



**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
- 3.4.3 Mining

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 110 Resource exploitation & depletion
- 303 Mining (incl. mineral processing)
- 306 Domestic activities
- 311 Hospitality industry & tourism
- 405 Sport, recreation & entertainment
- 504 Depression & boom
- 506 Tourism
- 507 Water, power, major transport routes

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is a good and substantial example of a country hotel. (Criterion 1.1)

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is a landmark on Great Eastern Highway at the entry into Southern Cross and signals the intersection of the main street. (Criterion 1.3)

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is valued by the community of Southern Cross and Yilgarn district, for its significant contribution to the historic townscape and character of Southern Cross. (Criterion 1.4)

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.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

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross was one of a number of such establishments in the Yilgarn district, only three of which remain, and its grandeur marks the renewal of economic optimism in the area following the discovery of major gold deposits at Bullfinch in 1910, while its expansion in 1935 was in response to a further boom in the gold industry of the area in the 1930s. (Criterion 2.1)

The delicensing of *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* in 1971, and its use as a boarding house until c.1990, is indicative of the sporadic nature of goldfield operations. (Criterion 2.2)

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross was designed by Danish architect Christian Frederick Mouritzen, who after his arrival in the post gold boom period went on to work firstly as a draftsman and then Supervisor of Works and Architects in the Eastern Division for the Public Works Department, before working independently as an architect and contractor. He was also known for founding Calyx Porcelain (now Australian Fine China) in Subiaco in 1918, his brief architectural partnership with George Temple-Poole and establishing the Mouritzen Architectural Travel Prize which lives on in the Peter Hunt Travel Prize. (Criterion 2.3)

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is associated with Danish architect Christian Frederick Mouritzen, who was one of the few European-trained immigrant architects to arrive in Western Australia from the 1890s into the early 20th century, a trend that had a significant impact on building development in the State. (Criterion 2.2 & 2.3)

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross was established by Frank Snook, who was a successful businessman and Mayor and prominent in the public life of Southern Cross. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is valued as a place where social interaction, refreshment, accommodation and entertainment have been provided for the local community and the travelling public for almost one hundred years. The place continues to contribute to the tourism industry in the region. (Criterion 4.1)

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross makes a significant contribution to a sense of place for the local and wider community for its landmark value and its social associations. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is a representative example of a Federation hotel that underwent 'modernisation' in 1935, and some reconstruction in 1991 after two decades of neglect, presenting elements typical each of the periods of its development. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is in good condition. The building seems to be structurally sound.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross has a high degree of integrity. Some changes have taken place over the years, to facilitate the ongoing use of the place, but those changes are minimal in the context of the place.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross retains original 1911 fabric that is mostly intact. Similarly the 1935 and 1991 elements are intact. Overall, *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* demonstrates a moderate 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 April 2010, with amendments and/or additions by State Heritage Office staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is a substantial two-storey corner hotel built in 1911 in Federation Filigree style to a design by architect Christian Frederick Mouritzen. The place was enlarged in 1935 with elements of Inter-War Art Deco style by architects Cavanagh and Cavanagh, and restored with modern facilities and reconstructed verandahs in 1991.

In the 1850s, pastoralists began to move further afield from the settled Avon Valley in search of good pastures, and large leases were taken up in marginal country.¹ In 1887, Charles Glass discovered gold in pieces of quartz on his property at Mujakine while sinking a well. The Government immediately provided a grant of £300 for further research into the find, as it was believed that only agriculture or mining could provide sufficient export income to make the Colony economically independent. Gold was located at Golden Valley and at Eenuin.² Early in 1888, R. Risely and his Phoenix prospecting party followed the Southern Cross constellation to a line of ironstone hills and named their subsequent gold find 'Southern Cross'.³

The camp that developed at Southern Cross grew into a provisioning centre and starting point for further prospecting. On 1 October 1888, the Yilgarn goldfield was declared. The Yilgarn was not a profitable field for the alluvial miner, so most men worked for the mining companies who developed the reef mines.⁴

Hotels were among the first buildings at goldfield settlements and Southern Cross was no exception, with the Club and Exchange hotels in existence in their early form in 1888 and 1889 respectively. The Exchange, which included a store, was owned by William Cameron and was located near to the Fraser Mine. When the townsite of Southern Cross was surveyed, the Exchange was located on Lot 1 and Cameron also owned the adjoining Lots 2 and 3, on the corner of Antares and Orion streets, across which the hotel was gradually extended to include shops as the town grew.⁵

1 Appleyard, R. T. 'Western Australia: Economic and demographic Growth, 1850-1914', In Stannage, C. T. (ed) *A New History of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1981, p. 229; Uren, Malcolm, *Glint of Gold*, Melbourne, Robertson & Mullen, 1953, pp. 55-61.

2 Harris, C. M., 'Water...Tragedy and Triumph on the Western Australian Goldfields', *Early Days*, Vol. 3 Pt. 9, pp. 18-25; Uren, Malcolm, op cit, pp. 55-61.

