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Volume 20 Issue 38

November 2020

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Historical Bayswater

The California Bungalow: my piece of Baysie history

by Christina Middleton

This architectural style swept through the country in the early twentieth century after a model of the house was imported by a real estate agent, assembled and displayed at a home show in the Sydney, NSW suburb of Rosebery. With California and some parts of Australia sharing a similar climate, combined with the onset of Hollywood and the American culture, our architectural style shifted from British influences to American inspirations.

California Bungalows are generally built in brick, and as it swept across Australia, evolved in its regional adaptations. In Western Australia, particularly in Perth, the houses were built in a mixture of brick, weather-board and timber. It is designed as a single-storey house and follows a much simpler floor plan than earlier architectural styles, with the living areas and bedrooms built around a central hallway. A front verandah is included in the floor plan, and also often with a sunroom in the rear of the house. Verandah balustrades are built in timber and brick and gabled roofs tend to feature shingled details. A separate garage, typically for a single car, is subsequently built to the side and behind the house in the backyard.



"...the concept of the bungalow as a cheap and attractive form of permanent suburban housing for the masses was stimulated by a variety of economic and social factors."

Growing up in inner-city Sydney, the streets of my childhood are dotted with California Bungalows, or *Cal Bungs* as it is affectionately known. So when my husband and I began to search for our home, eighteen months after moving to Perth, we knew that we wanted a *Cal Bung* house and Bayswater offered plenty.



We found our very own *Cal Bung*, built in 1930 and sits on an elevated, quarter-acre block, one of the last that remains on the street. It is about as traditional as one could get for a *Cal Bung* house:

red, double-brick and limestone, two bedrooms on the left and living and dining rooms on the right with a wide hallway that runs through the middle and a verandah at the front. Over time, we restored a lot of its original features such as the leadlight on windows and doors, decorative ceilings, picture rails and polished, jarrah floorboards. Of course, some mod-cons were also added such as an ensuite bathroom with a claw-foot bath and an open plan kitchen/dining area that features a 65kg fireclay ceramic Belfast sink.

Since its inception, the California Bungalow became the most popular form of housing and a ubiquitous feature in our Australian suburbs. In Bayswater, most California Bungalows were built between World War I and World War II and it is seen as the ideal home that offered a modest and affordable style of housing. Certainly, as you walk along the older parts of Bayswater, you would notice various examples of the California Bungalow, with their charming character, enduring style and the graces of a bygone era.

From The Californian Bungalow in Australia by John Clare (1986)

Halliday House Open Day

by Glen Cookson

Thanks to all the visitors that came along to our Open Days in September and October. We had a steady



stream of visitors during both Open Days, but none so special than members of the Halliday family who made a special trip to Bayswater and to Halliday House.

Our displays are established in a dedicated room and organised around the following themes:

Our Bayswater Railway Station – the Never-ending Story: this display was set in what was once the Bayswater Roads Board meeting room, noting that Henry Halliday who built Halliday House was also the first Chairperson of the Bayswater Roads Board. The display featured early photographs of the Bayswater Railway Station, employees and passengers from 1898 – 1960's. These photos were juxtaposed with more recent contemporary photographs (courtesy of local BHS member and photographer, Bill Ragan). Highlighting the importance of photographic recording is also a fascinating display of early century cameras up to the 1970's. The latest information from Metronet regarding the design and features of the new Bayswater Railway due for completion in the very near future.

Textiles and Trinkets: this display was created and organised by volunteers, Miriam Fawcett and Maggie Wade and featured turn of the century adult and children's



clothing, a 1940s nurses' uniform, jewellery and related artefacts.

Bedroom: a look into how the leading early settlers rested after dark. On display are beautifully crafted bedroom furniture and exquisite linen.

Halliday history and dining room:

the Halliday family were community leaders and were held in high regard by their local community. As such the family home was a central focus for entertaining and fine dining. The very best of furniture, crockery and cutlery were features of what was at the time, probably the best home in Bayswater. Thanks to



volunteer Christina Middleton for setting the table and ensuring this display room came alive.

War Room and Cameras: this display aims at giving visitors an insight into the huge impact that WW1 and WW2 had on the Bayswater community and its history. Significant impacts were on families where loved ones never returned from their overseas service. The community lost not only young people in their prime but impacted on lifestyle and culture for generations to come. During WW2 Bayswater hosted training for soldiers and built private and public bomb shelters. Thanks to volunteers Maggie Wade, Miriam Fawcett and Angie Maher for organising this display at short notice.

