

# STEDON APARTMENTS, MOUNT LAWLEY



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Stedon Apartments
Other names	Premier Flats
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	18072
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	540-542 William St 61 Chelmsford Rd
Locality	Mount Lawley
Survey	LOT: 1 - 8 STR: 60256
Vol/folio	
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p><b>Moderate</b></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><b>Category 3</b></p> <p>Conservation of the place is desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and retain original fabric where feasible.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The place has aesthetic value as a good intact example of the Inter War Functionalist style executed in brick and tile.</p> <p>The place has historic value as a good intact example of Interwar flat building at a time when there was considerable interest in new forms of urban life as represented by residential flats.</p> <p>The place demonstrates the growing popularity of apartment living as a new form of urban living during the Interwar period, as it emerged from the Depression.</p>

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

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
<b>Construction date</b>	1935
<b>Walls</b>	Rendered Brick
<b>Roof</b>	Terracotta Tile
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Inter-War Mediterranean
<b>Physical description</b>	<p>The double storey brick structure has an external painted finish. The roof is hipped and clad with tiles. The main street façade is symmetrical and rectilinear, except for curved corners. The ground floor entry is central, in a relief wall, with double glazed doors and the name above.</p> <p>A concrete eyebrow extends around the entire building above the ground floor windows. The original windows are sets of three with a central picture window flanked by a casement each side, each comprising 4 panes in a vertical configuration. There is a stained-glass fanlight above the entry doors.</p> <p>The outer corners have been infilled at both levels with timber framed windows above the original verandah balustrades. Palisade fence stepped down for the letterboxes each side of the entry.</p>
<b>Condition</b>	Good
<b>Integrity</b>	High
<b>Authenticity</b>	High

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Australia has a relatively recent association with flats and apartment buildings with terrace housing and semi-detached dwelling being the early responses to density development. A growing demand for flats from the middle classes was a response to a variety of economic and social factors and subsequently flat construction was a significant feature of the building industry during the 1930s, featuring designs from most of the major architectural firms in Perth. '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 or alternatively homes with spacious gardens made way for the flats, whilst the existing dwellings remained. Research indicates that the latter occurred in this instance.

A Sewerage Plan dated 1917 illustrates that the subject property was originally part of No. 538 William Street, that accommodated a large dwelling that occupied the corner of William Street and Chelmsford Road and featured an expansive lawn and a vine trellis to the north of the dwelling.

Stedon Apartments, originally named the Premier Flats, were constructed on the lawn and garden area previously part of No. 538 William Street. The original Building Licence Plan dated 1940 shows that the two storey flat development was designed by Harold A. Krantz Architect, for Zufi and Shubb. The origin of the name 'Stedon' has not been determined.

Harold Krantz was well known for the flat developments he designed and organised. He would bring together syndicates of groups of investors to build small blocks of flats. These groups were often from the Jewish community in which he was well connected. From the 1930s to the 1960s over 90% of the flats in WA were designed by his office.

### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The current external configuration of the subject place corresponds to the original plan to a large extent, with all the original windows still in place. The original plan also reveals that the subject place comprised 8 residences and each accommodated a living room, verandah, bedroom(s), bathroom and kitchen. Garages and clothes lines were provided in the common area within the property. The Wise's Post Office Directories do not list the subject place until 1947 with three residents, Harry Annsion, David Kmiep and Morris Dzienciol, whom stayed in their residency until at least 1949.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate there were very changes done to the subject site until the early 2000s when a second garage with three parking bays was added beside the existing garage, though the newer faces the laneway, Merifield Lane, and the existing garage faces Chelmsford Road. This appears to be the only addition to the subject site. The form and extent of the original building has remained the same since the photographs began.

### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

<b>Historic theme</b>	Peopling WA: Demographic Development. Cultural Life: Domestic Life	
<b>Associations</b>	Harold A. Krantz Harry Annsion David Kmiep Morris Dzienciol	Architect Occupant Occupant Occupant
<b>Sources</b>	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. Perth Apartments: The Krantz Legacy website, <a href="https://www.thekrantzlegacy.com/">https://www.thekrantzlegacy.com/</a> accessed October 2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

