



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.

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Robin Chinnery, Historian and Philip Griffiths, Architect, in August 2003, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development settlements, towns and cities
- 8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens
- 8.7 Honouring achievement
- 8.10.4 Creating visual arts

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 105 Exploring and surveying
- 407 Cultural activities
- 605 Famous and infamous people

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Alexander Forrest Statue is a very fine life size representation of Forrest in a life-like romantic style, portraying him in a natural pose dressed in the clothing he wore and with equipment that he used as an explorer and surveyor. (Criterion 1.1)

Alexander Forrest Statue is an excellent public sculpture executed by Pietro Giacomo Porcelli R.A. (Criterion 1.2)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Alexander Forrest Statue is a landmark located on the corner of St. George's Terrace and Barrack Street at the entrance of Stirling Gardens and within the predominantly government and civic domain roughly bounded by Barrack, Pier and Hay streets, and Riverside Drive. (Criterion 1.3)

Alexander Forrest Statue is an important component of a civic precinct that extends from the *Perth Town Hall* on the corner of Barrack and Hay streets, *Treasury Buildings (fmr)*, *St. George's Cathedral*, Burt Hall, *The Deanery*, *St. Andrew's Church*, Council House, the old *Court House*, *Stirling Gardens*, *Government House*, the *Supreme Court and Gardens*, *The Weld Club*, *The Esplanade*, and *Barrack Square*. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE.

Alexander Forrest Statue, completed in 1902, and erected in 1903, is the first public statue in Perth in commemoration of an individual and his achievements, and the second in Western Australia, the first having been that of Hordern at Albany. *Alexander Forrest Statue* is the first public statue in the State in commemoration of an individual born in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

In the Western Australian gold boom period, the Browning Fountain, Perth's only nineteenth century fountain, was erected on the prominent site at the corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack Street, from which it was removed in 1916, to make way for the relocation of *Alexander Forrest Statue*. (Criteria 2.1 and 2.2)

Alexander Forrest Statue was erected in 1903, in the post gold boom period, in commemoration of Alexander Forrest, whose achievements in the exploration and development of the Kimberley earned him the title of 'father' of the north-west pastoral industry, and who had played a significant role in the development of Perth and the State from the 1870s through to his death in 1901. (Criterion 2.2)

Alexander Forrest Statue commemorates Alexander Forrest CMG, MLC and MLA, prominent Western Australian explorer, politician and investor, Mayor of Perth (1892-95 and 1897-1900). It was the first public sculpture executed in Western Australia by Pietro Giacomo Porcelli R.A., the foremost sculptor in Western Australia in the first decades of the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.3)

Alexander Forrest Statue was the first public commission undertaken in Western Australia by Porcelli, and is one of his most notable works. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Alexander Forrest Statue is highly valued by the community of Perth and the wider community of the State for social and cultural reasons for its association with the early history of the city and the State, and as the earliest

example of commemorative sculpture erected in Perth to commemorate an individual born in Western Australia. (Criterion 4.1)

Alexander Forrest Statue contributes to the community's sense of place as it has been a well-known landmark and meeting point at the entrance to Stirling Gardens and at the corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack Street for more than 80 years. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Alexander Forrest Statue was the first public statue erected in Perth, the first in the State of an individual born in Western Australia, and the first public commission undertaken in Western Australia by sculptor Pietro Giacomo Porcelli. It is one of only a small number of such commemorative statues erected in the State in the twentieth century. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Alexander Forrest Statue is representative of the practice of making life-sized or larger figures of eminent people to be located in prominent public spaces and of the work of sculptor Pietro Giacomo Porcelli R.A. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

