

Acknowledgements:

Vincent Crow for content, Harry Stephens for sketches and Deborah Back for the Haberfield Day Logo

More tours are available in the Tours of Haberfield books and more information can be found on the Haberfield Association website **www.haberfield.asn.au**

INNER WEST



Yasmar House was designed by John Bibb, contemporary & professional colleague of noted colonial architect John Verge. This historic drawing is Bibb's original from 1856 and is remarkably similar to Yasmar as it stands today....

1. Yasmar Estate

In 1850, when David and Sarah's daughter Mary Louisa Ramsay married businessman Alexander Learmonth, her father gave them a 44-acre plot as part of her inheritance. There, set well back from dusty Parramatta Road, they built a single-storey symmetrical sandstone block villa with a slate roof and terracotta ridge, Yasmar (Ramsay spelt backwards). Joseph Neal Grace (of Grace Bros. fame) took up residence in 1904 and was survived by his wife, Sarah, who sold the property to NSW Government in 1944 after which it was developed into a detention centre

for juvenile offenders while the house was used as a Children's Court until 1989. Currently, only the west wing is being used by Youth Justice NSW and the historic garden is being maintained with volunteers from the Haberfield Association. (Closed on weekends)

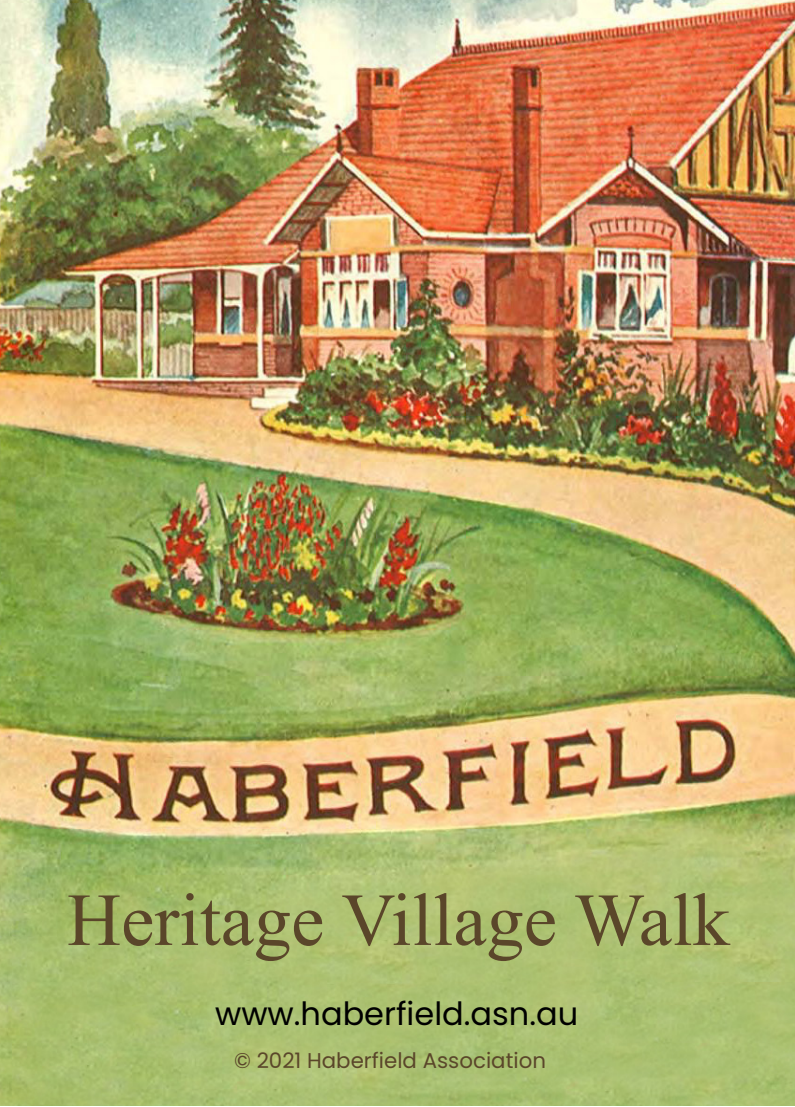
2. St David's Church Hall

The church hall, the second oldest building in Haberfield, was built in 1862 when the Sunday School was transferred to it from Yasmar. The symbols of its plaque are Flag of Scotland; Open Bible; Lamp; Burning Bush and St David's, King David and David Ramsay.



