



HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 3795
2. **NAME** *William Street Precinct* (1880s+)  
**FORMER NAME** Perth Town Lots Y15, Y34 and Y55
3. **LOCATION** Eastern strip between Roe and Aberdeen Streets  
numbers 178 - 282 William Street, Northbridge
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
**(Firstly):** Lot 1 on Plan 893, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1046 Folio 507.  
  
Lots 2 and 3 on Plan 893, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificates of Title Volume 223 Folio 163A and Volume 1267 Folio 247.  
  
Lot 4 on Plan 893, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1573 Folio 598.  
  
Lots 5 and 6 on Plan 893, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1073 Folio 413.  
  
Lots 7 to 9 (inclusive) on Plan 893, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificates of Title Volume 1102 Folio 657, Volume 790 Folio 47 and Volume 1416 Folio 293 respectively.  
  
Lot 4 on Diagram 4669, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 684 Folio 193.  
  
Perth Lots 1113 to 1115 (inclusive) on Diagram 4669, being the whole of the land comprised in Crown Land Titles Volume 3111 Folioms 623, 624 and 625 respectively.  
  
Lot 1 and the portion coloured brown on Diagram 371, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 954 Folio 82.  
  
Lot 2 on Diagram 371, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1180 Folio 845.  
  
Portion of Perth Town Lot Y15, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 219 Folio 130.  
  
Portion of Perth Town Lot Y15, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1073 Folio 861  
  
Lot 4 on Diagram 1699, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1474 Folio 386.  
  
**(Secondly):** Lots 5 and 6 on Plan 1367, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1465 Folio 724.  
  
Lots 1, 2 and 3 on Plan 1367, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1045 Folio 21.

Lot 4 on Plan 1367, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1891 Folio 783.

(Thirdly): Portion of Perth Town Lot Y34, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1676 Folio 623.

5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Perth

6. **OWNER** As to the land firstly described: The Crown  
(ie: The State of Western Australia.)

As to the land secondly described: Marchesi Holdings Pty Ltd.

As to the land thirdly described: Rodney John Kelly.

7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

- Register of Heritage Places: Interim 30/05/2000  
Permanent 29/05/2001
- National Trust Classification:
- Town Planning Scheme:
- Municipal Inventory:
- Register of the National Estate:

8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

a) **Primary Significance**

*William Street Precinct*, an architecturally diverse collection of places of varying degrees of significance, has cultural significance as a whole because:

- i it physically reflects broad social and economic changes and cultural diversity in Western Australia during the late nineteenth century and throughout the twentieth century, and has the potential to contribute significantly to an understanding of the development of the City of Perth and the state of Western Australia;
- ii the cumulative effect of the scale, massing, texture, materials, colour and detail of individual buildings and their sites (including yards, outbuildings and fences) provide aesthetic characteristics which have formed over a century of gradual adaptation and development;
- iii it contains the largest group of commercial buildings north of the railway, dating from the 1890s to c. 1925, that have been mostly untouched by large scale late twentieth century development;
- iv of its prominent location, the collective and individual landmark qualities of the buildings and the reflection and successful synthesis of influences from the surrounding Northbridge, Cultural Centre, Central Business District and residential areas in its physical fabric;
- v of the continuity of commercial, residential, entertainment and cultural functions which operate without detracting from the overall integrity of the precinct and which contribute substantially to the character of the area;

- vi collectively, the buildings represent the work of some of the most prominent architectural firms in the state as well as representing the diversity of architectural styles employed by architects in Perth over a relatively short period of time; and,
- vii the intersection of William and Francis streets forms the western entry to the Perth Cultural Centre environment.

## b) Secondary Significance

Individual elements are of cultural significance for the following reasons:

- vii P 2155 *Rechabite Hall* (#22a-224) is a local landmark building, enhanced by its central location within the streetscape; both externally and internally, it is a good example of the 'Interwar Free Classical' style. It is the only remaining Friendly society building of four contemporaries that existed in the immediate area. It represents the prosperity and impact of friendly societies on the community of the time. It is one of the few buildings of its style to be built north of the railway line, and one of only a few remaining major buildings by well known architect Edwin Summerhayes. As an old-time dance hall, the place represents an early entertainment venue in Northbridge, a function that characterises the area in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. This place was added to the State Register of Heritage Places on an interim basis on 5 June 1992;
- viii The Perth Hostel (#194-198) has operated in the area for over 70 years, prior to which it was a residential 'Coffee Palace'. That is, the building has had continued residential use for over 90 years.
- ix The National Bank (fmr) (#214) facade has been recognised as having particular aesthetic value (it is a good example of small scale Moderne development within the streetscape).
- x The buildings on the southern portion of Y34 represent the building boom which occurred in the area in the 1920s. They are a particularly homogeneous group which have retained their authenticity.
- xi The group of buildings north of the Baldwin building (#260-264) to Aberdeen Street form a particularly cohesive group, especially at first floor and parapet level, which represent all of the significant characteristics of *William Street Precinct*.
- xii The Rosen Building's (#218-222) north shop is a substantially intact example of mixed commercial residential development from the 1920s and the 1934 Building's (#186-192) south shop is a substantially intact example of a commercial shop from the 1930s.
- xiii There are notable examples of pressed metal lining in the street. These include interiors of the Perth Hostel (#194-198), *Rechabite Hall* (#22a-224), Baldwin Building (#260-264).

There are intrusive elements within the precinct. These include the vacant sites in Y15 and shopfronts in Y15 and Y55 where the street focus has been lost. The right of way fence at the rear of Y55 is also considered intrusive.

There are some street elevations, right of way elevations and interiors of buildings that have been identified as having little significance. These are areas where new development has occurred which is not significant in itself yet is not intrusive to the overall significance of the precinct or place.

