



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **NUMBER** 1959
2. **NAME** *Railway Hotel (remains of facade and balconies)*
3. **DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE ENTRY (GENERAL)**

The Registration includes the remains of the facade and balconies, and the land on which they stand (inclusive of all that part of the lot comprised in Certificate of Title Vol. 1303, Folio 468 as set out in the Heritage Council's drawing number A 889).

4. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Perth
5. **LOCATION** 130-132 Barrack Street, Perth
Portion of Perth Town D 445 C/T 1303/468
6. **OWNER**
7. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE (ASSESSMENT IN DETAIL)**

BACKGROUND

Prior to its partial demolition, the Railway Hotel occupied a prominent position in the streetscape of central Perth. It was situated amongst other buildings which complemented its heritage importance and it dominated the streetscape as a key focal point with its size and heavily modelled facade.

The main street facade of three floors was in Federation Free Classical Style detailed in a Mannerist fashion. It featured a mixture of classical motifs, with circular columns on square rusticated pedestals, deep-set verandahs, arches, pediments, pilasters, and a parapet terminated at each end by strong decorative accents. As an example of this style it was surpassed in Perth only by His Majesty's Theatre.

The ground floor external facade had been modernised in recent years but the upper floors remained significantly unaltered. Photographic evidence indicates the original form of the Barrack Street facade.

The building(s) which occupied the site prior to the 1992 demolitions had been in use as an hotel since 1847. It was first known as the Commercial Hotel, then Romaine's Hotel and finally, in 1881, the Railway Hotel. The timing of the name change relates to the construction of the Fremantle to Guildford railway and perhaps reflects the great impact of the railway development on the commercial life of Perth at that time.

The complex of buildings indicated a staged development. The front building, including its facade, was designed by architects Porter and Thomas and built by contractor R. A. Dixon in 1906 (for the Samson Estate, at a cost of 4,999 Pounds). Porter and Thomas designed the Masonic Building in Broken Hill in 1890, and five years later were responsible for the design of central Perth's best-known hotel, the Palace. At that time, Porter and Thomas were established in practices in Perth and Coolgardie. Ernest Saunders Porter was also responsible for the design of the Fitzgerald Hotel in Northbridge.

The Railway Hotel was until recently one of the few remaining licensed hotels close to the central railway station, where it continued to demonstrate a cultural development and way of life in a central city location.

1. AESTHETIC VALUE

1.1 The City of Perth and the National Trust, representing community interests, have recognised the importance of the facade to the amenity of the locality.

1.2 The design of the facade is significant in Perth for its overtly mannered use of classical details, in particular the exaggerated scale of the elements.

1.3 The facade is highly significant for its commanding presence in the Barrack Street streetscape. Its central position, outstanding decoration and height make it a critical unifying element in the group of buildings in which it sits.

1.4 Not applicable.

2. HISTORIC VALUE

2.1 Not applicable.

2.2 The rebuilding of the Hotel and construction of the facade is associated with the boost to the commercial life of the city which attended the development of the railway system and the later gold boom.

2.3 The design of the facade was by the architects Porter and Thomas, significant in the history of architecture in Western Australia as designers of one of the central city's best known landmarks, the Palace Hotel. Porter and Thomas also designed Perth's Fitzgerald Hotel and many other buildings in Perth, the Goldfields and Broken Hill.

2.4 The facade is an excellent example of the Federation Free Classical Style in Perth and one of the very few remaining.

3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

3.1 As one of the few examples of the Federation Free Classical Style in Perth, and one of the better examples in the State, the facade is important as a research and teaching site.

Its construction date (1906) stands chronologically between those of the Palace Hotel (1895) and the Fitzgerald Hotel (c. 1920), and this potentially offers information on the development of the architects' designs, as well as changes in the design of hotels generally.

3.2 Not applicable.

3.3 See 1.2 above.

4. SOCIAL VALUE

4.1 Not applicable.

4.2 See 1.1 above.

5. RARITY

5.1 The facade represents a rare example of its type in Perth, both as a piece of stylistic design, and as a building specifically constructed to draw attention to itself as a focus of community life.

5.2 See 5.1 above.

6. REPRESENTATIVENESS

6.1 It is representative of a class of hotels built in its period and style.

6.2 Not applicable.

CONDITION, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Not applicable.

8. REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES (DATE OF GAZETAL)

Interim Entry 31/07/1992

Permanent Entry 25/06/1993

9. CONSERVATION ORDER

10. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

11. REFERENCES