



families, still live there. In 1922, Frederick Timms built the Garrick Theatre on land owned by him at Nos. 22 and 24 (there is a heritage plaque on the footpath). The theatre was demolished about 1936 but in its day the theatre and its grounds were home to an amateur dramatic society and many other community events. Market gardens were operated by the King brothers at No 10 (the "big garden"), No 24, and Nos 30 to 34 Harden Ave from 1933 until 1951.

34 Aboriginal Heritage Office, 39/137-145 Sailors Bay Rd

The Aboriginal Heritage Office is funded by eight North Shore Councils. The office, open on week days, is on the ground floor, on the far left side of the apartment building. Part of the work of the office is to monitor Aboriginal sites to ensure their preservation and protection. Staff talk to schools and other groups to give an understanding of the unique culture of the Aboriginal people. The office also hosts a museum of Aboriginal artifacts and historical displays covering pre-colonial times to the modern day.

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST, NOT ON THE TWO ROUTES

35 Ide House, 20 Dalkeith St (corner Bellambi St)

This fine example of a brick and sandstone California bungalow was built in late 1924 for a Japanese businessman, Mr H Ide. The original cherry trees have gone, but it has a large and luxuriant garden. Northbridge has been home to a large Japanese community in the past.

36 Fig Tree Point, Hallstrom Close

The first substantial house in Northbridge, The Hermitage, was built on the point about 1875. The owner, Mr Twemlow, was originally a jeweller and later a dentist in Sydney and he and his boatman rowed or sailed to the city each day. One of his boatmen drowned in 1877 when the boat was overturned in heavy weather.

Sir Edward Hallstrom purchased the 1.0 hectare property in the 1930s and built a swimming pool, private ballroom and small zoo on the site. The property was sold in 1971 and demolished for a land subdivision. The fig trees and magnificent view remain to remind us of its history. The site and the 'remains of wharfage' on the point are heritage listed by NSW Government.

37 'The Knoll', Byora Cres

This small reserve (officially known as Broomham Park) is a remnant of native bushland and is one of the highest points on the lower North Shore. There are views to The Spit and North Head from the top of the reserve.

38 Shore School Memorial Playing Fields, corner Sailors Bay and Alpha Rds

In 1887, Royal North Shore Hospital was bequeathed more than 20 acres of land in Sailors Bay Rd by James Harris French, an alderman on Willoughby City Council for many years, who died in 1893. In 1916 the hospital sold the undeveloped land to Shore School. The grounds were opened in 1919 as a memorial to the 880 Shore Old Boys who served and the 122 who died in World War I. The area now contains a Primary School, six full-sized ovals and several tennis courts. A new grandstand was opened in 2008.

BUSH WALKING TRACKS IN NORTHBRIDGE

A Flat Rock Gully walking track
(approx 2km one way)

Starting at the corner of Sailors Bay Rd and Flat Rock Drive, walk a few metres down Flat Rock Drive and turn left into Flat Rock Gully Reserve. Take the northern (left hand) track, named the 'Wilksch track', and follow it down past waterfalls to the creek, which flows under the Suspension Bridge and through Tunks Park. The walk stops at the Long Bay foreshore.

B Wreck Bay walking track
(approx 2km one way)

At the far eastern end of Upper Cliff Ave, a track on the right leads down towards Tunks Park. At the bottom, the track turns left and passes behind the 5th green of Northbridge golf course, then leads off right to a walking track that winds around the southern edge of Northbridge golf course past the wrecks of the ships *Itata* and *Cobaki* in Long Bay. The track finishes at the western end of Dorset Rd. You will see the remains of a private vineyard which once produced wine.

C The Griffin Federation Trail
(approx 1km one way)

In Eastern Valley Way just past Tarakan Cres, enter the steps and pathway to the right and walk down to Warners Park, along Sailors Bay Creek to the Outpost. The walk continues into Castlecrag.

