



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **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
- 3.22 Lodging people
- 3.23 Catering for tourists

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

- 306 Domestic activities
- 311 Hospitality industry & tourism
- 405 Sport, recreation & entertainment
- 504 Depression & boom
- 507 Water, power, major transport routes
- 604 Local heroes & battlers

#### **11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\***

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam*, being dominated by its 1890s extensions, is a good example of a substantial Federation period hotel, originally designed in the Federation Filigree style and since the loss of its verandahs displaying aspects of the Federation Free Classical style. (Criterion 1.1)

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is a landmark in the main commercial street of Northam, by virtue of its prominent location on the bend in Fitzgerald Street, imposing façade and expansive street frontage. (Criterion 1.3)

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is an important component in the streetscape of central Northam that contributes to its heritage character. (Criterion 1.4)

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is highly intact and retains many original interior features, including its richly detailed foyer, pressed metal ceilings, stained glass windows, fireplaces and timber detailing (Criterion 1.2)

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

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. Parks, *Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

## **11.2 HISTORIC VALUE**

The evolution of the building from the Farmer's Home Hotel in 1866 to *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* in the 1890s mirrors the development of Northam from a small country town to an important regional centre, illustrating the period when wealth gradually accumulated in the colony on the back of the convict system and allowed small country towns to prosper and grow. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* has operated as a licensed facility since its establishment in 1866 as the Farmer's Home Hotel, and is one of several such establishments in the Avon Valley marking the early history and prosperity of the region. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

The Farmer's Home Hotel (the 1860s section of *Shamrock Hotel, Northam*) was established by George Throssell, who was a successful businessman, prominent in the public life of Northam and the State, and Premier for several months in 1901. His involvement with the Hotel is of interest in contrast with his later strong support of the Temperance Movement. (Criterion 2.3)

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is an example of innovation and creativity which saw the development of a cohesive, substantial and architecturally pleasing structure from several existing buildings and later additions. (Criterion 2.4)

## **11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* has the potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation by an examination of the various stages of its development since 1861. (Criterion 3.2)

## **11.4 SOCIAL VALUE**

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* has been a licensed premises since 1866, where social interaction, refreshment, accommodation and entertainment have been provided for the local community and the travelling public. The place continues to make a significant contribution to the growth of the tourism industry in the region. (Criterion 4.1)

As a central Northam landmark and meeting place since the 1860s, *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* makes a significant contribution to the local and wider community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1 RARITY**

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is rare for retaining its various stages of development from the 1860s melded into an architecturally cohesive whole. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is a representative example of the Federation Filigree style in a regional town. (Criterion 6.1)

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* represents the ongoing development of a substantial building that has continued to develop since 1861, and is a viable hotel and tourism destination in a regional centre in 2007. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is, overall, in fair condition. The operational areas, including the bars, dining room, kitchen, function room and the first floor

accommodation rooms are in good condition. However, the rear service areas at ground and first floor levels are in poor to fair condition with weathered timbers and deteriorated fabric. The outbuildings are generally in fair condition.

#### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* has retained a high degree of integrity. Some changes have taken place over the years, to facilitate the ongoing use of the hotel, but those changes have had minimal impact on the context of the place.

#### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The remaining original fabric of *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is mostly intact. The phases of development are difficult to discern, although the mid 1990s refurbishment of the first floor accommodation rooms is evident. Clearly changes have taken place over time. The most significant impact is the removal of the street frontage verandahs and painting of the front façade, and the removal of interior walls in the ground floor bar areas. *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* retains many original interior elements, as demonstrated by the richly detailed foyer, pressed metal ceilings, stained glass windows, fireplaces and timber detailing. Overall, *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* demonstrates a moderate to high degree of authenticity

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, in June 2007 with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is a substantial two-storey stone and brick hotel building with an expansive street frontage and hipped corrugated iron roofs indicating various stages of construction from 1861 to 1900.

