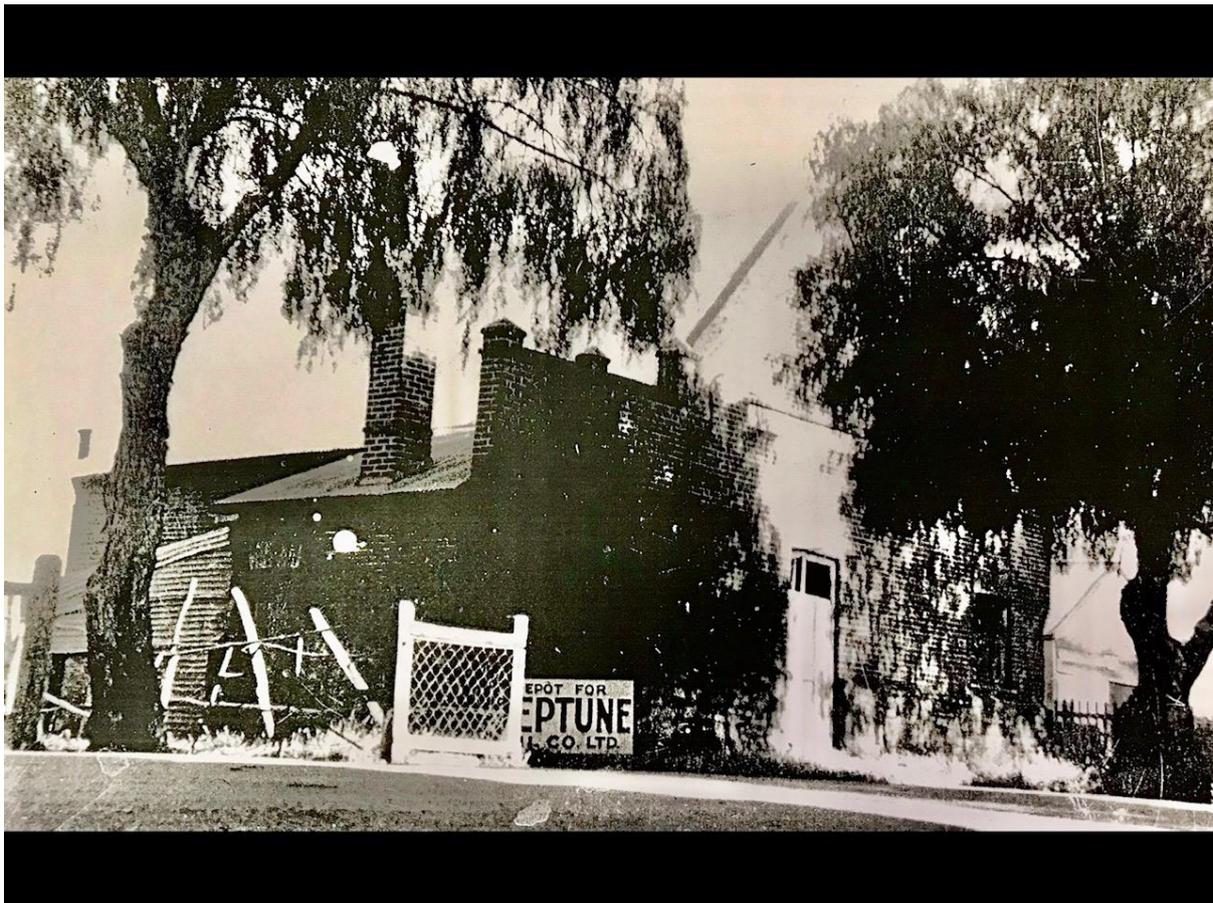


## Rechabite Hall



The land was purchased by Stephen Samuel Parker in 1859.<sup>1</sup> In June 1875, part of the land was sold to Vernon Birch, Thomas Robson and William Andrew Boyd for 15 pounds.<sup>2 3</sup>

The Star of the East Lodge No 5 York announced in September 1875 that “it was gratifying to see that the IOGT and Rechabites are progressing favourably in York, and that HE the Governor has been pleased to grant the Templars of York a piece of land for building a Temperance Hall upon which will not only be an embellishment to the Town, but prove a great boon to those who are advocates of the cause of Temperance, and for which we are exceedingly grateful.”<sup>4</sup>

In the same newspaper, the very next article notes that “Bro” V Birch, T Robson and W A Boyd were elected to the Rose of York Tent No 40 of the “LOR” (International Order of Rechabites). In other words, Birch, Robson and Boyd were acting as trustees for the Rechabites lodge in acquiring portion of the Parker property, for the purpose of

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<sup>1</sup> VI/93/565: Conveyance 4 April 1859 James Dyer to Stephen Stanley Parker 35 pounds.

<sup>2</sup> Landgate Deeds VII/299/1943: Conveyance 30 June 1875 Stephen Stanley Parker to Vernon Birch, Thomas Robson and William Andrew Boyd for 15 pounds.

<sup>3</sup> The property was described in 1939 as follows: The North West quarter of York Building Lot 20 the subject of Indenture of Conveyance registered in Book 18 Number 749. Frontage of 83 ½ links to Howick Street with a depth of 300 links. Area 1 rood more or less: The York Leader and Quairading and Dangin Herald, 13 October 1939, p.2.

<sup>4</sup> Western Australian Times 10 September 1875, p.2.

construction of the Rechabites' Hall.

The IOR Building Committee (the secretary of which was Joseph Pyke) announced a Grand Drawing of Prizes in aid of the "Rechabite's New Hall, York" on 18 October 1877.<sup>5</sup>

The Hall was first used for a "New Year's Night" function at the end of 1877<sup>6</sup> and was opened on 29 January 1878.<sup>7</sup> The opening was described on page 2 of the Eastern Districts Chronicle of 2 February 1878.

In March 1878 "Miss Monger" formed a committee to eliminate the debt on the Rechabite Hall.<sup>8</sup>

The Rechabite Hall was continuously used as a hall by York for the next 60 or so years.

In its last few years, the hall was used as a storeroom.<sup>9</sup>

The Rechabite Hall was demolished in 1946.<sup>10</sup>

Rob Garton Smith  
President  
The York Society (Inc)

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<sup>5</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 31 October 1877, p.1; 10 November 1877, p.1; 8 December 1877, p.1.

<sup>6</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 22 December 1877, page 2.

<sup>7</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 26 January 1878, page 2.

<sup>8</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle 2 March 1878, page 2.

<sup>9</sup> The York Leader and Quairading and Dargin Herald, 13 October 1939, p.2.

<sup>10</sup> York Chronicle, 5 April 1946, p.3.