Ryde

Heritage Trail

2nd Edition

® City of Ryde

About this book

The *Ryde Heritage Trail Book* is a project of the City of Ryde with the Ryde Heritage Advisory Committee and the Ryde Heritage Working Group 2022-2024.

The updating of the Heritage Trail booklets was produced with the support of Heritage NSW through the 2023-25 Community Heritage Grant (23-25CH068) – Our City of Ryde: Interactive Heritage Walking Trails. We acknowledge and appreciate the funding provided, which has contributed to the promotion and preservation of our local heritage.

We hope to produce additional booklets in the future and would appreciate feedback from readers. Please contact:
**cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au**

Language Assistance

We are committed to providing accessible services to people within our community and customers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you have difficulty understanding this book, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

Ryde Heritage Trail Online Interactive Map

To view the online interactive map visit **www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/RydeHeritageTrail** or scan the QR code
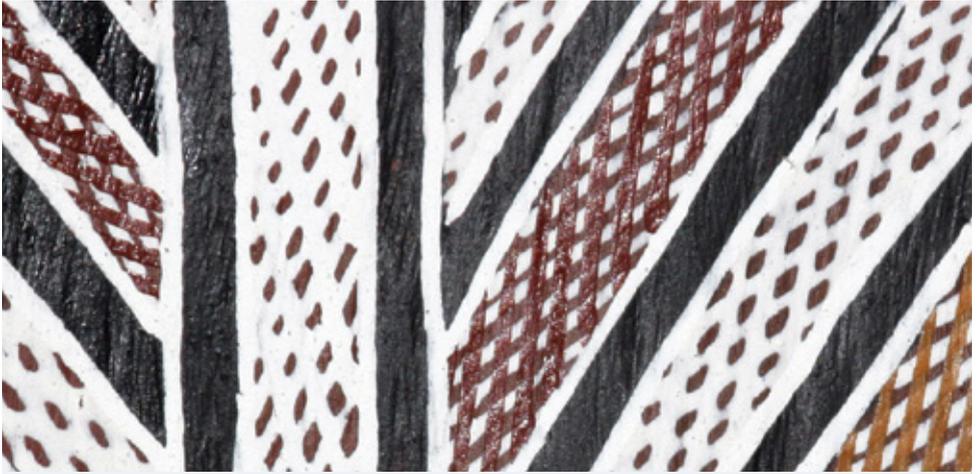
Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Ryde would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Wattamattagal (or Wallumedegal) clan of the Darug nation.

The City of Ryde would also like to pay respect to Elders both past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Plan of the Village of Ryde in 1895
based on an original lithograph drawn by Arthur Collingridge

Photo source:
Ryde District Historical Society.

Contents

Masonic Temple and School of Arts Site, 2025.

Preface

This booklet was produced by the City of Ryde and was highly commended in May 2016 by the National Trust of NSW in their Heritage Awards, category: Tours. This version has been edited and updated and necessarily uses a different site numbering sequence than the original version. The sites described are located around Top Ryde City and along Victoria Road towards West Ryde. They may be visited in any order. As it would take four to five hours to view them all, you might like to split the walk into a couple of trips. Some sites such as *Willandra* and *Addington* are covered by other heritage pamphlets and are best visited on open days. Top Ryde City is a convenient bus destination, alternatively you can park in the shopping complex, in a Council car park in Church Street or in the streets closer to more distant locations.

Some of the places along the trail are not listed in Council's *Local Environmental Plan LEP* as items of heritage significance, however, they have been included here for their historical, architectural, social or aesthetic importance. When viewing any site please respect private property, be aware that churches are not always open, and that entry to school grounds is prohibited other than to people on business. Victoria Road is very busy, please cross only at the designated crossings.

Much of the information in this booklet has been summarised from Council's database of Heritage Listed Sites available through the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water: **www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/SearchHeritageItems**

For additional information see the following:

- Geeves, P. 1970. A Place of Pioneers. The centenary history of the Municipality of Ryde. Ryde Municipal Council, 206pp.

- Levy M.C.I. 1947. *Wallumetta*. A history of Ryde and its districts 1792-1945. W.E. Smith Sydney. 393pp.

- Martin, M. 1998. A pictorial History of Ryde. Kingsclear Books, 121pp.

- Shaw, K. (Ed.) 2002. Historic Ryde. A guide to some significant heritage sites in the City of Ryde. Ryde District Historical Society, 149pp.

- Smith, K.V. 2005. Wallumedegal: An Aboriginal History of Ryde. Sydney, City of Ryde Council, 38pp.

Wesley Church and Oddfellows Hall, 2025.

About Ryde

Ryde was the territory of the Wallumedegal clan of Aboriginal people whose totem was the snapper fish (wallumai). On the 3 January 1792, Governor Phillip made land grants to eight marines and named the area Field of Mars, the words Mars and Marines being derived from the name of the Roman God of War. Additional grants were made to convicts in east Meadowbank and the area became known as Eastern Farms, and then Kissing Point, a name that referred to the way in which heavily laden boats passing up the Parramatta River bumped or 'kissed' the shallow bottom at low tide near Putney.

In late 1792 there were eight settlers in the Field of Mars and twelve at Eastern Farms who had a total of 1.6 hectares (ha) of wheat, 34ha of maize and barley, 3.2ha of garden, and 17.6ha of cleared land.

By 1802 there were 941ha allotted to 60 settlers at the Eastern Farms. About 184ha were cleared and 114ha under cereals. Produce from orchards, vegetable patches and poultry runs were shipped to Sydney Cove. Most of the grants were small as Phillip allocated 12.1ha (30acres {a}) to a single man with an additional 8.1ha (20a) for a wife and 4ha (10a) for each child.

Livestock numbers were small and the 1802 muster records one horse, one cow, 171 sheep, 37 goats and 146 pigs.

By 1803 the accessible land had been granted. Governor King recognised that the smaller settlers had insufficient land for their stock and set aside a 'traditional English common'. The Field of Mars Common covered 2,044ha north of the Eastern Farms. Ryde Village was then only a modest scattering of houses in a few streets around St Annes Church, surrounded by farms, orchards and some larger estates. The name Ryde was adopted by agreement between the Turners, Popes, and Devlins because Mrs Turner and the Popes came from Ryde on the Isle of Wight. The Municipal District of Ryde was proclaimed on 12 November 1870.

Conversions. 1ha = 2.47 acres

Map and Key

Trail One

Legend:

- Cafe / Lunch
- Toilets
- Parking
- Shop Ryder Bus Stop
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- Trail one
- Trail two
- Traffic Lights

Trail Two

St Annes Church

St Annes Church, 2025.

This attractive church is a rare Victorian Free Gothic style building with a churchyard cemetery. It is located on Jones' Farm, granted to William Jones in 1792. In 1794, John Small took an adjacent grant, and it was in a barn that the first services were held in 1798 before a simple slab chapel and school was built in 1800 by Rev Rowland Hassall, partly funded through public subscription. The opening service was conducted by Rev Richard Johnson and Rev Samuel Marsden.

In 1826, a larger sandstone chapel schoolhouse (now the church nave) was constructed. By 1826, John Small Jnr owned Jones' Farm, and the Church negotiated a land swap to create a manageable glebe of parish land.

