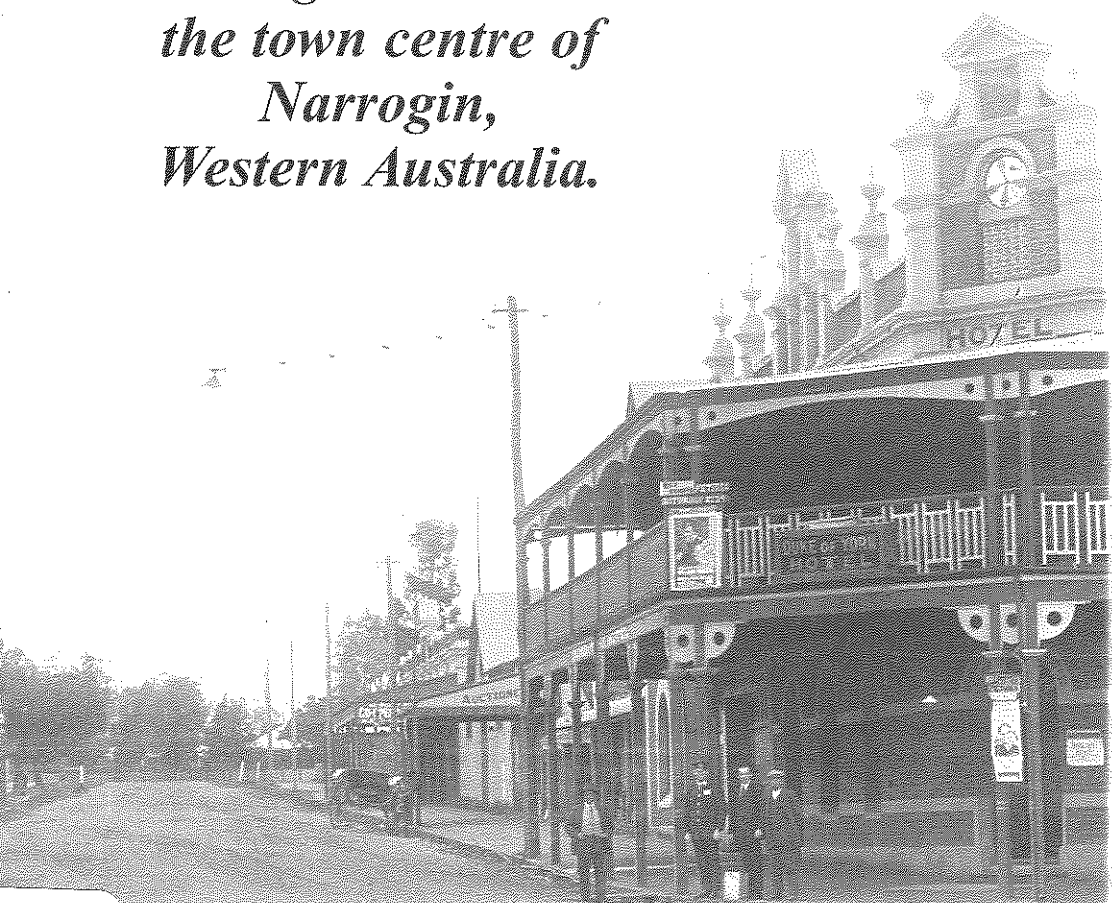


# Timescape

*A Heritage Walk around  
the town centre of  
Narrogin,  
Western Australia.*



## *Introduction*

Narrogin is fortunate that many of its early buildings have been retained and well preserved, thus providing an attractive heritage feel to the centre of town. In 1988 a Townscape Project in Narrogin revived community appreciation and enthusiasm for the value of these heritage buildings for their contribution to the character of the streetscape and the local history they represent.

The buildings stand as a monument to the times and the people who produced them, prompting our inquiry into the spirit of other times. A short walk around the main streets of Narrogin, using this booklet as your guide, will afford a wealth of knowledge about our early settlers and events in the development of the town.

Compiled by the Honorary Historian of the town, Mr Maurie White, and using early photographs from the Narrogin Historical Society's collection, now vested in the Narrogin Old Courthouse Museum, this booklet offers an interesting glimpse of our town's history and a souvenir of Narrogin.