Note: Willoughby City Council has published detailed descriptions of these three walking tracks. See www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Discover Northbridge
Walk, cycle or drive to explore this lovely suburb

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Discover Northbridge

THIS BROCHURE helps you to discover places with historic, Aboriginal and scenic interest in the peninsular suburb of Northbridge, situated on Middle Harbour, on the lower North Shore of Sydney.

We have suggested two main routes to allow you and your family to 'discover Northbridge' by foot or bicycle, or even by car. There are also summaries of three bush walking routes in the suburb.

Walkers should note that the 202 bus route runs regularly from Clive Park, along Sailors Bay Rd to Northbridge junction, then down Strathallen Ave to the Suspension Bridge before proceeding to Wynyard, and return.

There are public toilets in the pavilion at Northbridge oval, Clive Park, Warners Park and Northbridge Baths.

Please note that all the houses mentioned in this brochure are privately occupied and not open to the public.

Northbridge's Aboriginal heritage

A powerful Aboriginal clan named the Camaraigals was seen by Governor Phillip and his party when they visited Middle Harbour in mid-1788. The clan roamed the bushland and fished in Middle Harbour up to the 1820s. By the 1850s there were no Aboriginals living their traditional lifestyle in the area.

Rock engravings and other signs of past habitation have been found on the Northbridge peninsula but they are protected and not available to the public. Shell middens can still be found along the foreshore in Clive Park.

European history

The first Crown grant of land in the Northbridge peninsula was made in 1837 at what is now Clive Park. The second grant was at Fig Tree Point. All the remaining land on the peninsula was auctioned by the Crown in 1855 and 1856.

The peninsula was divided into 38 portions ranging in area from six to 20 acres. Some isolated houses were built in the 1860s and 1870s. By the 1880s, most of the original grantees of the land had sold to new owners, who in turn sold to land development companies which were preparing to build the Suspension Bridge over Long Bay.

In the early 1900s several subdivisions were auctioned on the western side of the peninsula, notably in Harden Ave and Eric St (now Eastern Valley Way). It was not until 1913 that a subdivision used the name 'Northbridge' for the first time, referring to the north side of the Suspension Bridge.

In 1997, the National Trust approved part of Northbridge as an Urban Conservation Area because of its uniform appearance and predominance of 1920s bungalows with few unsympathetic alterations.

References for this brochure:

The Suburb of Northbridge, a community history by Esther Leslie, 1988.

Contributions to *The 202* newsletter by Pam Clifford, 2000 to 2012.

Aboriginal Heritage Office, Northbridge

Willoughby City Council

The National Trust of Australia (NSW)

HISTORIC WALKING, CYCLING OR DRIVING ROUTES

Route 1: The Suspension Bridge to Clive Park

(3 km one way)

1 The Suspension Bridge

The Suspension Bridge was opened in 1892 to facilitate the development of Sydney's northern suburbs. The original bridge was designed by architect JEF Coyle and engineer Prof WH Warren. It was a steel cable suspension bridge with Gothic sandstone towers at either end. The bridge decking was timber, suitable for light vehicular traffic. At the time, the bridge was considered an engineering wonder and was an instant tourist attraction.

The recession of the 1890s meant there was little development north of the bridge for about 20 years. In 1914, the tramway from Milsons Point, which then terminated on the Cammeray side, was extended over the bridge and up Strathallen Ave. However, in 1936, considerable corrosion was found and the bridge was closed to traffic. Two tramcars were marooned on the Northbridge side and tram passengers walked across the bridge and boarded another tram on the other side. The last tram ran to Cammeray in 1948.

A new bridge was constructed and opened by Hon WM Hughes in 1939. It retained the Gothic towers and featured a sympathetically-designed concrete arch spanning 106 metres. At the time, it was the largest arch bridge in the southern hemisphere. The bridge (still named Suspension Bridge) is heritage listed by Council.

In the 1880s, before the bridge was built and Long Bay was filled to form Tunks Park, Henri l'Estrange strung a tightrope over Long Bay and walked across it witnessed by thousands of onlookers who came by boat and ferry.

