was resolved the place did not warrant assessment as an individual place.)

A further three residences in the Historic Heritage database are known to have been constructed for WA Premiers. For two of these the Minister directed they not be entered in the Register, with the other being on the Assessment Program:

- P3939 John Tonkin's House, East Fremantle (1939, now demolished) – Constructed for John Tonkin, Premier from 1971 to 1974 (Minister directed not to Register).
- P13599 Cherrita, Dalkeith (1936, now demolished) – Constructed for Sir Charles Court, Premier from 1974 to 1982 and associated with his son Richard Court who was also Premier from 1993 to 2001 (Minister directed not to Register).
- P15711 Minawarra, Peppermint Grove (1898) – Constructed for Sir Walter James, Premier from 1902 to 1904 (Assessment Program).

### Bob Hawke's residences elsewhere in Australia

Given his high profile, the location of a number of other residential properties owned and occupied by Bob Hawke in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia are known.

#### *South Australia*

Bob Hawke was born in 1929 in Bordertown in South Australia in a stone cottage on Farquhar Street. The place was built in 1885 as a bank office and manager's residence before it was bought by the Congregational Church. Mr Hawke's father was Congregational Minister and the property later became known as 'Hawke House'. In 2019 the Federal Government purchased the property as an important part of Australia's democratic history. The place is on the Tatiara local government heritage list.

#### *Victoria*

No. 25 Royal Ave, Sandringham was purchased in the early 1960s by Bob Hawke and his wife Hazel. They lived there with their children while Bob worked his way through the ranks of the ACTU, and moved from there to The Lodge when he became Prime Minister in 1983. The place does not appear to be on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Prior to this the Hawkes lived in a weatherboard bungalow in nearby Keats St which has since been demolished.<sup>78</sup>

### *New South Wales*

In 1991 Hawke bought a four level mansion overlooking Sugarloaf Bay in Northbridge. Hawke and his then wife Hazel had planned to retire to the waterfront property, however, the Hawkes divorced in 1995. The place does not appear to be on the NSW Heritage Register.

### Other Prime Minister's Houses

One other former Prime Minister's home known to be included in a State's heritage register is Ben Chifley's home located at 10 Busby Street, Bathurst, NSW. Entered in the NSW Heritage Register in 2002 (SHR: 01657).

### **Conclusion**

The above would indicate that *Bob Hawke's House (fmr), West Leederville* is a representative example of a modest, single-storey residence in metropolitan Western Australia. Its high level of authenticity makes it a good example of its type. The place is one of only two residences in the State associated with a serving Prime Minister of Australia.

## **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

-----

## **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

-----

---

<sup>78</sup> City of Bayside, Inter-war and Post-War Heritage Study (prepared 2008).  
[https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/inter\\_war\\_post\\_war\\_heritage\\_study\\_vol2\\_2010.pdf](https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/inter_war_post_war_heritage_study_vol2_2010.pdf)