3 Hunt, Lyall (ed), *Yilgarn: Good country for hardy people: the landscape and people of the Yilgarn Shire, Western Australia*, Yilgarn Shire & WACAE, 1988, p. 153.

4 Hallack, E. H., *Western Australia and the Yilgarn Goldfields, being a series of articles written by an "Othersider"*, W. K. Thomas, Adelaide, 1891.

5 Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., *Statewide Survey of Hotels 1829-1939*, southern region, Western Australia, National Trust of Australia (WA), Perth, 1997, Southern Cross, section 137; Stevens, Lance, 'Yilgarn History: the early years: The Palace Hotel', *Crosswords*, Vol. 9 Issue 46, 28 November 2002, pp. 36-37; Stevens, Lance & Forrester, Erna (comp), *History of Southern Cross town lots 1-3 and 9-16 Antares Street*, Tourist Committee and Southern Cross Historical Society, Shire of Yilgarn, 1991, p. 2; Certificates of Title, Vol. 33, Fols. 182 (Lot 2), 184 (Lot 1), 185 (Lot 3), 15 September 1890.

Southern Cross was declared a municipality on 16 February 1892. In 1893, the Government began construction of the Eastern Goldfield Railway from Northam. Government buildings of stone were constructed consisting of a court house, post office and warden's quarters, and a miners' institute, two churches, public hospital and school were soon established. By the time the Northam-Southern Cross section of the Eastern Goldfield line was opened on 1 July 1894, the goldfields at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie had been established and work began immediately on extending the line to those areas, which became the focus of the eastern goldfields.⁶

The railway brought a steady stream of prospectors and businesses flourished providing supplies for their extended journey further east. The Railway Hotel was built in 1894, directly opposite the new station and a population of 500 was recorded for the town in that year. On Lots 2 and 3, a grocer, clothier and ironmongery store was run by McHenry & Clarke and a bakery, produce and grocery store by Schnippering & Eyles and later by Wilkinson. Two small shops in the Exchange Hotel operated as a barber and a chemist between 1894 and 1896. Tenants of all the shops changed rapidly.⁷

In 1896, William Cameron replaced the original 10-room Exchange Hotel with larger premises of 25 rooms, under the same name.⁸ Cameron died in April 1899 and the properties were held by his estate until 1903, when Lot 1, with the Exchange Hotel, was transferred to Thomas Humphries and Lots 2 and 3 to Archibald Torrance Wilson. A c.1904 photograph of the Exchange Hotel shows a simple timber-framed iron clad structure offering 'good stabling' and 'first class accommodation'.⁹

The Goldfield pipeline reached Southern Cross on 30 October 1902, providing reliable water at a much lower cost. The railway line and the pipeline encouraged more intensive agriculture along the route, which was further encouraged by the goldfields market. Agricultural railway lines were constructed, looping through the central wheatbelt and linking to the Eastern Goldfield line at Northam, Merredin and Southern Cross.¹⁰ Despite generally declining gold production in the 1900s, Southern Cross continued to flourish due to gold mines operating at Marvel Loch.¹¹

In 1910 there was a new gold find at Bullfinch, which was believed rich enough to rival the Kalgoorlie Golden Mile.¹² In that year, Frank Snook purchased the Exchange Hotel and adjoining shops.¹³ He then demolished the shops on Lots 2

6 Hunt, Lyall (ed), op cit; Gunzberg, A. & Austin, J., *Rails Through the Bush*, Light Railway Research Society of Australia, Melbourne, 1997, p. 206.

7 Stevens, Lance & Forrester, Erna (comp), op cit, pp. 2-4.

8 Hunt, Lyall (ed), op cit; Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., op cit.

9 Stevens, Lance & Forrester, Erna (comp), op cit, p. 3.

10 Glynn, Sean, *Government Policy and Agricultural Development: A study of the role of government in the development of the Western Australian wheat belt, 1900-1930*, UWA Press, 1975, pp. 34-36.

11 Hunt, Lyall (ed), op cit.

12 Hunt, Lyall (ed), op cit.

13 Certificates of Title, Vol. 33, Fol. 184 & Vol. 460 Fol. 17 (Lot 1), Vol. 33, Fol. 185 & Vol. 460 Fol. 18 (Lot 3), Vol. 306 Fol. 150 & Vol. 307 Fol. 23 (Lot 2), 21 March 1910. CT460/17 (Lot 1) is dated 21 March 1909, but this is an error as the previous title and the transfer date both clearly state 1910.

and 3 and had *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* built on the site. The Exchange Hotel on Lot 1 remained but was vacant for a number of years.¹⁴

Frank Herbert Snook was born at Fremantle in 1866 and at sixteen was apprenticed in the cabinetmaking trade. He arrived in Southern Cross in 1893 and established a carpentry and undertakers business and was responsible for the construction of the Commercial and Southern Cross hotels (neither extant) for their respective owners, and in 1903 became the licensee of the Southern Cross Hotel. He was a town councillor and Mayor, a Justice of the Peace, and involved in various organisations in the town including the Freemasons, where he served as treasurer for the Southern Cross Lodge.¹⁵

