

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVENTORY

PLACE REFERENCE NO.: AP09

NAME: RAFFLES HOTEL

OTHER NAMES: Canning Bridge Hotel
Raffles Motor Hotel

PIN NO. (Landgate): 11197486

LAND DESCRIPTION: Lot 7, S/Plan 48545
Certificate of Title Volume 2623 Folio 7LOCATION: 71 Canning Beach Road, Applecross
corner Canning Highway

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1896, 1937, c. 1985

PLACE TYPE:

USE: Original Use: Aboriginal site; then Hotel
Current Use: Hotel

HERITAGE LISTINGS:

- City of Melville – CPS 14 December 1999, MHI 19 December 1994, Place Ref. AP09;
- Heritage Council of Western Australia State Register of Heritage Places Permanent Entry 22 January 2002 Place No. 01544 'Raffles Hotel', Registration includes database entry Place No. 03926 'Raffles Hotel Precinct';
- Australian Heritage Council Register of the National Estate Place ID 102855 'Raffles Hotel' 'Identified through State processes';
- The National Trust of Australia (WA) Register of Classified Places 'Raffles Hotel' Classified 3 July 1995;
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs Register of Aboriginal Sites Site ID 3538 'Canning River' and Site ID 20442 'Raffles Hotel Site'.

ARCHITECT: Wm. Bennett

BUILDER:

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: 1896 – original Federation wing (west)
1937 – Inter-War Functionalist (east)

CONDITION: Sound.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The initial western wing of the Canning Bridge Hotel (1896) comprises a single-storey Federation style rectangular brick building with clay tiled and gable roof. The 1937 eastern extension is a two-storey rendered and painted brick and concrete structure with a metal clad roof concealed behind the Art Deco style perimeter parapet. Both wings of the Hotel have been subjected to substantial modification, particularly internally, to accommodate the community expectations over the lifetime of the buildings. Further modifications were carried out in c. 1985. The exterior of the eastern wing with its rooftop advertising, is close in overall character to its 1937 presentation.

HISTORICAL NOTES:

In summer, the Beeliar Nyoongars used the Raffles Hotel Site area as a campsite and hunting ground as this area was an abundant source of food for them.

The present building evolved from the original 1896 Canning Bridge Hotel, which survives today as the western wing, to the 1937 addition, the eastern wing, the dominant part of the Hotel. The 1937 addition demonstrates the practice in post-depression years whereby existing buildings were modernised and extended. The Hotel represents a continuous history of licensed premises since 1896 providing accommodation, utilities and entertainment to the community in a key location at the Canning River. The 1937 addition is indicative of the work of architect W. G. Bennett who was responsible for a major portfolio of residential houses, hotels and other community buildings.

The Hotel continues to demonstrate in its various parts the changing aspirations for accommodation, entertainment, food and beverage as expected by the community in the lifetime of the building.

HISTORIC THEME/S (HCWA THEME/S):

- Australian Historic Themes: 8.4 Eating and drinking
8.13 Living in cities and suburbs.



- HCWA Theme: 102 Aboriginal occupation
404 Community services and utilities
405 Recreation and entertainment.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:

Rendered brick, metal and tiled roofing.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Raffles Hotel, a two-storey hotel designed in the Inter-War Functionalist style, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is a well known landmark due to its prominent location on a promontory of land overlooking the Swan and Canning Rivers;

the place is known to have operated continuously to the present day as a licensed hotel since 1896, and possibly earlier; the surviving fabric of the 1896 Canning Bridge Hotel reveals its influence on the subsequent form of the 1937 Hotel with its two wings and internal courtyard area which has been largely retained to this day;

for over a century the place has had high social value for the community as a place for recreation, the celebration of events, meetings and functions;

externally the place reveals its distinctive 1937 design and remains a significant example of the work by Perth architect W. G. Bennett, a major exponent of Inter-War Art Deco and Inter-War Functionalist style buildings in Western Australia;

the building is one of the few surviving examples of a hotel in the Inter-War Functionalist style remaining in the metropolitan area;

the place is a representative example of the trend to modernise existing buildings, in particular commercial buildings, during the 1930s through the addition of modern facades and the renovation of interiors; these buildings provided a modern image for their patrons, which reflected the post-depression trends of optimism about the future, new technologies and progress; Raffles Hotel and the nearby Applecross District Hall provide indicators of the stylistic changes that occurred in inter-war building design during the second half of the 1930s;

the place, together with the adjacent Applecross District Hall and the Canning Bridge, creates a distinctive cultural landscape.

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS:

The external form and materials of both the 1896 and the 1937 wings of the Hotel.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Considerable cultural heritage significance.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Category A

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL CODE: National

MAIN SOURCES:

- Cooper, W. S., and McDonald, G., 'City of all Seasons, the story of Melville', City of Melville, 1989;
- Heritage Council of Western Australia State Register of Heritage Places Assessment documentation for Place No. 01544 'Raffles Hotel' dated 22 January 2002.

ASSESSMENT DATE: 2012

ASSESSOR: Ronald Bodycoat AM.KSJ.LFRAIA



