

Western Australian Museum

A trek through

TIME

Peeling back the layers of history between
the Shipwreck Galleries and the Maritime Museum












Bathers Beach in the 1890s
Image courtesy of Fremantle Ports



Navigate your way

Use the map to guide you to each stop. The numbered pins on each page tell you what stop you should be at.

-  Start at the Shipwreck Galleries, near the large anchor (pictured).
-  Walk onto the lawn outside the Shipwreck Galleries so you have a good view of the Esplanade Park (but don't actually go to the park).
-  Start walking down Cliff Street, along the path on the left hand side.
-  About halfway along Cliff Street, stop at the Samson Building.
-  Continue along Cliff Street until you reach the corner of High Street. Stop here where you can see the Round House.
-  If there is time, you can take a closer look at the Round House or the Tunnel.
-  Continue up Cliff Street. At the end, cross Phillimore Street and stop at the Weighbridge (small red building). Turn back to look at the building on the corner of Cliff and Phillimore Streets.
-  Take care when crossing the railway track and the roads and stand near a statue of a dog.
-  Cross at the zebra crossing and continue down to the Western Australian Maritime Museum.



Western Australian Museum - A Trek Through Time

Let's go back in time.

Stand beside the anchor. Imagine this space 200 years ago.

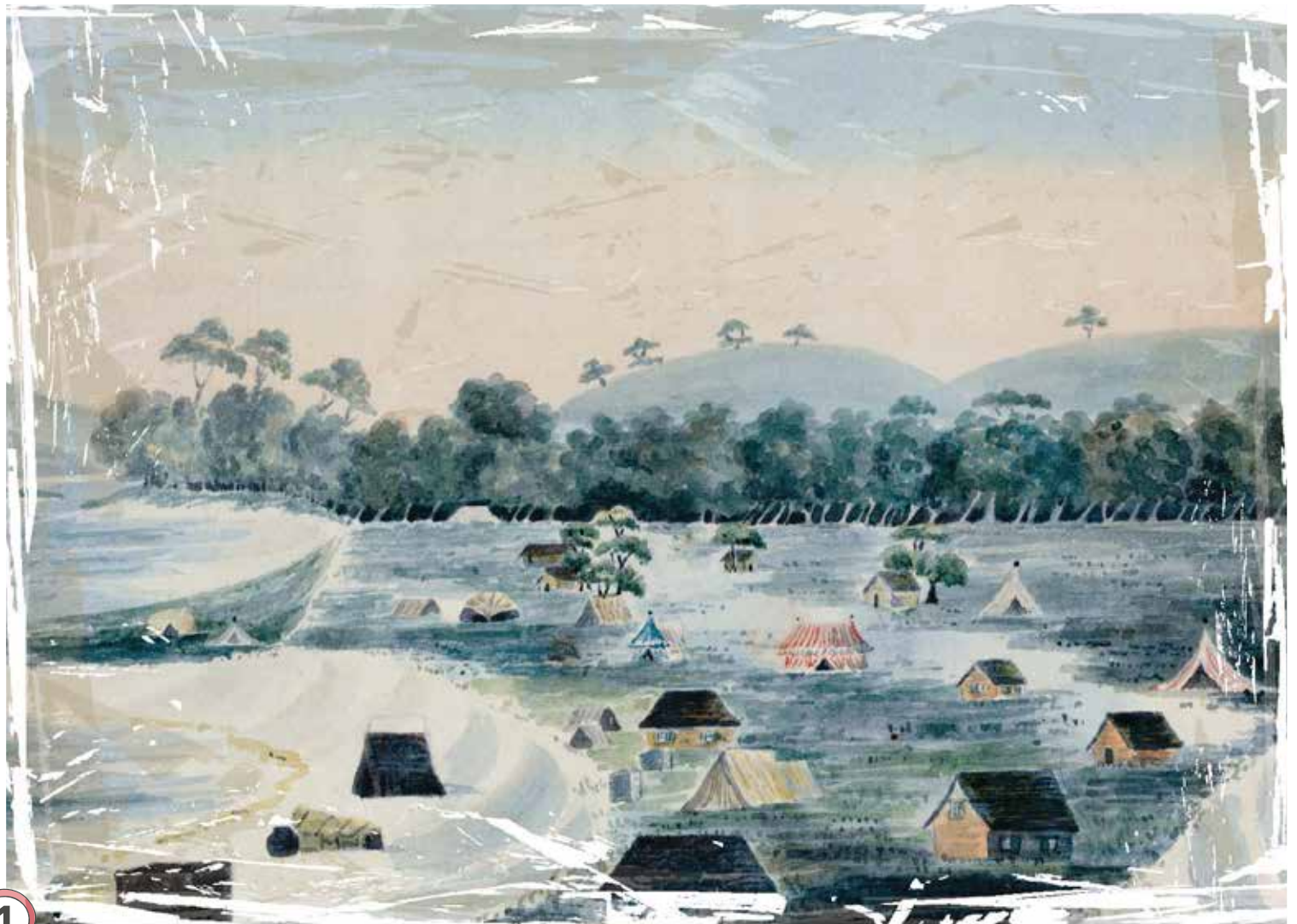
The original people of this area are called Whadjuk (pronounced wah-jook).

