

A snapshot of
Crystal Brook's
Historic Homes



Join us on an informative walk through the streets of Crystal Brook to show some of our unique and historic Australian homes. The walk is 2.8 kms long and takes approximately 1 hour at a leisurely pace.

The brochure explains types of architecture and comments on selected homes along the walk, however you will notice other examples, many being a combination of two house styles. Please note that some house numbers are painted on the kerb.

Please remember these are private homes and we request you to respect owners' privacy.

Crystal Brookwhere the Flinders begin

Begin the walk at the Crystal Brook Institute/Port Pirie Regional Council Rural Office on Bowman Street. Walk south along Bowman St and turn left onto Brandis St.

1 On the right you will come to the History Group building at No 40. Opening times and contacts are listed on the door. Built in 1937 for £480, this was the original Council Chambers and residence of the Town Clerk. Before it's opening, another £100 was requested to finish the building.

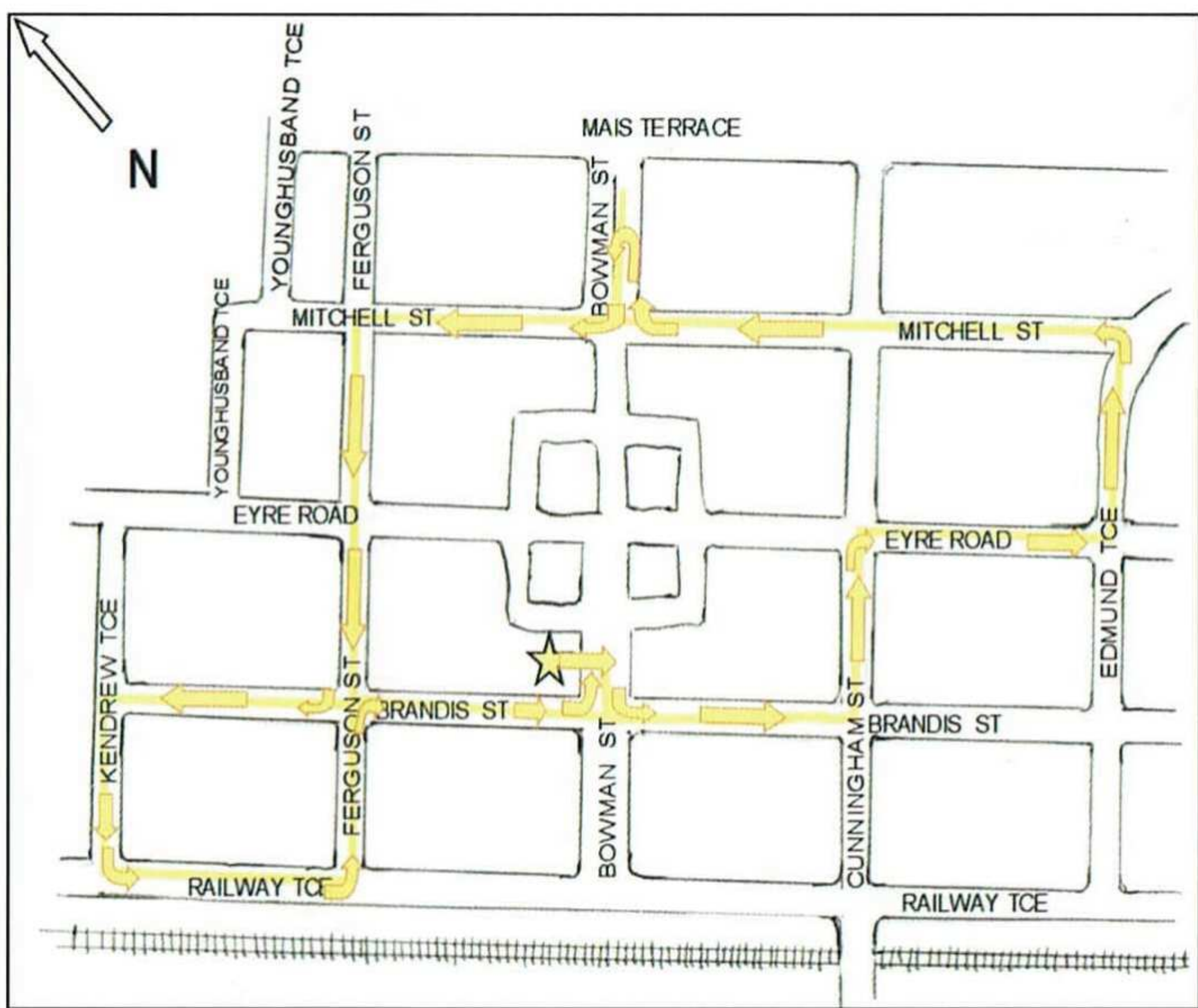
2 At Cunningham St intersection on the left side are two examples of Art Deco homes, built in the 1930's. These homes have stucco exterior but do not have the steep gables that follow the Spanish style variation. The stepped features on the fences and dark glazed relief work is typical of the art deco style. Both homes were built within a year of each other.