The bronze figure of Alexander Forrest is in good condition. The Donnybrook sandstone base suffers from percussive and abrasive damage, loss of jointing, graffiti, and a regime of fair to poor plastic repair. The work on the sandstone has defaced it in some locations. The whole of the base is in need of thorough and ongoing conservation. On the whole the statue is in good condition and the base in fair to poor condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Alexander Forrest Statue was relocated in 1916, as a result of dissatisfaction with the original site among some of those responsible for that siting, but its intention was reinforced by the relocation and remains clear. The relocation within a civic precinct is consistent with the aspirations for the location of this kind of commemorative work. The integrity remains high.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Alexander Forrest Statue is substantially authentic, though the rifle is a recent replacement piece. The statue was relocated from Florence Hummerston Reserve to its present site under the direction of Porcelli in 1916, after almost thirteen years of discussion as to a suitable, more prominent location, and to this minor extent, its authenticity is reduced. On the whole the place retains a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Alexander Forrest Statue is a bronze statue of Alexander Forrest in explorer's garb, standing 7 ft. high, on a 10 ft. pedestal of Donnybrook stone. Executed by sculptor Pietro Porcelli R.A., the statue was erected at the reserve in St Georges Terrace, now known as Florence Hummerston Reserve, in 1903, and re-located to the corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack Street in 1916.

Following the foundation of Perth on 12 August 1829, the townsite of Perth was laid out between Mount Eliza and Heirisson Island, facing the Swan River on the south. A substantial area of the Swan River foreshore was set aside as the Government Domain, as shown on Arrowsmith's plan of 1833. However, in 1834, much of this area was subdivided for residential purposes, with the area between Barrack Street and Lord Street (now Victoria Avenue) remaining as public open space.¹ In June 1845, the Public Garden in Stirling Square Perth was proclaimed, being Allotment B6, which was bounded on the west by the southern portion of Barrack Street and on the north by a portion of St. George's Terrace, as shown on a plan of Perth Townsite (1845).² It was centrally located in the near vicinity of Government House, the Government Offices, the Court House and the Commissariat, in what would be developed through the nineteenth century and much of the twentieth century as the government and civic precinct of Perth. The Public Garden (later renamed Stirling Gardens) became a popular recreational area and an integral part of this precinct. In the World War One period, *Alexander Forrest Statue* would be erected at the corner of Barrack Street and St. George's Terrace.

By the 1870s, the city centre of Perth was consolidated on the grid laid out in Surveyor-General John Septimus Roe's survey, and there were about 800 houses accommodating about 4,600 people.³ The Public Garden in Stirling Square had survived its early vicissitudes, and 'extensive alterations' were proposed in March 1878, few of which appear to have eventuated immediately; however, there were some improvements made in the 1880s.⁴

In 1878, whilst on a visit to the Swan River Colony, S. Browning, from New

¹ Stephenson, Gordon *The Design of Central Perth: Some Problems and Possible Solutions* - A study made for the Perth Central Area Design Coordinating Committee (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1975) p. 10.

² *Government Gazette* 13 June 1845; and Plan of Perth Townsite, 1845, H7 City of Perth Archives.

³ Campbell, Robin McK. in Pitt Morrison, Margaret, and White, John (Eds.) *Western Towns and Buildings* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1979) Morrison, Margaret and White, John (Eds.) *Western Towns and Buildings* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1979) p. 104.

⁴ *Inquirer* 13 March 1878, Sub-Leader.

Zealand, presented £50 to the Perth City Council towards the cost of a fountain in Perth, which had no fountain to date. The sum lay in the bank, earning interest, until the matter was raised at the Annual Ratepayers Meeting of the City of Perth on 14 November 1892.⁵ The City Surveyor submitted plans for the fountain to the Colonial Secretary in 1893. Following considerable debate about a possible site for the fountain, a site was recommended by the Colonial Secretary "at the corner of the Public Gardens, Stirling Square opposite the public offices".⁶ Reserve No. 2400 was gazetted for the purpose.⁷ The authority to proceed was issued by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, W. E. Marmion, on 2 November 1893.⁸ The fountain was ordered from Messrs. Macfarlane and Co., Engineers and Foundrymen, of Glasgow.⁹ The fountain was erected (circa 1895-1896) at the entrance to the Public Garden in Stirling Square at the corner of St. Georges Terrace and Barrack Street, and the council provided 'the granite base, paving, connexions, etc.'¹⁰ Perth's only nineteenth century fountain, it was relocated in 1916, to make way for *Alexander Forrest Statue*.¹¹

