

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

### ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

#### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

##### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.12.5           Retailing foods and beverages
- 3.14.1           Building to suit Australian conditions
- 3.22             Lodging people
- 3.23             Catering for tourists
- 4.1.2            Making suburbs
- 8.4              Eating and drinking
- 8.13             Living in cities and suburbs

##### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 202             Road Transport
- 311             Hospitality industry & tourism
- 405             Sport, recreation and entertainment

#### 11.1. AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is a fine example of an Inter-War Spanish Mission style hotel in Western Australia, which demonstrates the principal characteristics of the style, including a centralised decorative parapet entrance block, loggia, rounded archways, and twisted columns. (Criterion 1.2)<sup>1</sup>

Despite mature plantings and trees that somewhat obscure clear views, *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is a landmark on Stirling Highway. (Criterion 1.4)

In conjunction with other buildings such as *The Maisonettes* and the *Windsor Theatre Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is an important component of a ribbon of Inter-War buildings along the Stirling Highway streetscape of Nedlands, which together contribute to the character of the suburb. (Criterion 1.4)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The construction of *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* in 1935 illustrates the significant growth and subsequent development of the suburb of Nedlands during the Inter-War years, which saw the increased construction of not only

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

<sup>1</sup> Although the building includes common stylistic elements of both the Inter-War Spanish Mission and the Inter-War Mediterranean styles, it more closely aligns with the Spanish Mission style. See Comparative Information for further discussion.

houses, churches and schools, but also recreational and sporting facilities. (Criterion 2.2)

The construction of *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* in 1935 at the prominent location of Stirling Highway in Nedlands is associated with the increasing reliance upon motorised transportation from the Inter-War years by the suburban population. (Criterion 2.2)

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* was constructed for Senator Edward Bertram 'Bertie' Johnston, a prominent political figure during the first half of the Twentieth Century, as a member of the State Parliament and Federal Senate for a total of thirty years between 1911 and 1942. Bertram also made significant investments in the Wheatbelt and Midwest towns of Kulin, Wickiepin, Perenjori and Wyalkatchem, and owned a number of hotels in the metropolitan area. (Criterion 2.3)

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* designed by the architects George Herbert Parry and Marshall Clifton, a partnership, which despite only lasting from 1933 to 1937, produced a number of significant buildings, including *St Peter's Anglican Church* in Victoria Park (1935), *Inglewood Hotel* in Mount Lawley (1935), *The Chapel of the Guardian Angel* in Queens Park (1937), and *Big Bell Hotel* (fmr) in Big Bell, near Cue (1937). It is a fine example of their work. (Criterion 2.3)

The *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is associated with the architect Marshall Clifton, who has been recognised as key practitioner in the Inter-War Spanish Mission style. (Criterion 2.3)

### 11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is valued by the local community, as a place which has functioned continuously as a hotel since its construction in 1935. (Criterion 1.1)

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is an important part of the Stirling Highway streetscape, contributing to the Inter-War ambience and sense of place of the City of Nedlands. (Criterion 4.2)

## 12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 12. 1. RARITY

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is rare as a hotel built in the Inter-War Spanish Mission style. Few others have been identified in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is rare for its associations with the architect Marshall Clifton. (Criterion 5.1)

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is a rare example of work produced by the architectural partnership George Herbert Parry and Marshall Clifton. (Criterion 5.1)

### 12. 2. REPRESENTATIVENESS

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is representative of the Inter-War building trend to design properties in response to the climate of Western Australia, a practice which is most evident in the Inter-War Mediterranean and Spanish Mission styles. (Criterion 6.2)

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is representative of the type and design of modern hotels constructed in response to the *Licensing Amendment Act, 1922* and the State Licensing Court who worked to improve the standard and quality of hotel buildings across the State. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3. CONDITION**

The overall condition of the *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* appears to be good and it is well maintained by the hotel operator and staff.

### **12. 4. INTEGRITY**

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* continues to be used for the same purpose for which it was originally built. Contemporary changes to the interior and additions to the original building due to operating requirements of the bars and hotel have some impact on the cultural heritage significance of the place but overall the place retains a medium to high degree of integrity.

### **12. 5. AUTHENTICITY**

Major alterations and refurbishment to *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* were undertaken in 1986, including paving and landscaping of the hotel forecourt, the removal of the original lounge entry beneath the loggia and insertion of timber framed French doors and windows, extensive interior alteration and refurbishment of the ground floor, and alteration of the rear elevation in a sympathetic style as an entrance for patrons from the extensive parking space at the rear.

