

PRESTON FLATS, EAST PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Preston Flats
Other names	
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	8747
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	264 Stirling St
Locality	East Perth
Survey	LOT: 9 D/P: 11753
Vol/folio	1344/461
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Has some altered or modified elements, not necessarily detracting from the overall significance of the place.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 3</p> <p>Conservation of the place is desirable.</p> <p>Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and retain original fabric where feasible.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>Preston Flats are a good example of Interwar Functionalist style, with rendered details and is a landmark in the streetscape.</p> <p>The place demonstrates a model of walk up flats which were a popular concept as a new form of urban living in the Interwar period, located on public transport routes and close to facilities.</p> <p>The place is associated with the trend of flat developments in the Inter War period in the areas closer to the city.</p> <p>This block of flats has social value for its demonstration of the scale and type of housing built for working couples and singles in the Inter War period.</p> <p>The place is valued by the community for the continuity of its presence in the streetscape which contributes to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Residential: Flats/Apartment Block
Current use	Residential: Flats/Apartment Block
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	c1940
Walls	Brick
Roof	Terracotta Tile
Architectural Style	Inter- War Functionalist
Physical description	A two storey block of flats typical of the Inter War building style. It features cantilevered eyebrow window awnings, brick string courses and multi-paned windows. The balconies are integral under the main roof and have the character of outdoor rooms.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Stirling Street was named after Sir James Stirling (1791-1865), founder of the Swan River Colony and Governor from 1828-1839. Stirling was born in Scotland and joined the Royal Navy at the age of 12. In 1823 he married Ellen Mangles, after whom a portion of what later became Newcastle Street was named. Stirling first visited Western Australia in 1827 and was impressed with it. He wanted to found a colony and without his strong lobbying and Britain's fears that the French would beat them to it, the Swan River might not have been established in 1829

The 1897 PWD City of Perth & Suburbs sewerage map (Sheet 7, 18.8.1897) showed some kind of building on this block with a much smaller, narrow one on the rear boundary. No. 264 was listed in Wise's Post Office Directories for the first time in 1911 with a W. Rimmer residing there. From 1912 to 1915 it was Max Konegsberg, a marine dealer ('bottleo' or bottle collector) listed as this address. In 1919 it was occupied by Mrs M. Sadagursky and Isaac Levy was listed as living there from at least 1930 to 1940.

In the 1930s, it was reported that 'flat life' was becoming more popular in Perth and suburbs, as evidenced by the construction of several blocks in and around the city. Flat conversion was also seen as a way of dealing with old-fashioned residences at this time, with a number undergoing extensive refurbishment and renovation, which often included a new façade. Other of the older homes were removed to make way for the new flat developments, which appears to have been the case for the subject place.

Preston Flats were listed in the Directories for the first time in 1941. The City of Perth Rates Books show that the owner was James Michael McEncroe (1867-1942). From the available information McEncroe was a successful local businessman with many interests including property. He had a salvage yard at 92 Stirling Street where he regularly advertised building materials, and lived in Bulwer Street. The details of the architect or builder have not been determined. The origin of the name of Preston for the Flats has also not been determined. McEncroe died in 1942, not long after the flats were completed leaving a substantial estate. The flats were owned by the executors of the will until at least 1946 when the available rates books cease.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1945, the occupants were listed for the first time for five of the six flats: William Mildwater (No. 1), Mrs E. Holcroft (No. 2), Mrs A. Allen (No. 3), Thomas Prout (No. 4) and E. Campion (No. 5). In 1949 the last year of the Directories the occupants were: Frederick Harper, Len Smith, Ern R. Oldfield, John A. Holcroft, Ern Campion and Charles W. Mildwater. These lists indicate that members of the Holcroft, Campion and Mildwater families had been in residence from at least 1945 to 1949.

Changes to the flats in more recent times include a concrete slab to the front verandah in 1960. The licence for this was applied for in the name of D. Balestra. Additions and alterations were made in 2002 and balconies were also added in 2002.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate that the form and extent of the subject place has changed little since that time, with the exception of the balconies added in the early 2000s.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Peopling WA: Demographic development Cultural Life: Domestic Life	
Associations	James Michael McEncroe W. Rimmer Max Konegsberg Mrs M. Sadagursky Isaac Levy Holcroft family Campion family Mildwater family	Original owner First resident Resident Resident Resident Residents Residents Residents
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. City of Perth Rates Books The Daily News, 23 March 1942, p. 8. The Kalgoorlie Miner, 19 May 1942, p. 2.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