STYLE Victorian Free Gothic – Victorian Academic Gothic

LOCATION 44-46 Church Street, Ryde

YEAR STARTED 1826

YEARS MODIFIED 1861/2, 1870, 1875, 1891, 1954, 1983

St Annes Church.
Photo reference: 507519A Ryde Library.

Interior of St Annes Church.
Photo source: Ryde District
Historical Society.

St Annes Church. Photo source: State
Library of New South Wales.

The building continued to function as a school until 1838 when the Hunters Hill Parochial School was opened on the corner of Belmore Street and Victoria Road. In 1858, most of the Church glebe was divided and sold on 99-year leases into small farms and residential plots between Church and William Streets.

The church was extended in 1861-62 when a sandstone tower was added, followed by the bell and clock in 1875. In 1983, the vestries were extended, and the organ moved from the chancel to the gallery. There are a number of memorial plaques and stained-glass windows dedicated to district pioneers inside the church.
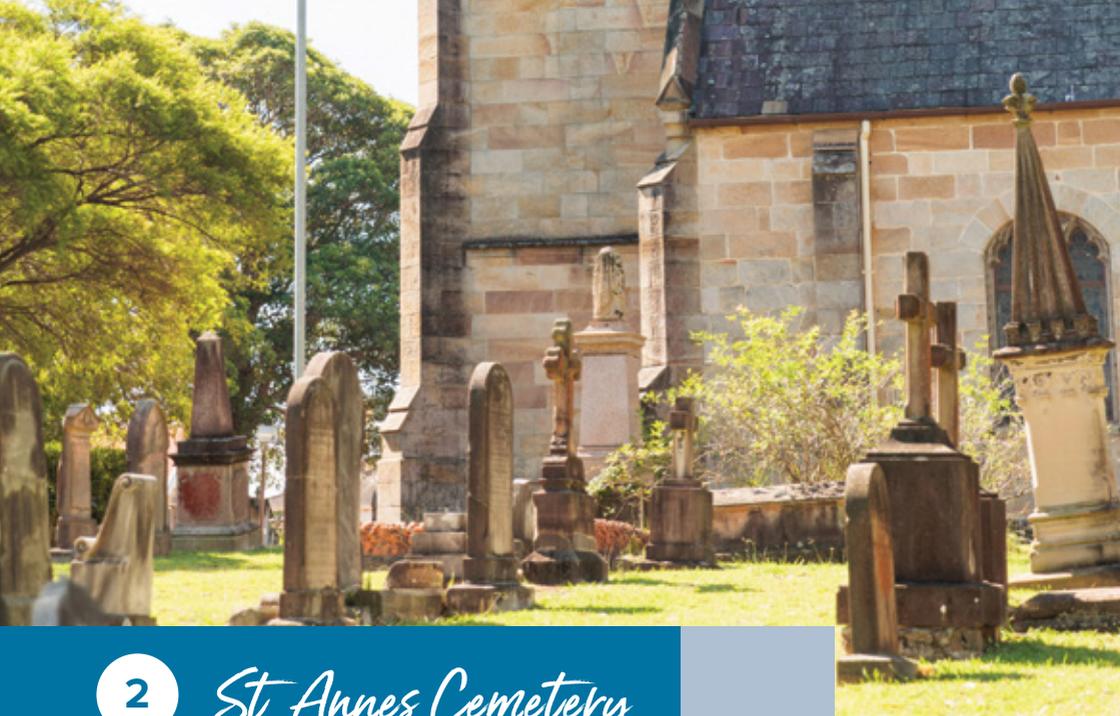
2 St Annes Cemetery

St Annes Cemetery,
2025.

LOCATION 44-46 Church Street, Ryde
YEAR STARTED 1826
YEAR CLOSED 1899 followed by at least 40 'illegal' burials to 1916

Typical of an old English churchyard. The widening of Victoria Road caused some headstones to be moved, and 27 burials were reinterred in the Field of Mars Cemetery.

The present cemetery includes memorials to:

- **Abraham Pain (Payne),** a Second Fleet convict who has the oldest marked grave 1826

- First Fleet convicts include **James Bradley, Edward Goodin, Joseph Hatton, John Small,** and **Ann Smith** (with memorials), **Richard Hawkes** and **Betty Jackson** (without memorials)

- **Rev William Henry**, London Missionary Society (formed in 1793) who preached the first sermon in the Field of Mars in 1798 (Item 13) and who served two terms in Tahiti

- **Rev George Weaver Turner** whose wife, Mary, came from Ryde on the Isle of Wight

- The **Pope** family, also from the Isle of Wight

- The **Farnell** family plot includes **James Squire Farnell** the first Australian born Premier of NSW (1877-1818) and a grandson of **James Squire**, Australia's first commercial brewer

- **William Forster,** Premier of NSW 1859-1860. He was a grandson of **Gregory Blaxland** (Item 5)

- **Edward Terry** of Eastwood House, the first Mayor of Ryde (1871). Master of the Sydney Hunt Club which chased dingos with hounds at Eastwood. Terry was buried seven years after the cemetery was closed and the undertaker was fined £10

- **Lady Eleanor Parkes**, the second wife of **Sir Henry Parkes** (Item 14)

- **Emma Oxley (nee Norton)** wife of the explorer and Surveyor General, **John Oxley RN**

- **Maria Ann Smith** 'Granny Smith' (Item 5)

- The **Barton** family plot includes **Rose Isabella**, the mother of **Andrew Barton Paterson**, the Australian poet

- **Joseph Hatton** of Hattons Flat (Item 16).
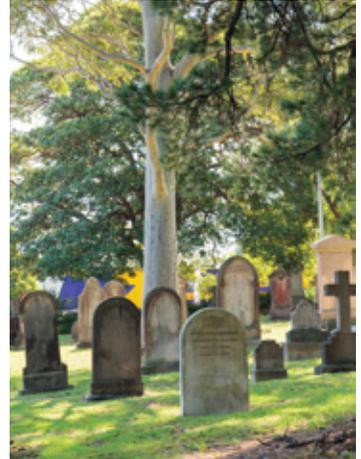
Gravestones at St Annes Cemetery.

W. Moss and Sons c.1918. Photo reference: 4776488 Ryde Library.

LOCATION 744 Victoria Road, Ryde
YEAR STARTED 1906

W. Moss and Sons, 2025.

Sometimes a mere trace of the past can be seen in the present landscape as in the view across Victoria Road (formerly Glebe Street) from St Annes Cemetery toward Tibby Rose Auto Electrical and the tyre service shop. Henry Hay ran a butcher's shop here from 1855 which passed to William Moss (c1863-1924) in 1901. Moss built a new shop lined with white tiles and fitted with marble counters. He also had an ice-making plant and owned the produce store next door. Meat came from his own slaughter yard in West Ryde.

4 The First Court House

The First Court House, 1945. Photo reference: 4738462, Ryde Library.

STYLE Simple Victorian Rustic Gothic, single storey sandstone
LOCATION 42 Church Street, Ryde
YEAR STARTED 1863

The first Court House in Ryde was in use between 1863 and 1923. For a short time in 1879 it was used as the Council Chamber. Since 1923 it has been used by St Annes Church.

The Court House was constructed by George Miller Pope (Item 2) and leased to the Justice Department.

The First Court House, 2025.

Pope was an Acting Clerk of the Justice Department in 1863, he became Guardian of Minors, Clerk of Petty Sessions, Deposition Clerk, Justice of the Peace, and later Town Clerk. His family operated the first Ryde Post Office in a building on the north side of this Court House from 1846 until 1905. The Ryde Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages was attached to the south side of this building.