The north elevation retains its overall original character despite alterations including the removal of the lounge entry and insertion of timber framed French doors and windows, and the single storey addition to the eastern end. The east and west elevations have been extended with two storey brick additions which are sympathetic to the Mediterranean character of the original building. Overall, the authenticity of the exterior is high.

In terms of the interior volumes, the authenticity of the ground floor is low and the upper floor is medium to high.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The original documentary and physical evidence was prepared by David Kelsall, Architect in December 1996.

The physical evidence was updated by Hocking Heritage Studio in October 2012.

Additional research has been compiled by the State Heritage Office, with amendments and/or additions by the Register Committee.

#### 13. 1. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is a two-storey Inter-War Spanish Mission style rendered brick and tile roofed hotel situated on Stirling Highway in Nedlands.

Following the establishment of the Swan River Colony in 1829, it was quickly recognised that an overland route was needed linking the capital to its port. A track was promptly established running westwards from Perth to Fremantle through the area now known as Nedlands. By the 1850s, this area started to develop, firstly with settlement by Pensioner Guards near to Freshwater Bay, and then with the upgrading of the Perth to Fremantle track with convict labour from 1853.<sup>2</sup>

The unprecedented population growth triggered by the discovery of Western Australian gold during the 1890s led to dramatic development in the Metropolitan area. Suburbs closest to the capital, such as Nedlands, experienced significant growth during this time and continued to develop through the first decade of the Twentieth Century.

Although development slowed during the First World War, Nedlands was quick to recover with many ex-servicemen and their families settling in the area.<sup>3</sup> An increased level of construction and development was experienced during the Inter-War period, with many new houses, school and churches being built. This period also saw an increased reliance upon motorised transportation, particularly along major routes such as the Perth to Fremantle Road, which was renamed Stirling Highway in 1930. Nineteen thirty five was a record year for the construction of buildings in the Nedlands district, the largest of which was *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands*.<sup>4</sup>

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands*, located on the corner of Stirling Highway and Florence Road, was constructed between April and December 1935 for E B 'Bertie' Johnston. It was designed by the architectural partnership of George Herbert Parry and Marshall Clifton.<sup>5</sup>

Senator Edward Bertram 'Bertie' Johnston was a prominent political figure during the first half of the Twentieth Century, as a member of State Parliament

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<sup>2</sup> James, Ruth Marchant., 'From Byway to Highway: the Linking of Port & Capital', in *Early Day: Journal of the Royal West Australian Historical Society (Inc)*, Vol 12, Part 1 (2001), p. 19.

<sup>3</sup> Gregory, Jenny, 'Protecting Middle-Class Suburbia: An Ideal Space for the Citizens of Inter War Perth', in *Studies in Western Australian History*, No. 17 (1997), p79, 81.

<sup>4</sup> 'Subiaco and Nedlands, Activities During 1935', *The West Australian*, 1 January 1936, p. 12.

<sup>5</sup> Contemporary newspapers report that the hotel was constructed for Mr N B Robinson, however this was in fact incorrect. Robinson was Johnston's solicitor who made the license application on his behalf, while Johnston was out of the State. Rice, John. C., *Senator Bertie Johnston* (2006), p. 479.

and the Federal Senate for a total of thirty years between 1911 and 1942. Outside of politics, Johnston made significant investments in the Wheatbelt and Midwest towns of Kulin, Wickiepin and Perenjori, where he worked to protect the interests of West Australian farmers.<sup>6</sup> Johnston was also a major landholder and owner of commercial property in Wyalkatchem during the Inter-War period, where he owned much of the main street including shops and hotels.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, he owned several hotels in the Metropolitan area.<sup>8</sup>

George Herbert Parry was the son of the second Anglican Bishop of Perth. After studying in both Perth and England, he worked for an Architectural firm in London. Upon returning to Western Australia in 1907 he established his own practice in 1911.<sup>9</sup> As well as working independently, Parry collaborated with a number of architects during his career, including Cavanagh and Cavanagh between 1908 and 1911, and Marshall Clifton between 1933 and 1937.