Turn left into Cunningham St and next right into Eyre Rd.



3 No 19 is a beautiful example of Queen Anne architecture, the only one in Crystal Brook. This adaptation of 19th century English Revival concept was popular between 1905 –1918, incorporating the turret top. Turned pendant drops are used on the main roof. Note this home has a “louvre roof”. Venting at the sides of the apex of the roof allows hot air to escape while being replaced with cooler air via the eaves. This stately home was built in 1902 for Wandearah farmer, Oliver Adcock, who carted all the local stone needed for its construction. Mr Smerden, a builder from Port Pirie, built the residence for £800 in 1902.

4 13 Eyre Rd, is an early “package home” erected on a farming property at Merriton in 1914. By 1920 it had become unoccupied. It was purchased for a few pounds by Alf Martin and transported to its present site. This very early “transportable” was moved by an International truck, with a long piece of railway iron attached to an axle and two wagon wheels. It had to be driven over a crossing at the Rocky River, as it was too wide for the bridge.



Continue & turn left into Edmund Tce (Huddlestone Rd) and left again at Mitchell St.

5 On the corner is a large “Gentleman’s Bungalow”, aptly named as this was built for Dr Kendrew in 1925. The Californian Bungalow era was from 1916-1930. Noted for the rectangular shape and featuring a front gable verandah, these homes have a freestone feature frontage, stucco gable render and feature woodwork, with plain leadlight in casement or sash windows. There are a number of Bungalow homes in Crystal Brook, this being one of the largest.

Walk past the school and look to your left (14-20 Mitchell St).

These were government homes built for the Highways, Water Works and local government departments, formally the largest employers in Crystal Brook.

As you pass again over Cunningham St, look to your right and you will notice a number of newly built homes. The large home on the corner was built in 2001.

6 *On reaching Bowman St, walk a short distance* and on the right at No. 8, is a classic example of a Tudor Home built in 1937. This style was evident from 1928 to 1938. Steeply pitched ornate gables are in the front of the building, with added freestone frontage to a mainly brick building. This is our town's best example and was built for the Forgan family who owned the iron & brass foundry "over the line".

Return to Mitchell St and continue north.

48 Mitchell Street is a larger, symmetrical cottage style which has housed 3 generations of the same family.

49 Mitchell Street is another example of a Californian Bungalow. The Californian Bungalow era was from 1916-1930.

On both sides of Mitchell Street are a group of four symmetrical cottages (55, 56, 57, 58). This type of home was popular over a long period starting as early as 1860 and continuing through to 1915.

You will have noticed on your walk a wide variation of this particular house style. The style is depicted by 4 rooms under the main roof and identical windows on both sides of the door. The front verandah roof can be concave, convex or bullnosed in shape. These homes are in different stages of restoration.

Turn left into Ferguson St, continue towards Eyre Rd.

8 On the corner to the right is the oldest standing home in the town. This home has been beautifully renovated and has kept its "Early Settlers" style. The home originally had only two rooms under the main roof, fashioned after the English country cottage. The addition of a verandah was in response to the hot, harsh Australian climate. These cottages were built with local stone and slate, which can be found in hills east of Crystal Brook. At the time, roofing iron was shipped from England. This simple abode was built in 1874 for the first Christian Minister, Mr Octavian Blake, for his own use.

