

TRAM POLE, MOUNT LAWLEY



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Tram Pole
Other names	
Place type	Other structure

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	18066
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	83 Walcott St
Locality	Mount Lawley
Survey	—
Vol/folio	—
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Considerable</p> <p>Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 2</p> <p>Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The tram pole has some limited detail that demonstrates the period of construction in the early 20th century.</p> <p>The tram pole has historic value for its association with the extensive and efficient tramway system which operated in central Perth between 1898 and the late 1950s.</p> <p>This tram pole has social value for the community who recall using or operating trams in this locality or the wider Perth metropolitan area.</p> <p>The tram pole contributes to the community sense of place for its longevity in the streetscape.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Transport/Communications: Other
Current use	Other
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	c1916
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical description	An unadorned circular pole rising to a bracketed collar, formerly used to support overhead tram wires, topped with a spherical cap.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Trams had replaced horse-drawn buses in the 1900s. The first tram service north of Perth was inaugurated in 1900, by Tram No. 15 which ran from the Weld Club corner (Esplanade) in Barrack Street and in Beaufort Street and Walcott Street. This was a double track with a crossover at each Terminus and at the Town Hall corner. The tramway was extended northwest along Walcott Street up to York Street in 1906.

In 1916, the Walcott Street line became the Mount Lawley Line, numbered 19. The population was centred in the vicinity of the railway line, spread along Walcott and Beaufort Streets. The Beaufort Street shopping strip developed during this period to cater for the needs of the local residents. At the time, all trams were driven by electric motors and tram poles were erected along the tram lines to support the electrical distribution system.

The subject tram pole, at the corner of Walcott Street and Raglan Street, is a remnant of the tramway system. The trams were phased out when trolley buses were introduced in the 1930s.

The Walcott Street line ceased operation in 1953. The last Tram Service in Beaufort Street was closed in 1958, with Tram No. 66 leading a parade of people on its last trip to Barrack Street, closing the tramway system.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
Historic theme	Infrastructure: Transport and communications Peopling WA: Demographic Development
Associations	
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006

ARCHIVAL IMAGES



Tramway construction 1931 corner Walcott and Beaufort Streets. Courtesy SLWA image 1028381.