Marshall Clifton was the direct descendant of Marshall Waller Clifton, the Chief Commissioner of Australind. Clifton studied Engineering at the University of Western Australia, and in 1922 entered into a cadetship with the Public Works Department. After completing his cadetship in 1926, Clifton went on to work as an Assistant Architect for the PWD. He became fully qualified as an Architect in 1929 and then travelling to England to work in an architectural firm. He returned to Western Australia in late 1932, and entered into partnership with Parry the following year. Clifton worked with Parry until 1937 when he established his own practice.<sup>10</sup>

Known at the time as a 'first class hotel',<sup>11</sup> the modern design of *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* was in part influenced by the *Licensing Amendment Act, 1922*. The Amendment introduced the State Licensing Court which worked to improve the standard and quality of hotel buildings across the State. The Court ensured that all new hotels were built of brick or stone, preferably with two storeys, with sleeping accommodation separate to the bar, and toilets separate to the bathrooms.<sup>12</sup>

Although many local residents were supportive of the new hotel being built, others objected as it was thought that it might disturb the peace of the neighbourhood. Locals argued that it was in the best interest of university students boarding in the area, children attending kindergarten and old men at the Salvation Army Retreat not to have another hotel in Nedlands. The potential impact of the new hotel on students at the nearby University of Western Australia was discussed by the University Senate, however dismissed by the Chancellor as outside the Senate's scope.<sup>13</sup> The potential and perceived negative impact of the new hotel reflects the contemporary attitudes towards

<sup>6</sup> John. C., *Senator Bertie Johnston* (2006), pp. xxiv-xxv.

<sup>7</sup> State Heritage Office Draft Assessment Documentation for P14467 Wyalkatchem Hotel (last amended September 2008).

<sup>8</sup> John. C., *Senator Bertie Johnston* (2006), pp. xxiv-xxv.

<sup>9</sup> 'Architect's Death: Link with Cathedral in Perth', *The West Australian*, Thursday 15 February 1951, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> Chapman, Barbara. & Richards, Duncan., *Marshall Clifton Architect and Artist* (1989), pp. 18, 21, 27.

<sup>11</sup> de Mori, Caroline, *Time, Gentlemen: A History of the Hostel Industry in Western Australia* (Western Australian Hotels Association Inc, Western Australia: 1990), p. 139.

<sup>12</sup> de Mori, *Time, Gentlemen Australia* (1990), p. 73, 134.

<sup>13</sup> 'New Hotel for Nedlands', *Western Argus*, 1 January 1935, p. 28.

alcohol. The aforementioned *Licensing Amendment Act 1922* was itself influenced by the desire to reduce the consumption of alcohol in order to in turn reduce the associated social problems and crime.<sup>14</sup> The ongoing opposition to the sale and distribution of alcohol in the 1930s demonstrates that it was still considered by some to have a negative impact upon society.

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* was completed in December 1935. It comprised a lounge, commercial room, dining room, saloon bar, L-shaped public bar, kitchen and scullery, six double and eleven single rooms, and quarters for staff.<sup>15</sup> The two-storey hotel was designed with a Mediterranean character which mostly aligns with the Inter-War Spanish Mission style, with its central decorative parapet entrance, with loggia; upper storey arcade, and terracotta-tiled roof. The design is noted to have been less associated with the issue of style, than with the concern for an appropriate design for the climate.<sup>16</sup> The design drew inspiration from the similar climate of the Mediterranean and employed elements of Mediterranean architecture.

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* was the first of three Inter-War Spanish Mission style hotels designed by Parry & Clifton, the second being the Inglewood Hotel (1935 - also for Bertie Johnston) and the Big Bell Hotel near Cue (1936 - later abandoned and now a ruin).

An article in the local press at the time of opening describes the detail of the finishes and fittings of the *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands*, including the repeated motif of the sailing ship, and the modern styled staircase (since removed).<sup>17</sup>

As consolidation of Nedlands proceeded in the 1930s, an influence of *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* was reflected in the design elements incorporated into a number of modest bungalows in the vicinity such as Bedford Street and Florence Road. The character of the Hotel is very much of its time, and also reflects the inter-war character of Nedlands and the Stirling Highway streetscape in the area.

As the popularity of the new hotel grew, many local events were hosted there including dinners, dances, and political meetings.<sup>18</sup>

Senator Bertie Johnston died in 1942 and the *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* transferred to his estate. It remains within the family until the present day.<sup>19</sup>

The 1950s also saw the introduction of a new office, manager's quarters and staircase as an addition to the eastern end of *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands*.

