Collins Lane after the Club’s Collins Street premises were built in 1859

Opposite the former Eastern Market, butcher Joseph Brien 79, the street was closed in 1950 and incorporated into grounds of RMIT

BOWEN STREET

Melbourne was granted full Customs port status in 1840.

ruled by heavenly beings

Street became Eagle Alley in 1890, a name now given to the whole ‘dogleg’

An old right-of way from LaTrobe Street to Hawk Place off King

Adjacent to Duckboard House, WW2 entertainment

DUCKBOARD PLACE

Built 1846, the original brick Collins Street chapel was

CHAPTER HOUSE LANE

Convict William Buckley remained behind

Ship from Plymouth with 239 passengers arrived at

Little Lonsdale’s Exploration Hotel was possibly named

EXHIBITION STREET

Import merchants established bonded warehouses there after

Sir Richard Bourke, NSW Governor 1831-38. While visiting

Robert Bennett MLA, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, 1861-62

A’BECKETT STREET

The Albion Hotel in Bourke Street was the city terminus of

Possibly for John Finlay, road contractor, pastoralist and later St

FINLAY ALLEY

George PD. Name changed from La Trobe Parade c1924 after the Henry George

Market provided covered accommodation from 1840 (D5).

MARKET LANE

Gas lit by 1860s, the Eastern Market provided fresh produce and lively entertainment on Saturday nights (H3).

McCracken’s Collins Street brewery produced stout and ales from 1851 until it became part of Carlton and United breweries in 1907 (C4).

MCLINWRATH PLACE

Formerly Lily, after 1840s estate agent James Llly; John McLeirath, manufacturer of fluming goods and shipowner was

Lord Mayor of Melbourne 1873-4 (A4).

MORRISON STREET

Possibly for Alistair Mackenzie, who arrived in 1842 with

Possibly honoring WJ Wills who died with RO Burke on the northern

WILLS STREET

King William IV who reigned 1830-37 left no heirs. His

hemisphere’s first brush-making business (E2)

Dutch-born John Zevenboom launched the southern

ZEVENBOOM LANE

April 1862 (G3).

WIDENAU ALLEY

...business historian Max Brinn who died 1852.

“Widowmaker” 1794 (D2).

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Melbourne and its main streets from Flinders to Lonsdale and Spencer to Spring were named in 1837 by New South Wales Governor Richard Bourke following his official sanction of the Port Phillip settlement. Some names were drawn from his British masters in Lord Melbourne’s second ministry 1835-1841. Under Bourke’s successor George Gipps, the grid was extended northward to La Trobe Street in 1839, with a north-west wing to Victoria Street in 1845.

In England during the period, William IV died in June 1837, Queen Victoria succeeded to the throne, was crowned in July 1838 and married Prince Albert on 10 February 1840, the royal names all being given to city and near city streets.

Before and after Port Phillip became the separate Colony of Victoria in 1851, private subdivisions created Melbourne’s lanes and alleys, giving side or rear access to buildings. Their names usually reflect people and places of commerce on a particular site at a particular time. A few persist from the 1840s and 1850s, but in many cases rebuilding has resulted in successive name changes. Since the 1970s when site consolidation for tower blocks intensified, many lanes and alleys have been closed and therefore no longer exist.

The following listing is by no means complete. It represents a tantalising glimpse of Melbourne’s heritage, its changing fortunes and the myriad stories and characters who have contributed to the names of the city’s streets, lanes and alleys.