These extensions were demolished in the 1930s and the building is presently used by Young Life Australia, a Christian youth charity.

LOCATION Eastern side of Church Street from Gowrie Street to Blaxland Road, Ryde

YEAR ERECTED 2013

DESIGNER Jane Cavanugh, Artlandish

The forged stainless steel artworks acknowledge nationally significant pioneers from the local area.

Gregory Blaxland (1778-1853)

Pioneer farmer and explorer, co-leader of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains by Europeans in 1813. Born at Fordwich, Kent, England. Married Elizabeth Spurdon in 1799. Arrived in the William Pitt in 1805, purchased 182ha of land at Brush Farm from D'Arcy Wentworth for £3,000. Blaxland won silver and gold medals for commercial quantities of wine exported in 1823 and 1828.

Gregory Blaxland (1778-1853). Photo source: State Library of New South Wales.

Maria Ann Smith (nee Sherwood) (1799-1870)

‘Granny Smith’ was born in the rural parish of Peasmarsh, Sussex, England. At 19, she married Thomas Smith. Recruited for their agricultural skills, they arrived free aboard the Lady Nugent in 1838. A seedling apple developed from French crab apples grown in Tasmania was exhibited as ‘Smith's seedling’ in the 1890 Castle Hill Agricultural and Horticultural Show and in 1891 ‘Granny Smith's seedlings’ took the prize for cooking apples. Maria died in 1870 and never saw the global popularity of her apple.

Maria Ann Smith (nee Sherwood) (1799-1870).
Photo source: State Library of New South Wales.

James Squire (1754-1822)

A First Fleet convict on the *Charlotte*, James Squire was granted land in the Eastern Farms in 1795. He sold his first block (Item 13) and purchased land around John Pollard's grant in present day Putney. By 1796/98 he had established Australia's first commercial brewery and experimented with planting hops in 1802. In 1810 beer production was claimed to be 400,000 litres and his industry continued until 1834. At the time of his death, James Squire was the largest landholder in the district and a respected citizen.
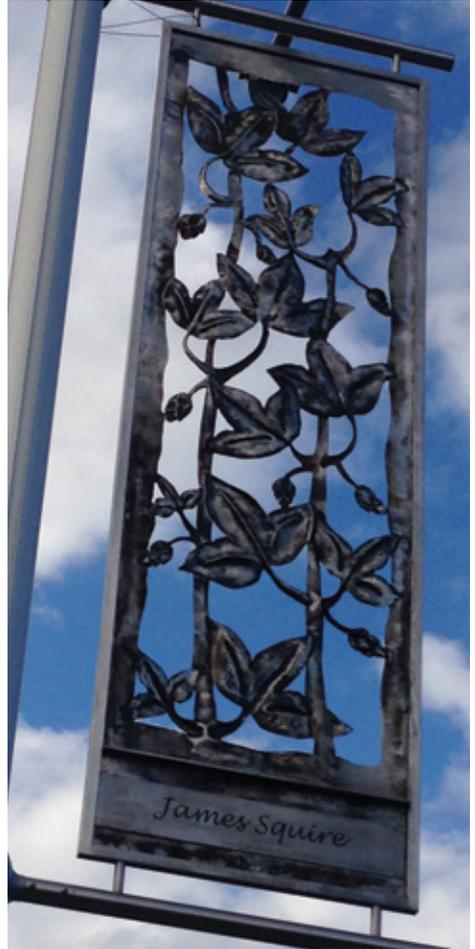
Market Gardens

Corn or 'Indian maize' was one of the most successful crops on the small holdings of the first settlers. The Kissing Point farms were an important source of produce to Sydney through the early years of the 19th Century. Chinese market gardeners were known in Ryde as early as the 1880s with up to 20 operating in 1891. Each had about 2ha of land and commonly employed four to five men who worked as a cooperative and lived on site usually under poor conditions. By 1929, 58 percent of Ryde's market gardeners were Chinese, seven percent were Italian and the rest were of other European backgrounds.

House in Parkes Street near Dunbar Street c.1950.
Home of an unknown Chinese market gardener. Photo source: Ryde Library.

6 Wesley Church and Oddfellows Hall

LOCATION 25-27 Church Street, Ryde
STYLE Colonial to Victorian Gothic
YEAR STARTED 1848
YEARS MODIFIED 1869, 1933

The Methodist Church was the second church in the district and the sandstone chapel, now a hall at the rear of the site, was opened in 1849. Between 1871 and 1879 the chapel served as the Council Chambers. A new sandstone church was opened in 1870, and the George H. Trevitt Memorial Hall in 1933. Today the Church is known as the Ryde Wesley Uniting Church and the premises are shared with two other groups: International School of Music, and The Salvation Army Korean Corps.

The sandstone hall on the corner of Church Street and Church Lane was originally the hall of the first friendly society to operate in Ryde. Oddfellows Lodge Uniting Friends No 48 started in 1864 and this hall was opened in late 1869. It was built on a separate lot adjacent to the church land but was taken over by the church in 1917. A public meeting in this hall led to the incorporation of Ryde on 12 November 1870.

Nominations for the first council were called in February 1871 and among those elected were James Devlin of *Willandra* (Item 9), Charles Blaxland of *Cleves*, and Edward Terry (Item 2) of *Eastwood House*. Terry became Ryde's first Mayor. The tramway to West Ryde ran along Church Street between 1914 and 1949. One side of the street retains sandstone kerb and guttering that is more than 100 years old.

Original 1849 Wesley Chapel in 1945. Photo reference: 8504261, Ryde Library.

View down Church Street to present Blaxland Road c.1910, before the tram line. Photo reference: 557823A, Ryde Library.

LOCATION 12 Turner Street, Ryde
STYLE Victorian Italianate dwelling
YEAR STARTED 1884
YEAR RENOVATED 1997

In March 1883, the Wesleyan Church purchased the lot on which *The Parsonage* stands. The minister, Reverend Davis, moved in during February/March 1885. The building cost £2,000 and David Hartland, one of the stonemasons engaged in the construction, lived in the nearby *Westward Cottage* (Item 8) whilst undertaking the project.

The Parsonage was the family home of the minister, a hostel for lay preachers and visiting clergy, and an administrative office for the circuit, the area covered in the ministry of the church. The building's original presentation was to Devlin Street, with a formal garden.

However, the gradual development of Devlin Street, as a major transport route, required road realignment and widening that eventually turned the building's presentation towards Turner Street. The Wesleyan Church sold *The Parsonage* following the establishment of the Uniting Church. The RTA (now part of Transport for NSW) purchased the property ahead of works to construct the Victoria Road underpass in Devlin Street. In 1992, it was no longer required and offered for sale. The City of Ryde purchased it, undertook urgent remedial works to stabilise and waterproof the external fabric including the roof, removed unsympathetic and poorly constructed extensions, rectified fire and vandal damage, reconstructed verandahs, and restored the interior staircase. It is now used by Macquarie Community College and International School of Music Ryde.

The Parsonage in 1995 before restoration. Photo reference: 7280637, Ryde Library.

The Parsonage, 2025.

Westward Cottage in 1970.
Photo reference: 4783794, Ryde Library.

Westward, 2025.