• *COVER PHOTO: Federal Street/Egerton Street intersection, 1920s, showing Mardoc and Duke of York Hotel with verandahs.*

# HERITAGE WALK

## NARROGIN TOWN CENTRE

(Duration Approximately 1-1.5 hours)



• *Mr Schneider with his pupils at the Government School (present museum) in mid 1890s.*

### 1. START AT THE OLD COURTHOUSE:

- The OLD COURTHOUSE building, now classified by the National Trust, began as the first government school in 1894 and saw later use as the courthouse, the Agricultural Bank, the R&I Bank and the local museum. It now includes the Tourist Bureau, museum and local arts and crafts.
- Opposite the Old Courthouse is the site of the first FIRE STATION.
- The house diagonally opposite the museum was once the home of DR STUART MAINLAND. A well-loved doctor and hockey player, he was awarded an OBE for his medical services during World War 2.
- The stone house to the left of Dr Mainland's was originally built as a maternity hospital for GRANNY NESS, a well-known midwife in the early days.

### 2. WALK DOWN EGERTON STREET TOWARDS THE TOWN CENTRE:

#### On the right:

- The OLD AMBULANCE HALL was built in 1937 for the local St John Ambulance Sub Centre, who vacated it in 1984. Since then it has seen the beginning of Numbat Industries and has housed Community Arts activities. It is now being developed as History Hall, an extension of the museum.
- The SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL INSTITUTE was officially opened in 1925. It has been the centre for RSL activities for many years and is now used jointly by the RSL and the Rotary Club of Narrogin.
- The OLD STONE COTTAGE is one of the few surviving structures from the 1890s. It was erected as the headteacher's residence and has had many uses over the past century.
- At the corner of Rowley Street, a fabric materials shop now occupies the building which originally housed the WEST AUSTRALIAN BANK. Completed about 1905, this building replaced the original metal-clad structure in which the bank began operating.

#### On the left:

- A retail building was erected for MR CORNWALL in 1904. Born at Beaufort, near Kojonup, William Cornwall came to Narrogin in 1902, where he developed business interests and the farm "Carnegie".
- The site of some of MR BUSHALLA'S interests extends to the corner. Bushalla's two storey home (1922) still stands in Egerton Street, opposite Rowley Street. A Syrian trader, "Charlie" Bushalla came to Narrogin in 1897 and began a series of commercial enterprises. These included a skating rink built in 1910 (later converted to the Amusu picture theatre), which stood where Fosseys is now, and the original Duke of York Hotel building on the Federal Street corner.

#### Cross the street:

- To the Duke of York Hotel. In the car park behind the hotel is a plaque to Bushalla's memory which gives details of his achievements.

### 3. PAUSE AT THE CORNER OF EGERTON AND FEDERAL STREETS:

- The impressive three-storey CORNWALL BUILDING, known locally as THE MARDOC, was designed by local architect

B.H. Dods, whose South African experience is reflected in the Dutch Colonial style of the facade, and built by J.H. Brown for William Cornwall. The upper rooms opened as a coffee palace and guest house in 1912. The name "Mardoc" derives from the days when Mrs Docking ran the establishment. The building is now listed in the State Register of Heritage Places.



• *The Egerton Street facade of the Mardoc in 1911.*

- The corner shop in the Mardoc was for many years the pharmacy of EDWIN HOWELLS who was legendary for his generosity to poor people during the Depression times.
- Across the road, the service station stands on the site of the first TOWN WELL, sunk in 1892, the year the Narrogin Road Board was formed.
- The original RAILWAY CROSSING on Egerton Street was closed in 1920 because of the danger from extensive shunting activity in the railway yards.
- The present Narrogin Shire Council offices are an extension of the original ROAD BOARD offices built in 1905.
- Note the improvements to the streets in the town centre due to the

NARROGIN TOWNSCAPE DEVELOPMENT which began in the late 1980s. These include the red-brick paving, the street trees, the green bollards, the "London" lamps and the painting of many premises in heritage colours.



• *Federal Street, early 1930s.*

#### 4. WALK UP FEDERAL STREET PAST THE MARDOC BUILDING:

##### On your right:

- The largest retail store is PARRY'S, which began in 1926 when William Parry began his small drapery store. It grew as more premises were acquired.