Alexander Forrest (b. 1849, d. 1901), a surveyor, had gone as second-in-command to his elder brother, John, on John's first transcontinental expedition in 1870. From 1871, after a brief period in the Survey Department as surveyor-in-charge at Albany, Alexander worked as an independent licensed surveyor, and also served as second-in-command on John's second transcontinental expedition in 1874. Although the as yet un-named Kimberley had been partially explored in the 1850s and 1860s, there had been little European settlement. In 1879, Alexander Forrest undertook a six-month exploration, during which he discovered the Fitzroy River and various large streams, as well as around 20 million acres of good, well-watered land, 'the fertile district of the west Kimberley'.¹² Whilst some previous venturers into the area had encountered considerable hostility from the indigenous people, Alexander Forrest did not, and 'at Beagle Bay his reception was extremely friendly'.¹³ He recognised the possibilities of the Kimberley for pastoral purposes, and his initiative proved that it was good country for sheep. Alexander Forrest was recognised as 'the father' of the important pastoral industry in the North-West.¹⁴ The effects on the

⁵ 'Yesterday and the Day Before' by 'Cygnet' in *The Western Mail* 11 April 1935.

⁶ Quoted in 'Yesterday and the Day Before' by 'Cygnet' in *The Western Mail* 11 April 1935.

⁷ *Government Gazette*, 6 October 1893.

⁸ 'Yesterday and the Day Before' by 'Cygnet' in *The Western Mail* 11 April 1935.

⁹ Former Town Clerk, Mr. Victor, in 'Yesterday and the Day Before' by 'Cygnet' in *The Western Mail* 11 April 1935. Note: This firm was also the manufacturers of the lamps, which are installed at the entrance to Stirling Gardens.

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ City of Perth, Mayor's Report for year ending 31 October 1916, 20 November 1916, pp. 4-5.

¹² *Australian Dictionary of Biography* Vol. 8 (Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1981, p. 540; and *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* (P. W. H. Thiel & Co., Perth, 1901, fasc. edition Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, 2000) pp. 750-751.

¹³ Green, Neville 'Aborigines and White Settlers in the Nineteenth Century' in Stannage, C. T. *A New History of Western Australia* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1981) p. 114.

¹⁴ *Australian Dictionary of Biography* op. cit.; *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* op. cit.

indigenous people of the development of the pastoral industry, along with the influx of gold seekers in the late 1880s, 'is impossible to assess', for they were displaced by the new arrivals and conflict ensued on numerous occasion.¹⁵ Alexander Forrest obtained large tracts of land in the north-west, set up as a land agent specialising in the Kimberley, later engaged in the gold mining industry, and was 'a prolific investor in real estate.'¹⁶ He was the first member of the Legislative Council for Kimberley (1887), and when Western Australia achieved Responsible Government in 1890, he was elected MLA for West Kimberley, and served in this capacity until his death in 1901. In March 1891, he represented Western Australia at the Federal Convention in Sydney. He was also Mayor of Perth (1892-95, and 1898-1900). In recognition of the latter services, he was made a CMG (Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George) in May 1901.¹⁷ Alexander Forrest was 'a tough entrepreneur', and, in his latter years, a controversial figure for it was alleged that his Kimberley 'Meat Ring' 'was holding customers to ransom' in the metropolitan area and on the goldfields, and he had to contend also with allegations of corruption in relation to his contracts with the Perth Ice Company and the Railway Department.¹⁸

On 20 June 1901, Alexander Forrest died after a short illness.¹⁹ Following his death, many of his friends and admirers thought that it would be fitting to commemorate his memory. Various proposals were made before it was decided 'in deference to the wishes' of his brother, Sir John Forrest, that this should take the form of a public monument.²⁰ A Memorial Committee was appointed, with Frank Craig as Chairman, to carry out the project and to raise funds through public subscription.²¹ Alexander Forrest had been 'a legendary figure to the people of Perth', and the erection of the memorial statue, the first such public memorial in Perth, has been described as 'an act of faith - faith in the value of the Westralian past as a guide and comforter for the future.'²² In Western Australia, only one other such memorial had been erected previously, in Albany, in commemoration of Anthony Hordern, which had been organised by Alexander Forrest.²³

Sculptor Pietro Giacomo Porcelli, R.A., who had arrived in Western Australia

¹⁵ Green, Neville op. cit., p. 115. Note: So far as is known, there has not been controversy regarding Alexander Forrest's expeditions and his pastoral activities in relation to the indigenous people. Much may remain hidden or unknown about events in the Kimberley, for as Green noted 'the Kimberley tribes fought a long and savage war against the pastoralists and ... many deaths were never recorded.' (ibid.)