3. St David's Church

St David's Church has been a prominent landmark in Haberfield and a beacon of Christian faith in the community since 1869. Its Presbyterian origins reflect the early Scottish settlers in the area, most notably the Ramsay and Learmonth families, who provided seed funding for a school house (now the church hall). St David's became a congregation within the Uniting Church of Australia in 1977 following the union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches. The lightning damaged spire was removed in 1915.



4. Haberfield Methodist Church

58A Dalhousie Street: The first Methodist Church in Haberfield was established in May 1908 and enlarged in 1913. The Methodist Church in Haberfield closed at the end of 1973. In the following year, St David's Presbyterian Church bought the property and established the Ella Community Centre. "The Ella" was officially opened on 21 June 1975 and was named in memory of Isabella Rosina Ella, the mother of Henry Ella.

5. Former Haberfield Post Office, 1914

At 60 Dalhousie Street, the former Post Office constructed by A. and H. Jones of Marrickville has a façade of brick and dressed sandstone. It is a mixture of Classical and Queen Anne Revival styles.

6. View 141 to 145 Ramsay Street

Owned by Elizabeth Hill who had purchased them from Richard Stanton's Haberfield Proprietary Ltd in 1904, the three shops were originally leased out. They shared the same parapet, although only that of 141 remains today. The timber verandahs were probably removed in the 1920s when the use of motor vehicles became popular and verandah posts hindered the opening of vehicle doors. Cantilevered awning did not require posts.

145 Ramsay Street was managed from 1905 to 1911 as a grocery shop by Arthur Maish and was the first shop in the Haberfield shopping centre. From 1911 to 1921 it was managed by J. G. Hanks & Co. In 1918 Elizabeth Hill sold the corner shop (No. 145) to the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney which carried out alterations and additions in 1921 so that a CBC Branch could open in 1922. In 1982 this was replaced by a National Australia Bank Branch which itself was replaced by an ANZ Bank Branch. Pasticceria Papa began on this site in September 2000.

143 Ramsay Street was initially occupied in 1906 by George Boss, "baker and pastrycook" and then by Goodman Brothers, bakers. From 1919 to 1974 Ogston's Bakery occupied these premises. The shop and bakery were then demolished and replaced by a single-storey building to accommodate a Westpac Bank Branch which itself closed in 2000. 141 Ramsay Street was opened in 1909 as a hairdresser's salon.

7. Federation Place

Originally, this was the site of St Joan of Arc Catholic Church which opened in 1909. It was the first church in the world named after the beatified Joan of Arc. In 1955 the building was converted to a De La Salle Brothers Boys Primary School. It was closed in 1975 and acquired by Ashfield Municipal Council who demolished both the presbytery and church in 1980. Federation Place was created in 1987.

Preamble

Haberfield's heritage significance lies in its tripartite character incorporating:

1. The Garden Suburb concept which made Haberfield a model for suburban planning – Haberfield was Australia's first planned Garden Suburb.
2. Federation and, to a lesser extent, Californian Bungalow and inter-war styles of architecture; Federation style itself incorporated and reflected contemporary international architectural styles such as English Arts and Crafts and Queen Anne styles, American Shingle style, and European Art Nouveau as well as echoes of Oriental architecture.

8. View Dalhousie Street towards St David's Church

Ramsay and Dalhousie Streets were the main thoroughfares in Haberfield when it was owned by the Ramsay family from about 1825 and 1901 and known as the Dobroyde Estate. The earls of Dalhousie were the head of the Ramsay clan in Scotland. The Ramsays were devout Presbyterians who arranged for the erection of St David's Church opened in 1869. The church had a metal spire; in 1913 it was struck by lightning and was removed in 1915.

The concept of a planned Garden Suburb has specific areas zoned for residential or commercial use. In Haberfield, residences began to be occupied from 1902; the first shop was opened in 1905.

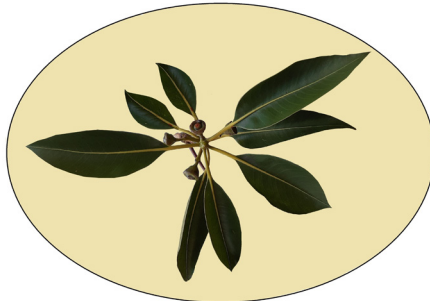
9. View Dalhousie St. from Ramsay St.