##### Across the road:

- The present HORDERN HOTEL building is the third on that site. The original one-storey structure was built facing the railway by Michael Brown, the "Father of Narrogin", but was soon replaced by a two-storey, brick building facing Federal Street. When that was gutted by fire in January 1922, the present building was erected. Michael Brown named his hotel in memory of Anthony Horder, an



• *Hordern Hotel fire, January 1922.*

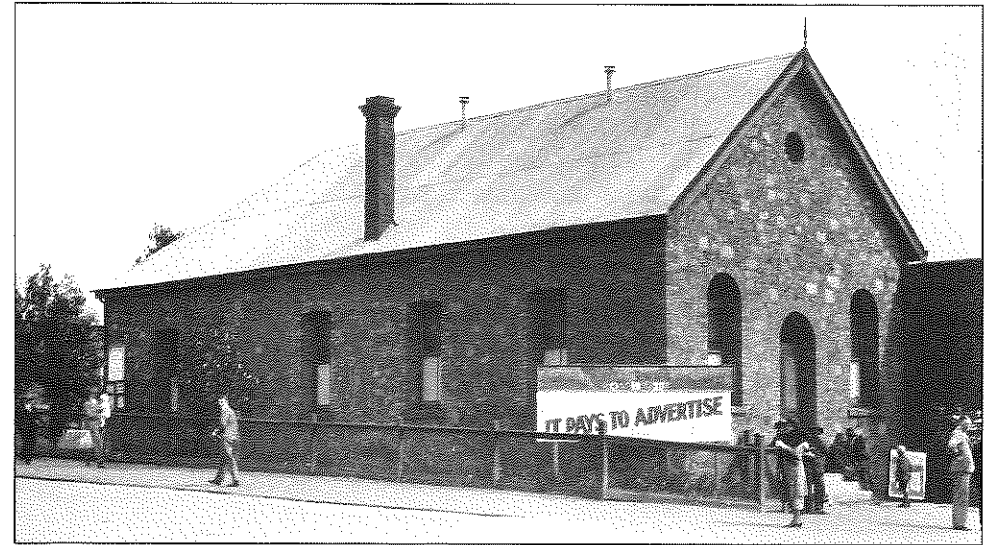
entrepreneur from Sydney, who formed the Western Australian Land Company which constructed the original private railway line through Narrogin between Beverley and Albany in the 1880s.

#### 5. PAUSE AT THE CROSSROADS OF FEDERAL AND FORTUNE STREETS:

- The Bankwest building stands on the site of Narrogin's first hall, the AGRICULTURAL HALL, erected in the late 1890s.
- The TOWN HALL was officially opened on 18th December, 1908, soon after Narrogin achieved Municipality status on 13th April, 1906. For many years the Town Hall was the hub of local social life and has seen many balls and dances, wedding parties, official functions, repertory shows, musical performances, picture theatre shows...

#### Across the road:

- The large retail complex was developed as the prominent MANNING'S STORE in the years after Albert Manning purchased Chipper's grocery store in 1911. In later years it was taken over in succession by Foy and Gibson, David Jones, Western Family Stores and the Narrogin Shopping Centre.
- MACKIE PARK is named after highly respected doctor and mayor



• *The Agricultural Hall which stood on the site of the present Bankwest, photographed in 1933.*

Dr D.W.H. Mackie who died in 1937. This open space in the town centre was originally the entrance and parking area for the first small wooden railway station which stood at the lower end. In the park stands the Ladies' Rest Centre, built in 1954 as the first major project of the Apex Club of Narrogin.

#### 6. CROSS FEDERAL STREET AND WALK DOWN TOWARDS THE RAILWAY LINE:

- The impressive AMP BUILDING on the corner of Fortune and Fairway Streets dates from 1927. Over the years it has provided premises for the AMP Society and for doctors, dentists, lawyers, insurance agents and government officials. It has been a TAFE centre, and during the Second World War, was the focal point for the CWA knitting circle.

#### Continue along Fairway Street:

- The open space alongside the AMP is the site of Narrogin's FIRST STORE, a timber and iron building brought in from Williams by the Piesse brothers in 1887.
- The PALM TREES, now part of local heritage, were planted by Will Manning in 1928 to help screen the backyard of Manning's Store from the railway station opposite.
- The RAILWAY YARDS now stand silent with only occasional

through trains making use of the tracks. However, for more than seventy years the yards were a scene of great activity, for Narrogin was the junction for goods and passenger services north to Perth, south to Albany, east to Merredin and Kalgoorlie and west to Collie and Bunbury. The station building in the centre of the yard was erected in 1906, the signal cabin in 1965, and the present metal footbridge replaced the original 1906 wooden structure in the early 1960s. Like the Mardoc, the station building is now listed on the State Register of Heritage Places.