In 1958, *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* opened Western Australia's first bottle-shop on a site to the east of the hotel. This building is extant in 2015, however is located outside of the curtilage of the place.

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<sup>14</sup> de Mori, *Time, Gentlemen Australia* (1990), p. 73.

<sup>15</sup> 'Dinner and Dance', *The West Australian*, 7 December 1935, p. 14., and 'Building Enterprise, Current Work: Activity in Country', *The West Australian*, 16 March 1935, p.5.

<sup>16</sup> Chapman & Richards, *Marshall Clifton Architect and Artist* (1989), p. 51.

<sup>17</sup> 'Artistic In Design and Appointment. Captain Stirling Hotel is Most Attractive. Decorations are Modern', *The Daily News*, 29 November 1935, p. 14., and 'Campaign Notes', *The West Australian*, 7 February 1936, p. 19.

<sup>18</sup> 'Dinner and Dance', *The West Australian*, 7 December 1935, p.14.,

<sup>19</sup> Certificate of Title 2214/526. Landgate.

In the mid-1980s, the facilities at the *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* were considered to be no longer able to fulfil the requirements of a hotel as demanded by the contemporary market. In 1986, extensive remodelling works were undertaken to the design of Overman & Ziudeveld, which included landscaping works and the expansion of the ground floor space to make it larger and more viable for functions. Across Western Australia, hotel buildings were often remodelled in response to the changing market.

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* was added to the City of Nedlands Municipal Heritage Inventory in 1999, and assigned a high level of protection.

In 1999 the Australian Heritage Commission entered the *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* in the Register of the National Estate.

In 2015, *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is still being used for its original purpose, and continues to operate with commercial bars on the ground floor and accommodation on the first floor.

### 13. 2. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is situated on a sloping site on the south side of Stirling Highway in Nedlands, between Stanley Street and Florence Road. The large block of land comprises a two-storey hotel in the Inter-War Spanish Mission style, with a bitumen-surfaced car park to the south. In conjunction with other buildings in the locality along Stirling Highway such as *The Maisonettes* and the Windsor Theatre, *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is an important component of a ribbon of Inter-War buildings in this area, which together contribute to the character of the suburb.

The two-storey *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* fronts Stirling Highway and is set along the western side of the site. The area between the hotel and the highway, where once a curved driveway and parking area was situated, is now a beer garden, enclosed with café blinds and a retractable awning. The front boundary is lined with mature tree plantings, including several *Arecaceae* (palm trees), and planters which somewhat obscure the landmark view of the Hotel from Stirling Highway.

The two-storey brick and rendered brick and tile hotel was designed with a Mediterranean character which mostly aligns with the Inter-War Spanish Mission style. The front façade incorporates a central decorative parapet entrance block, flanked on either side by an upper storey arcade, above a loggia with Tuscan columns on the east end and windowed archways on the west end. Existing brickwork has a light bagged finish which is currently painted in a salmon hue, with contrasting pale cream highlights to key features of the facade such as columns, the upper storey arcade, rendered banding, parapets and window surrounds.

The decorative parapet has a small balcony with arched surrounds decorated with a series of square coloured tiles on the upper storey and a pair of French doors on the ground floor. An image of a sailing ship is featured in the wrought iron balustrade of the balcony.

The lounge entry beneath the loggia (on the eastern end) was modified in 1986; however the original design intent as a loggia has been kept. All of the original openings, doors and most of the external wall beneath the loggia have been removed and replaced with a series of timber-framed, French doors and

windows with fanlights. The archway on the eastern end of the loggia is enclosed and in filled with brickwork. The arches on the western end originally featured a multi-paned window within each blind archway. The original window openings have been modified and replaced with timber framed French doors. The archways were never an open loggia. The original sign 'CAPTAIN STIRLING HOTEL' across the front of the hotel has been removed.

Both ends of the front elevation terminate with a projecting corner tower, each designed with subtle differences. The eastern tower is larger, incorporating three rounded archways with twisted column details on the first floor, above three rectangular steel framed windows on the ground floor. Adjoined to the eastern tower is a single storey addition with an entry porch into the dining area of the Hotel. This addition has a row of half round terracotta tiles on its parapets, in keeping with the building's Mediterranean character. The entry porch is defined with a round head arch and a pair of Tuscan columns and is accessed by a short flight of steps, descending from the existing paved landscape. The western tower is narrower, with one rounded archway flanked by a pair of twisted columns on the first floor above a pair of French doors at ground floor level. Both towers have projecting roof eaves with decorative brackets.