94A Ramsay Street was the site of the first Haberfield Post Office from 1 October 1903 to 1910. Mrs Myra Lee was the first postmistress. Efforts by the Ramsay family to have its name changed to "Dobroyde" failed.

In 1911 it opened as a grocery shop owned by the popular chain Moran & Cato which closed it in 1970.

(The Post Office was moved to 111 Ramsay Street, then 60 Dalhousie Street before opening in 175 Ramsay Street.)

77-75 Dalhousie Street shops were built in 1918. No. 75 opened as a butcher shop operating until 1998. Although the streets were kerbed and guttered, the roadway itself was still unsealed. Brush Box trees once graced Dalhousie Street, in line with the Garden Suburb character of the suburb.



This picture of a twig from a Brush Box was designed in 2021 as a logo for Haberfield Day to celebrate 2nd October 1901 when Richard Stanton surveyed Haberfield.

10. View 147-157 Ramsay Street

Opening for business in 1912, the confectionery shop at 147 Ramsay Street was well-known for many years as The HMD – Home Made Delicacies. In 1912, 149 Ramsay Street housed a tobacconist and 151 another confectioner. The single storey building in 153 Ramsay Street was first occupied in 1908 by Land Agent Charles Barnett who was replaced by Cashman & Cashman, real estate agents, from 1911 and 1919. This building was replaced by a two-storey structure in 1920.

155 Ramsay Street housed Haberfield Model Pictures and Skating Rink. In 1925 a new building known as the Haberfield Theatre replaced this structure, called from 1940 as the Elite until closed in 1970. It's been a supermarket ever since.

3. Australian nationalism in the early 20th century in the use of designs based on Australian motifs and of names of contemporary Australian identities; the principal political event of this period, Federation in 1901, gives its name to the contemporary architectural style.

The Garden Suburb concept includes:

- a) Wide street;
- b) A 'nature strip' dividing the roadway from the footpath;
- c) One residence per block of land and a street tree in front of each;
- d) The standard block of land of 50 by 150 feet – enough room for a good-sized garden;
- e) Separate zones for residential and commercial areas with no encroachment by secondary industry.

157 Ramsay Street was a Produce and Fuel Store which had opened in 1910. Here items such as wood and coke for open fireplaces in Haberfield homes were sold as well as grains such as pollard for feed for fowls which were kept in the backyards of Haberfield properties. Fowls provided a daily supply of fresh eggs as well as meat for a special occasion.

11. Haberfield Centre and Library

78 Dalhousie Street is the site bought from Haymarket Permanent Land, Building and Investment Company in 1909 with funds raised by the Haberfield community to build the School of Arts which included meeting rooms and a hall. The building, in the federation Free Classical style, was designed by John Spencer Stansfield, who was also the architect for the Haberfield Estates.

The additions were redesigned and constructed in 2021 with funds from the Inner West Council and WestConnex, as a sweetener for removing heritage homes to build its nearby tunnel.

12. Mervyn Fletcher Hall

81 Dalhousie Street previously called Mervyn Fletcher Memorial Centre was erected to commemorate the good works of Dr. W. Mervyn Fletcher in this Municipality over a period of 35 years: 1919-1954. (The site was formerly occupied by Irene Cottage built in 1906, originally the home of Mr. W. Genge Junior.)