• *The Federal Street/Fortune Street intersection (the town centre) in 1930s.*

## 7. TURN RIGHT UP PARK STREET:

### On the right:

- The car park and Chicken Treat occupy the sites of earlier RAILWAY premises – the station master's house and the offices of the District Engineer and District Traffic Superintendent.

### On the left:

- The RAILWAY INSTITUTE building was erected in 1958 after many years' hard campaigning by local railway employees.

## Looking across Federal Street:

- The ANZ Bank occupies the building erected by J.H. Brown for the UNION BANK in 1905. Note the attractive roof with its Marseilles-pattern terracotta tiles and Chinese-style finials.

## 8. CROSS FEDERAL STREET AND CONTINUE UP THE HILL:

### On the left:

- The ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION was Narrogin's first church building. Constructed in 1901, it originally faced west, with the entrance porch facing Federal Street. In 1957 the building was extended and the altar placed at the eastern end. This church contains beautiful stained glass windows.
- The GOVERNMENT OFFICES were built from 1985.

### On the right:

- The present CWA HALL was originally built as showrooms for G and R Wills. In the mid 1930s it was purchased by the "Narrogin Observer" to house printing machinery from Narrogin's other newspaper, the "Great Southern Leader", which had been forced to close during the Depression in 1934. The commercial printing section of the "Observer" was carried out in this hall for some years.
- The PINE TREE is the sole reminder of the avenue of pines which used to line this road to the station and were planted early this century to commemorate the Federation of Australia in 1900.

## 9. PAUSE ON THE CREST OF THE HILL:

- You are now standing on MOSS PARK, named after early surveyor, Mr W.E.C. Moss, who became the first Mayor of Narrogin in 1906. It was originally intended that this laterite hill would be crowned by major civic buildings, but this plan was discarded, as were the plans to beautify the hill drawn up in the late 1930s. During World War 2 members of the local Volunteer Air Observers Corps scanned the skies night and day from a small hut on top of this hill.

### On the right:

- Looking north, note the offices of the TOWN OF NARROGIN, built in 1966 and extended in 1993, while screened by trees on the extreme right is the Children's Day Care Centre.
- The large building is SAINT MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH. This building was officially opened on 12th June 1964, replacing the original church erected in 1907-08.

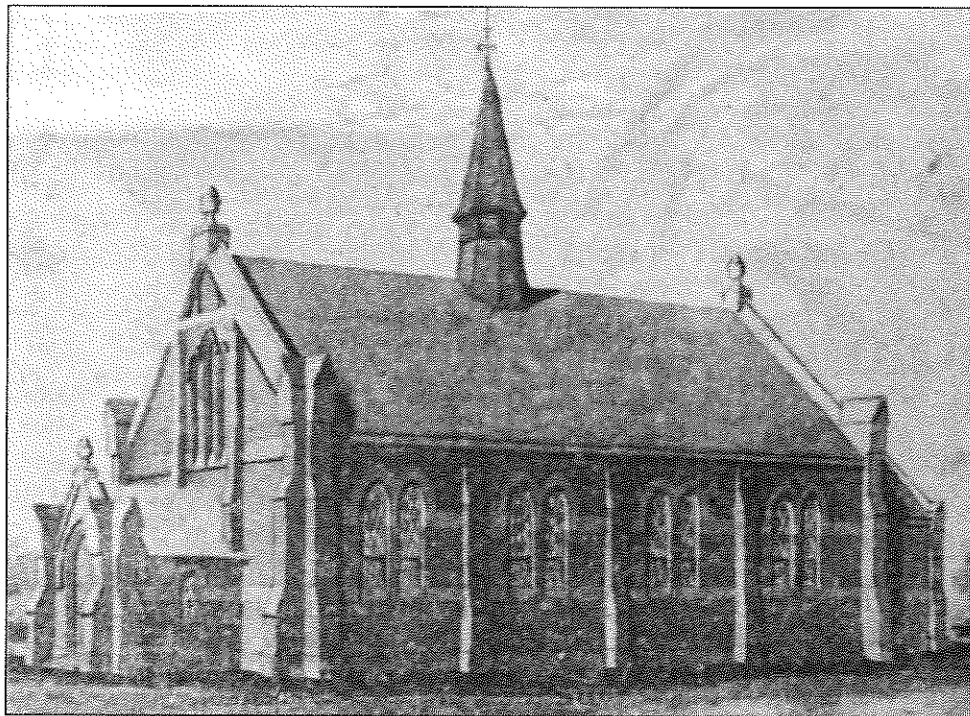
**On the left:**

- Looking south, the eye sweeps across to the tree-covered ridge of the No. 2 COMMONAGE. Behind this are the remains of the old Collie railway line and of the Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot which held 350,000 gallons of high-octane aviation fuel in 1943-44. The old rifle range and arboretum are along the ridge to the right.