¹⁶ *Australian Dictionary of Biography* op. cit., p. 541.

¹⁷ ibid; and *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* op. cit., pp. 750-751 and p. 30.

¹⁸ Stannage, C. T. *The People of Perth* (Perth City Council, Perth, 1979) p. 221; and Crowley, F. K. *Australia's Western Third: A History of Western Australia from the first settlements to modern times* (Macmillan & Co. Ltd., London, 1960) p. 115.

¹⁹ *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* op. cit., p. 30.

²⁰ *West Australian* 29 August 1903, p. 5.

²¹ ibid.

²² Stannage, C. T. *The People of Perth* (Perth City Council, Perth, 1979) p. 333.

²³ Bolton, G. C. *Alexander Forrest His Life and Times* (Melbourne University Press in association with University of Western Australia Press, Adelaide, 1958) p. 185.

in 1898, having trained at the Royal Academy of Naples, Italy, was commissioned for the work, his first public statue in Western Australia. Porcelli's earlier work in Western Australia included a bronze bust of John Forrest (1898) which is now located in the Entrance Hall of Parliament House.²⁴

Porcelli originally modeled *Alexander Forrest Statue* in clay, which was then cast in plaster of Paris at the establishment of the contractors, Wilson, Gray and Co., from whence it was sent to Pistoia, in Italy, for re-casting in bronze.²⁵ The words 'P. Porcelli Sculptor 1902' are engraved on the south-west corner of the plinth, indicating the date at which Porcelli completed the work.²⁶ The bronze statue, standing 7 ft. high, was on a 10 ft. pedestal of Donnybrook stone. It was 'an excellent representation' of Alexander Forrest, which showed him attired in his explorer's garb, with 'a double-barrelled gun across his shoulders, and a quadrant in his left hand.'²⁷ It was reported that a marble tablet let into the side of the pedestal, lettered in gold, was inscribed

This monument was erected by his friends in memory of Mr. Alex. Forrest, C.M.G., M.L.A., J.P., born near Bunbury 22nd September, 1849, died at Perth, 20th June, 1901, aged fifty-one years. He was the first explorer of the Kimberley district, North-West Australia, and represented that district in the Parliament for fourteen years, to the time of his death. He was second in command of two exploring expeditions from Perth to Adelaide, 1870 and 1874. He was the Mayor of the city of Perth for six years, from 1892 to 1895, and from 1897 to 1900. He was a generous friend to many.²⁸

On 28 August 1903, *Alexander Forrest Statue* was unveiled at the Reserve near his former home, at the corner of St Georges Terrace and Mount Street (now known as Florence Hummerston Reserve), by the Premier, Walter James, who had known Alexander Forrest well. Sir James Lee Steere, in requesting the Premier to unveil the statue, outlined the background to the erection of the monument, and noted that 'owing to the kindness of the Mayor and Councillors of Perth' the committee 'had been enabled to place it in a most suitable and desirable position.'²⁹ The monument was in memory of Alexander Forrest as an explorer. Sir James paid tribute to Alexander Forrest's contribution to the development of the Kimberley, for 'by his explorations in the Kimberley district, the late Mr. Forrest had added another province to Western Australia', and, although not the geographic discoverer, it was he who had recognised the Kimberley's potential.³⁰ Alexander Forrest was also being honoured for his 'many-sided public services', as Mayor of Perth for six years, and a State legislator.³¹

²⁴ Keane, Reverend S. B. 'Pietro Porcelli: Sculptor 1872-1943)' in *Early Days RWAHS Journal* Vol. 8, Part 5, p. 12 (1981); and *Australian Dictionary of Biography* Vol. 7, 1891-1939 (Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1967) p. 261.

²⁵ *West Australian* op. cit.; and Keane, Reverend S. B. *ibid.*

²⁶ Site visit, August 2003.

²⁷ *West Australian* *ibid.*

²⁸ *ibid.* The wording on the tablet differ from this text.