The Whadjuk name for the Fremantle area is Walyalup (wal-yal-up) meaning 'place of tears'.

On the other side of the railway is Bathers Beach.

It was called Manjaree by the Whadjuk people and it was an important meeting and trading place.

Bathers Beach is also where Captain James Stirling's fleet landed in 1829, bringing settlers from England.



This picture of Fremantle was painted by a lady called Mary Ann Friend in 1830.
Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Stay outside the Shipwreck Galleries and find this line of bricks.

What is it showing us?

The bricks show us where the old shore line once was.

When the first English settlers arrived, Esplanade Park across the road did not exist - it was all water!

Over time, people replaced the water with land. This is called *reclaimed land*.



Compare these maps.

To see how much the coast line of Fremantle has changed, compare this 1887 map with the modern map of the same area.

Find these landmarks on the new map:

- 1 Cliff Street
- 2 Round House
- 3 Fremantle Town Hall
- 4 Fremantle Prison



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

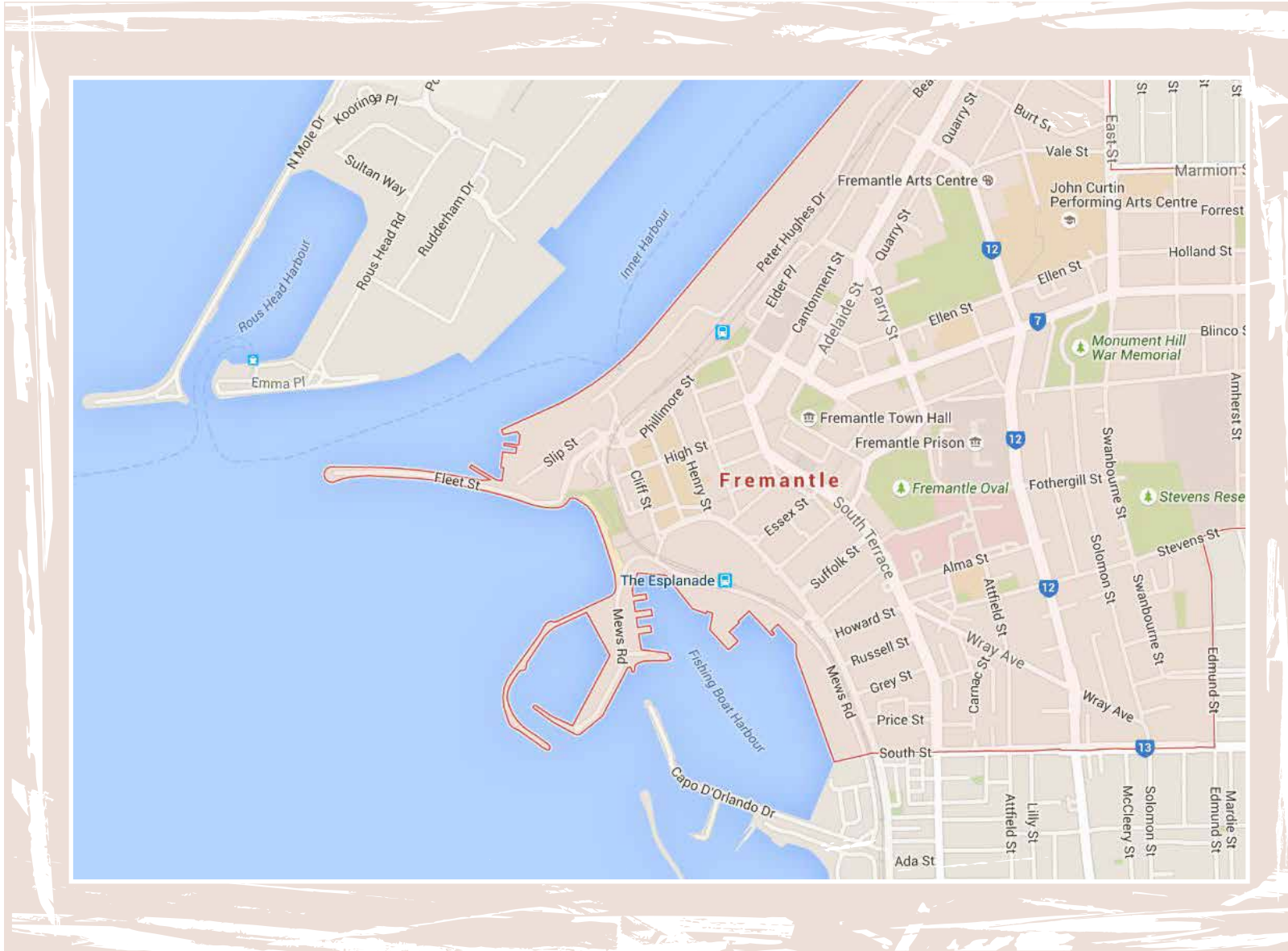


Image courtesy of Map data © 2015 Google

Now let's investigate the Museum building a little closer...

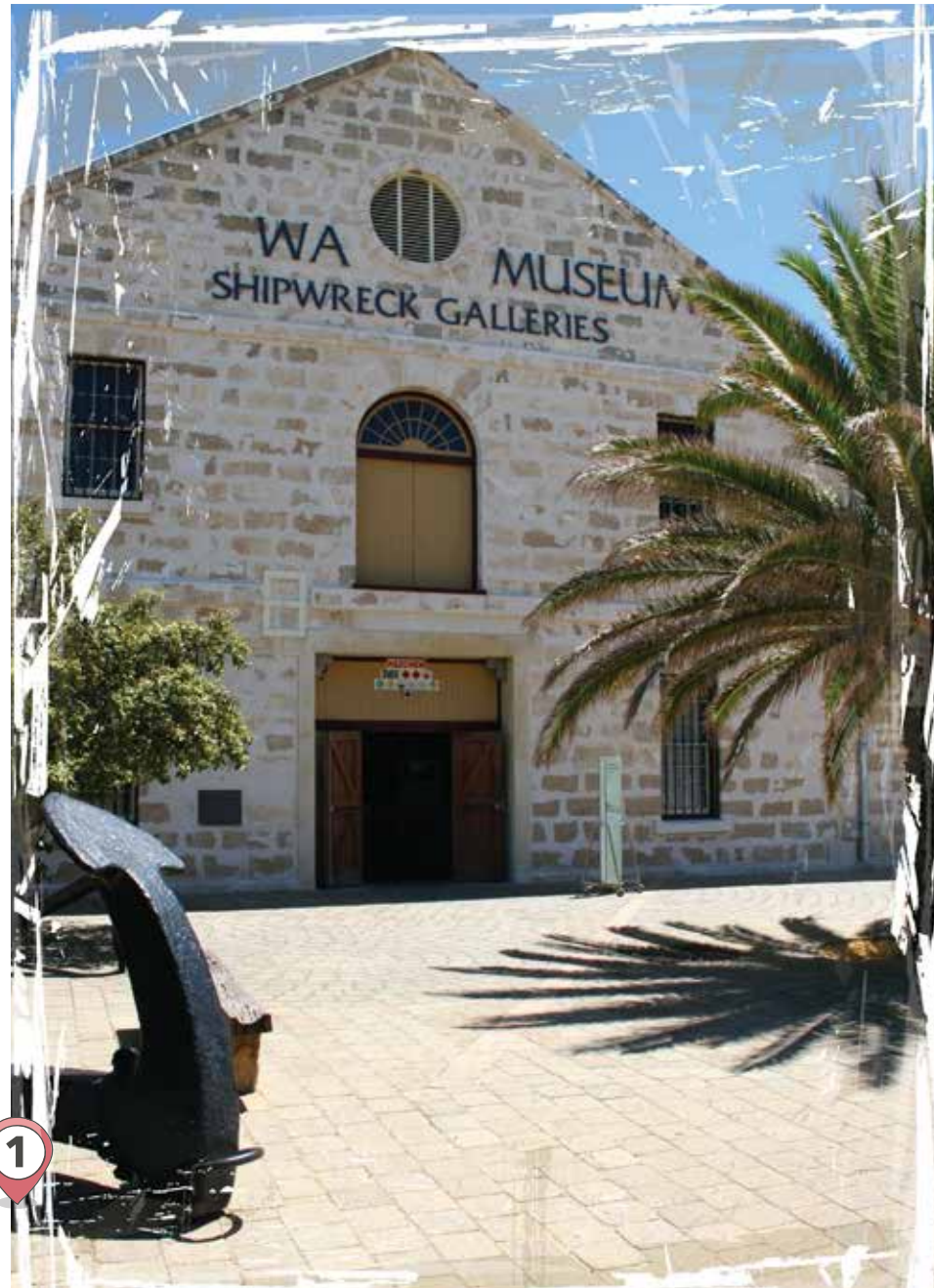
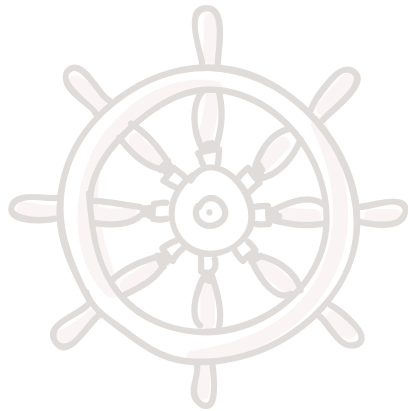
How old do you think it is?