**10. WALK DOWN TO THE CORNER OF PARK AND EARL STREETS:**

**Opposite on the left:**

- The new NARROGIN SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTRE was officially opened on 31st March, 1996. It cost approximately \$600,000. While many elderly residents pressed for the centre, a main advocate in early years was Mrs Mary Hancock, after whom a lounge in the centre is now named.



• *Architect's drawing of the Presbyterian Church, built 1926.*

**Opposite on the right:**

- The new doctors' surgery now stands on the site of the former building of SAINT PETER'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH which

dated from 1925. Following the closure of the building when the Presbyterians joined the Methodists to form the Uniting Church, the property was acquired by a local medical practice which used the old church hall next door as its surgery. Recently, the old church has been demolished to make way for a new surgery building.

**Further ahead on the right:**

- The ST MATTHEW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, the modern development of the earlier ST PHILOMENA'S CONVENT SCHOOL stands on this site.

**11. TURN RIGHT AND WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD DOWN TO FORTUNE STREET:**

**To the left:**

- The old CONVENT building. When the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame des Missions arrived in Narrogin to commence a Catholic school in 1918 they occupied a small cottage in the grounds. The present building was erected in 1929 and housed nuns, boarders and music students for many years. Converted to Westrail offices in 1977, it became the C.Y. O'CONNOR COLLEGE OF TAFE Narrogin Campus in 1994.



• *Memorial Park, 1933.*

**To the right:**

- The NARROGIN CLUB moved to these premises after initial years in the building now occupied by Dr Parry's surgery in Federal Street.

**Across the road:**

- MEMORIAL PARK, previously a yard for police horses, was established in the early 1920s. The memorial pavilion, designed by G.G. Lavater to resemble a Greek temple, was dedicated in 1923 and holds the names of those who died from this district in the two world wars. Around it are a British muzzle-loading cannon from the late 1800s, a German artillery piece and a German mortar from World War 1, a Bofors anti-aircraft gun which saw action in Darwin in 1942, the replica of a World War 2 torpedo, and other memorials. The metal seats under the trees were a gift from Mr Will Manning, the first Freeman of Narrogin.
- The complex across the road to the right contains the present POLICE STATION and COURTHOUSE buildings, opened in 1968 and 1970 respectively.

**12. TURN RIGHT ALONG FORTUNE STREET TO EARL STREET:**

- Beside you is the MASONIC HALL. The local Masonic Lodge was formed by eight brethren in 1904 and the building was erected in 1907.
- Across the road is the PUBLIC LIBRARY which commenced in this building in 1966, after operating for many years at the Town Hall. Following the death of Narrogin's second Freeman of the town, Mr Bob Farr, in 1992, the library was named in his memory the following year. The library features the Centenary wallhanging, a gift to the town from local craftspeople in 1992.

**13. CONTINUE DOWN FORTUNE STREET TO WILLIAM KENNEDY WAY:**

- The modern development of this street with its trees, bollards and angle parking in the centre of the road was the first stage of the TOWNSCAPE project. The project, which won much national acclaim, was accomplished while Dr John Parry, our third Freeman of Narrogin, was the Mayor.
- The old BAPTIST CHURCH was built in 1902 and remained in use until the parishioners transferred to their new church in Williams Road. The original building was saved from demolition when it

became the major focus of the Church Square retail development in 1992.

- The COMMONWEALTH BANK moved from premises beside the Town Hall in 1940 when this fine building was erected on what had been the last site of the offices of the "Great Southern Leader". It is one of two examples of Art Deco architecture in Narrogin, the other being the Child Health Clinic in Federal Street.

**14. WALK FARTHER TO OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE:**



• *The Post Office, early 1930s.*

- Narrogin's second POST OFFICE building was erected in 1912. It replaced the previous cottage-style post office dating from 1892 which was where the brick telephone exchange stands next door.
- Opposite the post office are the offices of the "NARROGIN OBSERVER". The paper, established in 1905, had a series of temporary bases until these premises were erected in 1926. Careful



restoration of the building with its tuckpointed brickwork earned the owners a Townscape Heritage Award in 1990.