²⁹ *ibid.*

³⁰ *ibid.*

³¹ *ibid.*

The Premier thanked Sir James and other members of the committee for the privilege of unveiling the statue, and congratulated the city councillors for granting permission for it to be placed on that site. He noted that whilst the history of Western Australia 'had not been wanting in the services of public-spirited men', no public memorials had previously been made.³² Further 'he hoped the example would be followed, and that every open space would in time contain a reminder to the generations of the future of the work done by their predecessors.'³³ This hope was largely unfulfilled. *Alexander Forrest Statue* was not only the first public memorial in Perth erected in honour of an individual born in Western Australian, but one of only a small number erected in the State for much of the twentieth century.

The Premier remarked that it was 'peculiarly fitting' that 'the name of Forrest' should be the first to be honoured by a commemorative statue in Perth, for 'no name occupied a more prominent or honoured place in the records of Western Australia.'³⁴ He continued

The good work done by the late Mr. Alex. Forrest was to a certain extent overshadowed by the still greater achievements of Sir John Forrest, but that work amply deserved the recognition to which that statue testified.³⁵

The Premier noted that Alexander Forrest 'had begun life poor, and he had had to make his own name and fortune', in which he had succeeded 'by resolute pluck and confidence.'³⁶ He had been a successful surveyor, whose explorations had opened up new areas of the State for settlement, 'and had added wealth to the State.'³⁷ In other vocations, he had attained 'still greater success', and died 'a great station-owner, a leading financier, the head of large commercial business, an influential public man, and a loyal and open-hearted friend of the of the poor and needy.'³⁸ The monument would 'serve to remind future generations of a man whose work had left its imprint upon the State, and whose life had been a self-reliant and resourceful struggle of a distinguished and devoted son.'³⁹

Frank Craig formally thanked the Mayor, Mr Brown, for providing the site for the statue, and then requested he take over the monument. Thenceforward, Perth City Council assumed control of the statue. In subsequent months, there was some discussion in the Council as to the suitability of the site, and the suggestion of some Councilors that 'a more prominent position might be selected in front of the reserve' was referred to the Memorial Committee for consideration.⁴⁰

The location of the *Alexander Forrest Statue* in the reserve at the western end of St Georges Terrace was considered for some years to be unsuitable,

32 *ibid.*

33 *ibid.*

34 *ibid.*

35 *ibid.*

36 *ibid.*

37 *ibid.*

38 *ibid.*

39 *ibid.*

40 City of Perth, Mayor's Report for year ending 31 October 1903, 17 November 1903.

as it was somewhat remote from the centre of the city, and within the reserve it was 'almost hidden by the palms and trees in the garden.'⁴¹ Suggestions were 'frequently made' to remove it to a more central position in the city.⁴² Eventually, in 1916, after consultation with Sir John Forrest (later Lord Forrest) and other family members, it was resolved to remove the Browning Fountain from the entrance to the Public Garden at the corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack Street to a small reserve on the corner of Brisbane and William Streets, to provide a more suitable location for the *Alexander Forrest Statue*.⁴³ By 1916, the government and civic precinct of Perth was well developed, and, within it, the new location proposed for the statue was 'the central intersection of Perth.'⁴⁴

The relocation work was entrusted to the sculptor, Pietro Porcelli, under the direction of the City Engineer. In September 1916, *Alexander Forrest Statue* was officially unveiled at its new location by the Mayor of Perth, F. R. Rea Esq., J. P., with speeches delivered by the Premier, Mr. Frank Wilson, C. M. G. and the Minister for Works, Mr. W. G. George, M. L. A., who had been Perth City Councillors during the period in which Alexander Forrest was Mayor.⁴⁵ A photograph shows the official unveiling of the statue at its new location.⁴⁶ The large number of people in attendance was similar to that attending the send-off when John and Alexander Forrest set out from Perth on their first expedition together, from 'just opposite Government House Gates', and on both occasions Henry Parker, T. F. Quinlan, Messrs. Robert and William Holmes, Horace Stirling, and William Chipper Lawrence were present.⁴⁷ James Kennedy and W. H. Osborne, who had been members of that expedition were present at the unveiling.⁴⁸ Another photograph shows the statue c. 1916, with the timber fence and gates to the gardens in rear-ground.⁴⁹

Research to date has found no mention of any changes to the pedestal or the tablet when the statue was re-located. However, as the tablet (described in the Physical Evidence, see below) is red granite rather than marble, as was reported in August 1903, and there are some differences in the present inscription from that reported in 1903, further research may reveal that the original tablet was replaced in 1916, or at some other date.