LOCATION 8 Turner Street, Ryde
STYLE Single storey Victorian cottage
YEAR CONSTRUCTED 1852
YEARS MODIFIED 1849/1852, 1920
YEAR MOVED AND RENOVATED 1993

Located on John Small's 1794 grant, the site of *Westward Cottage* was first sold in 1841 for £76 to Henry Edmondson, a Sydney tailor. Edmondson sold to Henry Murray, a Kissing Point carpenter in 1843. Murray came from Dublin in 1840 and set up as a builder. He may have worked on James Devlin's new house *Willandra* (Item 9), but like Devlin, Murray went bankrupt. In 1849, he was forced to sell his land including his unfinished two-room weatherboard cottage to Sydney timber merchant George Head.

In 1852, Head sold to George Porter, a farmer of North Ryde, for £100. Porter was acting as trustee for a juvenile Henry Watts. The cottage was then rented. One tenant, Frank Wilson came to Ryde in the early 1850s to work on St Charles Catholic Church as a stonemason.

Another stonemason, David Hartland lived in the cottage in 1884 while working on *The Parsonage* (Item 7). Otto Junge operated a laundry here from around 1888 until 1893. Watts died in 1918 and his daughter Jessie Elizabeth Taylor who inherited the property named the cottage *Westward,* inspired by the view to the Blue Mountains and the sunsets. She lived in the cottage until 1965 and her daughter Lennie lived there until 1978.

Plans for the construction of the Devlin Street underpass in 1989 threatened the cottage; Ryde Council dismantled Westward and relocated it in 1993.

9 Willandra

Willandra House in 1872 with some of the Devlin family. Photo reference: 4738381, Ryde Library.

LOCATION 770-782 Victoria Road, Ryde
STYLE Old Colonial Georgian house
YEAR STARTED 1841
YEARS MODIFIED 1844, 1935
YEAR RESTORED 1980
BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Devlin

This State Heritage Listed Property with views of the Parramatta River is brick with Doric columns on the verandah, a slate roof, and north coast cedar in the interior. Constructed as Ryde House in 1841 by James Devlin, the son of Irish exile Arthur Devlin and Priscilla (nee Squire). James was a local wheelwright, pound keeper, postmaster and contractor who supplied food to several asylums and prisons.

Willandra House, 2025.

In 1875 Devlin sold the house to Jane Darvall, the widow of Major Darvall of nearby Ryedale. By 1879, it had passed to William Henry Suttor [junior] and Benjamin Buchanan in trust for Caroline Elizabeth Manning (nee Suttor) through the will of her late father, William Henry Suttor (elder). The name of the house changed from *Mansion House* to *Willandra* reflecting a squatting run held by the family in the Riverina. Miss Ellen Blundell Pye rented *Willandra* from 1894 to 1899 and operated the Rydalmount Boarding and Day School for Girls. Other tenants followed. The property was subdivided in 1926 and the house passed to descendants of the Small family in 1932. After Ryde Bridge opened in 1935, a service station was developed on the Victoria Road frontage which was owned by The Shell Company from 1952 to 1970. In 1974, a private buyer wanted to dismantle the house and take it to the Hunter Valley but this was prevented when Ryde Municipal Council purchased the property in 1976 with Federal Government assistance. Restoration work was completed in 1980 and subsequent maintenance over the intervening years. The present tenant is the Ryde District Historical Society.

Willandra House pre 1975. Photo source: Ryde District Historical Society.

Willandra undated with orange trees in the foreground. Photo source: Ryde District Historical Society.

Willandra House and Howard's Ryde Brake and Clutch Service in 1973. Photo reference: 8504296, Ryde Library.

10 Police Watch

LOCATION 802-808 Victoria Road, Ryde

STYLE Simple Colonial Civic

YEAR STARTED 1837

YEARS MODIFIED 1840, 1864, 1899, 1980 and 1996

BUILDER David Taylor and Messrs Brodie and Craig Colonial

ARCHITECT Mortimer Lewis

Police Watch House, 2025.

The Kissing Point Police Watch House, or lockup, was built in 1837 and is possibly the oldest functioning police station building in NSW. Mortimer Lewis, Colonial Architect (1835-1849) was a prolific designer, responsible for the first buildings in the Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum (Gladesville Hospital). Ex-convict John Small was the first constable. In 1836, the Watch House had one male and one female cell, plus two toilets and a constable's room. A hall led from the front to the back of the building, and the Pyrmont sandstone walls were 305-380mm thick. The purpose of the small alcoves adjacent to the front door is unknown.

11 Court House

LOCATION 812 Victoria Road, Ryde
STYLE Inter-war Georgian Revival
YEAR STARTED 1923
YEAR COMPLETED 1924
BUILDER NSW Public Works Dept.
GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT
George McRae

Court House, 2025.

In 1922, a new Court House was erected following reports that the original Court House (Item 4) was dilapidated and inadequate. This building was designed by the Government Architect George McRae (1912-1923), and the Public Works Department. The foundation stone was laid on 4 August 1923 by the Minister for Justice, Hon, T.J. Ley and the building opened by the Hon, Mr D.M. Anderson MLA seven months later (Item 21 Anderson's Building).

The Court House was closed in 2014 along with several other local courts including North Sydney, Balmain and Windsor. Local Court cases are now heard in Parramatta or Burwood. The Court House is vacant.

Court House, undated. Photo source: Ryde District Historical Society.

12 Wallumetta

LOCATION 826 Victoria Road, Ryde

STYLE Late Victorian Villa with Federation Arts and Craft features

YEAR STARTED Approximately 1890

YEAR MODIFIED 2007, 2024

Wallumetta, July 1996. Photo source: Ryde District Historical Society.

This house stands on *New Farm*, land granted to convict James Stewart in 1794. The early history of the land is not well known but there was probably a house in this location before the 1860s. By about 1890 this part of Stewart's grant was owned by Mary Elizabeth Bowden, a daughter of Isaac Shepherd and widow of prominent Sydney solicitor Thomas Kendall Bowden. From 1861 to 1879, the Bowden's lived in Addington (Item 14). When her husband died Mrs Bowden seems to have moved to another house on the same block of land and this building of stuccoed brick with Federation Arts and Crafts features was constructed as an additional residence or rental property.

From 1897 until 1902 it was occupied by Captain G. E. Bulmer and is listed in Sands' Sydney Directories as Gracemere. In 1902, it became the property of William Edward Sparke of Elizabeth Bay and the residence of Frederick Sparke who changed the name to *Glenora*. From 1922, it was owned by a succession of medical doctors; Dr Leslie Halse Rogers, Dr Arthur Ellis Blythman and Dr Robert Longfield Stephen. Between 1966 and 1996, the premises were used by the Wallumetta Ryde Business Men's Club. It was sold in 1989 and in 2007 it was converted for use as an office for the local newspaper *The Weekly Times*. In 2023 it was sold again to the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Saint Maron Sydney, and it is now used as St John Paul II Maronite Church.

13 The Retreat

LOCATION 817 Victoria Road, Ryde

STYLE Victorian Georgian sandstone cottage

YEAR STARTED 1843

BUILDER Isaac Shepherd and James Shepherd Henry

The Retreat, 1987. Photo reference: 5640377, Ryde Library.