2 Memorial clock, corner Strathallen and Cliff Aves

This World War II memorial clock is heritage listed by Willoughby City Council. It was erected by the Northbridge Comforts Fund and unveiled by the Governor of NSW in May 1948. The sandstone and heavy tower fit in well with the Suspension Bridge.

3 Northbridge Hotel, 57 Strathallen Ave

The hotel is the first and only hotel in Northbridge. It was built by Tooth & Co in 1931. After a number of facelifts there are few reminders of the traditional, rowdy suburban pub, once a centre of social life in Northbridge.

4 Northbridge Junction

In the 1940s and 50s, the junction of Strathallen Ave and Sailors Bay Rd was known as Hayhow's Corner after the large grocery store run by Mr Hayhow. One of the five service stations in Northbridge operated next to Northbridge Hotel. There was a police call box on the corner of Bellambi and Sailors Bay Rds. Each day, North Sydney police would take a tram to Northbridge to call in to ensure that all was in order.

5 'Northbridge', 6 Bellambi Street

This house was built in 1913 as part of the third Northbridge subdivision and was probably a display home. It is one of the earliest Edwardian houses in the suburb, characterised by a high roof line and ornate plaster ceilings and chimneys.

6 'Clavering', 186 Sailors Bay Rd

Clavering is heritage listed by Willoughby City Council (there is a heritage plaque on the footpath) and classified by the National Trust. This lovely brick and sandstone house was built in 1923 and is an intact example of a Californian bungalow as they were built in Northbridge in the 1920s and 1930s. The house was Miss Riach's kindergarten and private school in the 1930s and 1940s. It was Dr Woolcott's surgery in the 1950s and the home of Jack Renshaw MLA, the former Premier of NSW, in the 1960s. In 1984 the Uniting Church purchased Clavering and carried out major renovations. It has been the parish parsonage ever since.

7 223 Sailors Bay Rd

This 1920s bungalow has been recognised by the National Trust as one of a number of significant examples of inter-War houses in Northbridge.

8 231 Sailors Bay Rd (corner Bligh St)

This large Tudor-style house was built in 1939 for Dr Holt, who also held his surgery there. The house originally had its own private chapel. Externally, the house is in original condition, including lead light windows.

9 St Philip Neri Church & Primary School, 224 Sailors Bay Rd

The original St Philip Neri School hall, which is behind the Catholic Church, is heritage listed by Willoughby City Council. The hall was the original school, which was opened in February 1926 with 11 pupils. The building had one large room which could be partitioned into three separate classrooms plus a nuns' room and an office. The school's original name, St Ciaran's Primary School, still appears on the old iron entry gates although the name was changed in 1983. The brick church and presbytery were completed in 1941 and are considered by the National Trust as structures of outstanding architectural merit and workmanship.

10 St Marks Church, corner Tunks St and Malacoota Rd

This Anglican Church was built in 1927 and is noted by the National Trust as part of the Northbridge Conservation Area. The adjacent hall was built in 1961 as a War Memorial hall.

11 Northbridge Library, 258 Sailors Bay Rd

Northbridge branch library moved into the former Presbyterian Church, which was refurbished for the purpose, in 2010. The church was opened in 1929. The design is neat and unpretentious with Gothic windows. A Memorial Hall was built behind the church in 1954. The parishioners decided to join the Uniting Church in 1977 and the church and hall were then used for offices until Willoughby City Council purchased the property for the library in 2008.

12 266 to 276 Sailors Bay Rd

This group of six blocks of flats, which is heritage listed by Council, was built in 1928 and 1929 and may have been the first flats built in Northbridge. They have aesthetic significance for their consistent and intact scale and because they create a uniform and distinctive urban streetscape which is rare in Willoughby. They have minor variations which make each block individual.

13 288 to 296 Sailors Bay Rd

These five shops are heritage listed by Council as a good example of early 20th century commercial architecture. They were built from 1915 after the trams from Milsons Point first terminated outside the school in 1914 and this part of Northbridge was starting to develop. For many years the area was called The Terminus and at one time the shops included a butcher, greengrocer, 'ham and beef', newsagent, hairdresser, chemist, haberdashery and sandwich shops for school lunches. The two-storey block of flats at the corner of Woonona Rd is the site of the first shop in Northbridge. It was originally a general store and real estate agency occupied by Mr Poole.