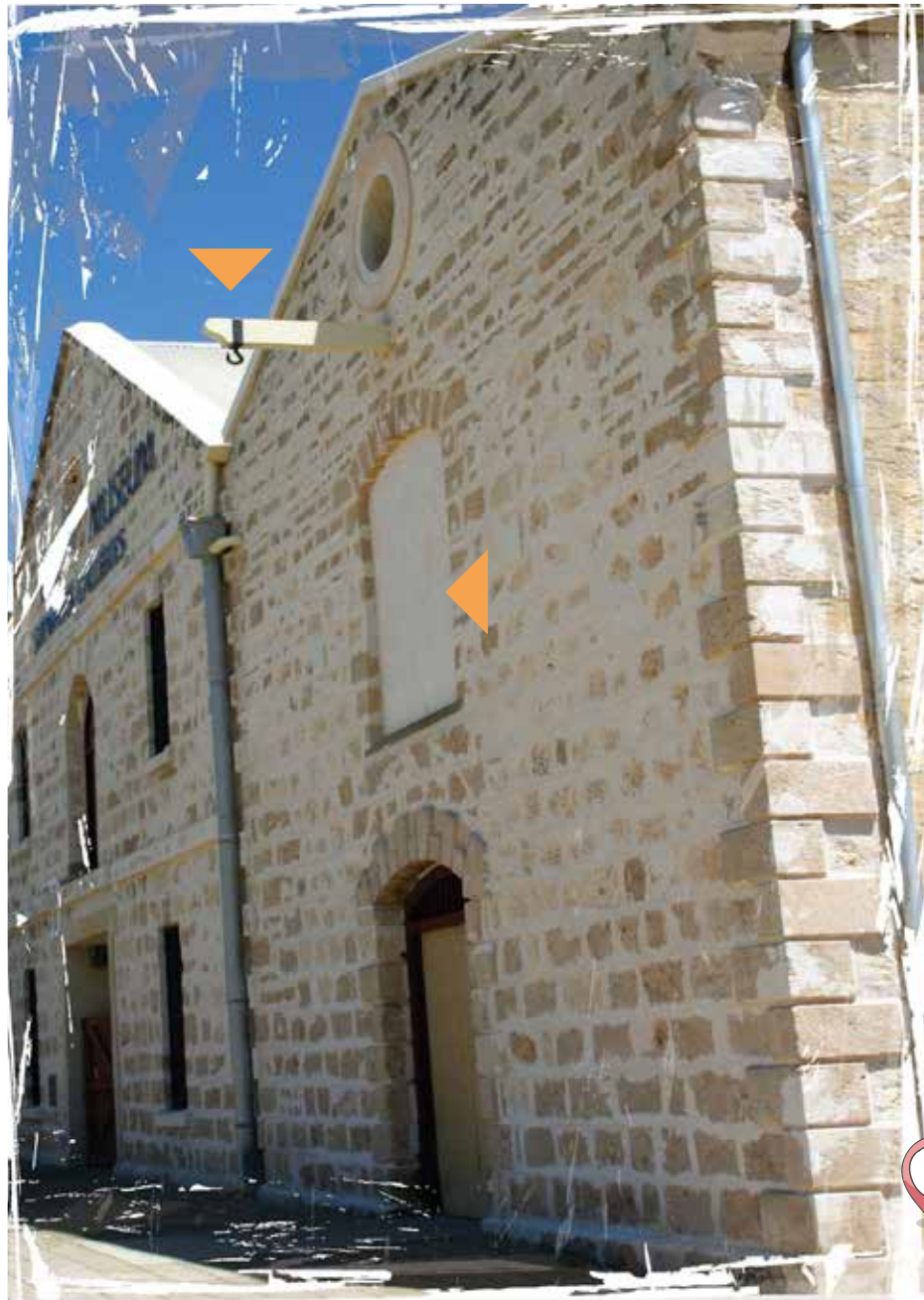
It was built in the 1850s by convicts.