Originally part of a grant of 12.1ha from Lieutenant-Governor Patterson to James Squire in 1795. Squire found land closer to the river more suitable for his brewery and wharf and in 1799 sold his grant to his former assigned servant, James Shepherd, for £100. This land was owned by Shepherd's descendants until 1911. In 1843, James Shepherd 'being desirous of making some provision' for his daughter, Ann Henry, gave her 0.4ha of land on which *The Retreat* was built, Ann was the second wife of the Rev William Henry, a London Missionary Society preacher who had spent time in Tahiti. Ann's stepson (James) and her brother Isaac were apparently the builders with the sandstone being taken from James

Shepherd's [senior] nearby quarry. The Henry's returned to Tahiti for four years then settled in *The Retreat* in 1849. William preached at St Annes and acted as schoolmaster. He died in 1858, and Ann Henry continued to live at *The Retreat* until she moved to Glebe in about 1880. The property remained in the Henry family until 1911 and has had a succession of owners since. A Permanent Conservation Order was placed over *The Retreat* in 1987 and it was placed on the State Heritage Register in 1999. Ceilings are of lath and plaster or pressed metal and an original front verandah has been removed. The house was last traded in 2023.

The Retreat, 2025.

14 Addington House

LOCATION 813-815 Victoria Road, Ryde

STYLE Old Colonial Georgian dwelling

YEAR STARTED Approximately 1810-1820

YEARS MODIFIED c.1832, c.1840, 1850, 1861 and 1873

YEAR RESTORED 1985

BUILDER James Shepherd, Isaac Shepherd, Thomas Kendall Bowden

Addington House, 2025.

Addington stands on James Stewart's 1794 12.1ha grant, named *New Farm*. Stewart died in 1806, James Squire was appointed to administer his estate and James Shepherd acquired *New Farm* for £70 in 1809 and his son Isaac was the owner from 1833 until 1876. It is uncertain when *Addington* was first built. Architectural evidence suggests that the earliest part of the house may date back to 1810 and it was first occupied by Isaac Shepherd.

The western wing of two bedrooms and a verandah were added in about 1832. In 1850, the eastern wing was added and in 1861 another three rooms and attics in front of the original structure were constructed for Thomas and Mary Bowden (nee Shepherd). In 1873, the Bowden's built a ballroom and redecorated. After the death of Thomas Bowden in 1879 the property was leased to many tenants including Sir Henry Parkes, NSW Premier and 'Father of Federation', and a couple of surveyors. In 1896, Mary Bowden's daughters Mabel and Florence took ownership. In 1919, after the property was sub-divided Sydney Benson of a well-known family of orchardists purchased the house. It remained in the Benson family until its transfer to the Addington Trust in 1970. Ryde Municipal Council purchased it in 1985 and have since undertaken several conservation programs. The property is leased to the St George Guild and is not open to the public.

Addington House, 1974.
Photo reference: 507570A, Ryde Library.

LOCATION 142 Blaxland Road, Ryde
STYLE Inner-war Free Classical
YEAR STARTED 1908
YEAR MODIFIED c.1925-1926

Masonic Temple and School of Arts Site, 2025.

The Masonic Lodge first met in the Eastwood Hotel in 1885. Lodge Star of Eastwood No 715 Scottish Constitution then moved to Ryde. Meetings took place in various places and in 1902 the Lodge bought land for construction of the Ryde Masonic Temple also known as the Lodge Horace Thompson Ryde.

A subscription financed the building in 1908. The foundation stone was laid by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, His Excellency, Admiral Sir Harry H. Rawson GCB, Governor of New South Wales.

The Lodge has met here monthly except during the Spanish flu epidemic in 1918, and the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

By 1921 the Lodge and supper rooms were too small. A new building was considered but the existing one was altered instead and dedicated in 1926. With the larger hall and a stage, the Ryde Masonic Centre became the social hub of the district with regular dances being held there. It was also a popular wedding reception venue.

The small park adjacent to the Temple was the site of the Ryde School of Arts. Founded in 1898 with 105 members, it lost much of its library in a fire in 1902. A new building of brick and tile was opened by the Premier Mr J. Carruthers in 1905. Designed by Mayor W. Thompson and built by J. Park and Sons of Gladesville, it contained a lending library and reading room, two billiard tables, and a meeting room. Demolished in 1965 the stone wall with a wooden seat is part of the original foundation.

School of Arts and Masonic Temple, 1912. Photo reference: 5485991, Ryde Library.

16 Hattons Cottage

Hattons Cottage, undated. Photo source: Ryde District Historical Society.

LOCATION 158 Blaxland Road, Ryde
STYLE Victorian Georgian cottage
YEAR STARTED c.1884
BUILDER probably Joseph Hatton (the third 1832-1914)

The first Joseph Hatton was a hawker and peddler. Born in Yorkshire in 1748, he was transported for seven years on the First Fleet vessel *Scarborough*. He married fellow convict, Rosamond Sparrow in 1790 and in 1792 received a 20ha land grant where Holy Cross College now stands on Victoria Road.
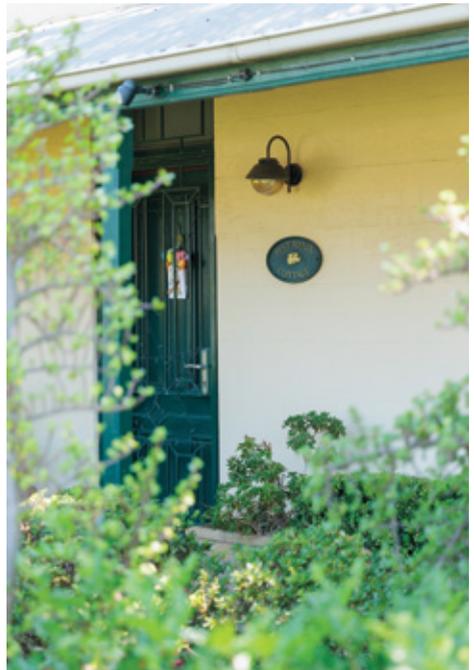
In 1795, Rosamond stabbed Joseph during an argument. By 1800, Joseph had taken up with another First Fleet convict, Ann Smith (nee Colpitts 1758-1832). In England, Ann had three children by Thomas Colpitts; on the voyage to Botany Bay she formed a liaison with a marine John Colethread who accepted a land grant in the Field of Mars and she bore him two children. In 1791, she married Thomas Smith in Parramatta and had three daughters. Her relationship with Joseph Hatton [senior] produced the second Joseph Hatton.

Hattons Cottage, 2025.

By 1802, Joseph [senior] had sold his land to James Squire and purchased the grant of Edward Marsh and this area became known as Hattons Flat. Joseph Hatton [junior] inherited the land claiming that he could not find his father's will. However, his half-sister Elizabeth Bryan (nee Smith) challenged his ownership and in 1834 Rosamond Sparrow re-appeared and claimed ownership in the Supreme Court on the basis that Joseph [senior] had left no will. Young Joseph suddenly found the missing document and had to share the land with his half-sister.

Joseph Hatton [junior] married Sarah Patfield (1805-1879) in 1824 and they had 10 children. The land passed to the third Joseph Hatton (1832-1914) who married Jane Stubbs (1844-1888) and they had 16 children. *Hattons Cottage* and Hattons Orchard were probably built and planted by this third generation. Members of the Hatton family were still living in *Hattons Cottage* until 1953. The property is owned by a private company, who have held ownership for decades.