14 Northbridge Public School

The original Northbridge Public School building was completed in 1923 and is heritage listed by Council. It is typical of the modest school buildings built by the NSW Department of Education in the 1920s for small growing communities and is rare because it is still largely intact. The original building had three classrooms with movable partitions to form one long room. Built to house 48 children, the school opened with 159 students and six teachers. The school yard has a number of significant trees which have been planted over the years. Many of the early photographs of Northbridge were taken by the first headmaster, Mr Albert Mitchell, who was also a keen photographer.

15 Northbridge Park

The 46 hectare area now known as Northbridge Park stretches from Sailors Bay Rd down to Middle Harbour. It now contains Northbridge Oval and pavilion, a Scout Hall, Guide Hall, Northbridge golf course and clubhouse, a War Memorial, multi-use courts, a bike track, a Men's Shed and large areas of natural bushland.

In the 1860s the area was reserved for harbour defence and for a boys' training school attached to the training ship *Vernon*, but neither eventuated. At one stage the NSW Government planned to build a police station and lunatic asylum next to where Northbridge Public School now stands. Fortunately, Willoughby City Council persuaded the Government to proclaim all the land a park and the area was dedicated in 1910.

16 Northbridge Golf Club, Sailors Bay Rd

The golf course was built under the Emergency Relief Work Scheme after the Great Depression. Up to 250 unemployed men worked on the course, under Council engineer Hugh Robb. The stone for walls and surrounds was quarried on the site. The course opened with nine holes in 1935 and was extended to 18 holes in 1937. Northbridge Golf Club was formed in 1933 before the course was opened. Both the golf course and clubhouse are heritage listed by Council.

17 Bonds Corner, 395 Sailors Bay Rd

These two brick shops and residences were built for William Bond between 1925 and 1928 when east Northbridge was being developed. It was originally a land and estate agency on one side and a mixed business/grocer on the other. The building is largely intact and is heritage listed by Council.

18 'Marsden', 20 Neeworra Rd

This house is one of several in Northbridge noted by the National Trust as being typical of the inter-War period. It is largely unaltered.

19 Clive Park, Sailors Bay Rd

In the 1840s, the area now known as Clive Park was subdivided and offered for auction under the name 'The Albert Town Estate'. The subdivision was accessible only by water and only one house was built, which was in use until the 1940s. There were 'tea gardens' in the area at the turn of the century. The 5.7 hectare Clive Park was gazetted in 1933. Sailors Bay Boatshed started operating within the park in 1940 and is heritage-listed by NSW Government. There was once a picnic pavilion near the boatshed, accessible by ferry. The Clive Park tidal pool, now in a poor state of repair, was built by the Northbridge Volunteer Defence Force in the mid-1940s. Northbridge Sailing Club commenced operating in 1946 and its clubhouse was opened in 1965. Clive Park, the tidal pool and the Sailing Club clubhouse are all heritage listed by Council. The tidal pool was classified in 1994 by the National Trust.

Route 2: Clive Park to Northbridge Junction

(3.5 km one way)

20 3 Minimbah Rd

A former Prime Minister of Australia built this five-storey waterfront house after he retired from Parliament in 1992. The waterfront houses of Minimbah, Coolawin and Dorset Rds in Northbridge are among the highest value residential property in Sydney.

21 Waks House II, 21 Minimbah Rd

This three-storey waterfront house was the second house designed in Northbridge by well-known architect Harry Seidler for Mr and Mrs Leo Waks. It was completed in 1959. The house is on the Australian Institute of Architects NSW register of 20th century significant buildings.