13. St. Oswald's Anglican Church

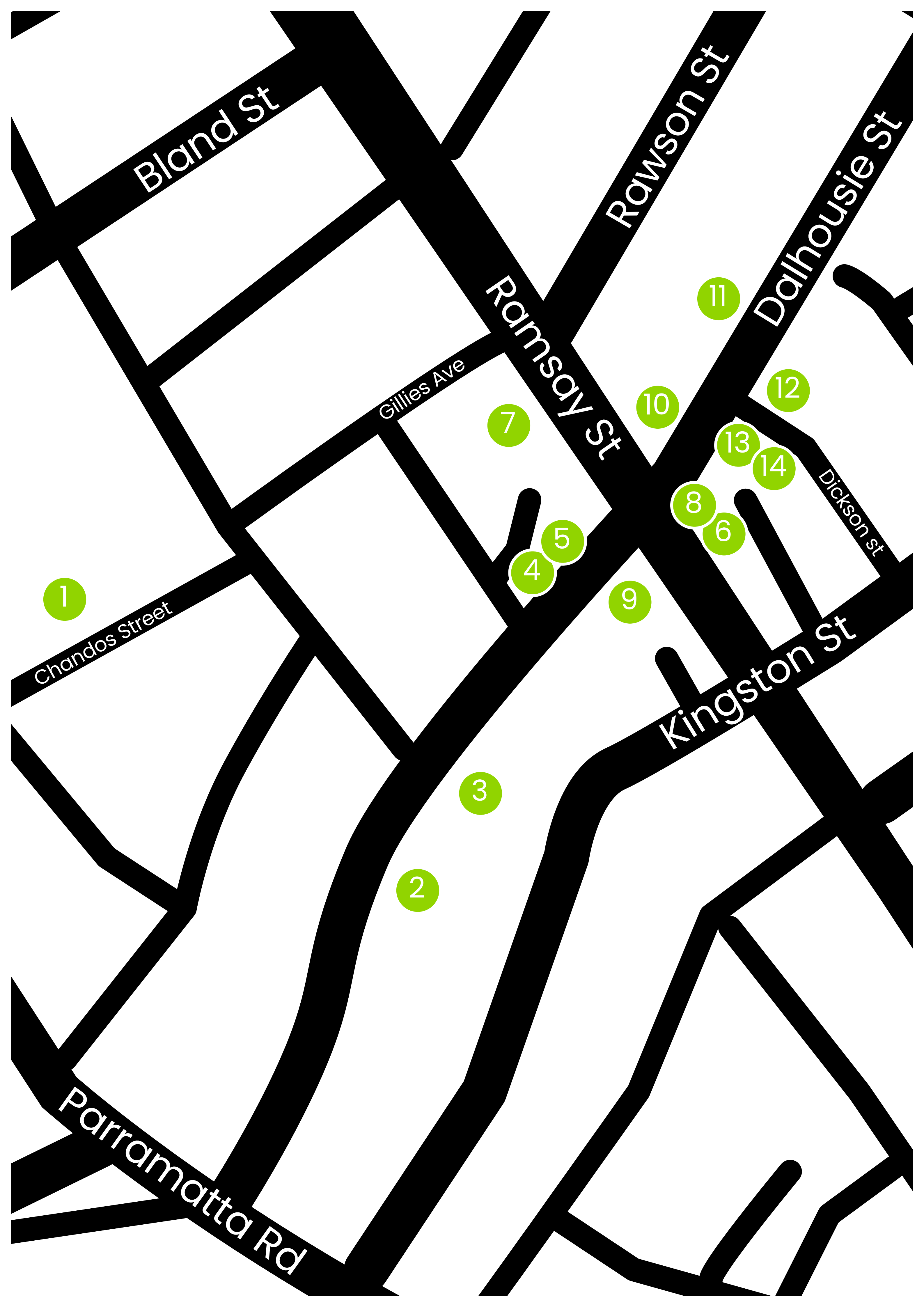
At 79 Dalhousie Street, the church was designed by Burcham Clamp and constructed by Sid and Cleb Potter. The pointed arches over the windows indicate the influence of Gothic Revival in its architectural design. Accommodating four hundred, the church was dedicated on 24 May 1928.

14. St. Oswald's Anglican Church Hall

At 10 Dickson Street, the original church was built in 1908. A transept was added to the back of the church in 1912. In common with houses from the same period, the entry to the church has decorative timberwork. The gable finial is in the form of a cross.

This was the first permanent Anglican church in Haberfield. It was dedicated and opened on 23 June 1908.

In 1927 the tennis courts which had been located between the church and Dalhousie Street since 1914 were removed to allow construction of the present St. Oswald's Church. Its last service was Evensong on 20 May 1928. Since then, it has been the Parish Hall. In 1964 it was extended and renovated to the design of the Diocesan architect, Mr. Lindsay Little.



Bland St

Rawson St

Dalhousie St

Ramsay St

Gillies Ave

Chandos Street

Dickson St

Kingston St

Parramatta Rd

1

2

3

4

5

9

8

6

7

10

13

14

11

12