

# HOUSE, 552 WILLIAM ST, MOUNT LAWLEY



| PLACE INFORMATION |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Place name        | House, 552 William St        |
| Other names       | Albany Bell Residence        |
| Place type        | Individual building or group |

| HERITAGE LISTING         |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| inHerit ID:              | 18075                                   |
| State Heritage Register: |   |
| Other Listing:           | Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006 |

| SITE LOCATION  |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Street address | 547 William St      |
| Locality       | Mount Lawley        |
| Survey         | LOT: 100 D/P: 77919 |
| Vol/folio      | 2117/29             |
| Reserve        | —                   |

| SIGNIFICANCE              |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Level of significance     | <p><b>Considerable</b><br/>Very important to the heritage of the locality.<br/>High degree of integrity/authenticity.</p>  |
| Management category       | <p><b>Category 2</b><br/>Conservation of the place is highly desirable.<br/>Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.</p>  |
| Statement of significance | <p>The place has aesthetic value as a large and intact example of the Federation Queen Anne style executed in brick with the majority of the external detail still in evidence and in good condition.</p> <p>The place is a landmark in the streetscape because of its scale and location on a prominent corner.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the development of Mount Lawley in the early 20th century by private developers who were active in the creation of a suburb for affluent members of the community by creating large lots on elevated sites.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with Peter Albany Bell who was a prominent businessman in Perth in the first half of the 20th century, and for its association with Charles William Ferguson a well known vigneron who was significant to the growth of the industry.</p> <p>The place is valued by the community for the continuity of its prominent presence in the streetscape which contributes to the community sense of place.</p> |

| PLACE USE           |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Original use</b> | Residential: Single Storey Residence |
| <b>Current use</b>  | Residential: Single Storey Residence |
| <b>Other use</b>    |                                      |

| CONSTRUCTION DETAILS        |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Construction date</b>    | c1905   |
| <b>Walls</b>                | Brick   |
| <b>Roof</b>                 | Corrugated Metal sheeting   |
| <b>Architectural Style</b>  | Federation Queen Anne   |
| <b>Physical description</b> | A complex design for a corner property that addresses both street frontages and revolves around an octagonal corner tower. It's hipped roof, with gambrel and gable features and has narrow bracketed eaves. The design is tied together by the extensive verandah, to both main facades, with its strong pattern of half height Doric columns set on extended bases. The walls are painted brickwork whilst the chimneys retain their original face brickwork. |
| <b>Condition</b>            | Good  |
| <b>Integrity</b>            | High  |
| <b>Authenticity</b>         | High  |

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The site of this residence was part of a residential subdivision formally approved in 1901 by the Lands and Surveys Department. At this time William Street was known as Clifton Street, and after 1916 changed to William Street.

The large residence at No. 552 is first listed in the Wise's Post Office Directories in 1905 however no street number was allocated. Between 1905 and 1911, the subject place was occupied by Peter Albany Bell (1871-1957) known as Albany Bell, who was the owner of a chain of tearooms and a factory building at Maylands. Albany Bell arrived in Western Australia in 1887 and opened a small shop in Hay Street, making and selling confectionery and lemon squash. He was the first person who introduced milkshake to Western Australia circa 1898. He began manufacturing cakes and pastries and expanded the shop into an established tea room business. By 1911, there were eleven tea room establishments in Perth and three in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Albany Bell was a foundation member of the Y.M.C.A. and later on the Director's Board, a J.P. and a Children's Court Magistrate. Albany Bell and his wife Edith Agnes, nee Clark (1874-1963) had 12 children which was part of the reason he built the factory and residence for his family and workers known as Albany Bell Castle in Maylands designed by architect Alexander Cameron.

In the 1900s, Alexander Cameron resided at No. 12 Clifton Street (now No. 546 William Street), the second door to the south of the subject place. The third door to the south of the subject place, formerly known as No. 10 Clifton Street (now No. 544 William Street), was occupied by John George Milner, founder of Milner & Company, house, land and financial agents. The subject place at No. 552 had an almost identical footprint to No. 544. The occupants of these three residences, and the size and design of the buildings, indicate the affluent status of the area at the time.