LOCATION 219 Blaxland Road, Ryde
YEAR STARTED 1909
DEMOLISHED c.1920

Opposite *Hattons Cottage* on the corner of Blaxland Road and Pope Street, there once stood two buildings. The first was *Clifton House* the residence of Samuel Small (1834-1910). This was followed by construction in 1909 of the Hampton Court Residential Hotel by Harry Smith (~1862-1913) also known as Harry Curzon-Smith of Curzon Hall. It was intended to be one of the most modern tourist hotels in the State of NSW. Smith arrived in Sydney from Ontario with his parents in 1878. He worked with his father as a travelling salesman, manufactured soda water, and by 1894 became the lessee of railway refreshment rooms across the state and *Caves House* at Jenolan.

In 1884 Harry married Isabell Curzon Webb and by 1900 had completed Curzon Hall in Marsfield as a twenty-room mansion. The Hampton Court Tourist Residential Hotel was to be a five storey, five star, sanatorium with 70 bedrooms. Smith anticipated that Hattons Flat would become a popular picnic ground with tourists flocking to Ryde. Smith died in 1913 and the building was never completed. The shell became known as 'Smiths Folly'. In 1920 William Sundin announced plans to recycle the bricks into a number of shops and cottages. These buildings have also vanished and in 2014 residential apartments were built on this site opposite Ryde Library and the remainder of the block is to be redeveloped.

Hattons Flat in 1912. Hampton Court or Smiths Folly on the left, Hattons cottage and tram shed centre, and Hatton's orchard right foreground.
Photo reference: 4892283, Ryde Library.

Clifton House c.1890 the home of Samuel Small. Demolished for Smiths Folly.
Photo reference: 5483891, Ryde Library.

Shops erected on the site of Hampton Court with recycled bricks in the 1920s, photographed c.1950.
Photo reference: 7405901, Ryde Library.

LOCATION In Ryde Library,
1 Pope Street Top Ryde City
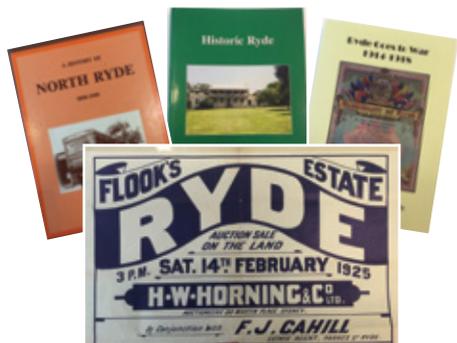
Photo source: Ryde Library.
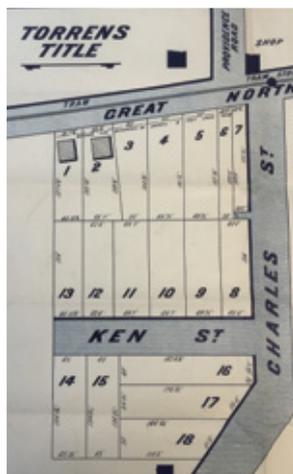
Photo source: Ryde Library.

The Local Studies collection at Ryde Library is a specialised reference collection (items cannot be borrowed) that can help you research the history of the area and the people who have lived here. The collection includes:

- Records of the Municipalities of Ryde, Marsfield/Eastwood

- Miscellaneous documents on individuals, places, streets, houses, and subjects related to the City of Ryde area held in vertical files

- Access to historic Australian newspapers and older editions of local community newspapers

- Sewerage diagrams for the 1930s showing the outline of buildings on their blocks and sometimes the name of the house

- Land subdivision plans produced by real estate agents across the whole of the City

- Land Valuation Records for the years 1924, 1939, 1944, 1947, 1951, 1957 for Ryde Municipality and 1941 for Eastwood Municipality

- Sands Directories listing the occupiers of and names of houses from 1875 to 1933

- Electoral Rolls of the 20th century for New South Wales 1903-1928, 1935, 1939, 1946, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980 as well as print volumes for the 1970s-2000s for the local area

- Local Cemetery Records and Church Registers

- Street Names index.

For further information on Local Studies please contact the City of Ryde Local Studies Librarian on **9952 8353** or email **rydelibrary@ryde.nsw.gov.au**

19 La Piazza and La Strada

LOCATION in Top Ryde City
YEAR STARTED 2006
STAGE 2 OPENED in 2010
DESIGNER Lend Lease for
Bevillesta Pty Ltd

This modern shopping complex with residential apartments above was started in 2006 and Stage two was opened by Prime Minister Julia Gillard in 2010. Top Ryde City replaced an earlier retail centre opened in 1957. Known as Top Ryde Shopping Centre, it was the first such modern shopping complex in NSW. The original centre was designed as a shopping street centred on a major department store, A.J. Benjamin & Co, a supermarket, a chain variety store, and 45 other shops grouped around a pedestrian mall, with 400 car parking spaces.

Top Ryde Shopping Centre.

The centre's catch phrase was; *'Come as you are...shop in comfort'* and it offered a new experience to shoppers who previously travelled to Sydney or Parramatta to visit such a wide range of shops. Top Ryde grew to park 600 cars whereas the new centre occupies several levels, has space for 3,000 cars, and incorporates over 600 apartments above the shopping levels.

Take time for a coffee and to look a little closer at some of the architectural features around the complex. The vertical garden and laser cut Corten steel floral sculptures above *La Strada* are attractive, as is the use of cream and grey granite and black basalt pavers throughout the complex.

When the administrative needs of the City of Ryde outgrew the now demolished Ryde Civic Centre, three important council services of Development Advisory Services, Community Services and the Library were incorporated into the development.

Ryde Public School, 2025.

LOCATION 2 Tucker Street, Ryde

YEAR STARTED 1877

YEARS MODIFIED AND EXTENDED
1892, 1919, 1923, 1986

GOVERNMENT ARCHITECTS G.A. Mansfield (1877 building); W. Kemp (1892 building); R.M.S. Wells (1919)

BUILDER 1877 George Coutes and Sons

In 1862, a campaign was begun to establish a public school in Ryde village and with the help of local donations, a school was started in 1868 in the premises of Stanleys Inn on the corner of Parkes Street (later Blaxland Road) and Tucker Street (Item 23). A campaign for a new school building succeeded in 1877 with a single-storey sandstone building erected on this site. One qualified teacher and two pupil-teachers supervised an average attendance of 113 students in that first year. In 1892 Lord and Lady Jersey opened a new, two-storey, sandstone building for the infant school pupils.

Petitions were presented to the Council of Education in 1919 and 1923 which resulted in the erection of brick classrooms to relieve overcrowding. By 1929, enrolments had risen to 700, and in the same year the primary school was divided into separate boys' and girls' departments. In 1934 a new infants school building was constructed. During WWII air raid trenches were dug in the sports ground.

In 1986, a new school hall was built. The first Arbor Day in NSW was held at Ryde Public School in 1890 on the initiative of the Minister for Public Instruction and trees were planted by dignitaries adjacent to the front gate.

Ryde Public School maypole in 1908. Photo reference: 4954718, Ryde Library.

1877 building. LEP.

21 Site of Tuckers Inn and the First Town Hall

LOCATION 89 Blaxland Road, Ryde

Various ages

Diagonally opposite the former Post Office on the corner of Tucker Street and Blaxland Road, the site which is now occupied by the C3 Church was the location of the first Town Hall and Municipal Chambers and prior to that a school, Stanley's Inn and Tuckers Inn. The few shops along Blaxland Road from Tucker Street to Top Ryde City entrance still retain some trace of the first shopping complex, Andersons Buildings of the early 20th Century.