In 1920, it was reported that 'Western Australia is lamentably bare of public

⁴¹ City of Perth, Mayor's Report for year ending 31 October 1916, 20 November 1916, pp. 4-5.

⁴² *ibid.*

⁴³ Letter from Town Clerk, Mr. Bold, 24 April 1934, to Mr. Bray, quoted in 'Yesterday and the Day Before' by 'Cygnet' in *The Western Mail* 11 April 1935. Note: The fountain remained at William Street for some years; after being badly damaged by vandals, it was removed to the Municipal yard and 'broken up.'

⁴⁴ Bolton, G. C. *Alexander Forrest His Life and Times* (Melbourne University Press in association with University of Western Australia Press, Adelaide, 1958) p. 186.

⁴⁵ City of Perth, Mayor's Report for year ending 31 October 1916, *op. cit.*

⁴⁶ Battye Library Pictorial Collection 3486B/28.

⁴⁷ *Western Mail* 29 September 1916, cutting in RWAHS File.

⁴⁸ *ibid.*

⁴⁹ Battye Library Pictorial Collection 378P. Note: The photo is incorrectly dated circa 1915.

monuments to the memory of its native-born.⁵⁰

In 1928, a photograph of the main entrance to Stirling Gardens shows no change to the statue since it was re-located in 1916.⁵¹

In May 1936, plans were drawn for new fencing and gates to Stirling Square, including those at the entrance from the corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack Street to the rear of *Alexander Forrest Statue*.⁵² In October 1936, PWD WA 3301 shows the detail of the entrance gates as constructed.⁵³ In the inter-war period, and particularly following these works, the main entrance became the focal entry point to the gardens, with *Alexander Forrest Statue* a well recognised landmark in Perth. In 1939, a photograph shows the completed entrance and *Alexander Forrest Statue*.⁵⁴

In April 1952, Reserve 2400, the location of *Alexander Forrest Statue*, was canceled, and it became part of the Public Garden, Reserve 1150, Lot 761, vested in the City of Perth, consequent to the Perth Town Hall Act (1950).⁵⁵

In 1988, *Alexander Forrest Statue* was included in the Survey of 20th Century Architecture.⁵⁶

In November 1999, *Alexander Forrest Statue* was assessed by the National Trust of Australia (WA). At that date, the bronze statue was reported to be in need of cleaning, and the base required 'remedial work to restore the stonework where spalling had occurred.'⁵⁷ The assessment concluded that 'The monument is highly significant for its commemoration of Alexander Forrest, a prominent West Australian and former Mayor of Perth', and that it was 'a notable example' of Porcelli's work, 'the State's foremost sculptor at that time.'⁵⁸ On 14 February 2001, *Alexander Forrest Statue* was classified by the National Trust of Australia (WA).⁵⁹

In March 2001, was included in the City of Perth's Municipal Heritage Inventory, afforded Level 1 Protection under the Town Planning Scheme, and recommended for entry in the State Register of Heritage Places.⁶⁰

In July 2001, the bronze gun was stolen from *Alexander Forrest Statue*, 'one of the City of Perth's most historic monuments', which the Lord Mayor, Peter Nattrass described as 'an important cultural icon for the city ... a reminder of our city's colonial history.'⁶¹ A reward of \$200 was unsuccessfully offered for the return of the gun, and so a replica was made and 'installed' in late

50 'Hugh Kalyptus' in *Western Mail* 9 December 1920, cutting in RWAHS File.

51 Battye Library Pictorial Collection 7775P, September 1928.

52 Perth Stirling Square; Fencing and Gates, PWD WA 3301, May 1936.

53 Government Gardens - Entrance Gates, Detail as Constructed at Corner of Barrack Street and St. George's Terrace, PWD WA 3301, 1 October 1936.

54 Battye Library Pictorial Collection 816B/B6634, 1939.

55 *Government Gazette* 10 April 1952, p. 910.

56 Register Listings per HCWA Database, Place no. 02103.

57 Alexander Forrest Memorial National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment, November 1999.

58 *ibid.*

59 *ibid.*

60 City of Perth Municipal Heritage Inventory, adopted 13 March 2001.

61 *Guardian Express* 24 July 2001, p. 5.

