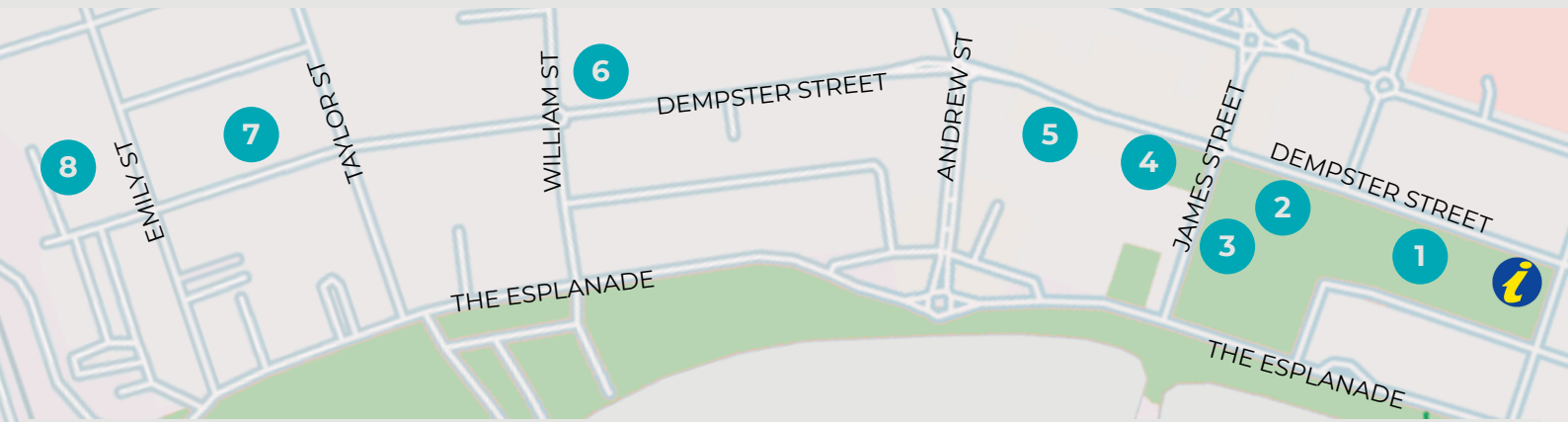


A little bit of History



Stroll through town and view some of the oldest buildings in Esperance.

1. The Market Village

Within Museum Park on Esperance's former railway marshalling yards, a collection of historic buildings house local businesses and cultural experiences.

- **Salmon Gums School:** Built in 1906 near a mine in Norseman, relocated to Salmon Gums in 1927 and to the current site in 1972.
- **Matron's House:** Built for the Wellard Hospital in Kwinana, transported to Esperance by sea in 1929, used as the hospital matron's residence until 1971 and relocated to the park in 1983.
- **Police Sergeants Quarters:** Built in 1926 as Esperance's police residence, this building was in use until 1986 before being relocated to the park.
- **Headmasters House:** Built in 1940 for Esperance High School headmasters until 1961, then housed council staff until 1978, then the first Senior Citizens Centre until 1984.
- **Sinclair House:** Circa 1890's, was once part of a larger house. Owned privately until 1980 when the building was donated to the town.
- **Methodist Church:** Built in 1897 and relocated in town several times before being moved to the present location in 1979.
- **The Old Courthouse:** Built in 1896 as the Municipal Council office, then became the courthouse in 1898 and was the first building moved to the park in 1967.
- **A.J. Stewart Chemist:** Built in 1895, served as a stationery & general goods store. In 1950 it housed Esperance's first qualified chemist. Moved to the park in 1978.
- **Doctors Surgery:** Built circa 1907 near Ravensthorpe, moved around the district, then served as a doctor's surgery in Esperance from 1966 to 1973.
- **Old Hospital:** Built in 1896 this former hospital later became hotel accommodation before being relocated to the Museum Village in 2009.

2. Railway Ticket Office

Built in 1927, the former Station Master's and passenger booking office was moved a few hundred meters from its original location and now serves as the town bus stop.

3. Goods Shed & Bonded Store

Built 1895 - 1898 to store freight and bonded goods transported by sea, later supported the Goldfields rail connection and home to the Esperance Museum since 1976.

4. War Memorial

Built in 1925, it commemorates local service personnel for all conflicts.

5. Esperance RSL Building

Built 1896 as the first Esperance School, later used as the Roads Board Office and then local RSL since 1971.

6. Bijou Theatre

Constructed in 31 days in 1896, it is the oldest surviving purpose-built theatre in WA and remains a live performance venue today.

7. Bay View House (Fairhaven)

Built 1903 as a home for sea Captain Frederick Douglas, a distinctive early federation 2 story limestone house. Privately owned, no public access.

8. Dempster Homestead

Constructed between 1867-1870 by the Dempster brothers, this is the oldest surviving building in the Esperance region. Privately owned, no public access.

Esperance.
In your element.



Historic Homesteads

The Esperance region is home to a wealth of historic homesteads and buildings that reflect early settlement and life in a remote landscape. The people and events connected with these historic sites tell the story of how the region developed into what it is today.

Balbinia/Brooks Homestead (100km inland from Israelite Bay): Established in 1883 by the Brooks family, this small isolated pastoral station associates with early exploration, scientific observation and survival in extreme isolation.

Israelite Bay Telegraph Station (located 200km east of Esperance): established in 1876 as part of the East-West telegraph network connecting WA to the nation and operated until 1927. Isolated conserved ruins.

Moir's Homestead (Fanny Cove, Stokes National Park): Established in 1970's near Stokes Inlet, an early coastal pastoral hub. Conserved ruins of blacksmith's workshop (1863), shepherd's camp (1863) and woolshed and stables (c1880).

Deralinya Station (130km NE, Parmango Road): Build circa 1890's this station operated as an outstation for Balladonia until 1936 and the buildings restored in 1990's.

Lynburn station (Cape Arid National Park): Built in 1872 by Campbell Taylor at Thomas River, first pastoral property east of Esperance and is the second oldest surviving homestead in the Esperance region. Privately owned, no public access.

Nanambinia Homestead (Israelite Bay): Established in 1896 by Heinrich Dimer, a vast inland pastoral station known for its isolation and detailed family life recorded by the family. Privately owned, no public access.

Note: access is restricted to 4WD vehicles only. Some sites are privately owned and no public access.

Scan for the Esperance
Historic Homesteads
Documentary Series



Moir's Homestead



Hill Springs

Esperance Visitor Centre



(08) 9083 1555

@VisitEsperance

info@visitesperance.com

www.visitesperance.com



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