Ryde's first purpose-built town hall was designed by Varney Parkes, the son of Sir Henry Parkes, and constructed in 1903. This photograph was taken in 1922 on the day that a WWI trophy machine gun was lifted onto the parapet on the right. Photo reference: 5075300, Ryde Library.

Shops were added to the front of the Town Hall in 1923 and Municipal Chambers were constructed on the right-hand side. Photographed in 1965 after the Ryde Civic Centre was completed on Hattons Flat. Photo reference: 7102186, Ryde Library.

Post Office, 1912. Photo source: Ryde District Historical Society.

Post Office, 1939.
Photo reference: 5485045, Ryde Library.

LOCATION 100 Blaxland Road, Ryde
YEAR STARTED 1903
YEAR REPLACED 1967

The original Ryde Post Office was adjacent to the First Courthouse (Item 4) and in 1903 a new post office was built on the corner of Church and Parkes Streets (now Blaxland Road). This was constructed of brick with a sandstone facade and had accommodation for the postmaster and his family on the second floor. By 1967, demand for postal and telephone services had significantly increased and a new Post Office was constructed on the same site.

With the 1957 opening of the original Top Ryde Shopping Centre, centralised services were considered desirable and a postal business was included in the complex. The original shopping centre was demolished in 2007 and by 2012 the present Top Ryde City Shopping Centre became the latest location for postal services.

Ryde's third Post Office opened in 1967.
Photo reference: 5485061, Ryde Library.

Former Post Office, 2025.

Tramway Monument

LOCATION On the footpath at the intersection of Church Street and Blaxland Road

YEAR ERECTED 1908, moved several times

In the 19th century, transport between Ryde and Sydney was by road and river. The first Gladesville bridge opened in 1882 and the Meadowbank Railway bridge in 1886. The tram service to Ryde started in 1908 after years of campaigning and work began with a sod-turning ceremony when this monument was erected as an ornamental street lamp. The lamp was unveiled by the Minister for Works. When it was first erected at the intersection of Church and Parkes Streets (now Blaxland Road), it was reported that, *'Some of the Ryde alderman who were so strongly and virtuously opposed to the erection of an ornamental street lamp to permanently commemorate the commencement of the construction of the Ryde tramway, as being a useless expenditure, were the first to fall on top of one another to increase the expenditure by getting their name carved on the marble pedestal.'* (The Cumberland Argus, 12 December 1908). The monument was later shifted (without the lamp or its pedestal) to an island in Devlin Street at Hattons Flat near the tram terminus which operated between 1910 and 1949.

Tramway monument complete with gas lamp in its original location outside Ryde's second Post Office in 1909.
Photo reference: 5485029, Ryde Library.

During the construction of the Ryde Civic Centre in 1962-63, the monument was moved to the bus terminus. In 2008-10 during construction of the new Top Ryde City Shopping Centre, the monument was moved for the third time to opposite the Masonic Lodge behind the Civic Hall, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde, and in 2019 it returned to almost its original location, but still without the lamp.

Tramway monument, 2025.

LOCATION 7 Blaxland Road, Ryde Park, Ryde

OPENED 1908 Rotunda

STARTED 1934

RESTORED 2009

BUILDER M. Herbert of Chatswood

ARCHITECT Summerhayes, Son and Allsop

Procession in Ryde Park in 1916.
Photo reference: 5158850, Ryde Library.

Originally part of a 20ha grant in 1792 to Richard Hawke who arrived on the *Alexander,* the land was still held by Richard and his wife at the time of his death in 1828. It then became known as Salters Paddock in Ryde Park which was opened in 1908 and extended in 1925. Facilities included grounds for lawn bowls, football, tennis, cricket and hockey, and it was the venue for exhibitions such as the Poultry and Canine Societies' Shows in 1922, as well as the Gladesville Horticultural Society Show in 1932.

In the 1880s the hockey field in Ryde Park Ryde was the site of one of many local brickworks. A deep quarry was excavated in Ashfield Shale for The Ryde Brickworks Ltd., owned by Andrew Ellis. The business closed in 1923, and Ryde Council purchased the flooded quarry to extend the park. The pit was filled with municipal garbage, much to the annoyance of neighbours.

Ryde District band at the opening in 1934.
Photo reference: 8525242, Ryde Library.

Band rotunda, 1965.
Photo reference: 7102054, Ryde Library.

The Band Rotunda was erected in 1934 for Ryde Council at a cost of £700. The official opening of the Rotunda by the Minister for Local Government, Mr Spooner, on the King's birthday in 1934, was followed by a sports display. The Ryde Band, founded in 1883, has lapsed twice but continues today as the Ryde City Concert Band. The Rotunda was restored in 2009, with a new floor and paved surrounds designed by artists Milne and Stonehouse. The pavers combine black diorite and rose quartzite in a pattern reflecting the entangled shadow of wisteria branches along with historic references etched into the floor.

25 Burrows Park

Burrows Park, 2025.

LOCATION 32 Princes Street, Ryde

This 2.3ha bush reserve on Buffalo Creek was named after E J Burrows a resident in the 1950s. It is on land granted to John Laurel (Lawrell), a First Fleet convict on the *Scarborough*, who was sentenced to seven years transportation for theft of a silver spoon, Laurel was further punished for 'gambling on a Sunday' and spent two years on Norfolk Island. His 30ac grant of 1792 became *Laurel Farm* although he may never have used it. He died on the Hawkesbury in 1796 and the land was acquired by James Squire.

Although signposted as Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest this park is on Hawkesbury Sandstone and the most common trees are Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna* and Blackbutt *Eucalyptus pilularis)* making it an example of regenerated Blue Gum High Forest. There has been extensive tree planting and bush regeneration. It now contains 115 native plant species and 64 exotics. Common birds include Brush Turkeys, Noisy Miners and Rainbow Lorikeets, and older trees contain numerous nesting hollows.

A 5m high face in cross-bedded and massive sandstone marks the edge of the quarry that operated into the 1930s and now contains large tree ferns. It appears to have been worked for dimension stone and aggregate, possibly by Council.

Above the creek behind Turner Avenue three large Blue Gums mark the site of the Martin Boyd Pottery workshop (1948-1963), in what was formerly the Golden Harvest Bakery. The business was established by Guy Boyd who left the business in 1951, but the name was retained. Hand crafted-pottery was produced by Norma, Leonard and Ronald Flegg and sold through David Jones and Farmers with peak production in 1958 when they had 177 line items and 80 staff. The building was demolished about 2006.

A collection of multicoloured ramekins by Martin Boyd.

LOCATION Corner of Blaxland Road and Victoria Road, Ryde

YEAR ERECTED 1897

YEAR MOVED in the 1920s

YEAR MODIFIED 1973

DESIGNER Arthur Collingridge De Tourcey (1853-1907)

Queen Victoria Jubilee Fountain, 2025.

The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne was in 1897. Celebrations were initiated by the Rev Henry Ham Britten of St Annes Church. Subscriptions were collected and Arthur Collingridge, Vice-President of the Arts Society of New South Wales and local resident, designed this drinking fountain. It was erected by the people of Ryde at the intersection of Church and Glebe Streets (now Victoria Road) to commemorate Queen Victoria's then record reign.