2001.⁶²

On 14 February 2003, *Supreme Court Buildings and Gardens, Old Court House, Stirling Gardens* were entered in the State Register of Heritage Places on a permanent basis.⁶³

In 2003, *Alexander Forrest Statue* remains located at the corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack Street.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Alexander Forrest Statue is a life size bronze representation of Forrest in a romantic style, set on a Donnybrook sandstone base, with a granite plinth, located on the corner of Barrack Street and St. George's Terrace in Perth. It was sculpted by Pietro Giacomo Porcelli R.A. and unveiled on its original site in 1903, then relocated to the present site in 1916.

Alexander Forrest Statue is set within and is an important component of a civic precinct that extends from the Perth Town Hall on the corner of Barrack and Hay streets, Treasury Buildings, St. George's Cathedral, Burt Hall, The Deanery, St. Andrew's Church, Council House, the old Court House, Stirling Gardens, Government House, the Supreme Court and gardens, The Weld Club, The Esplanade, and Barrack Square. It is set on the corner of St. George's Terrace and Barrack Street, immediately outside the north-west gates to Stirling Gardens, which combined with the tree canopy of the gardens, provide a pleasant backdrop to the statue. The iron gates to Stirling Gardens are generally left open and the limestone gate piers with their elaborate lantern tops provide strong visual interest, framing the views past the statue and on into the gardens.

The statue is set in the pavement of standard grey exposed aggregate 400 x 400 pavers produced especially for the City of Perth. The street junction is controlled by traffic signals and there is also a 'one-way' road sign nearby in Barrack Street to the south. All of these elements intrude on the setting of the statue and contribute to visual clutter, though the statue remains a prominent feature. There is no surface evidence of the Browning Fountain that was removed to make way for the relocation of the *Alexander Forrest Statue*.

Alexander Forrest Statue is approximately life-size with the overall bronze being about 6'0" (2 metres) tall with its feet set on a small square of rough ground, set over a base with an approximate height of 10'0" (3metres). The base comprises a square course of York or Mundaring granite, chamfered at the corners. A pedestal rises from this base with a plain Donnybrook sandstone plinth, a decorative ovolo moulding, scored in paired lines, cove and astragal mould, then a plan panel about 1'0" (300mm) high, a further astragal mould, then a panel 3'.3" high, a further astragal mould, deep decorative cyma reversa shaped moulding comprising a central anthemion flanked with leaf motifs, and then a splayed overhang. The Donnybrook

⁶² *West Australian* 3 December 2001.

⁶³ HCWA Place no. 1947, p. 1. Note: *Alexander Forrest Statue* was not mentioned in the Statement of Significance or Values.

stone is chipped in a number of locations, the jointing has fallen out in many locations, and there is graffiti on some of the faces. Attempts to remove graffiti have damaged the stone and not been completely successful. There are plastic repairs in a number of locations and the stone generally suffers from copper oxide staining from the bronze. The stone has spalled off a number of faces at low level. The words 'P. Porcelli Sculptor 1902' are engraved on the south-west corner of the plinth. 1902 is likely to have been the year that Porcelli's work was completed ready for casting.

On the north-west face there is a red granite tablet with an inscription that reads: -

THIS MONUMENT
WAS ERECTED BY HIS FRIENDS
IN MEMORY OF
ALEXANDER FORREST
C.M.G. M.L.A. J.P.
BORN NEAR BUNBURY 20TH SEPTEMBER 1849
DIED AT PERTH 20 JUNE 1901
AGED 51 YEARS

HE WAS THE FIRST EXPLORER OF
THE KIMBERLEY DISTRICT OF NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA
AND REPRESENTED THE DISTRICT IN PARLIAMENT
FOR 14 YEARS TO THE TIME OF HIS DEATH.
HE WAS SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE
EXPLORATION EXPEDITION FROM PERTH TO ADELAIDE
1870 AND 1874

HE WAS MAYOR OF THE CITY FOR SIX YEARS
FROM 1892-1895 AND FROM 1897-1900.

HE WAS THE GENEROUS FRIEND OF MANY.