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross was designed by Christian Frederick Mouritzen. Mouritzen had studied architecture in Denmark prior to working in South Africa, and then at Charters Towers, Queensland. Subsequently, after a period at the Croydon Goldfields he came to Western Australia in the wake of the Western Australian gold boom and obtained employment in the Public Works Department as a draughtsman. He rose to become Supervisor of Works and Architect in the Eastern Division before resigning to work independently as an architect and contractor. He had various other business interests, including the Perth Hotel, a pastoral property at Burracoppin, and mining interests at Bullfinch, which later brought him into contact with the Southern Cross community. As well as founding Calyx Porcelain (still trading, now as Australian Fine China) with works at Subiaco in 1918,¹⁶ Mouritzen also established an architectural practice with George Temple-Poole in the 1920s, and under this partnership was responsible for a number of structures including a large four-storey commercial building on Hay Street for Levinson & Sons in 1926, and Temple Court which included the 4,000 seat Capitol Theatre and parking building on the corner of William Street and the Mounts Bay Road in Perth (demolished c.1980).¹⁷ Mouritzen was also known for establishing the Mouritzen Architectural Travel Prize which lives on in the Peter Hunt Travel Prize.

Mouritzen was one of the few architects who immigrated to Western Australia to assist with the widespread building projects spurred by the 1890s gold boom. In 1895 there had been only 15 architects in private practice in the colony, but five years later there were over 100. Many of these immigrant architects, whether they arrived from the eastern states or overseas, had been trained in Europe. Their work significantly shaped Western Australia's visual landscape from the Federation era and well into the twentieth century.¹⁸

Frank Snook himself supervised the building of *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross*, with the work done by day labour.¹⁹ The place opened on 30 September 1911

14 Stevens, Lance & Forrester, Erna (comp), op cit, p. 4.

15 Battye J. S. *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Hussey & Gillingham, Adelaide, 1912-13, pp. 868-869.

16 Pitt Morison, Margaret, 'Immigrant Architects and Their Work, 1885-1905' unpublished paper, Battye Library PR13589; Thomson, John D., *Calyx, Wembley Ware and Bristle China*, Self-published with sponsorship of Bristle Limited, Dianella, WA, J. Thomson, 1989, pp. 13-14.

17 Oldham, J. & Oldham R., *George Temple-Poole: Architect of the Golden Years 1885-1897*, UWA Press, Perth, 1980, pp. 146, 154.

18 Pitt Morison, Margaret, 'Immigrant Architects and Their Work, 1885-1905' unpublished paper, Battye Library PR13589.

19 *The Southern Cross Times*, 1 October 1911, p. 3.

and a note in *The Southern Cross Times* of that day, alerting residents to the opening, stated:

Mr F H Snook's Palace hotel, the building of which has occupied some months, will be open for business today. Visitors are requested to wipe their feet before walking on the new linoleum and not to smear the mirrors with their greasy thumbs.²⁰

A report in the following issue gave a description of the place:

The building, constructed of bonded red brick, stands on the corner of Antares and Orion-streets, presenting a frontage of eighty three (83) feet to the former and one hundred and seventeen (117) feet to the latter. The style of architecture is not in any way ornate or ambitious, but the building has a massive appearance which, taken together with the broad balcony running end to end of it, seems to please the eye with promise of coolness in the days when the mercury starts to boil...

The first brick was laid on the foundations on March 17 by Cr E. C. McInnes, and the last brick on the 19th of June by Miss Snook... The building contains forty-six rooms, twenty of which are bedrooms available for visitors, and fifteen of those latter being single-bedded rooms. On the ground floor is a commercial room 35ft. x 25ft.; saloon bar and billiard-room... 39ft. x 22ft.; dining room 30ft. x 22ft. Besides these are a large front bar and lounge bar; two parlours, pantries, bedrooms for staff, etc. All the ground floors are thirteen feet in height.

The upper floor, reached by a handsome jarrah staircase, is occupied by drawing room; smoking and writing rooms, bedrooms, two bathrooms, lavatories, etc. All these rooms have walls eleven feet high. An efficient hot water system utilising heat from the large range in the kitchen, is installed, and connected with the bathrooms on the upper floor.²¹

The ceilings were of plaster 'instead of the commonly used metal' and the brick construction of the upper floor was supported on heavy rolled steel girders over the large open rooms on the ground floor.²²

In Australia, much steel construction material was still imported in the 1910s.²³ There were several steel manufacturers listed in the WA Post Office Directory in 1911, but only one steel rolling mill; Frodingham Iron and Steel Co Ltd, Melbourne Rd (later Milligan St), Perth.²⁴

Following a 1922 Royal Commission into the liquor industry, amendments were made to the State's 1911 Licensing Act. This saw a reduction in the number of licensed premises, particularly in the goldfields, as the new State Licensing Court concerned itself with the upgrading of hotel facilities.²⁵ Physical evidence indicates that extra accommodation was added to *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* around this time with an extension to the south-west wing, marked by a change in floor level on the upper floor.²⁶

20 *The Southern Cross Times*, 30 September 1911, p. 3.