In 1912, the Wise's Post Office Directories indicate that Albany Bell had moved on and the subject place was occupied by Charles William Ferguson. The address of the subject place changed to No. 16 William Street in 1916 and later No. 552 William Street in 1917. Vigneron Charles W. Ferguson and his wife Dora Charlotte Eliza Viveash (1855-1940) lived at this place until their deaths in 1940. Members of the family continued to live at the place.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

Since then, no information of the subject dwelling is documented in the Directories. The name of Charles W. Ferguson is listed with 'Houghton Wine Cellars' in the Directories as he was the son of Dr. John Ferguson, who bought the Houghton vineyard in 1859. Charles W. Ferguson developed the vineyards that pioneered the viticulture industry in Western Australia. He experimented with fertilizers for his vines and also the bush system of growing vines. Active in the affairs of the Middle Swan district, Ferguson served on the Swan Roads Board and was a keen member of the Royal Agricultural Society. In 1898 he was made a Justice of the Peace. For forty years, he was churchwarden for St Mary's Anglican Church. In 1876, he had married Dora Charlotte Viveash who was from a vigneron family, and they had nine children. Charles W. Ferguson died at Mount Lawley in 1940, survived by his wife, four sons and three daughters.

A Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage & Drainage Department (MWSSD) Plan dated 1917 illustrates that the subject place was located at a large block of land with an expansive lawn to its south. A wind mill and a tennis court were located to the east of the subject dwelling. It is inferred that the spacious land was later subdivided after 1943 and No. 548 was built on the lawn previously part of No. 552. A Building Licence Plan dated 1951 illustrates that conversion was proposed at the subject place for replacement of wooden verandah posts with cement columns and wood verandah floor with concrete. The proposal was approved by the City of Perth. In 1971, a building application was submitted to rebuild the existing verandah to provide bathroom and water closet. The Building Licence was approved however the work did not proceed. The Building Licence was later renewed in 1987.

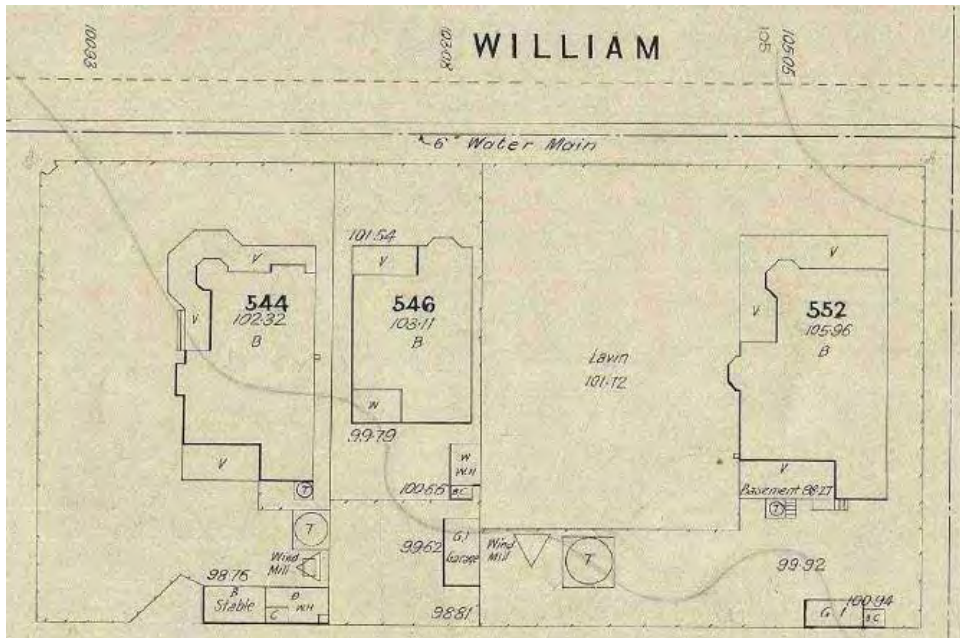
**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

|                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| <b>Historic theme</b> | Peopling WA: Demographic Development.<br>Cultural Life: Domestic Life       |  |
| <b>Associations</b>   | Peter Albany Bell and family<br>Charles William Ferguson and family         | Occupant and owner<br>Occupant and owner |
| <b>Sources</b>        | Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006<br>Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. |  |

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



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Sewerage Plan 1917. Courtesy SROWA Cons 4156 item 0124.