Northam is located in the fertile Avon Valley, which is the country of the Balardong people who populated the area in relatively large numbers prior to European settlement. The open bushland created by 'fire-stick farming' was found most suitable for grazing sheep and the area was soon inhabited with pastoral properties after the mid 1830s, displacing the Balardong people and their traditional lifestyle.<sup>1</sup> Land for three townsites (York, Newcastle and Northam) was set aside along the Avon River, but it was 1847 before any lots were surveyed at Northam.<sup>2</sup>

The introduction of convicts and Pensioner Guards to the Colony, between 1850 and 1868, provided a boost to both the economy and the population, labour for public works, particularly roads, and for the pastoral industry in the Avon Valley. In 1861, storekeeper James Lever Ainsworth paid £7 Sterling for the grant of title to the 1.75 acre triangular Northam Town Lot 26, on the bend in Fitzgerald Street at its junction with Ensign Dale Street.<sup>3</sup> On this site he appears to have constructed a single-storey store building, which possibly included his residence. In 1862, Ainsworth sold Lot 26 to George Throssell for £125, confirming that a

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<sup>1</sup> Hallam, Sylvia J., *Aborigines of the York area*, The York Society, 1998; Green, Neville, 'Aborigines and white settlers in the nineteenth century' In Stannage, C. T., *A New History of Western Australia*, Perth, UWA Press, 1981, pp. 72-123.

<sup>2</sup> Landgate, history of country town names, [www.landgate.wa.gov.au](http://www.landgate.wa.gov.au).

<sup>3</sup> Lands & Survey, Town enrolment 1809, 7 May 1861.

building had indeed been added to the site.<sup>4</sup> Throssell is understood to have occupied the place and in 1866 he and his brother-in-law, J. R. Morrell, were granted a licence for the Farmers' Home Hotel on the premises.<sup>5</sup> Improved roads meant more travellers and thus a need for more public houses for accommodation, food, drink and stabling. The Farmer's Home was Northam's second hotel, the other being the Avon Bridge, established in 1860.<sup>6</sup>

The Farmer's Home Hotel was leased to John Mears, who ran it with his wife Annie. In July 1866, a resident remarked that 'in summertime it is well known that in no district over the Hills is there more drinking than in our little Town'.<sup>7</sup> The downside of the convict influx was that all were male, and this increased the already high male to female ratio. This in turn is perceived to have had an effect on the nature of the social life of the Colony with immoral and drunken behaviour becoming a problem.<sup>8</sup> At Northam, the crime rate rose, whether as a result of convict influence and excessive drinking or not. In August 1866 a new police station, cells and court house were opened and the following year a second policeman was appointed and seven Pensioner Guards were settled on ten-acre blocks, ready to be called on when needed to assist the police.<sup>9</sup>

In 1869, farmer George Christmass acquired the Farmers' Home Hotel for £420, the price indicating a good business and enlarged premises.<sup>10</sup> Over the following several years, Christmass added the surrounding vacant Lots 25, 27 and 28 to the site. Lots 27 and 28, on the north side were obtained for £10 and Lot 25, on the south side, was purchased from farmer James Forbes for £5.<sup>11</sup> In 1873, Christmass advertised the Farmer's Home Hotel for sale or lease:

That old-established public house and premises in Northam known as the Farmers' Home, doing a good business for over nine years; containing two parlours, eight bedrooms, bar, tap room, kitchen, pantry, and store, a stable for six horses, and hay-rooms; together with four town lots adjoining and enclosed by a good jam fence. The above is well situated for a blacksmith's shop and other business. For terms, which are very liberal, apply to G. Christmass. Northam, November 22, 1873.<sup>12</sup>

In February 1874, Francis Kirk took up the lease on the place and applied for a publican's licence.

I, Francis Kirk, blacksmith, married, now residing at Northam in the district of Toodyay, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply at the next Licensing Meeting to be holden for this district for a Publican's Licence for the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors in the house and appurtenances thereunto belonging situated at Northam aforesaid, and known as the "Farmer's Home", and for which a license has been held for the last 7 or 8 years.<sup>13</sup>

The license was approved and Kirk, son of a Pensioner Guard, occupied the place with his wife Brigid and three young children.<sup>14</sup>

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4 Lands & Survey, Deed of Memorial, Book 6 No. 1237, 7 June 1862.

5 Garden, Donald S., *Northam: An Avon valley history*, OUP, Melb., 1979, p. 75.

6 J. Ball, D. Kelsall & J. Pidgeon, *Statewide Survey of Hotels 1829-1939*, National Trust (WA), 1997, p. 13.

7 Garden, Donald S., op cit, p. 75, quoting the *Perth Gazette*, 6 July 1866.

8 J. Ball, D. Kelsall & J. Pidgeon, op cit, p. 13.

9 Garden, Donald S., op cit, p. 75.

10 Lands & Survey, Deed of Memorial, Book 7 No. 275, 9 December 1869.

11 Lands & Survey, Town enrolment 2929, 1 October 1870 & Deed of Memorial, Book 7 No. 711, 22 January 1872.

12 *Perth Gazette and WA Times*, 5 December 1873, p. 3.

