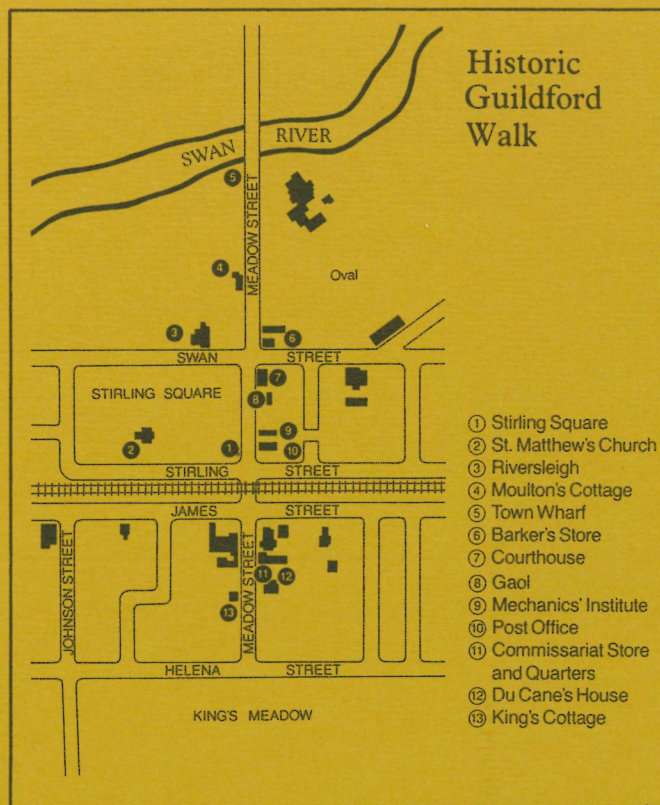


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Historic Guildford Walk

Allow a leisurely hour to explore Guildford's historic precinct, commencing at Stirling Square. This walk features 13 buildings and sites marked with interpretive plaques.

Early maps show that Guildford was originally planned in 1829 as an inland port and market town, and its location on the Swan River made it the meeting place for early roads from Fremantle and Perth to the Avon Valley agricultural districts. The presence in the town of three public houses causing "riotous behaviour" prompted the construction in 1840 of the Gaol (Stop 8), Guildford's oldest building.

When convict labour was brought to the Swan River Colony in 1850, Guildford became an administrative centre. The Commissariat Store (Stop 11) was built in 1853 as a storehouse for the construction equipment and materials used by convicts.

In 1881 the Fremantle-Guildford railway was completed and Guildford became an increasingly fashionable place of residence from which it was possible to commute to Perth. Riversleigh (Stop 3) is an example of the extravagant architecture which followed the gold boom of the 1890s.

When this railway was extended to the Avon Valley in the 1880s, Guildford declined in importance as a transport centre, and the Guildford of today remains a quiet residential area.

Acknowledgements

The Heritage Committee thanks the following for providing assistance in developing this Heritage Trail:

- Town of Bassendean
- Shire of Swan
- Mrs H.G. Hamersley, and the Swan-Guildford Historical Society
- Bunnings Pty. Ltd.
- Fringedwellers of the Swan Valley
- Main Roads Department

Further Reading

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| R.T. Appleyard and T. Manford | The Beginning
(UWA Press, 1979) |
| R.M. & C.H. Berndt (eds.) | Aborigines of the West
(UWA Press, 1979) |
| A. Hasluck | Unwilling Emigrants
(OUP, 1959) |
| I. Hunt (ed.) | Westralian Portraits
(UWA Press, 1979) |

The Heritage Trails Network Project

The **Swan Valley Heritage Trail** is the metropolitan prototype for the Heritage Trails Network, a project for community participation devised by the Western Australian Heritage Committee and funded as part of the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program. Its aim is to establish by 1988 a statewide network of "Heritage Trails" - routes designed to enhance our awareness of the natural and cultural heritage of Western Australia.

The project's country prototype is the **New Norcia Heritage Trail**, a self-guiding walking tour tracing the development of New Norcia, 132km north of Perth. Founded by Benedictine monks in 1846, New Norcia is a unique Australian town with a remarkable history.