21 *The Southern Cross Times*, 1 October 1911, p. 3.

22 *The Southern Cross Times*, 1 October 1911, p. 3.

23 Ogg, Alan, *Architecture in steel: the Australian context*, Red Hill, ACT, RAI, 1897, pp. 15-26.

24 *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1911, p. 952.

25 *Votes & Proceedings*, 1922-23, Vol. 1, 'Report on the Royal Commission of Licensing', p. 2, quoted in Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., *Statewide Survey of Hotels 1829-1939*, southern region, Western Australia, National Trust of Australia (WA), Perth, 1997, p. 37.

26 Liquor licensing files, Palace Hotel Southern Cross, Plans by Oldfield Knott Architects, January 1990, WAS 2237 CONS 5586 Item 67; physical evidence.

While the Licensing Court placed an emphasis on accommodation, J. M. Freeland, in *The Australian Pub*, states that 'from 1920 to 1925 was the period in which the Australian pub swung away from being a building in which the bars were physically only a small part of whole to the present situation where they form by far the greater part' with hotels being 'disembowelled to make room for the herds pressing for a place at the bar'.²⁷ These changes are not likely to have had a great affect on *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* as the bars were already of considerable size, due no doubt to Frank Snook's knowledge of the hard-drinking mining community, but at some time the saloon bar has been opened up into what was probably the front bar, based on the 1911 description of the place and the current layout.²⁸

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross was the upmarket hotel in Southern Cross, charging £0 12 6 a day for a room in the 1920s, compared to the ten shillings charged by the Club and Railway hotels. The place was listed as having 24 bedrooms.²⁹

Frank Snook died in 1923 and title to *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* passed to his son Clyde Frank Snook, hotelkeeper, and son-in-law Sydney Atkinson, commercial agent and proprietor of the Perth Holden dealership Sydney Atkinson Motors, as the executors of his estate. In 1931, title was transferred to daughter Gladys Bella Archer Atkinson of Crawley as tenant in common with Clarkson Brothers Ltd of St Georges Terrace, Perth.³⁰

In the 1930s, the goldfields experienced another small boom. Claude de Bernales had raised £1 million in London to work his Wiluna leases, and the Wiluna Mine opened in 1931. Its successful production was an encouragement for the revival of other gold mines, and together with the Commonwealth Government's one pound an ounce gold bounty resulted in many unemployed men flocking to the fields to try their luck during the Depression.³¹

It was common for people coming to work in rural towns to live at a hotel as that was often the only accommodation available. In 1930, teacher Erna McCrea (later Erna Forrester) boarded at *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross*. The code of conduct for single women at that time meant that she could not spend much time during winter in the warmth of the open fire in the commercial room because of the commercial travellers, who of course were male, and had instead to spend most of her off work hours isolated in her unheated room. When her fiancé, William Forrester visited her, the door to her room had to remain open in observance of the social proprietaries.³²

In 1935, *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* was acquired by the Kalgoorlie Brewing and Ice Company Limited, who immediately enlarged the place with additional

27 Freeland, J. M., *The Australian pub*, Carlton, Vic, MUP, 1966, p. 176.

28 Liquor licensing files, Palace Hotel Southern Cross, Plans by Oldfield Knott Architects, January 1990, WAS 2237 CONS 5586 Item 67; *The Southern Cross Times*, 1 October 1911, p. 3.

29 *Western Australian tourists' guide*, centenary issue, 1928-29, p. 198.

30 Certificates of Title, Vol. 460 Fol. 17 (Lot 1), Vol. 460 Fol. 18 (Lot 3), Vol. 306 Fol. 150 & Vol. 307 Fol. 23 (Lot 2), 12 July & 24 September 1923, 27 March 1931, 2 April 1935 & Vol. 1024 Fol. 904, (strip of Lot 2), 4 July 1931.

31 Colebatch, Hal, *Claude de Bernales: the magnificent miner*, Perth, Hesperian Press, 1996; *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 8, 1891-1939, pp. 264-265.