#### 15. RETURN TO THE TOURIST BUREAU DOWN ROWLEY STREET:

- Here you can browse in the Craft Shop for locally produced gifts and souvenirs, including various publications on Narrogin's heritage buildings and local history.

## *Acknowledgements*

The Heritage Walk around the Narrogin Town Centre was developed by Mr Maurie White, Honorary Historian for the Town of Narrogin.

## *Photographs*

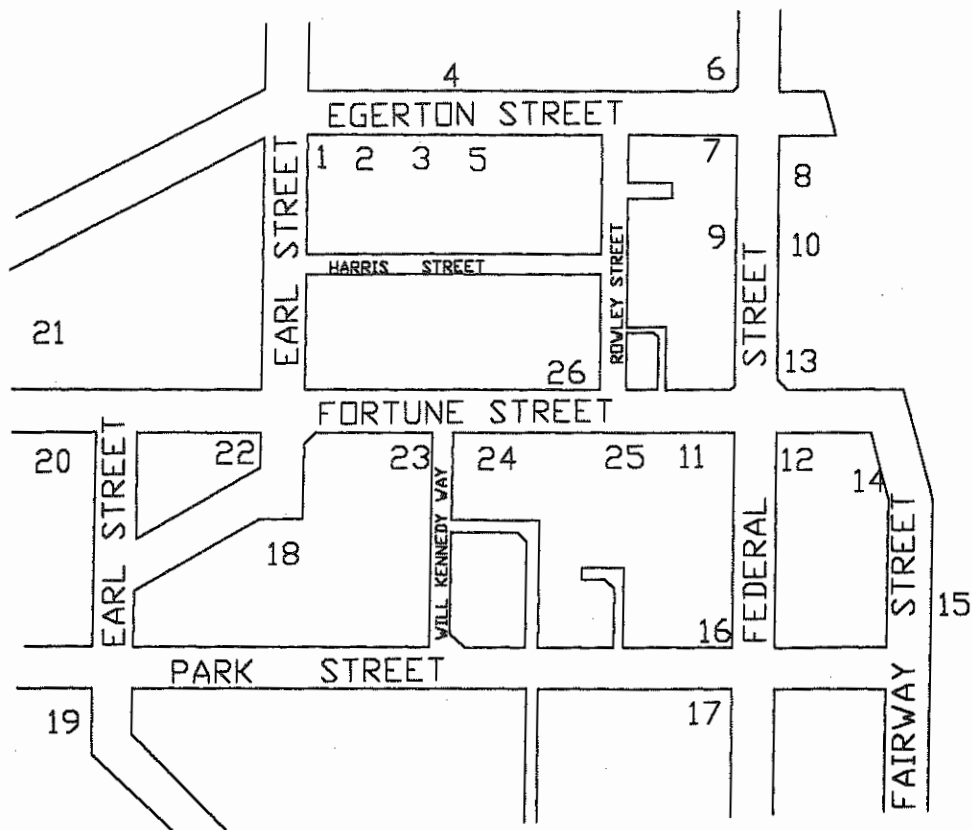
The photographs in this brochure are courtesy of the Narrogin Old Courthouse Museum.

## *Further Reading*

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Published by the Town of Narrogin, 1998.  
Printed by Observer Print, Narrogin.

## Narrogin Town – CBD Heritage Walk



### LEGEND

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Old Courthouse 1894              | 14. AMP Building 1927            |
| 2. History Hall 1937                | 15. Railway Station 1906         |
| 3. Soldiers Memorial Institute 1925 | 16. ANZ Bank 1905                |
| 4. Cornwall Building 1904           | 17. Anglican Church 1901         |
| 5. School Master's House 1890       | 18. Town Council Office 1966     |
| 6. Duke of York Hotel 1905          | 19. Senior Citizens' Centre 1996 |
| 7. Mardoc Building 1912             | 20. Old Convent Building 1929    |
| 8. Shire Council Building 1905      | 21. Memorial Park 1923           |
| 9. Parry's 1926                     | 22. Masonic Lodge 1907           |
| 10. Hordern Hotel 1922              | 23. Old Baptist Church 1902      |
| 11. Town Hall 1908                  | 24. Commonwealth Bank 1940       |
| 12. Manning's Store 1911            | 25. Narrogin Observer 1926       |
| 13. Mackie Park 1937                | 26. Post Office 1912             |

(NOTE: Public toilets are located in the lane behind the Town Hall and behind the Old Courthouse. Ladies toilets also at Mackie Park).