Alexander Forrest Statue is a very fine life size bronze representation of Forrest, portraying him in a natural pose dressed in the clothing he wore and equipment that he used as an explorer and surveyor. The style romanticises Forrest by portraying him as a younger man at the time when he was an explorer. The figure has a quadrant in the left hand and a double barrel shotgun slung over the right shoulder. Its body lines and the fall of the clothing around the body are suggestive of action, while the facial expression looks out as if over a broad view as might be encountered in the North-West. However, the face also has a slightly imperious look that might also be read as being mildly pompous. In effect the portrayal makes Forrest appear as a younger man than he was at the time of his death, but his figure posture is more closely akin to Forrest in his time as Mayor of Perth. The figure stands on a low bronze plinth that represents natural ground, and the

side of the plinth is engraved with the name, Gibson Grey & Co, who were the contractors responsible for arranging the casting in Italy.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The first public monument in Western Australia was erected in Albany in the late nineteenth century, in honour of Anthony Hordern, a Sydney financier, who successfully proposed the Great Southern Railway, to be built on the land grant system, for which the contract was signed in October 1884.⁶⁴ Alexander Forrest organised the provision of the memorial to Hordern, who had formed the Western Australian Land Company in London to carry out the project, but died on his way back to Western Australia after suffering sunstroke in the Red Sea.⁶⁵

Alexander Forrest Statue (1903) by sculptor Pietro Porcelli, was the first public memorial statue erected in Perth that was commissioned to commemorate an individual, and was the first such statue in the State of an individual born in Western Australia. In the pre World War One period, Porcelli created another notable sculpture of an individual, the memorial at Fremantle to C. Y. O'Connor. Porcelli won the design competition, and his bronze sculpture of O'Connor was unveiled at Victoria Quay, Fremantle on 23 June 1911. Porcelli also created the bust of C. Y. O'Connor which is located at the Mundaring Weir (1907). Prior to the outbreak of World War One, Porcelli was commissioned to create busts of two other prominent West Australians, that of Sir James Lee Steere, the first speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and that of Maitland Brown (1913). The Lee Steere bust is located in Parliament House and the Maitland Brown statue is located on The Esplanade in Fremantle⁶⁶ In the post World War One period, Porcelli was responsible for 11 war memorials in Western Australia, and also for 12 freestone panels of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, Victoria.⁶⁷ Porcelli's notable works from this time include Midland Railway Workshops Personnel War Memorial (HCWA 2518), the War Memorial (1923) at Kalgoorlie Railway Station (included in HCWA 1279), Tom Edwards Memorial Fountain (1919) and F. H. Piesse Memorial at Katanning (HCWA 1336).

In 1926, a public statue was erected in Perth, in honour of Alexander Forrest's brother, Lord John Forrest, Australia's first peer, who died at sea on 3 September 1923 en route to England to take his seat as Baron Forrest of Bunbury in the House of Lords. Commissioned by the State Government under Sir James Mitchell, sculptor Sir Bertram MacKenna portrayed him in Imperial robes, a marked contrast to Porcelli's portrayal of Alexander Forrest in his explorer's garb. The site selected for the statue of Lord Forrest was

⁶⁴ Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (The Cyclopaedia Company, Perth, 1912-13, Facsimile Edition Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, Western Australia, 1985) Vol. 1, p. 221-222.

⁶⁵ *ibid*; and Bolton, G. C. *op. cit.*, p. 185.

⁶⁶ Keane, Reverend S. B. 'Pietro Porcelli: Sculptor 1872-1943' in *Early Days* RWAHS Journal Vol. 8, Part 5, pp. 13-17 (1981)

⁶⁷ *Australian Dictionary of Biography* *op. cit.*

not in the centre of Perth, but at one of the city's highest points, at Mount Eliza.⁶⁸

Other statues erected in Western Australia in the 1920s, include those of Peter Pan (1927) at Queen's Gardens, Perth, and Paddy Hannan (1929) at Kalgoorlie.⁶⁹

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment November 1999

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research may reveal additional information about the casting of the statue, and in relation to its re-location. As noted in the Documentary Evidence, research to date has found no mention of any changes to the pedestal or the tablet when the statue was re-located in 1916. However, as there are discrepancies between the newspaper report and Physical Evidence re material used for the tablet and differences in the present inscription from that reported in 1903, further research may reveal that the original tablet was replaced in 1916, or at some other date.

⁶⁸ Stannage, C. T. op. cit., p. 333.

⁶⁹ HCWA Database Place nos. 02172 and 02182 respectively.