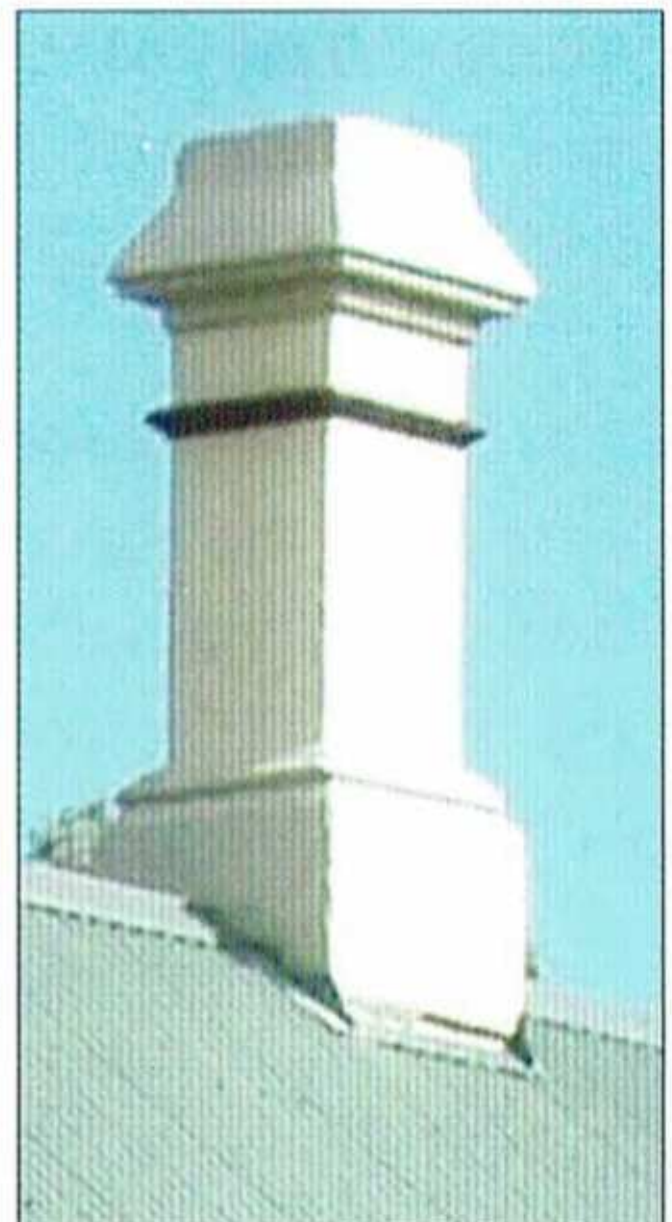
Cross Eyre Rd and continue along Ferguson St to Brandis St, turn right.

66 Brandis Street. This settlers home was built of slate in 1889 for Charles Darbon, the Town Clerk at the time. The home is known as Rosamund Cottage after Charles Darbon's wife Rosamund, who after her husband died, continued to live in this home until 1941, when she died at 97 yrs of age.

Brandis St was one of the first developed streets in Crystal Brook and you will begin to notice the older homes here.

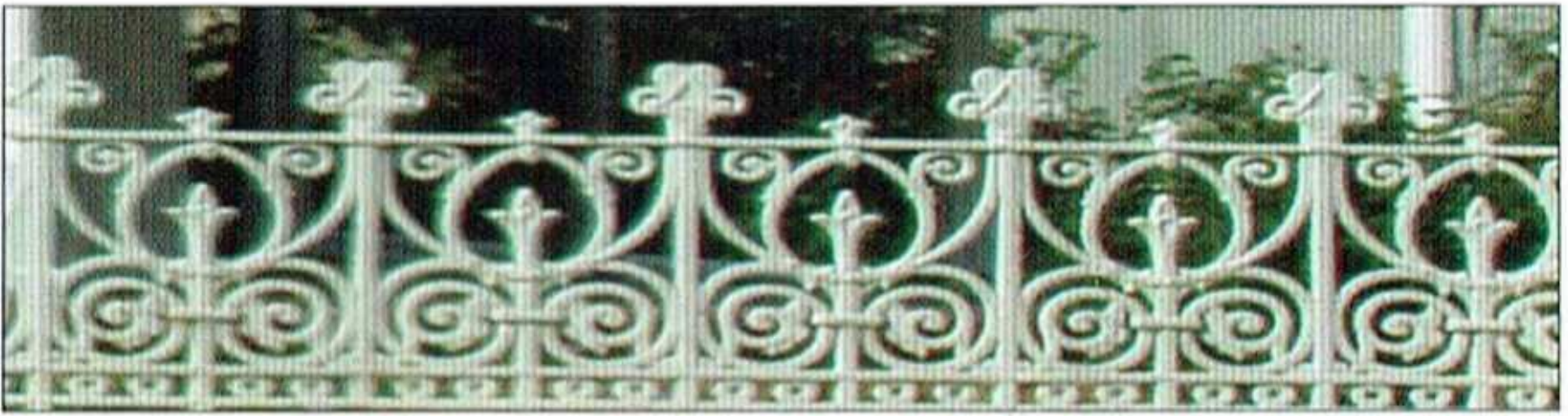
Continue along Brandis St and turn left at Kendrew Tce.