Booklet guides for both trails are available from

- The Western Australian Heritage Committee
- The Western Australian Tourism Commission
- Local Authority Offices (Bassendean, Swan)
- Local tourist bureaus, museums and libraries.

Further Information

Heritage Trails Secretariat
Western Australian Heritage Committee
7th floor, Jardine House
184 St. George's Terrace, Perth 6000
(09) 322 4375 and 322 5852

Cover: "View of the Swan River taken at the commencement of the Fresh Water", by Frederick Garling (1827), courtesy Art Gallery of W.A.



Swan Valley Heritage Trail

Settlement of the
Swan River Valley,
Western Australia.

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Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Project

Introduction



Captain James Stirling

In March 1827 a young English naval captain named James Stirling led an expedition up the Swan River in search of a site for a new British colony. Stirling's enthusiasm led him to report on a land which appeared to "hold out every attraction that a Country in a State of Nature can possess". The Swan River Colony was established two years later.

The **Swan Valley Heritage Trail** retraces the latter part of Stirling's expedition and looks at the development of the Swan Valley. Starting at Success Hill Reserve where Stirling's party found a spring of fresh water, it is 40km in length and at a leisurely pace offers a pleasant half-day's outing with opportunities for picnicking, walking, canoeing and wine-tasting.



The route is marked by brown and white road signs, and the first one you will see driving from Perth is located on the corner of Lord Street and Guildford Road (**Success Hill Reserve**). To get to Success Hill, turn left into Lord Street then right into Success Road.



Aborigines of the southwest, c. 1880.

(courtesy Battye Library 5269P)

First Impressions

When the Dutch commander Willem de Vlamingh sailed to the western coast of "New Holland" in 1697, he formed an unfavourable opinion of the land. He walked across the coastal sand dunes to what he thought was a salt lake; this he later named the Black Swan River, struck by the contrast between this river's swans and the white swans of Europe. Vlamingh's report on the western coast stated that he had "found neither good country nor seen anything of note".



Copper engraving, "Swarte Swaane drift op het Evland Rottenest", showing Dutch ships on the Swan River, c. 1726.

(courtesy National Library of Australia, Canberra).

Over 100 years later, James Stirling arrived at the Swan River to investigate its potential as the site for a new colony. After noting the existence of safe anchorages at Cockburn Sound and fertile land in the Swan Valley, Stirling was convinced that here lay the ideal site for settlement.

1. Success Hill Reserve

After anchoring the **Success** in Cockburn Sound on March 7th, 1827, Stirling and 18 of his crew set out up river. At the base of this hill they were delighted to find a "Spring of delicious Water".

Success Hill, which Stirling named after his ship, is an ancient camping place of the Nyungars, the Aboriginal people of the southwest. The Waughul, a giant snake-like spirit of the Dreaming, lives close by in a cave where Bennett Brook meets the Swan River.

Facilities at Success Hill include toilets and barbecues for the disabled and a short nature walk suitable for the elderly and the visually impaired.