Touch a limestone block and imagine the cracked, worn hands of a convict lifting this block into place.

Do you know any other buildings in Fremantle that were built by convicts?

Over 9700 convicts were sent to the Swan River Colony between 1850 and 1868 to build roads, bridges and buildings.





Look up!

Can you guess what this building was first used for?

The building was called a *commissariat*. It was a warehouse used to store goods that were being exported and imported.

Check out the arrows on the photo.

▼ The hooks were used to lift heavy objects up to the second floor, through the big, wide doors.



Look closely and find some symbols hidden on the window bars.

The *broad arrow* was the symbol of the British Government. It was stamped onto many government-owned objects and buildings.

Find a plaque that tells you when this building became a Museum.



Find a place where you can get a good view of the Esplanade Park.

This picture shows what the park looked like in 1905.

The Norfolk Pine trees in the park were planted in 1908.

How old are they now?

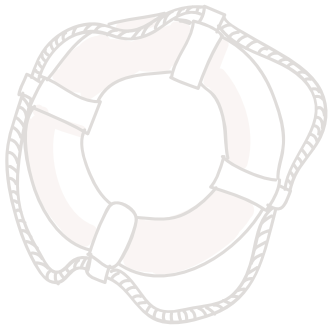


Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Start walking down Cliff Street, along the path on the left hand side.

This used to be one of the main streets in Fremantle. It was the path between the ocean and the Swan River.

As you walk along, you will notice that many of the buildings have quite fancy decorations on the front.

During the WA Gold Rushes around the early 1900s, people had the money to make things look good!

Not far up Cliff Street, find a building with the name 'Samson' on it.



Lionel Samson and his brother William arrived in Fremantle with the first European settlers. They began a business trading beer, wine and spirits with England.

Find a date on the building that shows the year this business began.

Look up!

The spikes on the building are to stop birds from roosting and pooping on the building!



4

Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



From the Samson building, look back down Cliff Street towards the Esplanade Park.

This photo was taken during a 1922 flood.

Compare this photo with the present view.

Can you see the Norfolk Pines in this picture?



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

Keep walking up Cliff Street until you reach the corner of High Street.

Stand so that your view matches the photo on the next page.

Compare the buildings in the picture to what remains today.

This photo was taken in 1905 when Fremantle Municipal Tramways opened.

Look for the arrow on the photo.

▼ **What is this building?**



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



5

Did you spot the Round House?

This historic site was built in 1830 as Fremantle's first prison.

Why is the Round House still standing today?

How is it used?



Walk through the Round House tunnel.

From 1838, the tunnel under the Round House was used in Fremantle's whaling industry.