13 *Perth Gazette and WA Times*, 20 February 1874, p. 2.

14 Erickson, Rica, *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, Perth, UWA Press, 1988, p. 1763.

Having disposed of his ownership of the Farmers' Home Hotel George Throssell embraced the Temperance Movement. Reverend William Traylen of York was a temperance lecturer who preached in Northam with some success and in the mid 1870s George Throssell is credited with signing the pledge to encourage the young men of the town to do the same. Many leading and influential figures of the district, among them J. H. Gregory and mill owner James Byfield, who were active members of the Wesleyan Methodist congregation, supported the temperance movement, which saw the establishment in the town of the Good Templar Lodge, the Rechabite Lodge and the Temperance Hotel. Throssell is also credited with trying to prevent George Christmass from becoming parishioners' warden because he owned a hotel.<sup>15</sup>

The Temperance Movement had an effect on liquor sales and patronage at the two hotels in town. Francis Kirk, who leased the Farmer's Home for only three years, claimed business was so poor that he lost £2,000 during the period and returned to his trade as a blacksmith, and the Avon Bridge Hotel closed for a time.<sup>16</sup> According to George Christmass' grandson, Charles Jr, Billy Mears ran the Farmer's Home for a few years from 1877 and his grandfather, who had lost his sight, lived at the place.<sup>17</sup> George Christmass died in December 1879 and his son Charles Christmass Sr inherited the property. In 1883, Charles Sr sold the Farmer's Home Hotel and the four Town Lots to William Kitchener for £500. Kitchener raised a mortgage for £400 with Alexander Forrest to finance the purchase and later that year borrowed another £100.<sup>18</sup>

In 1886, the property changed hands once again, when Kitchener sold the place to Septimus Burt and Frank Mends Stone for £250 plus the mortgages. In October 1890, police constable Joseph O'Hara acquired the place and renamed it the 'Shamrock Hotel'. He took over the mortgages, which Forrest had transferred to George Shenton, and paid Burt and Stone £550. Business was good and in July the following year, O'Hara paid out the £500 mortgages. The place was then worth £1,050.<sup>19</sup>

The original 1861 building had been enlarged over the years and at some time after 1870, when George Christmass acquired Lot 27, a two-storey stone building had been added on the north side, but exactly when this was done, and by whom, is unclear. This second building was in existence when Joseph O'Hara set about enlarging the Hotel in the 1890s to create the place in its present form.<sup>20</sup>

The exact date of O'Hara's improvements is not known, and no report of it has been found in the Northam newspapers. Whether *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* was enlarged and remodelled in one major operation is also unclear. Physical evidence indicates that the detail on the frontage on the northern half of the building is not exactly the same as that on the southern half and it is possible that this construction was done in two stages. The original 1860s building and the later two-storey stone building make up the northern half of *Shamrock Hotel, Northam*, with an upper floor added to the 1860s section and the 1890s facade tying both buildings together. The southern half of the place was also built in the

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15 Garden, Donald S., op cit, pp. 84-87.

16 Garden, Donald S., op cit, pp. 84-87.

17 *Northam Advertiser*, 15 June 1929, p. 5.

18 Lands & Survey, Deed of Memorial, Book 9 No. 87 & 88, 1 January 1883 & No. 390, 9 November 1883.

19 Lands & Survey, Deed of Memorial, Book 9 No. 671, September 1884 & No. 1111, 27 January 1886; Book 11 No. 300, 15 October 1890 & 289, 8 July 1891.

20 Sketch of the buildings c.1890, no source given, Garden, Donald S., op cit, p. 127; Landgate, aerial photograph, Northam 2004, shows at least three stages of development of the main building.

1890s, but it may have been done as a separate project a few years later, accounting for the slight difference in the detail of the frontage. This two-stage construction would fit with the events that were unfolding at that time.

The discovery of gold in the Yilgarn made Northam the jumping off point for the fields as the terminus of the Eastern Railway line, so undertaking the first stage of the work on *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* would have been considered a reasonable investment. But it was the gold finds at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in 1892-93 and the selection of Northam as the starting point for the Eastern Goldfields Railway that cemented the town's future prospects and made the major construction of the southern half of *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* worth undertaking.