32 Hunt, Lyall (ed), op cit, p. 364. The Forrester Resource Centre at Southern Cross High School is named for her.

bedrooms to cater to the increased population of the 1930s mining boom. Architects Cavanagh and Cavanagh were engaged for the work, which was carried out by builder J. Moore at a cost of £4,709.³³ Physical evidence and later plans indicate that the work involved the erection of an accommodation wing at the centre rear and a men's bathroom in the south-west wing upper floor. Included in the work were decorative alterations in Inter-War Art Deco style.³⁴ In the 1940 *Western Australian Tourist Guide*, licensee T. E. Murphy listed *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* as having 35 bedrooms available, with a tariff of £0 10 6 a night and £2 15 0 a week.³⁵

The Kalgoorlie Brewery, under its director and owner Jim Cummins, was one of three major competitors to the Swan Brewery. Following Cummins' death, his daughter Alice Cummins took over as managing director. She extended the Brewery's production with the manufacture of a sweet lager that proved 'enormously popular' and increased the Company's profitability and market share.³⁶ Following the sudden death of Alice Cummins in June 1943, aged 45, the Swan Brewery was able to acquire the Kalgoorlie Brewing and Ice Company Limited, together with its hotels. The Kalgoorlie Company continued to operate under its own name as a subsidiary company and in 1949 became the Kalgoorlie Brewery Co Ltd.³⁷

The mining boom had been cut short with the advent of the Second World War and *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* struggled to remain economically viable in the 1950s and 1960s. The old Exchange Hotel on Lot 1 was removed in 1950. It had been occupied as a motor garage since 1928.³⁸ In 1969, *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* was purchased jointly by Gladys Riddell, proprietor of the Railway Hotel at Southern Cross, and farmer Giuseppe (Joe) Divitini of Tirono Farm, Ghooli.³⁹ The place was delicensed and became the Anniversary Hostel boarding house on the Palace Corner, run by a Mrs M. Willis.⁴⁰ Little money had been spent on maintenance over the previous decades. When Joe Divitini became the sole owner of the place in mid 1971, he removed the verandahs, which were in danger of collapse, and sold the decorative lace ironwork.⁴¹

There was another mining boom in the 1980s when new technologies made it possible to treat ore that had previously been uneconomic due to the low amount of gold present. The Anniversary Hostel continued to function and in 1987,

33 Certificates of Title, Vol. 460 Fol. 17 (Lot 1), Vol. 460 Fol. 18 (Lot 3), Vol. 306 Fol. 150 & Vol. 307 Fol. 23 (Lot 2), Vol. 1042 Fol. 333 (Lots 2 & 3 & drainage / sewerage easement Lot 1), 2 April 1935; *Building & Construction*, 21 June 2009, p. 19; physical evidence.

34 Southern Cross, Palace Hotel plans, SROWA, WAS 2237 CONS 5586 Item 67, 1992.

35 *Western Australian tourist guide and accommodation directory*, 1940, p. 162.

36 Welborn, Suzanne, *Swan: The history of a brewery*, UWA Press, Perth, 1987, pp. 164-165.

37 Welborn, Suzanne, op cit, p. 176.

38 Stevens, Lance & Forrester, Erna (comp), op cit, p. 4.

39 Certificate of Title, Vol. 1042 Fol. 333, 9 April 1969.

40 Stevens, Lance, op cit; Photographs, 60350P Palace Hotel in 1965 & 4326B/14/14 Anniversary Hostel in December 1970, Battye Library photographic collection.

41 Stevens, Lance, op cit; Photograph, 4326B/14/15, decorative lacework on verandahs, December 1970, Battye Library photographic collection; Certificates of Title, Vol. 470 Fol. 98A, Vol. 1042 Fol. 333 & Vol. 1195 Fol. 830, 15 February & 28 July 1971.

Valerie Dawn Velic, boarding house proprietor, is recorded as the owner of the place.⁴²

By 1990, *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* was in danger of demolition due to its poor condition. Local resident and mine owner Lloyd Marchese, through his company Malak Pty Ltd, purchased the place with the intention of using it to house his mining staff, but decided it was worth restoring to its former position as the best hotel in Southern Cross. Lloyd Marchese owned the Bayswater Hotel, which he had recently restored.⁴³ He engaged Oldfield Knott Architects Pty Ltd to design the refurbishment of *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross*. The most obvious change was the reinstatement of the double height verandahs, with timber balustrades to the upper level. Modern bathroom facilities were provided with bathrooms to the ground floor rooms in the south-west wing creating motel style accommodation, some with a spa bath, and extensive shared bathroom facilities for the upper floor bedrooms.⁴⁴

The following report appeared in *The Western Liquor Guide*:

During September 1991 Malak Pty Ltd was successful in relicensing the Palace Hotel in Southern Cross... The building has continued to deteriorate even though it operated as a boarding house, despite the presence of an in-house ghost. Other licensees in town and surrounds opposed the application but it was demonstrated that 85% of its business would be generated from passing trade. The man behind the application was Lloyd Marchese whose relationship with Southern Cross goes back to childhood.... He formed the idea that the Palace would make a splendid traveller's hotel and major upgrading would be necessary. It would provide reasonably priced accommodation, a good class restaurant, lounge facilities, counter lunches, saloon bar and function room... While initially only 19 rooms will be restored, there are an additional 12 bedrooms which can be restored. Within two years some 30 rooms would be available. The cost will be close to \$700,000 on top of the \$200,000 purchase price.⁴⁵