In comparison to the front façade, the east and west elevations of the hotel are relatively plain with painted brickwork and simple rectangular openings with steel framed windows on the ground and upper storey. Two storey brick and tiled roof additions were added to the original building on both elevations. The projecting roof eaves with decorative brackets from the corner towers on the front facade continues on both the east and west elevations.

The sloping site, from Stirling Highway towards the rear of the lot, and the height difference of the Hotel in relation to Florence Road, is most visible on the west elevation. A side entry into the bar, located on the southern end of this elevation, is elevated above the existing footpath and is accessible by a flight of stairs.

The changes to the original layout and expansion of the Hotel is visible on the south elevation with two storey and single storey brick and tile additions added to the building over the years. These additions, although contemporary, are in keeping with the Mediterranean character of the original design, featuring half round terracotta tiles, rounded arches with columns and blind arches with brick and window infill. The original verandah on the ground floor has been substantially modified and enclosed to include an entry porch and toilets. The verandah on the upper storey is still visible behind the additions. To the west of the two storey toilet addition and entry porch, is an enclosed ramped corridor, accessed by a pair of timber matchboard doors, which leads into the cellar below the building. The original cellar was extended over the years<sup>20</sup> to provide storage and cold room facilities to service the bars.

The interior of the hotel underwent significant remodelling in 1986, resulting in little original internal fabric remaining on the ground floor. The interior of the ground floor is divided into three main spaces comprising of an open plan dining area in the eastern end, a lounge with lozenge shaped timber and brass bar counter in the centre and another bar with timber and brass counter in the

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<sup>20</sup>

Based on conversations with the hotel manager and staff on 31 October 2012.



western end. An open-plan kitchen, which has been significantly modified from its original layout, is located in the south eastern corner of the building. The original loggia and south verandah have been altered and replaced with French doors and windows. The original width of the loggia has been decreased with the introduction of the French doors which maximises the area of the lounge. Plasterboard ceilings with Art Deco inspired cornices 'tracing' the rectilinear patterning of the beams and remnants of the original building in the form of piers, columns and fireplaces, form a 'coffered' ceiling effect. It would appear that this 'coffered' ceiling effect was close to the original design in the building plans from 1934.<sup>21</sup> Polished timber floor boards extend throughout the whole of the ground floor except for the kitchen. The loggias on the north and south sides are tiled.

The original layout of the upper floor is largely intact, with changes furnishings and finishes and to some of the rooms to incorporate contemporary ensuites. Art Deco inspired cornices and ceiling roses with chevron motif are featured in the stair foyer, lounge and corridors. Colour scheme of pale cream and pale blue with polished timber floor boards is predominant throughout the upper floor. The arcades on the upper floor are furnished with basic outdoor dining furniture for the hotel patrons. Shared toilet and shower facilities are kept basic with internal timber partitions and tiled floors and painted walls.

### 13. 3. COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is a two-storey Inter-War Spanish Mission style hotel on Stirling Highway in Nedlands.

#### Inter-War Hotels

Hotels of the Inter-War period can be largely separated into two categories: new hotels or existing hotels which were upgraded and modified to align with modern standards and designs. This divide was largely due to the introduction of the *Licensing Amendment Act, 1922* and the establishment of the State Licensing Court<sup>22</sup> in 1923, which resulted in routine inspections and improved standards of both existing and any future licensed premises.

*Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands*, as an entirely new inter-war hotel building is not comparable to those hotels which were constructed at an earlier date and re-modelled during the Inter-War years. Hotels of this type include:

- P1544 *Raffles Hotel*, Applecross – originally constructed in 1896, a substantial Inter-War Functionalist addition was constructed in 1937.
- P597 *Cottesloe Beach Hotel* - originally constructed in 1905, remodelled into the Inter-War Art Deco style and substantially developed in 1937.
- P2812 *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* – built in 1911, a two-storey accommodation wing was added in 1935.
- P201 *Cornwall Hotel*, Boulder – constructed in 1898 and rebuilt in 1934 after a fire.

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<sup>21</sup> Based on archived drawings collated by David Henderson in September 1988 as part of his course work for Architecture & Culture 468.

<sup>22</sup> Also known as the Licenses Reduction Board.