When Joseph O'Hara had finished remodelling and extending the place, *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* was a two-storey building with a parapeted facade, a two-storey verandah over the footpath and a 47.5 metre long frontage extending either side of the bend in Fitzgerald Street.<sup>21</sup> From 1894 to at least 1900 inclusive, Joseph O'Hara ran the same advertisement on the front page of the Northam newspaper every week. The advertisement simply stated that *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* had a large number of apartments available and the best of service.<sup>22</sup>

Joseph O'Hara had arrived in the Colony in 1864 at the age of eleven with his stepfather. In 1874 he joined the police force and was stationed in Geraldton, York, Albany, Williams, Guildford and The Lakes. He married Margaret Ann McCorry, whose father, Sergeant Richard McCorry was a Pensioner Guard living at Northam. When she was nineteen, Margaret Ann 'absconded' from home, causing her father to put a notice in the *West Australian* threatening legal proceedings against anyone who was harbouring her or preventing her return. The outcome of this event is not known but she married Joseph O'Hara in 1876.<sup>23</sup>

Joseph and Margaret O'Hara ran *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* themselves into at least the mid-1890s, when Margaret's sister Alma (A. C. McCorry) held the licence for a time in 1896. Margaret's brother Constantine had stables nearby, possibly on the same site, and the three siblings also had an interest in McCorry's Hotel at Nungarin. In 1901, Alma took a seven year lease on *Shamrock Hotel, Northam*.<sup>24</sup>

The extra land that was part of the *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* site began to be subdivided and sold from around 1913, with the Hotel buildings occupying only part of Lots 26 and 27. Joseph O'Hara died in 1916, and Margaret inherited the property, holding the licence herself from around 1920 until early 1926, when she transferred it to her nephew F. J. Lee, son of her sister Alma. Margaret and Joseph O'Hara did not have children of their own.<sup>25</sup> Margaret Ann O'Hara died in May 1926. Her funeral notice stated that 'the funeral... was very largely attended, mourners from all parts of the district being present to pay their last respects to one who had been most highly esteemed'.<sup>26</sup>

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21 Photograph showing the verandahs, c.1920s, Garden, Donald S., op cit, fp. 195.

22 *Central Districts Advertiser*, November 1893 to May 1895 & *Northam Advertiser*, May 1895 to December 1900, p. 1.

23 Erickson, Rica, *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, Perth, UWA Press, 1988, p. 2365; *West Australian*, 5 July 1872.

24 *Northam Advertiser*, p.1 advertisements, 1895-1900; Certificate of Title, Vol. 54 Fol. 127, 7 January 1901.

25 Erickson, Rica, op cit; Licensing Court file, Shamrock Hotel correspondence file, 1923-1984, SROWA, WAS 2213 CONS 5708 Item A386 Vol. 3

26 *Northam Advertiser*, 12 May 1926.

In 1928, architects A.E. & A.B. Cox undertook 'extensive alterations and additions' for O. Olsen, and 'extensive alterations to public and saloon bars, including fittings' in 1930 for owner Charles Wetherell.<sup>27</sup> This refurbishment took place toward the end of the 1920s agricultural boom and is likely to have included the replacement of the two-storey verandah with a canopy over the footpath to modernise the place with a new sleeker look. During the 1930s, the licence changed hands a number of times.<sup>28</sup>

From 1940 to 1961, *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* was owned by the Swan Brewery Company Ltd. In 1950, the place is recorded as having a staff comprising 4 bar tenders, a waitress, two housemaids, three glass washers, a cook, two yardmen, a kitchen maid and a laundress. Facilities included two lounges seating 25 and 36, two bars, a dining room seating 44, fifteen single rooms, two double rooms, a room for the licensee and four staff beds. Ablution facilities were hardly sufficient with one female shower, one bath each for male and female, two female WCs, one male WC & one urinal, and one basin each. Little wonder that from 1953, the licensing court kept issuing orders for ablution facilities to be upgraded, but the Brewery kept avoiding the financial commitment, waiting to see what benefits would result from work done on the Northam Tattersalls Hotel, which they also owned. The order was eventually complied with in 1960, and in 1961 the Brewery sold *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* to private ownership.<sup>29</sup>

A 1960 floor plan shows that *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* catered for commercial travellers, as several large rooms on the lower floor of the two-storey stone building at the northern end of the place were set aside as sample rooms. A restaurant licence was obtained for the place in 1963 and there were other internal alterations over the following years, mainly to ablution facilities.<sup>30</sup> Use of accommodation in the place had waned with the advent of motor transportation and motels.