Cost of restoration rose as more work was found to be needed than originally considered. The plumbing needed to be replaced throughout as did the plaster ceilings. Removal of these uncovered the heavy rolled steel girders described in the original newspaper item on the opening of the place in 1911. The girders have been made a feature of the bar. Another discovery was that the building had been constructed in four sections, which is thought to have been done to allow for rocking during underground explosions at the nearby Frasers mine, which was an operating mine at the time the place was built.⁴⁶ The restored wood panelled bar is described as being 'more opulent than the original'.⁴⁷

The place was owned by Craig and Susan Dunlop of Southern Cross for several years and since 2005 has been owned by Stanley and Julie Davidenko.⁴⁸

42 Certificates of Title, Vol. 1754 Fol. 147, 3 February 1987 & Vol. 1834 Fol. 234, 4 April 1989. No entries in the WA Telephone Directory were found for the Anniversary Hostel for the 1970s-1980s.

43 Stevens, Lance, op cit; Certificates of Title, Vol. 1754 Fol. 147 & Vol. 1834 Fol. 234, 14 November 1990; Vol. 1961 Fol. 257 & survey diagram 80098 (Lot 500), 21 May 1993.

44 Liquor licensing files, Palace Hotel Southern Cross, Plans by Oldfield Knott Architects, January 1990, op cit.

45 *The Western Liquor Guide*, November 1991, pp. 10-11.

46 *The Western Liquor Guide*, November 1991, pp. 10-11.

47 Stevens, Lance, op cit.

48 Certificates of Title Vol. 2131 Fol. 246, Register 501/D94411, 15 October 2002, 30 December 2005.

Changes made since 1991 include the use of the entire upper floor south-east wing as an apartment, the removal of several walls in the public spaces on the ground floor and conversion of the lounge to a dining room.⁴⁹

At time of assessment (2010) *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* continued to operate as a functioning hotel catering to the local and tourist trade.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is a two-storey face brick building with a truncated corner and hipped corrugated iron roof.

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is located on Orion Street (Great Eastern Highway) at the south corner of the Antares Street/Marvel Loch Road intersection in Southern Cross. The street fronts are both at zero setback with verandahs at ground and first floor levels along both street frontages. There is an expansive asphalt parking and access area along the south-west side and towards and along the south-east rear where the motels are located along the boundary. There is a slip road along the Orion Street frontage, and low shrub plantings delineate the corner setback area, with Cocos palms flanking the truncated entry and extending along the north-eastern frontage to the spaced picket fence that borders the paved courtyard and grassed barbeque area that opens off the dining room.

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross has expansive street frontages to Orion Street (Great Eastern Highway) at the south corner of the Antares Street/Marvel Loch Road intersection. Although the verandahs were reconstructed in their entirety in 1991, the 1911 hotel shows influences of the Federation Filigree style, and the 1935 elements show influences of Interwar Art Deco style. Typical of the Federation Filigree style is the masonry construction and prominent corner location, with reconstructions of the original verandahs over the footpaths as dominant elements in the townscape. The street frontages are balanced with a regular rhythm of door and window openings.

The two-storey building is a face brick structure with the 1911 section constructed in English bond face work (alternating rows of headers and stretchers), the south-east extension of the south-west wing having a Colonial bond with three rows of stretcher bricks to one row of headers, and the 1935 double storey wing having stretcher bond face brickwork. The main building has a rendered dado to the street frontages and the south-west side walls. The high-pitched hipped roofs are clad with overlapped sheets of painted corrugated iron. The roof is faceted at the truncated corner. A number of tall chimneys remain, with face brick corbelled detail. The double storey verandah is supported by chamfered square timber posts with decorative collars and curved brackets that support the valance. The valance and balustrade are detailed in spaced vertical timbers replacing the original.

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross shows evidence of up to four distinct periods of development: the 1911 original building, the c.1920 south-west wing extension, 1935 double storey accommodation block and first floor men's ablutions, as well as interior design influences particularly demonstrated in the doors and glazing details, and the 1991 reconstructed double storey verandahs.

⁴⁹ Physical inspection, 2010.

Palace Hotel, Southern Cross is 'U' in form with a double story accommodation block within part of the 'U'. The main entry on Orion Street presents an immediate introduction to the 1935 development with double front doors detailed with geometric leadlight in the art deco style, and matching fanlights and sidelights, while the main north-east entry retains the original 1911 lead light stained glass detailing, and the bar entries have similar but with less detail. The main Orion Street entry opens into the entry foyer delineated by a timber lattice detail and decorative moulded plaster archway. The foyer accesses the bar area on the left and the original dining room on the right, then through the arch is the bottle shop on the left and on the right is the central corridor with another entrance to the former dining room and to the public rooms (right, front) and office, store and kitchen on the left. The corridor turns at right angles central along the south-west wing with the kitchen access on the left, cool room and stores on the right and access to the rear area. The accommodation extension on the south-east end of the south-west wing is accessed separately, externally, to each room on the north-east side. From the main entry corridor, the rear access, next to the main staircase, opens onto a verandah that accesses the 'dining' room on the north-east side. Immediately adjacent to the rear opening of the corridor, is the 1935 freestanding accommodation block and concrete columns that support the public ablutions on the first floor. A central corridor accesses rooms along both sides, at ground and first floor level, with first floor access directly off the first floor verandah, down several steps to a lower level.

