

OXFORD HOTEL, LEEDERVILLE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Oxford Hotel
Other names	
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	2198
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	368 Oxford St
Locality	Leederville
Survey	LOT: 10 D/P: 1471
Vol/folio	1724/770
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The place has some aesthetic value for the remaining form and detail of the alterations and additions undertaken in the Inter War period, demonstrating elements of the Inter War Free Classical and Georgian Revival styles.</p> <p>Oxford Hotel is a long surviving landmark on a prominent location on Oxford Street.</p> <p>It is the first hotel in Leederville and is representative of the manner in which suburban hotels were consistently modified and adapted to suit the changing needs of the hotel trade.</p> <p>It has been a social meeting place on Oxford Street for most of the past century and contributes to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Commercial: Hotel, Tavern or Inn
Current use	Commercial: Hotel, Tavern or Inn
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	c1903; 1931; 1939; 1950s; 2000
Walls	Rendered Brick
Roof	Corrugated metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Inter War Free Classical Inter War Georgian Revival
Physical description	<p>The two storey hotel has an upper level balcony that returns around the corner of Oxford Street and Anzac Road.</p> <p>The balcony under the main roof features column supports and a solid baluster. The building reduces to one storey along the Anzac Street frontage as it goes up hill from Oxford Street. A gable ended bay terminates the building elevation on the southern end facing Oxford Street.</p> <p>Recent [2024] renovations have taken place. Zero street setbacks.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Oxford Hotel, on the corner of Oxford Street and Anzac Road, is not shown on the 1900 PWD sewerage plans. The building was listed in Wise's Post Office Directories, or the first time in 1904 when J. Quigley was listed as the licensee suggesting that the place was built c1903. The following year it was Mrs Anne McDonald. In 1910 it was Donald L. Mc Nicol and Horace L. Giles in 1912.

In 1925, the licensee was Ernest J. Holland, in 1935 R. S. R. Plumb and in 1949, the last year of the Directories, it was J. Downie. A number of these licensees lived with their families in the upstairs section and Aileen O'Dea, daughter of Mr Prendergast (a licensee in the 1930s), recalled how lovely it was sleeping on the open verandah in summer.

The building has been renovated several times, possibly accounting for its rather eclectic architectural appearance. Records show that alterations to the bars took place in 1931. These were designed by architects Oldham Boas & Ednie-Brown, and carried out by J. Hawkins and Sons.

In 1939, minor renovations were designed by architect William G. Bennett. The contractor at this time was I. G. Gibson. The work carried out in the 1930s was part of the modernization process which existing hotels were undertaking at this time.

Ron McGrath, who lived next door to the hotel in the 1930s recalled that, 'By the hotel, on the footpath, were two wooden doors that would open up and down into the cellar were lowered the kegs from the brewery trucks, on a sliding ladder. The kegs would hit onto tyres down below and then they were stacked in the cellar. The toilet was right next to the lane near our place. They had to come outside and walk up the road and into the toilet. That was quite private and away from the hotel.'

In the 1950s and 1960s changes were made to the exterior and the arched windows were bricked and made square with the idea of making it conform to the style of that period. A licence was issued to E. J. Holland in 1952 and owner G. Tighe was also issued with a licence to build a store room and garage in 1965. The place offered cheap accommodation for single men into the late 1980s.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Peter Hayes took over the leasehold of the hotel in August 1999. It was closed for 17 months from September that year and Peter and his son renovated the ground floor section and the cellar under the direction of architectural designer Anthony Cassella. It re-opened on 14 February 2001. The upstairs section, which is now function rooms with a bar/ lounge area, was subsequently renovated and opened in December 2004.

When Peter Hayes took over the leasehold of the hotel, Lot 8 (next door on Oxford Street) 'was like a rubbish tip... with old car bodies and all sorts of stuff. Old horse bones' He gained approval to develop it as a beer garden and from 2008 it was in use for eating, drinking and for live performances.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate the few changes to the subject place over this time. A new roof was installed in the late 1980s, and again in 2003. The aforementioned structural alterations were added to in the early 2000s. The covering of the outdoor area was added to in 2014, but there have been no visible changes since then.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Economy: Commerce Cultural Life: Recreation - Arts, Culture and Entertainment Peopling WA: Demographic Development	
Associations	J. Quigley Anne McDonald Donald L. McNicol Horace L. Giles Ernest J. Holland R. S. R. Plumb J. Downie Oldham Boas & Ednie-Brown J. Hawkins and Sons William G. Bennett I. G. Gibson Peter Hayes Anthony Cassella	Licensee Licensee Licensee Licensee Licensee Licensee Licensee Architects Builders Architect Builder Leaseholder Architect
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



Oxford Hotel c1904. Mrs Anne Marie McDonald, Licensee in doorway. City of Vincent Library image 102809.



Oxford Hotel, 1920s. City of Vincent Library image 102810.



Oxford Hotel, c1956. City of Vincent Library image 102811.