9 On the left corner, 88 Brandis Street is an example of a "Gentleman's Return Verandah Villa" built in 1897 and home to only its third owner. Restoration began in 2002. Note the dressed local stone and moulded quoins, scrollwork on the gutters, fretted bargeboard at the end of the north gable, turned hardwood verandah posts and original verandah tiles. The chimneys are rendered brick in one of the Italianate styles.



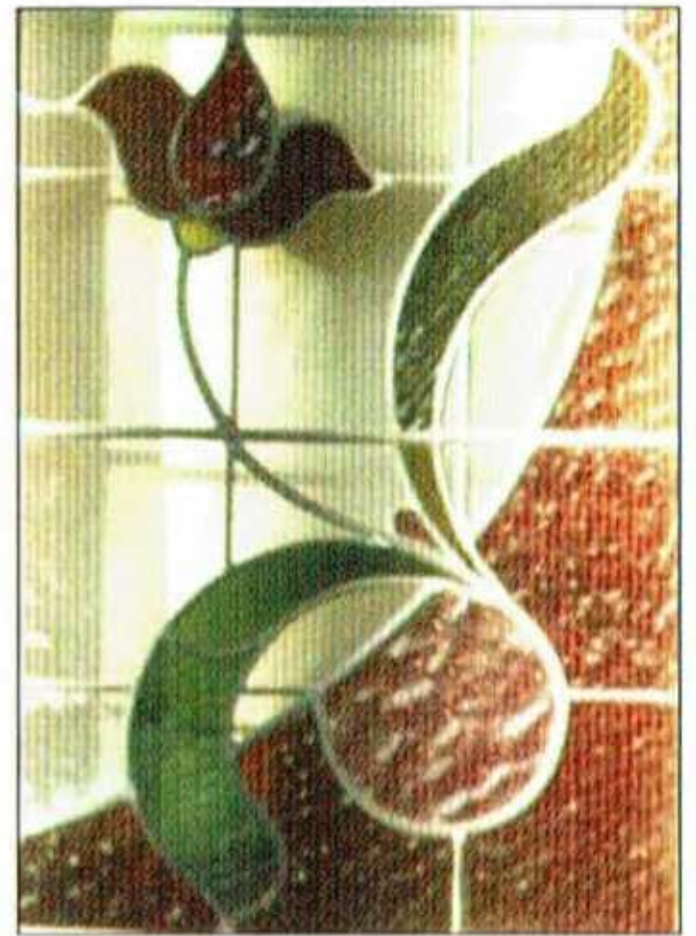
Walk towards the railway, turn left at Railway Terrace.

In the 1900's the railway was the major form of transport and if you were buying real estate, proximity to the railway was desirable. Along Railway Terrace are a selection of earlier affluent homes.



10 Of the larger symmetrical homes, 83 Railway Terrace displays beautiful cast iron work on the house and gate. Cast iron became so ornate in the 19th century, that it became best known as “lace”, often painted Indian red or dark green to simulate bronze. The depression in the 1890's caused “lacework” to become scarce and was replaced by decorative timberwork.

11 The Villa home at No 73 is recognised for the replacement of the cast iron with sculptured wood. Note the Edwardian style of wooden awning and boarded valance. The ornate and stunning leadlight is of the popular Edwardian rose motif. You may have already noticed other examples of leadlight on your walk.



Turn left along Ferguson St and right into Brandis St.

12 On the right, No 54 is another “Return Verandah Villa, restored as much as possible to its original beauty. This is another home built in 1911 for the Forgan family.

Turning left at Bowman St, return to the Council Chambers.