- P162 *Hotel Beverley* – built in 1885 and substantially remodelled in 1938 in the Inter-War Art Deco style.
- P92 *Ye Olde Narrogin Inne*, Armadale – An Inter-War Old English style hotel was added to the site in 1937 to replace an 1856 hotel and join an 1890s accommodation block (later also removed).

Inter-War Hotels which are comparable to *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* as being an entirely new hotel building are:

- P428 *Caves House*, Yallingup (1938-39) – A two-storey hotel of the Inter-War Old English style.
- P108 *Margaret River Hotel* (1936) – A two-storey Inter-War Old English style hotel, designed with elements of the Inter-War Art Deco and Inter-War Arts and Crafts styles. Substantial extensions were added in 1985.
- P1989 *Criterion Hotel*, Perth (1937) – A four-storey Art Deco style hotel, which retains much of its original interior and exterior detailing. It has been recognised as the only remaining inner-city hotel designed in the Art Deco style.
- P2161 *Carlton Hotel*, East Perth (1928) – A two-storey Inter-War Art Deco hotel displaying elements of the Inter-War Anglo-Dutch, Spanish Mission and Mediterranean style.
- P2678 *YNP Yanchep Inn* (1936) – A predominantly two-storey stone building constructed in the Inter-War Old English and Inter-War California Bungalow style.
- P3294 *Fitzgerald Hotel (fmr)*, Northbridge (1925) – A two-storey red brick and stucco moulding hotel constructed in the Victorian Free Classical style.

The above demonstrates the variety of architectural styles employed in the construction of hotels across the State during the Inter-War period.

### **Architectural style - Spanish Mission & Mediterranean styles**

The introduction of Mediterranean architecture to Western Australia can be largely attributed to the increased mobility and travel of the Inter-War years. During this period it was common for Architects to travel to Europe and America where they were influenced by different architectural styles and practices. As was the case with George Herbert Parry and Marshall Clifton at *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands*, the impact of Mediterranean architecture is evident in their design.

Western Australia was particularly susceptible to Mediterranean styles of architecture due to the climactic similarity, as well as aesthetic and romantic appeals.<sup>23</sup> The Mediterranean styles found in Western Australia are generally divided into two styles, Inter-War Mediterranean or Inter-War Spanish Mission.

The Mediterranean character of *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* mostly aligns with the Inter-War Spanish Mission style. Although the building does include common stylistic elements of both the Inter-War Spanish Mission and the Inter-

<sup>23</sup>

Goad, Phillip. and Willis, Julie. (Eds.), *The Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture* (Cambridge University Press: 2012) p. 449.

War Mediterranean styles, it share more key stylistic elements with the Spanish Mission style.

Key stylistic elements of the Spanish Mission style evident in *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* include the half round terracotta tiles,<sup>24</sup> the loggia, the grouped arched openings, the twisted columns, and the ornamental metalwork.

Key stylistic elements of the Mediterranean style evident in *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* include the light coloured smooth walling, and the medium to low-pitched roof and half round terracotta tiles.<sup>25</sup>

A search of the State Heritage Office database for places constructed with elements of both the Inter-War Mediterranean and Inter-War Spanish Mission styles produces just four results. These are:

- P1055 *Nazareth House*, Bluff Point (1941) – RHP - A two-storey building constructed in the Inter-War Mediterranean style with an Inter-War Spanish Mission eastern elevation.
- P2161 *Carlton Hotel*, East Perth (1928) – RHP - A two-storey Inter-War Art Deco hotel displaying elements of the Inter-War Anglo-Dutch, Spanish Mission and Mediterranean style.
- P13702 University of Western Australia – Crawley Campus (1932) – HCWA Assessment Program – Architectural styles on site include Inter-War Mediterranean, Inter-War Spanish Mission, Late 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Perth Regional, Late 20<sup>th</sup>-Century International.
- P17712 Santa Maria College, Melville (1938) – HCWA Assessment Program – The 1938 original school building was constructed in the Inter-War Mediterranean and Inter-War Spanish Mission styles.

The above indicates that there are very few examples of places built with elements of both the Inter-War Mediterranean and Inter-War Spanish Mission styles in Western Australia.

### **Inter-War Spanish Mission style**

As *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is identified as predominantly Spanish Mission in style, it is appropriate to compare it to other Spanish Mission style places. A search of the State Heritage Office database reveals just 29 places (including those discussed above) constructed in the Inter-War Spanish Mission style, this includes:

- P593 *Cottesloe Civic Centre* (1889, 1911, 1936) – RHP.
- P4586 *Old Cable Station*, Cottesloe (1926) – RHP.
- P7467 *Lewis House*, Cottesloe (c.1949) – RHP.
- P9390 Williamson's Motor House, Maylands (1930) – HCWA Assessment Program.