The Displays will be updated as new information and artefacts come to light.

All in all a very good re-opening with lots of positive feedback about displays and how the museum at Halliday House is currently presented.



Sunday, 22 November 2020 will be our next Open Day and the final one for 2020. Open from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

The Corner Store: A Pictorial History

Local shops played a major role in connecting people socially and it was the hub of local news and gossip as well as community support. Back then, “buy local” was what people did and could choose to do. In fact, customising was what people just did naturally for the locals.

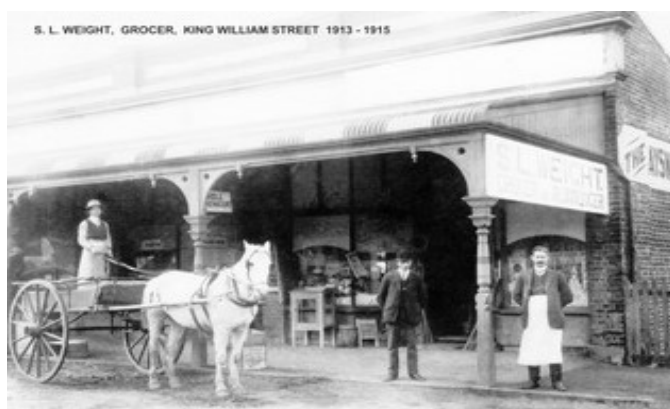
Corner Stores knew our names, our likes and preferences, allowed us credit and supported us when times were tough and even looked after our welfare.



Mrs. Webster's Grocery Store and later Mr. Inglis's Chemist, 1-3 King William Street - built in 1905, designed and constructed by Henry Halliday.



McLeish Grocery and Butcher, 4 King William Street - built in 1906 by Robert McLeish after his first grocery shop burnt down. Run by the family, the staff also lived above the shop.



S.L. Weight Grocer on King William Street during WWI.



Bert Wright's Corner Store, located on 4 King William Street. It was purchased by the McAlinden family having relocated their business from Slade Street.



Beale's Milk Bar located on Whatley Crescent (formerly South Crescent). The Beale family, like most storekeepers of the time, lived behind the shop.



Madelaine Higgins' Grocery Store and later McAlinden's Corner Shop, 22 Slade Street - this store was located on the then main hub of Bayswater,

*Photographs from the Bayswater Historical Society Collection
Reference from Changes They've Seen by Catherine May (2013)*

BAYSWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Photography by Terry Devereux

The Bayswater Historical Society Inc. was formed in 1991. It is a non-profit organisation which aims to preserve the history of Bayswater district; protect the records and objects relating to the area; promote public interest in and support for the preservation of historic records, buildings and sites.

Halliday House is Bayswater's historic home and is used as the Society's base and museum. Halliday House has re-opened to the public in 2020. COVID-19 safety measures will be in place and must be adhered to by all visitors during Open Days..

Historical Bayswater is the society's newsletter and welcomes contributions such as stories and photographs relating to the history of Bayswater to be included in future issues. Please forward all enquiries addressed to the Secretary.

Acknowledgements: We wish to thank to the Hon. Lisa Baker MLA, Member for Maylands for printing this newsletter. We also would like to thank our contributors for their items included in this issue.

Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram @bayswaterhistoricalsociety



Opinions expressed in *Historical Bayswater* are not necessarily those of the Bayswater Historical Society Inc. This issue is published by the society's Communications Sub-Committee.

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Membership Renewal for year 2020-2021



Just a reminder that membership renewals are now due. Our current membership run from 1 September 2020 until 31 August 2021.

The Bayswater Historical Society is a not-for-profit organisation. Your membership subscription is important to the society and underpins essential funding of priority projects undertaken by the society, the operating costs of the Halliday House Open Days and the publication of the society's newsletter *Historical Bayswater*.

Membership fees are \$30.00 for family, \$20.00 adult and \$13.00 concession. You can pay the Society via bank deposit or cash in person at our next Open Day. Please contact the Secretary via email bayswaterhs@gmail.com or GPO Box 76, Bayswater WA 6933.