

Federation Walk of Burnie's DOMESTIC Architecture

In 1871 tin was found at Waratah and it became the richest tin mine in the world. This triggered a boom time in Burnie, where West Coast minerals came to the Burnie Port and created the wealth and impetus to build the city's fine Federation architecture (c.1890-c.1915).

Seizing the opportunity the VDL Company moved its headquarters from Stanley to Burnie in 1875 and transported the tin to the Burnie Port on a horse-drawn wooden rail tramway which was eventually replaced in 1884 with steam trains and steel rails.

1890 marked the completion of the first breakwater in Burnie creating the deep water port. In 1900 the Emu Bay Railway Company extended its network to Zeehan and Rosebery to carry the rich silver and lead ore to port. The region thrived and transport infrastructure was built, which helped set the direction for Burnie for the next 100 years.

At this time many fine residences were built in the Federation Queen Anne style adjacent to the burgeoning Burnie town. Queen Anne was the dominant style of domestic architecture in Australia in the decades immediately before and after 1900.



1
"Wyona"
7 William Street
Tasmanian Heritage (695)
Federation Queen Anne

This house shows many features of the Federation Queen Anne Style with complex roofs, terracotta and crested ridge tiles. There are prominent gables and bays, with one corner gable projecting diagonally. There are half-timbered effects in the gables, timber posts, brackets and an ornamental frieze or valance decorating verandas on more than one side.

"Wyona" has a bow-windowed bay facing Queen Street and another gabled bay facing William Street with a splendid leaded bow window over both floors. Between, in the splayed corner, is the veranda projecting diagonally to take in the view of city and sea. It was built for the jeweller E A Joyce whose Federation shop is still trading under the family name at 40 Wilson Street.



2
"Kandaha"
34 Queen Street
Tasmanian Heritage (8168)
Federation Queen Anne

This wonderful two-storey home in its large garden setting has tall chimneys, a wing to the front with faceted bay windows to both floors, another wing facing north and wide verandas between, decorated with beautiful cast iron brackets, fringe and railings. This was becoming rare because cast iron fell out of favour by 1900, to be replaced by machine-cut timber and fretwork for balcony and veranda decoration.



3
30 Queen Street
Federation Queen Anne

This Federation house is set well back from the street in a large garden. Queen Anne houses were typically sited in picturesque gardens, often with a variety of exotic plants. Here, the long wide veranda has a valance providing a segmental-arch effect and simple geometric railing. Art Nouveau became increasingly popular from 1900 and you will see that influence in leadlight and timber detailing in this precinct.



4
28 Queen Street
Federation

This is the first of a group of four houses built by Francis Tallack. Here the wonderful keyhole entrance is repeated in red and green leadlight around the front door.



5
24 Queen Street
Federation Queen Anne

Leadlight also features in this Francis Tallack house in the porthole windows of the front room where the diagonal corner gable with its large windows, faces the sea. Double veranda posts and curved timber have been used to create the decorative valance.



6
1 Princes Street
Tasmanian Heritage (688)
Federation

This is the house where Francis Tallack lived. Above the keyhole entrance to the porch are two projecting gables. The Art Nouveau leadlight, timber decoration in the gable and veranda railing and cast iron fringe and gate, all come together to create a charming picture.



7
"Carinya"
3 Princes Street
Tasmanian Heritage (689)
Federation Queen Anne

In this fine Queen Anne house, there are several projecting wings with bracketed flying gables, two of the gables over faceted bay windows. True to the fashion, the chimneys are tall and the timberwork is decorative.



8
5 Princes Street
Federation Queen Anne

Inside the houses of this precinct, decorative timber is taken into the hallways, mantels and wall panelling. In some of the houses ceilings have been given the Art Nouveau touch in pressed metal, and one ceiling includes cherubs in each corner, representing summer autumn winter and spring.



9
7 Princes Street
Tasmanian Heritage (690)
Federation Queen Anne

Here we can see the complex roof form with prominently featured subsidiary gables, tall chimneys and lovely decorative timber and fretwork in the segmental valance and balustrade of the veranda.



10
2 Princes Street
Federation Queen Anne

This house has curvilinear Art Nouveau timberwork and a keyhole entrance. Timber was rarely used for the walls of Queen Anne houses on the mainland, but here in Burnie, timber was abundant in the dense rainforests. Huge quantities of fine timber were also shipped to Launceston, Melbourne and Adelaide.



11
22 Queen Street
Tasmanian Heritage (9886)
Federation Queen Anne

This house was built in 1908 by Joseph Alexander who also built the heritage listed Ikon Hotel at 22 Mount Street. There are faceted bays to the front and side and a veranda between. The warmth of 'Burnie Brick' complements the style of the four brick Federation Queen Anne houses in this precinct. On the mainland contrasting bricks or mortar were often used.



12
20 Queen Street
Tasmanian Heritage (691)
Federation Queen Anne

This house has projecting wings with both faceted and rectangular bay windows, tall chimneys and a veranda that extends along three sides. In the veranda there is a geometric valance, simple brackets, plain railing and rectangular bay windows.



13
"Manresa"
7 Olive Street
Tasmanian Heritage (10393)
Federation Queen Anne

"Manresa" was built by Captain William Jones for his son. This house is set in a large garden of mature trees. There is a faceted bay facing the street with part timbered gable. A veranda extends across the front and around the side to another gabled bay. The timbering of the gable to give an open-bed pediment effect and the moulded curves over the windows, are stylish features.