In 1991, Anthony and Geraldine Guijarro and Neville and Michele Martin acquired *Shamrock Hotel, Northam*.<sup>31</sup> At the time of purchase the place was described as 'a sorry sight, a dilapidated shell, with only one bar operating and even this on minimal hours'.<sup>32</sup> The owners undertook extensive refurbishment and renovations of the place, which included establishment of two bars, outdoor area, three restaurants providing everything from 'bar snacks to flambe table service', conference room and five-star accommodation with private facilities. *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* has competed in the Gold Plate Awards and Sir David Brand Awards for Tourism, and was the finalist in the Gold Plate Award 1993 and 1994; finalist in the 'Specialist Accommodation' section and winner in the 'Restaurants and Catering' section, Sir David Brand Award, 1994; and, Winner Small Business Award (Wheatbelt) in the under 30 employees category.<sup>33</sup>

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- 27 *Building & Construction*, 22 May 1928, p. 20 & 6 June 1930, p. 11; Certificate of Title, Vol. 1005 Fol. 421.
- 28 Licensing Court file, Shamrock Hotel correspondence file, Item A386 Vol. 3, op cit.
- 29 Licensing Court files, Shamrock Hotel correspondence file, Item A386 Vol. 3, op cit; Certificate of Title, Vol. 1037 Fol. 637, 28 July 1961.
- 30 Licensing Court files, Shamrock Hotel plans, SROWA, WAS 2237, CONS 5586, Item 54, 1963-1988 & correspondence file, Item A386 Vol. 3, op cit.
- 31 Certificate of Title Vol. 1723 Fol. 45, 18 December 1991.
- 32 Development outline provided to HCWA by the owners, p. 1, HCWA Place file.
- 33 Development outline, 1995, p. 1, provided to HCWA by the owners, HCWA Place file.

In 1998, *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* was entered on the Town of Northam Municipal Heritage Inventory with a recommendation to conserve and retain. The place was included in the Statewide Hotel Survey in 1997.<sup>34</sup>

There has been a rearrangement of room functions throughout the ground floor, at various times. The 1960s sample rooms now hold the kitchen and dining room, while the former kitchen and dining room at the southern end of the place have been opened up to form Riley's Bar. The former large lounge at the rear has become the function room. Possibly the only major room that continues in an earlier function is the main bar, which occupies the central 1860s section of *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* and has almost certainly done so for over a hundred years, while at least part of this space would have been a lounge bar in the 1860s.<sup>35</sup>

In 2007, *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is owned by Emfield Investments Pty Ltd and Neville and Michele Martin.<sup>36</sup> It continues to provide food, drink and accommodation to a high standard for a broad clientele.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is a two-storey stone, brick and corrugated iron hotel building with an expansive street frontage curved around a bend, with complex hipped corrugated iron roofs, and single storey associated outbuildings at the rear. Constructed in a series of developments since 1861, the place is stylistically dominated by the 1890s extensions, which were originally constructed in Federation Filigree style but since the loss of the filigree verandahs now appear to be in the Federation Free Classical style.

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is located in Fitzgerald Street, the main street of Northam, on a bend at the north end, opposite Ensign Dale Place, and is bounded to the rear (west) by Heaton Avenue, parallel with the Avon River on the west side. The site slopes generally down from Fitzgerald Street to the west (rear).

The two-storey building is aligned at zero setback along the entire expansive Fitzgerald Street frontage that is cranked at a 150-degree angle midway along the frontage. A suspended canopy along the Fitzgerald Street frontage extends over the footpath where the original double storey verandah was originally located. The rear courtyard is delineated by a brick retaining wall along the west edge and an expansive informal asphalt carpark between the courtyard and Heaton Avenue.

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* displays characteristics of the Federation Filigree style. Typical of the style is the solid masonry load bearing form complemented by the shaded verandahs (since removed) that became an Australian pub tradition. The prominent 'corner' location typifies the style with verandahs, and now a suspended canopy, over the footpaths. The street frontages are balanced with a regular rhythm of door and window openings.

