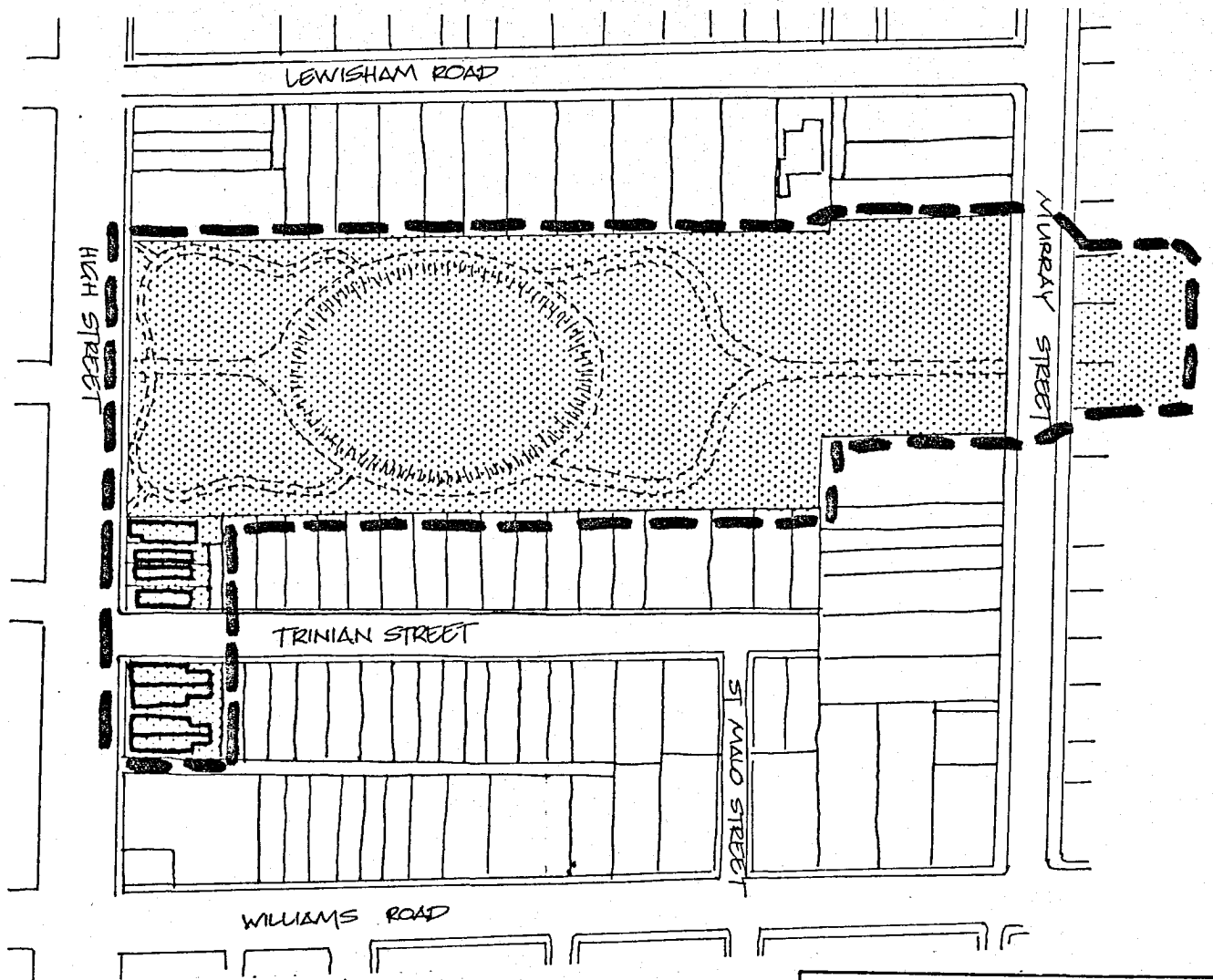


VICTORIA GARDENS

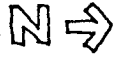









History and Significance This land was offered for sale by public auction on 22 June 1884 by John Buchan and Co. as part of the estate of the late Andrew Russell. Competition for the ownership was keen and one would-be buyer declared his intention, if successful, to run a street through the block to Murray Street. However, the Mayor, Councillor Temoleton and Councillor Arkle bid for the land on behalf of the City of Prahran and secured the allotment for 5,660 pounds. The City would have lost the land had the Mayor and his colleague not bid 500 pounds more than the reserve price the Council had authorized. The municipality had few parks and gardens within its boundaries and before August 1884, when a large loan was floated for the purpose of purchasing grounds, the provision of land for recreation was regarded with some suspicion. The Council election of that year was keenly contested on the issue and fortunately the supporters of the loan were successful, particularly as the purchase of Victoria Gardens had been surrounded by great controversy.

On 3 August 1885, Sir Henry and Lady Loch (the Governor and his wife) officially opened the Victoria Gardens and also Prahran Reserve (now Grattan Gardens) and Toorak Park. The five acre site of Victoria Gardens was landscaped with a large oval depression in the centre and an assymetrical layout of curved paths leading from High Street to Murray Street. A bandstand was erected in the centre of the oval and municipal concerts were held every Thursday throughout the summer. Statues and rockeries also adorned the park and avenues of trees were planted. An elaborate wrought iron and stone fence faced High Street and within the reserve later additions included timber pergolas and flower beds.

Today, although the bandstand has been demolished, this area forms the most intact public garden in Prahran. The approach along High Street from the east is enhanced by the intact row of single storey Edwardian residences whilst at the rear the vista to three intact Victorian villas in Murray Street provides an appropriate background.



KEY TO MAPS

 	
	A BUILDINGS A1 BUILDING
	A2 BUILDING
	B BUILDING
	C BUILDING
	non identified building
	A1 AREA
	A2 AREA
	combined boundary

VICTORIA GARDENS AREA