Captured whales were dragged up onto the shore of Bathers Beach.

On the beach, their blubber was carved off and boiled in pots. It was very smelly!

The whale products were then hauled through the tunnel to get to the streets of Fremantle.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



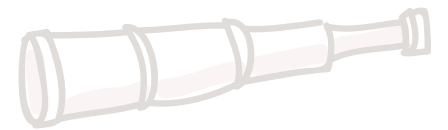
Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Find out more about whaling at the Maritime Museum.

Is whaling still done in Australia today?

If you have time, visit the Round House to find out more, or take a short stroll through the tunnel beneath it.



Continue walking down Cliff Street. Cross Phillimore Street and wander over to the metal weighbridge next to the small red brick building.

The weighbridge was first installed in 1897. It was used by horse-drawn wagons and small trucks to weigh their cargo.





Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

Check out this photo and look back across the street at the scene today to find this building.

Built in 1902, this impressive building was originally used as offices for Dalgety and Co, a very important company in Fremantle at that time.

Why do you think this heritage listed building has not changed much over the past 100 years?

What is 'heritage listing'?

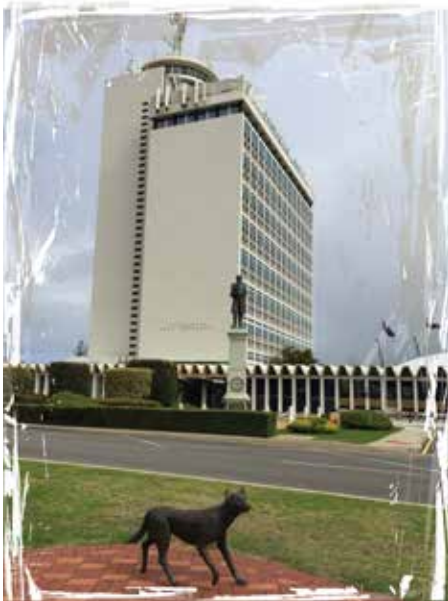
Why is it important?

Take care when crossing the railway track and the roads and stand near a statue of a dog.

Look at the tall white building.

What is this building used for?

Well done if you knew it was the Fremantle Ports building! The signal station on top of the building tracks all the ships coming in and out of the harbour.



This photo shows the old Fremantle Ports building. Not quite as tall as the new one!

Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

Look at the statue of the fellow in the coat.

Who was he?

The man in the statue is C.Y. O'Connor.

C.Y. O'Connor designed Fremantle Harbour so that passenger ships and cargo ships could anchor there.

Cross at the zebra crossing and continue down to the Western Australian Maritime Museum.