<sup>24</sup> Spanish or Roman tiles specified in Apperly, Irving, and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture* (1989).

<sup>25</sup> Roman, Spanish or Marseille tiles specified in Apperly, Irving, and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture* (1989).

- P2622 Benedictine Monastery Precinct, New Norcia (1947-) – HCWA Assessment Program.

The above demonstrates the variety of building types that employed Spanish Mission architectural style and detailing.

### **Inter-War Spanish Mission style Hotels**

The State Heritage Office database records just three hotels, excluding *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands*, constructed in, or with elements of, the Inter-War Spanish Mission Style. These are:

- P2161 *Carlton Hotel*, East Perth (1928) – Inter-War Art Deco hotel displaying elements of the Inter-War Anglo-Dutch, Spanish Mission and Mediterranean style.
- P2407 Inglewood Hotel, Mount Lawley (1935) – Inter-War Spanish Mission style hotel with elements of the Inter-War Functionalist.
- P16291 Big Bell Hotel (fmr), Big Bell (1937) – Inter-War Spanish Mission style hotel, later abandoned, now ruinous.

The above suggests *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* to be rare as an Inter-War Spanish Mission style, and particularly rare for incorporating elements of the Inter-War Mediterranean style.

### **Parry & Clifton**

As the architectural partnership of Marshall Clifton and George Herbert Parry only lasted four years between 1933 and 1937, very few buildings were produced, and therefore all extant examples have a degree of rarity. Only seven examples of Clifton and Parry's architecture are identified in the State Heritage Office database. This includes:

- P2225 *St Peter's Anglican Church and Memorial Hall*, Victoria Park (1935, 1954) – RHP.
- P4607 *The Chapel of the Guardian Angel*, Queens Park (1937) – RHP.
- P2407 Inglewood Hotel, Mount Lawley (1935) – HCWA Assessment Program.
- P2428 St Patrick's Anglican Church, Mount Lawley (1936) – HCWA Assessment Program.
- P16291 Big Bell Hotel (fmr), Big Bell (1937).
- P14467 Wyalkatchem Hotel & Johnston Building (1919) – HCWA Assessment Program.

As so few examples of Clifton and Parry's architectural partnership exist, *Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands* is a rare example of their architecture.

### **Architecture of Marshall Clifton**

Although there are numerous examples of Marshall Clifton's architecture in Western Australia, both as an independent architect and as part of a partnership, only 35 places associated with Clifton are entered in to the State Heritage Office database. While architectural histories identify Clifton as a key

practitioner of the Inter-War Spanish Mission style,<sup>26</sup> his architectural portfolio also includes a great number of places designed in the Inter-War styles of Mediterranean and Functionalist, as well as an assortment of Post-War and Late-Twentieth Century styled places. Those places associated with Clifton which are entered in the State Register (of which there are ten) reflect the diversity of Clifton's styles as well as the variety of architectural partnerships. A selection of these places includes:

- P323 *Bruce Rock Shire Offices* (1928) – Marshall Clifton, designed in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style.
- P492 *Coronado Hotel*, Claremont (1940) – Marshall Clifton & Reginald Summerhayes, designed in the Inter-War Art Deco & Inter-War Functionalist styles
- P3898 *Windmill & Wishing Well*, Victoria Park (1939) – Marshall Clifton.
- P4607 *The Chapel of the Guardian Angel*, Queens Park (1937) – Marshall Clifton & George Herbert Parry, designed in the Inter-War Old English style
- P9812 *Balcatta Senior High School* (1966) – Marshall Clifton (original section), designed in the Inter-War Mediterranean style.
- P15761 *Flats 72-74 Thomas Street*, West Perth (1933) – Marshall Clifton, designed in the Inter-War Mediterranean style.

The variety of Clifton's buildings entered in the State Register demonstrates the diversity in the designs and styles that he employed. As a key practitioner in the Inter-War Spanish Mission style, buildings of this type, such as *Captain Stirling Hotel*, Nedlands are of high significance.

#### 13. 4. KEY REFERENCES

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#### 13. 5. FURTHER RESEARCH

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Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter A *Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present* (Angus and Robertson: 1989), p. 179.