Without the filigree verandahs that are the prominent marker of the Federation Filigree style, the place presents as a simple rendition of the Federation Free Classical style, including balustrade parapets concealing the roof, pediments that

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<sup>34</sup> O'Brien Planning, *Town & Shire of Northam, Municipal Heritage Inventory*, 1997; Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., op cit.

<sup>35</sup> Licensing Court files, Shamrock Hotel plans, Item 54, op cit.

<sup>36</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 1723 Fol. 45, 3 June 2005.



create decorative accents on the skyline, and arched window and door openings in a free interpretation of classical order.

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* demonstrates several periods of development, although they are not clearly discernable in the existing fabric. The documentary evidence indicates that the central section dates from the 1860s with the later two-storey stone expansion taking place adjacent to that, at the north end of the frontage, between 1870 and 1890. There is nothing in the physical fabric to refute this and certainly the stone building at the north end is of an earlier period, and has been followed by the considerable development of the 1890s expanding south along the entire Fitzgerald Street frontage and adding an additional storey to the 1860s section.

The hotel building dominates the Fitzgerald Street streetscape, being the most expansive street frontage in the main street. The street front suspended canopy 'verandah' follows the entire cranked frontage. It has a pressed metal soffit in a linear ridged detail likely associated with the 1930s alterations to the hotel.

The entire street frontage has a parapeted finish detailed in Italianate balusters that are interrupted only by decorative pediments central to each of the two main elements of the frontage. The complexities of hipped roofs are concealed from the street frontages by the parapets, but rear views reveal painted red corrugated iron cladding. The roofline is punctuated by distinctive tall face brick chimneys detailed mostly with corbelled stucco moulding and rendered tops.

The walls of the Fitzgerald Street frontages are detailed in pointed random course rough face stone tuckpointed brick quoining that has been painted. The rendered and stucco parapet seemingly remains unpainted. The south end of the frontage is typified by arched window and door openings and a moulded dado line delineating the rendered dado at window sill level. The section of the frontage north of the cranked corner has predominantly rectangular openings with flat arches, and no decorative moulding to the rendered dado. The side walls at both street front returns have face brickwork (south) and stonework (north) and the rear walls show a variety of face brick and various render and painted brick finishes.

The original timber framed double hung windows remain insitu in the rectangular openings at the north end of the frontage, with distinctive vertical steel spikes along the window sills. The arched windows of the south section of the frontage have decorative stained glass windows with fanlights and sidelights mostly in configurations of three sashes. Double hung timber framed sash windows and pairs of French doors are evident on the first floor frontage.

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* has a rectangular footprint cranked around the long form with a courtyard across the rear of the building. The main entry into the hotel building is just south of the cranked corner on Fitzgerald Street. The recessed double entry opens into a foyer with the staircase beyond. To the right of the entry foyer is the bar area extending along the Fitzgerald Street frontage to the dining room at the north end, with the kitchen behind. Straight ahead is the staircase access to the first floor. On the left are the office and a short corridor to Riley's Bar area, with the function room on the right (west). Right from the entry foyer, parallel along the rear of the bar area, is a corridor that links to service rooms and exterior courtyard access along the left (west), and the dining room and kitchen facility at the end (north).

On the first floor, from the landing, there are accommodation rooms flanking a west corridor along the north frontage, with a "T" intersection at the north end,

leading to service areas (at the rear) above the kitchen below. Adjoining the expansive first floor foyer at the top of the staircase are several suites along the Fitzgerald Street frontage and on the west side, where there is also a short corridor leading to more suites and a small rear verandah and egress.

The main entry on the ground floor, recessed behind a flat arch, features double entry doors with leadlight glass patterned sidelights and fanlight. The walls have a pressed metal dado with hard plaster walls above that extend into the main foyer. From the entry, within the foyer, the staircase is visible (ahead).

The bar areas on the ground floor extend along almost the entire Fitzgerald Street frontage from the reception entry north. Several walls have been removed to form a single space with the bar running the length of the space, parallel with Fitzgerald Street. The walls have a tongue and groove vertical timber dado with hard plaster above, and the ceilings are the original pressed metal with each of the rooms (former) delineated by different patterns. It is likely that much of the bar display area on the back wall is original, as is the timber bar front in panels with a central clover detail, and brass foot rail.

There is a fireplace on the 'front' wall immediately off the reception area, within the bar areas. It is detailed in tuckpointed face brick with two-course header arch opening and a simple bracketed timber mantle. The entire fireplace and mantle has been painted.

