

FREEMASONS LODGE HALL, MOUNT LAWLEY



PLACE INFORMATION

Place name	Freemasons Lodge Hall
Other names	Northern Suburbs Branch
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING

inHerit ID:	8583
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION

Street address	50 Alma Rd
Locality	Mount Lawley
Survey	Lot 104 DP: 66040
Vol/folio	2769/889
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE

Level of significance	<p>Exceptional Essential to the heritage of the area. Rare or outstanding example. Consider for nomination for State Register of Heritage Places if not already included.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 1 The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>Northern Suburbs Masonic Hall is a fine and representative example of the Interwar Beaux Arts style in brick and tile with rendered banding.</p> <p>The building is a local landmark in the which has remained unchanged since its construction in 1928.</p> <p>The building has historic value for its association with the Freemasonry movement which was active during the first half of the 20th century and included many prominent individuals in the Perth community.</p> <p>It has historic value as a demonstration of one of the many large buildings acquired during World War Two by the Armed services for military use. On this occasion the RAAF occupied the building.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with Herbert Parry, a leading architect in the Western Australian community in the first half of the 20th century.</p> <p>The former Freemasons Hall is a dominant building in the streetscape and contributes to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Social/Recreational: Masonic Hall
Current use	Residential: Two storey residence
Other use	Military: Offices

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1928; 1938; 2003; 2009
Walls	Face Brick Rendered Brick
Roof	Terracotta tile
Architectural Style	Inter War Beaux Arts
Physical description	<p>A two storey main hall built to the street, and a single storey Lesser Hall attached to the west side of the main hall and set back from the street. The main hall has red face brick with rusticated stucco pilasters and a simple pediment defining two narrower and slightly taller end elements. The central main doors are surrounded by a rusticated stucco portal with its own pediment. The tiled roof has a gambrel hipped form.</p> <p>The symmetry of the main hall is off set by the attached lesser hall. This has a fully rendered façade with horizontal striped detailing and a simple pediment with the words Lesser Hall; moulded into the decoration. The hall is a dominant feature of this part of Alma Road, set as it is amongst single residences, most of which date from around the same period or earlier. It constitutes a local landmark. There is a large car park at the rear of the building, which is accessed from Forrest Street.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Freemasons is an ancient philanthropic fellowship that had its beginnings with King Solomon. It is dedicated to the improvement of society and teaching of the three main principles of brotherly love, charity to those in need and a belief in one true God. The first Freemason Hall was opened in London in 1776. The foundation stone for the first hall in Western Australia was laid in Hay Street, Perth in 1866 for the Lodge of St John No. 721 EC and it was dedicated by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Frederick Palgrave Barlee (Colonial Secretary in Western Australia 1855 - 77) on 1 May 1867.

The site of the Freemasons Hall at No. 50 Alma Road was first occupied by a small weatherboard cottage as shown on the PWD Sewerage Plans dated 1922. The original plans for the hall show the architect as H. Parry, Grand Superintendent of Works, and the builders were T & G Buildings, Perth. The architect was George Herbert Parry (1882-1951) the son of the second Anglican Bishop of Perth, Henry Hutton Parry. Herbert Parry as he was commonly known, was a prominent architect in the first half of the 20th century, particularly active in ecclesiastical design. The City of Perth approved the plans on 20 March 1928.

The foundation stone of the Northern Suburbs Masonic Hall was laid on 21 April 1928 by The Most Reverent C. O. L. Riley, Archbishop of Perth and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Western Australia. The hall was opened on 7 September 1928 by Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master A. C. McCallum MBE. The directors of the hall committee were Worshipful Brothers J. G. M. Milner, D. Davies, E. E. Aspinall, C. A. B. Lloyd, and Brothers A. Stirling Isaac, J. M. C. Culley, W. F. Brodie and R. Goynne Miller (secretary).

In 1938, a building licence was issued to the Northern Suburbs Masonic Hall Pty Ltd, presumably for the construction of the lesser hall located to the western portion of the original building. Unfortunately these plans were not found.

During World War II, the hall was occupied by the RAAF, reputedly for intelligence purposes related to bomber and fighter aircraft. Concrete foundations for the electricity generators that were installed during this time were still extant in 1983.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 2002, a Development Application was submitted to the Town for internal works including the remodelling of the kitchen and immediate surrounds to comply with the Health Act 1911 and the provision of a cool room and for change of use from existing club to club with catering business. This Development Application was supported at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 8 April 2003.

In 2006, various discussions were held with interested parties in developing the Masonic Hall to accommodate different uses for the hall, such as conversion to residential use and the development of further residential properties within the subject site.

In 2009, a development application, which involves partial demolition and alterations to the subject place to create a single residence, was approved by the Town. Since that time two new separate buildings have been constructed in the ample space in the rear of the property and other minor additions have been made to the rear of the main building. The place continues to be used as a private residence.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Religion Cultural Life: Arts, Culture and Entertainment Cultural Life: Domestic Life	
Associations	George Herbert Parry	Architect
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