22 Northbridge Baths, Widgiewa Rd

This fenced harbour swimming pool was opened in 1924, when it provided a 33 yard swim. Dressing sheds were completed with voluntary labour in 1927 and extensions were made to the baths to give a 55 yard racing course in 1937. Northbridge Amateur Swimming Club was formed in 1925 and has operated continuously, with strong patronage, since that time. The baths were classified by the National Trust in 1994. There is a large commercial boatshed next to the baths.

23 Waks House, 5 Coorabin Rd

This house was designed in 1949 for the Waks family by Harry Seidler. It was the first Seidler-designed house completed in Sydney. (Seidler designed the Rose Seidler house in Wahroonga in 1948 but completed it after the Northbridge house.) The Waks house was restored by Seidler Architects in 2000.

24 Snelling House, 9 Coorabin Rd

Noted Sydney architect Douglas Snelling designed and built this house 1949-1951 for his family. It shows influences from American architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright in its approach to the natural bush, the slope of the site and use of local sandstone and timber. Alterations carried out in 1994 by architect Alexander Tzannes won a number of prizes. The house is heritage listed by Council.

25 64 Kameruka Rd

This house is one of several in Northbridge noted by the National Trust as being typical of the inter-War period. It has been altered recently, mainly with a partial second floor.

26 The Outpost

This winding street with 26 housing blocks was part of the Castlecrag Estate, designed by Walter Burley Griffin in the 1920s.

27 Warners Park

The open area to the north of Kameruka Rd to Castlecrag, much of which is now known as Warners Park, was part of Warner's Waratah Dairy, established in 1914. The dairy's motto was "Service, hygiene and pure raw dairy milk". Milk was delivered daily to homes in the district by horse-drawn carts. Dairy cows grazed on the area to the south of Edinburgh Rd and past Sailors Bay Creek. The milking sheds and cottages were where The Quadrangle shopping centre now stands in Castlecrag. The dairy, with different owners, operated until about 1951.

28 The milk depot, 41-43 Eastern Valley Way

This brick building was constructed in the late 1930s as the milk depot for Warners Dairy. It is now used by the Sailors Bay Sea Scouts. The building is listed by the National Trust as one of the few remaining relics of the suburban dairies which once supplied most of Sydney.

29 Market gardens, Eastern Valley Way

Starting in the 1880s, market gardens were operated on the west side of Eastern Valley Way. The first gardeners were members of the Chinese Ah King family. They were called the Chinese Market Gardens but western vegetables and flowers were grown. The last gardener was Noel Rannard, who came to Northbridge in 1934 and sold cut flowers from his front gate in Eastern Valley Way until 1981. The land was once reserved by NSW Government for an extension of the Warringah Freeway, but was sold in the early 2000s and is now an 80-house development appropriately named 'Market Gardens'.

30 Eric St and Northbridge Theatre

Embedded in the footpath at the corner of Sailors Bay Rd and Eastern Valley Way is the original sign reading 'Eric St'. The street was named in 1906 and was part of the Eric St Subdivision in 1915. Eric St ran down as far as Sailors Bay Creek. In 1938 it was extended through to Edinburgh Road and renamed Eastern Valley Way. The site of the car wash on the same corner was once Northbridge Theatre, which was built in 1928 and demolished in 1955 for a service station.

31 Northbridge Plaza, 79-113 Sailors Bay Rd

This large neighbourhood shopping centre was first opened in 1961 and extensively redeveloped in 1985. The car park attached to the centre was given in 1960 by the developer to Willoughby City Council for use as a public car park, as part of the arrangements for development approval. The car park area was originally a market garden operated by the King brothers and the small park in Harden Ave next to the shopping centre is named after them.

32 Masonic Hall, corner Sailors Bay Rd and Harden Ave

The Northbridge-Cammeray Masonic Hall was opened in 1925 and was used extensively for dances, fund-raising activities, Anzac Day services, weddings and school speech days. The Presbyterians rented part of the hall prior to the erection of their church in 1929. Masonic meetings are still held upstairs.

33 Harden Ave

Harden Ave became the hub of residential development in Northbridge after the subdivision and auction sale of the land in 1904. Descendants of the original developers of the street, the Greenfield, Timms and King