The dining room, at the north end, adjoins a hallway between the bar areas and the dining room, opening off the Fitzgerald Street frontage with double doors detailed in angled tongue and groove timber. That corridor leads through to the rear corridor (north/south), and the kitchen. The dining room has a fireplace and mantelpiece central on the west wall, a recessed bar area on the south wall with a timber surround similar to the detail behind the main bars, and a dado frontage also as for the main bar area's bar detail. French doors on the north wall open into a narrow enclosed courtyard.

The kitchen behind the dining room is a series of two main rooms and a corridor on the north end with cool rooms and service access beyond to the rear. Fully equipped as a commercial kitchen, it has tiled walls and a concrete floor, with stainless steel fitouts, commercial cookers and exhaust vents.

Immediately adjacent to the kitchen is the north end of the corridor that runs almost the length of the building behind the bar area, opening onto the rear exterior and service areas. At the north end of the corridor, there is a truncated fireplace in the vicinity of the double entry that is the main rear access. The corridor, with vertical timber dado, intersects with the main entry and stair foyer, and then extends further south through to Riley's Bar and the function room.

The function room is located on the west side of the corridor, down several stairs at the main double entry. The arched entry to the function room has sidelights and a four paned functional fanlight. The function room is an expansive single space with a fireplace central on the rear wall (west), detailed as for the fireplace in the bar area, and there are evenly spaced double hung windows along the north side wall.

At the south end of the building, from the front to the rear, is the Riley's Bar area. The entry from the corridor is an expansive arched opening with double doors and fixed sidelights with fanlights above. From a landing, the bar is several steps down from the main ground floor level. The bar area has a considerable Fitzgerald Street frontage with central arched double entry doors and fanlights

flanked by similar arches with sets of three windows and fanlights detailed in leadlight. Riley's Bar extends along the south wall in a space that originally comprised at least three rooms, which are indicated by expansive flat arch moulded openings. The actual bar is located along much of the south wall. Behind, the west end of the bar, is a former kitchen room (now storage), with a former face brick fireplace evident, and with access to the rear.

The staircase to the first floor is an expansive structure that turns from the main access aligned with the main front door, to rise along the west wall (rear), returning again along the north wall where the stained glass arched picture window is evident, with the landing opening along the east side. The expansive baluster detail is painted timber with turned detailing in alternate sections that form a pattern.

The foyer area is richly detailed with a number of single arched openings on the east side (accessing rooms) detailed with chamfered pilasters and decorative plaster mouldings. The ground level and first floor level staircase foyers are detailed with deep decorative pressed metal cornices and ceiling roses in the stairwell ceiling.

The first floor rooms are well appointed and all entirely refurbished in the 1990s. They have hard plaster walls, and mostly gyprock ceilings with decorative replacement cornices and ceiling roses. The walls are hard plaster, where original, or stud framed walls where interventions have been made. Corridor walls on the north wing have a tongue and groove timber dado. Most doors are recent interventions and although four-panelled are infilled with tongue and groove timbers. Several rooms at the south-east end have fireplaces with the original mantelpieces. Ensuite bathrooms have been fitted out in association with each room or suite.

At the west end of the south wing, there is access to a rear verandah. The verandah details display original fabric with vertical timber balusters, and the external stairs to the western (rear) area have similar staircase balustrading.

At the north-west rear of the first floor is a service area that has original fabric. The main hotel corridor opens onto what was originally a verandah, with the rear brick wall evidencing tuck pointing to the brick quoining and the face stone, both unpainted original fabric.

The service rooms and the verandah ceiling are all entirely lined with horizontal tongue and groove painted boards. There is shelving in one of the two service rooms off the verandah that is enclosed at the north end with multi-paned fixed glass in a timber frame.

Adjacent to the building, at the rear are several detached rectangular brick buildings that indicate various periods of development of the rear service facilities, with hipped roofs and low pitched gable roofs. The rear courtyard is paved, raised to different levels with bar areas and a low brick wall on the west end, delineating the boundary of the courtyard, with the carpark adjacent, and Heaton Avenue, Bernard Park and the Avon River beyond.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

There are 116 Federation Filigree hotels on the database, of which 23 are entered in the Register. Most of these, particularly in the Perth and Fremantle area, retain their double-storey verandahs, and are therefore not considered comparable. It could be argued that *Shamrock Hotel, Northam* now has more in

common with hotels of Federation Free Classical style, but the detailing of the facade is evident of finer Filigree features.