The lower part of the fountain, with four posts around its base, connected by chains, cleverly exhibited Queen Victoria's profile. When street lighting came to Ryde in 1893 a gas light was fitted.

After an unveiling by the Governor of New South Wales a banquet was held for males ('the sterner sex') in St Annes Hall, the ladies were entertained at *Willandra*, and Ryde's school children marched to the cricket ground in Tucker Street where lollies, cakes, bananas and toys were distributed. By the 1920s with increased motor traffic the fountain was moved to the intersection of Victoria and Blaxland Roads. In 1973 Ryde Rotary Club carried out landscaping works and converted the monument into its present form.

The designer, Arthur Collingridge was born in London and emigrated with his wife Margaret and three children in 1877. He became a staff artist for several newspapers, and with his brother George became important in the establishment of the Art Society of New South Wales. He taught in several technical colleges and was a trustee of the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Queen Victoria Fountain in 1900 at the original location Church and Glebe Streets. Photo reference: 5481589, Ryde Library.

Arthur Collingridge, designer of the Queen Victoria Fountain, photo of undated self portrait. Photo reference: 5664489, Ryde Library.

27 · Ebenezer Chapel

Ebenezer Chapel, 2025.

LOCATION 22 Blaxland Road, Ryde

YEAR STARTED 1892

STYLE Simple Victorian Rustic Gothic

ARCHITECTS Mr M. Hare and
Mr George Spurway

The Baptists Church had been running a Sunday School in Ryde from as early as 1845. Their first church, known as the 'Strict and Particular Baptist Church at Ebenezer Ryde' was a sandstone building constructed in 1862 on land donated by Mr J. Farnell within the grounds of St Brigids orphanage at 512 Victoria Road, Ryde. The present brick Ebenezer Chapel was erected in 1892. Mr George Spurway drew the plans of the building, and Mr M. Hare was the architect for the work. The first pastor, James Hicks, married a daughter of Henry Jupp (of a well-known 19th Century family of orchardists in Lane Cove Road) and remained the pastor until his death in 1903. The second pastor was James Spurway.

LOCATION Ryde Park,
7 Blaxland Road, Ryde

YEAR BUILT 2006

PROJECT PARTNERS North Ryde,
Ryde, Gladesville and Eastwood RSL
Sub Branches

PROJECT FUNDING City of Ryde
and Bevillesta Pty Ltd

PROJECT ARTISTS Milne and
Stonehouse

Memorials of the First World War in Ryde were principally honour boards, the War Memorial Hospital, and the establishment of Returned Services Clubs. In 1966, RSL sub-branch members and local aldermen identified the need for a memorial to perpetuate the memory of Australian service personnel who had participated in all theatres of war. The following year a memorial was constructed near the Civic Centre on Hattons Flat. This cenotaph was made from granite on a stepped dais with an eternal flame set in a bronze bowl and carried the insignia of the three armed-forces together with the words 'LEST WE FORGET'.

Construction of an overhead footbridge to Top Ryde City in 2009/10 impinged on the cenotaph and in cooperation with local RSL sub-branches a new cenotaph was designed for Ryde Park. The central stainless steel obelisk points towards eleven o'clock. A permanent shadow in the paving engraves the history of service by men and women stretching the imprint of the obelisk to the insignia wall. Within the body of the obelisk a light source evokes the eternal flame. Small pieces of granite from the first cenotaph were incorporated in the new monument. Insignia from the original cenotaph were moved to the Memorial Rose Garden at the North Ryde RSL Community Club in Pittwater Road in April 2015.
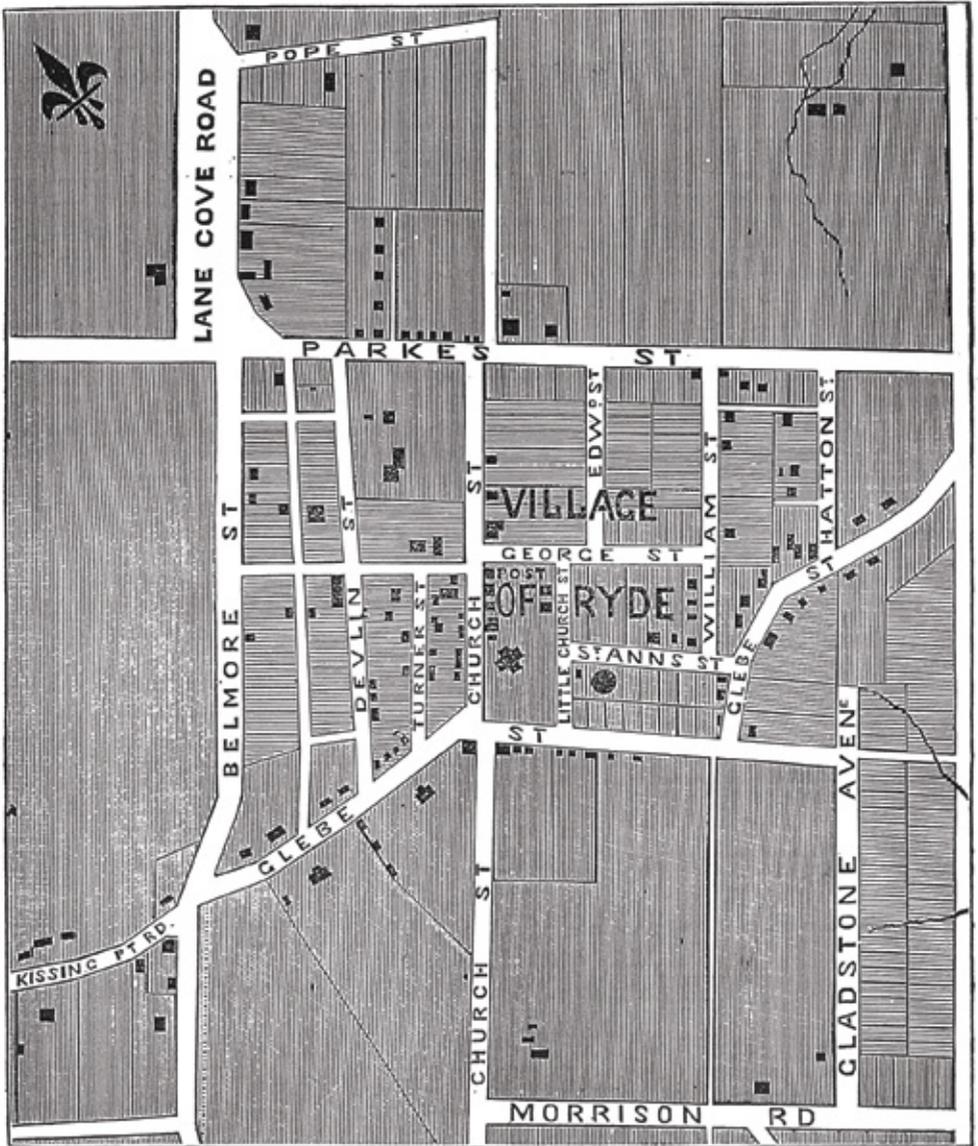
Plan of the Village of Ryde, 1895.
"Ye Olden outposts posted up to date. No.1: Ryde, and its environs, from the year 1791 to the year 1895" Progress Vol.1 No.2 1895.
Photo source: Ryde District Historical Society.

City of Ryde

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