On the first floor, the staircase opens into an expansive foyer leading to the front verandah, with a few steps up on a return staircase to open onto the rear verandah. The rooms on the north-east side of the foyer are interconnected to form a self-contained 'apartment' with expansive rooms and a small bathroom and kitchenette. On the south-west side of the foyer there is a corridor central to the south-west flanking accommodation rooms both sides. The corridor then extends south-east, again with accommodation rooms both sides, and at a level change down several steps to the c.1920 extension. Prior to the level change, the rear verandah is accessed from the corridor, and the 1935 men's ablution extension is located adjacent to the south-east end of the south-west extension, on the north-east side. The rear verandah is expansive and connects to the freestanding 1935 accommodation block, and the self-contained apartment on the north-east side, separated by a lattice partition.

On the interior, the ground floor public area fitouts and details show the most change associated with the 1935 enhancement. The main entry and foyer, original dining and public rooms, doors, ceilings, and detail are influenced by the geometry of the art deco style. The bar is a 1991 fitout, and the dining room more contemporary. Walls have been removed in the bar area to provide access to the existing dining room, and walls have been removed in the rooms across the north-east frontage where a contemporary timber 'fold-a-door' is located.

The remaining fabric throughout the ground floor accommodation rooms and the entire first floor shows hard plaster walls with original (1911) timber architraves and skirtings. Floors are mostly 0.135 metre jarrah floor boards. The ceilings are mostly flat replacement ceilings with simple cornices. The windows to the accommodation rooms other than the frontages, are typically timber framed double hung sashes. The first floor windows opening onto the verandah are 'bachelor' doors: full height double hung sashes that provide walk through openings. The fanlights above have been infilled with air conditioner units. The

interior doors are mostly four panelled and most have fanlights above. The 1935 accommodation block has four panelled doors typical of that period. In the bar, the fittings are 1990s. The kitchen has tiled walls and a basic commercial fitout. The pantry has timber shelves fixed to the walls. The original dining room and bar fireplaces have 1935 interventions. The closed tread timber staircase has turned stair balusters. The ablution facilities retain 1935 fitouts with original terrazzo floor in the men's ablutions. The cellar was not accessible at time of inspection.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Federation Filigree hotels

There are 116 Federation Filigree hotels on the database, of which 27 are on the State Register. Thirty-four of the Federation Filigree hotels are located in the goldfields, with 27 of these in the major goldfield townships of Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie and Boulder. Fifty-six of the Federation Filigree hotels were built between 1900 and 1920 and 11 of these are entered on the Register. Of those built in this period, 13 are in the goldfields but only one, P01463 *State Hotel (fmr), Gwalia* is registered. Another 14 goldfield hotels of Federation Filigree style were built in the 1890s, of which two are registered; P0201 *Cornwall Hotel, Boulder* and P0570 *Railway Hotel (fmr), Coolgardie*.⁵⁰

P0570 *Railway Hotel (fmr), Coolgardie* (1896) is a single and two-storey brick and iron landmark corner building in Federation Filigree and Federation Classical style, originally built as an office building and converted to a hotel in 1900. It has functioned as boarding house and bed and breakfast premise since 1965. It retains double height verandahs with timber balustrades. Conservation works have been carried out in the 21st century. The place is also on the Register of the National Estate and classified by the National Trust.⁵¹

P0201 *Cornwall Hotel, Boulder* (1898) is a two-storey corner building of stone construction on the lower floor and brick above with a parapet and double height verandahs. The place was gutted by fire during the riots of 1934 and was reconstructed to its original form. It closed in 1976 and in 1987 was restored. The place is classified by the National Trust and on the Register of the National Estate as an indicative place.⁵²

P01463 *State Hotel (fmr), Gwalia* (1903) is a two-storey corner building. It is of brick construction with a corrugated iron roof concealed behind a heavily moulded parapet. Both street facades are treated in a similar manner, each with a centrally located entrance, and there is a truncated corner providing a secondary entrance. The place was restored by Western Mining Corporation in the late 1980s for use as offices for mining staff.⁵³

Other comparable hotels on the State Register, built between 1900 and 1920, include:⁵⁴

P02637 *Moran's Wagin Hotel* (1904) comprises a double-storey rendered stone, brick and iron Hotel in Federation Filigree style with separate brick and iron

50 HCWA database.

51 HCWA assessment documentation P0570 *Railway Hotel (fmr), Coolgardie*.

52 HCWA assessment documentation P0201 *Cornwall Hotel, Boulder*.

53 HCWA assessment documentation P01463 *State Hotel (fmr), Gwalia*.

54 HCWA database and relevant assessment documentation.

Commercial Rooms (1910) and timber framed iron Staff Quarters (1912), both in the vernacular. The extensive two-storey street frontage is at zero setback and has a decorative parapet. The original verandah has been removed. The upstairs interior has been converted to flats.