The following registered places comprise two-storey hotels designed in the Federation Filigree style:

00376 *Rose Hotel, Bunbury* (1863): a two storey building designed in the Federation Filigree style, which was replaced with a three-storey section in 1910 and extensively altered by architect W.G. Bennett in 1939.

01463 *State Hotel (fmr), Gwalia* (1903): two-storey corner building in Federation Filigree style. The building is constructed of brick, with its corrugated iron roof concealed behind a heavily moulded parapet. Both street facades are treated in a similar manner, each with a centrally located entrance, emphasised by a segmental arch pediment. The truncated corner provides a secondary entrance and is emphasised by a triangular pediment.

01669 *Pindar Hotel (fmr)* (1905): two-storey masonry hotel constructed in the Federation Filigree style. A representative example of a vernacular 'corner pub' built in the Federation period, with landmark quality due to its prominence on the streetscape and its relationship with the remaining buildings of the small townsite. The most visible building remaining to illustrate the early development of Pindar.

01675 *Mundaring Weir Hotel* (1898, 1906): double-storey brick and iron hotel, designed in Federation Filigree style with two 1898 single-storey weatherboard sections. The place contains part of the oldest surviving permanent building at Mundaring Weir.

02630 *Federal Hotel (fmr), Wagin* (1896+): comprises the hotel building and ground-floor shops (1896), a double-storey brick and iron Federation Filigree style building; the store (c.1900), a single-storey brick and iron Victorian Georgian style building; and the motel (1965), a single-storey brick and asbestos Late Twentieth-Century Perth Regional style building.<sup>37</sup>

14888 *Globe Hotel, Perth* (1884, 1897, 1910, late 1920s/ early 1930s) is a three-storey hotel originally designed in the Federation Filigree style that has also lost its verandahs. The place is a brick building, and has a single-storey section at the rear. Its ground floor street frontage has been extensively altered and accommodation areas on the first and second floors have moderate to high authenticity, although most original doors and stained glass panels have been removed.

Of these places, only one was constructed in the 1860s, this being 00376 *Rose Hotel, Bunbury* (1863). There are 13 other Hotels on the database listed as being constructed in this period, including P02569 *Newcastle Hotel, Toodyay* and P02828 *Albion Hotel, (fmr) York*, (1860) which are both relatively substantial hotel buildings. The *Albion Hotel (fmr)*, is a rare example of a two-storey Colonial style hotel with verandahs, and is on the Register of National Estate. The *Newcastle Hotel* in the Victorian Georgian style, follows a similar period of development with its 1891 upper floor addition and is therefore the most comparable of the two, but both these buildings have retained their verandahs.

There are 51 Federation Free Classical hotels on the database, of which 18 are on the Register. The following 3 places comprise two storey buildings of a comparable construction date to that of *Shamrock Hotel, Northam*:

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<sup>37</sup> Information provided by HCWA staff; HCWA database; Register of the National Estate; Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., op cit.

00570 *Railway Hotel (fmr) Coolgardie* (1896) A single storey and two storey Federation Filigree and Federation Free Classical style building with Flemish bond tuckpointed brick walls, an iron roof and timber verandahs to both first and second floors.

00975 *His Majesty's Hotel*, Fremantle (1904) A two storey rendered brick building with an iron roof, which like the Shamrock Hotel has landmark quality due to its prominent street corner position.

01966 *Court Hotel*, (1888) a two-storey stucco, brick and iron hotel, constructed in the Victorian Regency style, and later modified in the Federation Free Classical and Inter War Art Deco style, which occupies a prominent street corner position.

*Shamrock Hotel, Northam* is a representative example of the Federation Filigree style, uncommon and imposing for its street location, and rare for retaining its various stages of development from the 1860s, melded into a cohesive whole.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

Licensing Court correspondence files and plans held at State Records office as referenced.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

No advertisements for the place were found in the York newspaper the *Eastern Districts Chronicle*, but a closer reading may locate some mention of work carried out in the earliest years of the 1890s and the possible involvement of an architect. The Northam newspaper only commenced publication in November 1893.

Comparative information regarding the interior of the place requires further research, as the assessment documentation for the comparative hotels listed above includes little information on the degree of any extant, original interior elements.