Burnie Regional Museum Federation Street

14

For a taste of what life was like here during the Federation period, explore the famous Federation Street. It captures the North-West region's past in lifestyle, culture and architecture. Discover the sights, sounds and smells of Burnie at the turn of the 20th century.

Each shop and business in the Federation Street once existed in Burnie. Discover rooms filled with personal treasures and tools of the trade. Visit the saddler and boot maker's shop, blacksmith's forge, printer, photographer and even the dentist. It's easy to get lost in the charm and detail of the general store or be relieved that as far as kitchen and laundry appliances go, things have moved on!

Built from original salvaged materials, the architectural styles represented were all common in North-West Coast towns at the time. Even the paint colours and sign-writing styles used are authentic to the Federation period.



Open 10:00am - 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Little Alexander Street, Burnie
T: 03 6430 5746
www.burnieregionalmuseum.net



Walking time approx. 25 minutes

Federation Walk of Burnie's CIVIC Architecture

1

This Crest which crowned the 1901 Van Diemen's Land (VDL) Company building, a landmark on Marine Terrace for 75 years, is now located at the Burnie Regional Museum.



The sculptured symbols represent the 1825 vision that the VDL Company had for its future in North West Tasmania. This private company once owned all the land on which Burnie is now built.

When the West Coast mining boom began in the 1870's, the VDL Company seized the opportunity to make Burnie rich! They built a tramway from Mt Bischoff mine, the richest tin mine in the world at the time, to the Burnie Port. From there minerals were shipped to Launceston for smelting. This created the prosperity in Burnie to build fine Federation architecture (c.1890-c.1915)



Walking time approx. 25 minutes.



**22 Mount Street
Ikon Hotel**
Heritage Listed (685)
Federation Free Style

2

Federation Free Style is essentially a non-residential style of architecture. This imposing corner hotel with its three-storey gabled wings, tower and verandas decorated with flower-motif cast iron shows the level of sophistication of the burgeoning town.



**43 Cattle Street
St. Luke's**
Heritage Listed (679)
Federation Free Style

3

The architects of Free Style wanted to break away from many of the rules of the past but they shared with the Arts and Crafts designers a belief in using traditional materials and techniques. In these Free Style buildings we see natural 'Burnie Brick' in the load-bearing walls. There was sometimes an eclectic combination of features from other styles. Here we see semi-circular arches in the Romanesque fashion at the top of piers and Art Nouveau style pediments above downstairs windows.



75 Wilson Street
Heritage Listed (696)
Federation Free Style

4

This fine building faces the corner to achieve maximum exposure and importance. As in the St Luke's building, earthy traditional materials were used, this time sandstone and brick. The corner is splayed and the entrance is flanked by columns with a segmental-arch pediment above. The curved bellcast roof is tiled in terracotta.

'Burnie Brick', dug and fired in the Coee brickworks, gives a cohesive character to the city. The clay was eventually exhausted in 1967 leaving Burnie a 90 year legacy of built heritage.



14 Cattle Street
Heritage Listed (678)
Federation Free Classical

5

Federation Free Classical made use of modern materials and techniques such as concealed steel and reinforced concrete to allow greater freedom of expression such as larger windows and greater height and width between supports. There was free use of classical forms but here there is a conventional symmetry to the facade. The front is divided into three by pilasters and all of the windows are framed by small pilasters. There is a classical open bed triangular pediment above the central bay.



1 Cattle Street
Heritage Listed (677)
Federation Free Classical

6

Here we see the building facing the corner of important commercial streets of the time, with a splay corner between two matching elevations. Ashlar (cut and squared) sandstone surrounds the original entrance, with colonettes each side. The windows have large panes, made possible with the freedom created by new materials. Even so the appearance of traditional load-bearing walls was maintained. Like the previous three buildings, this was a bank, an indication of Burnie's importance as a commercial centre in the Federation era.



**14 Marine Terrace
Old Post Office**
Heritage Listed (682)
Federation Free Classical

7

In this building we see the celebration of prosperity in its exuberant use of classical forms. Upstairs windows have moulded stucco architraves supporting classical pediments and the central bay has a blind balustrade matching the balustrades in the parapet, columns each side and a triangular pediment above. Complete restoration is underway, starting from within.

Follow the map to Wilson Street OR you may wish to detour further along Marine Terrace to number 27, Greens Hotel where Errol Flynn once stayed. It is heritage listed (683) as Federation Free Style but has also retained an Art Deco upgrade in the front bar and windows making it a small part of Burnie's inter-war Art Deco heritage.



**109 Wilson Street
Gospel Hall**
Heritage listed (699)
Federation Gothic

8

Gothic architecture was seen as an expression of religious values. Here, there is wonderful Art Nouveau leadlight in the Gothic windows with their pronounced pointed arches.



88 Wilson Street
Heritage listed (698)
Federation Filigree

9

This elegant example of a substantial Federation building is complemented by the lightness of filigree. The intricately textured Federation screen was usually of wood and graced shady hotel verandas in other places in Australia but here it is of cast-iron. It was built as a dental surgery and home for Mr Lucadou-Wells and his family. You can see inside his surgery in the Federation Street at the Burnie Regional Museum if you have the courage to look.



**59 Mount Street
Baptist Church**
Heritage listed (686)
Federation Gothic

10

This church is different from the Federation Gothic Gospel Hall and Uniting Church (further along Mount Street). It has more elements of the medieval tradition. As well as pointed arch windows and doorways, it has blind turrets (small towers), blind arrow-slits and a parapet built like a battlement with its crenellations and indentations.

Federation Walks of BURNIE tasmania