P01669 *Pindar Hotel (fmr)* (1905) is two-storey masonry hotel constructed in the Federation Filigree style. The place is a representative example of a vernacular 'corner pub' built in the Federation period, with landmark quality due to its prominence in the streetscape and its relationship with the remaining buildings of the small townsite.

00248 *Freemason's Hotel, Bridgetown* (1905) is a two-storey tuck pointed brick and iron roofed hotel and pair of shops located on a prominent corner site. The place has a prominent gabled roofline, bracketed eaves and tall brick corbelled chimneys. Constructed in Federation Filigree style, it has Inter-War Art Deco additions.

P00320 *Bruce Rock Hotel* (1914), a two-storey building in brick construction on a prominent corner location. The first floor verandah and the colonnade at ground floor wrap the entire length of the double-storey street frontages. The verandah is supported by chamfered square timber posts.

The Statewide Hotel Survey indicates that many hotels were enlarged in the 1930s, mainly to provide more and improved accommodation and dining facilities for the travelling public, as required by the Licensing Court with the growing popularity of motor vehicles.⁵⁵ *Palace Hotel, Southern Cross* was one that followed this trend, although its enlarged accommodation facilities were also a result of more localised conditions with the increased interest in gold mining in that period.

Hotels in Southern Cross

Two other hotels are extant at Southern Cross. P2803 Club Hotel (1904), cnr Antares & Achernar Sts, Southern Cross, is a Federation Filigree hotel in red-brick with an iron roof. The building retains its verandahs, although the iron lace has been replaced with timberwork. A rendered plinth has been added to the street front brickwork. The place is on the Yilgarn Municipal Heritage Inventory.⁵⁶

P2814 Railway Hotel, now a tavern, is on the corner of Sirius & Hydra Sts, Southern Cross and was built in 1911. It was located opposite the railway station but lost its prominent position when the standard gauge line followed a different route and is no longer in the commercial centre of town. The verandahs have been replaced with a cantilevered roof and the face brickwork is painted. It is listed on the Yilgarn Municipal Heritage Inventory.⁵⁷

Goldfields Hotels

Hotels remaining in the various mining towns in the Yilgarn region include: the single-storey red brick and iron Exchange Hotel, Bullfinch (rebuilt 1933), Marcel Loch Hotel (timber framed, relocated from Parker Range date unknown) and Moorine Rock Hotel (rebuilt 1930, single-storey brick and fibre board). Only one

⁵⁵ Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., *Statewide Survey of Hotels 1829-1939*, southern region, Western Australia, National Trust of Australia (WA), Perth, 1997, pp. 43-56.

⁵⁶ Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., *op cit*, section 137.

⁵⁷ Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., *op cit*, section 137.

arched entrance remains of the two-storey rendered brick Mt Palmer Hotel, built in 1935-36 in Inter-War Mediterranean style.⁵⁸

Architect

Christian Frederick Mouritzen is credited with the design of a number of hotels including the Newmarket Hotel, Coogee (1900), and hotels at Kununoppin, Boddington, Bullfinch and Brookton between 1909 and 1912.⁵⁹ P00166 Boddington Hotel, reportedly the only hotel ever built in Boddington, is a single storey masonry building of with simple detailing quite dissimilar to *Palace Hotel*, *Southern Cross*. It is not known which of the remaining hotels in Brookton was designed by Mouritzen, but P00286 Club Hotel is of a similar scale, being a two storey corner hotel with double storey verandahs, and appears more likely to have been constructed between 1909 and 1912 than the smaller and simpler P00285 Bedford Hotel. Mouritzen's Exchange Hotel at Bullfinch in the Yilgarn district was destroyed by fire in the early 1930s and Kununoppin Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1998. P00504 *Newmarket Hotel*, Hamilton Hill, (RHP) is a two storey Federation Filigree style hotel in limestone and brick, retaining substantial internal detailing despite having been vacant for some time. Post Office directories suggest it was not constructed until c.1912. The 1920s Interwar Chicagoesque style P01999 Sheffield House is also believed to have been designed by Mouritzen, in partnership with George Temple Poole.⁶⁰

Conclusions

Palace Hotel, *Southern Cross* is a representative example of a Federation Filigree hotel built in the early decades of the twentieth century and more recently restored and renovated, and a good example of a large country hotel.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

⁵⁸ Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., op cit, section 137.

⁵⁹ Pitt Morison, M., 'Immigrant Architects and their work, 1885-1905', unpublished paper, Battye PR13589.

⁶⁰ HCWA database; Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., op cit.; Google Maps Streetview <http://maps.google.com.au/> accessed 25 Feb 2011; Kelly, Ian 'Western Australian Architectural Biography 1890-1915', 1991 updated 2005.