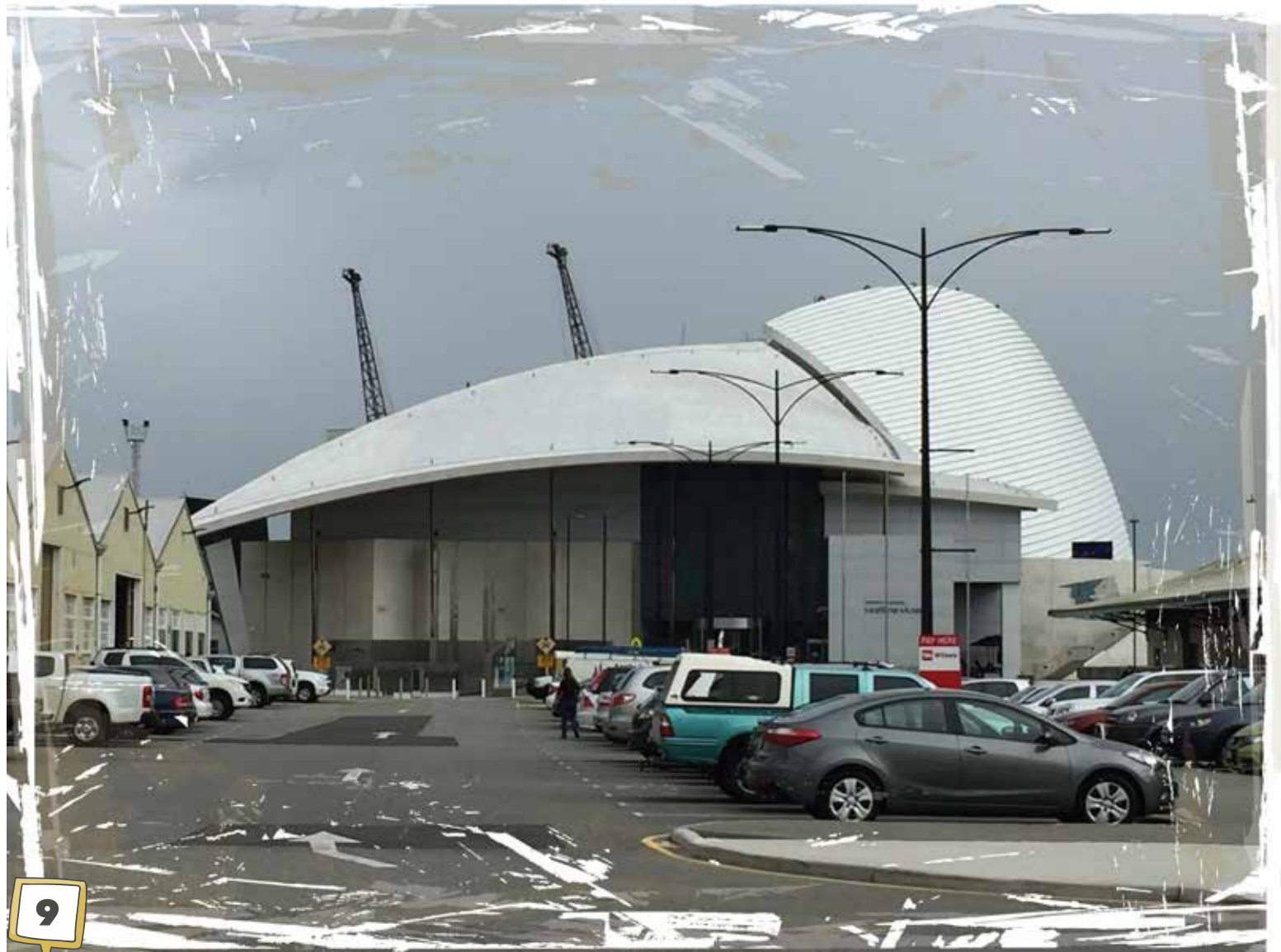
Stand out the front of the Maritime Museum

This Museum was opened in 2002.

How old is it now?

What are some of the differences between this building and the Shipwreck Galleries Museum building?

What might people think about this building in 200 years' time?



Head around the right hand side of the Museum to the end of the wharf.

Stand so that you can see a rocky section just beneath the Museum building.

According to Nyoongar creation belief, the mouth of the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) is the place where the Wagyl (a serpent creation being) fought a Crocodile Spirit.

The Wagyl used the crocodile's tail to separate the fresh water from salt water.

The 'tail' was a rocky sandbar which stretched across the river's mouth. This formed an estuary where there was plenty of fish to catch.

Being shallow, it was also a good crossing point.

You are standing near the area where this rocky sandbar once existed.





Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Look out to the harbour.

When C.Y. O'Connor designed Fremantle Harbour in the 1890s, explosives were used to blow up and remove the sandbar to allow ships to enter.

Do you think that the changes that were made to Fremantle's coast line were negative or positive?

Now head back to the blue wall mural that you passed on the way here.

Look closely at this mural.

It shows the original coastline on top and the current coastline underneath.

Can you see where more land has been added?

Think back on all the things you have seen on your walk today.

What has changed?

What has stayed the same?

What else would you do to pay tribute to Fremantle's history?



Now that you have explored the streets of Fremantle, see what it looked like just a few years after European settlement, through the eyes of a female colonist.

This painting was done by Eliza Jane Currie in 1832.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

1 Can you spot this shipwreck?

The Marquis of Anglesea ran aground at Bathers Beach in 1829. The wrecked ship was still in good condition so it was used as an office, a post office and a prison!

2 What is this lady doing?

3 Do you recognize this building?

4 What can you see out to sea?

5 Is this swamp still here today?

6 What kind of plant are these?

**7 Why was this land cleared?
What might the fencing (those tiny brown posts) be for?**



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
museum
GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australian Museum - A Trek Through Time