7. Fishmarket Reserve

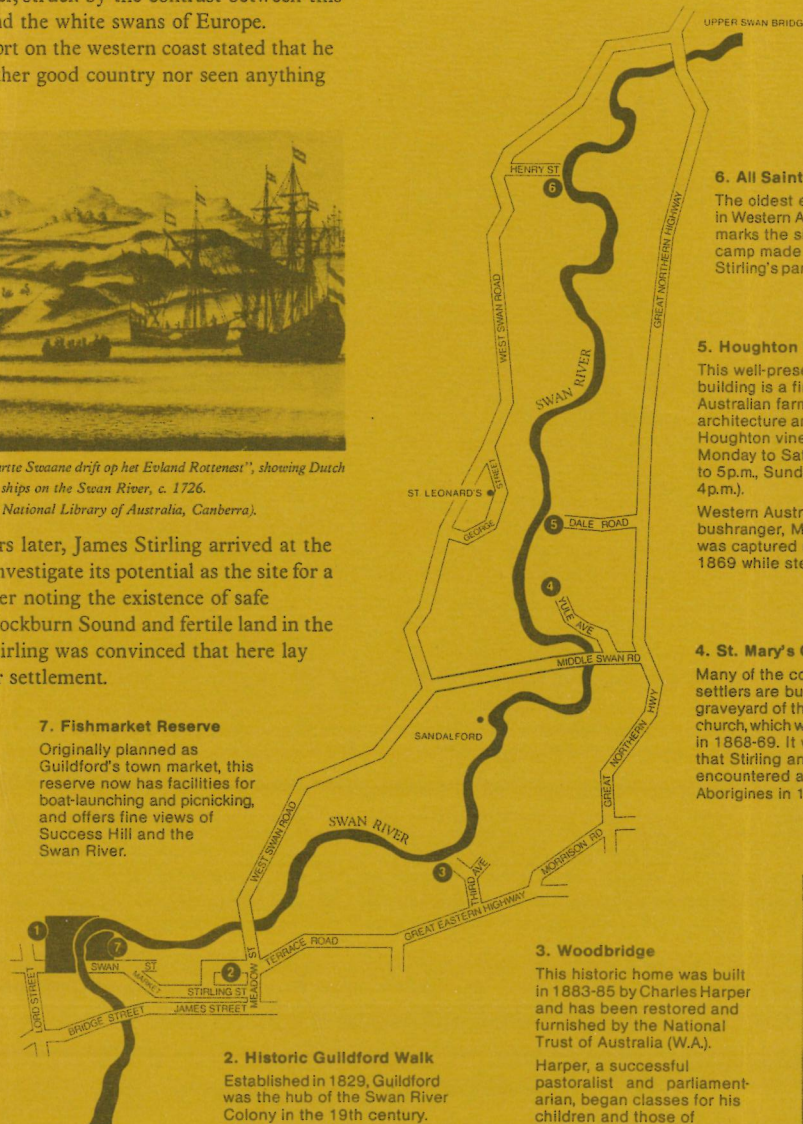
Originally planned as Guildford's town market, this reserve now has facilities for boat-launching and picnicking, and offers fine views of Success Hill and the Swan River.

2. Historic Guildford Walk

Established in 1829, Guildford was the hub of the Swan River Colony in the 19th century. This short walk features thirteen sites of interest (see overleaf for details).

Swan Valley Heritage Trail

40km long driving circuit.



6. All Saints Church

The oldest existing church in Western Australia, All Saints marks the site of the last camp made up river by Stirling's party in March 1827.

5. Houghton Homestead

This well-preserved 1863 building is a fine example of Australian farm homestead architecture and is part of the Houghton vineyards. (Open Monday to Saturday 10a.m. to 5p.m., Sunday 11a.m. to 4p.m.).

Western Australia's only bushranger, Moondyne Joe, was captured near here in 1869 while stealing wine.

4. St. Mary's Church

Many of the colony's early settlers are buried in the graveyard of this picturesque church, which was constructed in 1868-69. It was near here that Stirling and his crew encountered a tribe of 30 Aborigines in 1827.

3. Woodbridge

This historic home was built in 1883-85 by Charles Harper and has been restored and furnished by the National Trust of Australia (W.A.).

Harper, a successful pastoralist and parliamentarian, began classes for his children and those of neighbouring friends in the billiard room in 1896. This was the beginning of the Guildford Grammar School.



All Saints Church, Upper Swan

(courtesy Mr F.A. Sharr).



Vineyards at Upper Swan, c. 1897

(courtesy Battye Library 28397P).

Great Northern Highway passes through one of the few stretches of metropolitan coastal plain that has good alluvial soil, and this is a major reason for the success of the viticulture (wine-making) industry. The location is among the most favoured wine growing areas in the state, and has produced many award-winning wines.

In 1827 Stirling named the range of hills to the east the Darling Range after General Ralph Darling, the Governor of New South Wales. Some 135 million years ago, when the sea level was much higher, the Darling Scarp formed the coastline of Western Australia.



Woodbridge

(courtesy Mr F.A. Sharr).