

DILHORN, PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Dilhorn
Other names	Army Museum Loton House Loton Park
Place type	Individual building or group
HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	2168
State Heritage Register:	11 March 1997
Other Listing:	Classified by the National Trust Classified 06 Dec 1982 Register of the National Estate Permanent 25 Mar 1986 Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995
SITE LOCATION	
Street address	2 Bulwer St
Locality	Perth
Survey	LOT: 50 D/P: 182
Vol/folio	2519/598
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	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.
Management category	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.
Statement of significance	<p>Dilhorn is an elegant and well composed example of a large Federation Queen Anne house and due to its location on a major intersection in Perth and its substantial size in an area of predominantly single storey, modest dwellings, Dilhorn has status as a local landmark.</p> <p>Dilhorn displays many innovative and distinctive aesthetic elements that are a hallmark of J. Talbot Hobbs' domestic buildings between 1890-1910 and develops his architectural themes.</p> <p>Dilhorn has historic value for its associations with the growth and evolution of the Perth metropolitan area following the gold rush of the 1890's and, in particular the settlement and suburbanisation of the inner suburbs.</p> <p>Dilhorn demonstrates the way this early suburban development modified the existing site and illustrates attitudes to site planning and landscaping in the first quarter of the twentieth century for larger scale domestic architecture.</p> <p>Dilhorn is associated with its first owner, William Thorley Loton, a prominent Perth identity who was involved in the commercial, cultural and political life of his times and with J. Talbot Hobbs, Dilhorn's designer, a prominent Perth architect, who was responsible for building many of Perth's grand homes at the turn of this century.</p>

SIGNIFICANCE	
Statement of significance	The place has association with service personnel as it served as a military headquarters for various army divisions for over thirty years, and for the wider community when it housed the Army Museum from 1978 to 1995.
	Dilhorn has association with the Perth Football oval, previously part of Loton's estate and was known as Loton's paddock, and Loton Park Tennis Pavilion and tennis courts built on the northern boundary of Perth Oval opposite Dilhorn. Loton sold the land to the Perth City Council in 1904 on the condition that the land was used for recreational purposes.
	Dilhorn is located on a major intersection in East Perth. Its substantial size in an area of predominantly single storey structures has local landmark status that contributes to the community's sense of place.

PLACE USE	
Original use	Residence: Two storey residence
Current use	Commercial: Offices
Other use	Military: Administration Military: Museum

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1897;
Walls	Face brick
Roof	Terracotta tile
Architectural Style	Federation Queen Anne
Physical description	The substantial two storey mansion has an ornate two storeyed timber verandah with two gables facing Bulwer Street and incorporating a central brick-and-stucco entrance porch on the front elevation.
	The name of the building and other decorative features are incorporated into the porch. The red-brick building has horizontal stucco banding and a decorative frieze beneath the eaves line. The secondary (Lord Street) façade also incorporates a gable and an arched window on the upper floor. The tiled roof includes decorative timber vents.
	The original widow's walk is missing from the crown of the roof, which is still served by an internal staircase. In 2002, the Bulwer Street setback showed remnant evidence of a circular drive and a mature palm. This has been modified in recent landscaping works. There is a series of white gum trees along the Lord Street side. Much of the yard around the dwelling is hard surface. Various internal modifications and rear ablutions extensions.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Dilhorn was built in 1897 for William Thorley Loton (1839-1924), who had arrived in Western Australia in 1863. He became a merchant and together with William Padbury were business partners until 1889. He amassed large land holdings in the north-west of the State and became a prominent member of Perth society and Mayor of Perth.

Loton subdivided Perth Town Lots N126 & N127 into nine smaller lots, and Dilhorn was built on Lot 2 (this was amended to Lot 16 in 1953), a very large block of 2,833 square metres. The grand residence incorporated servant's quarters and entrances. Staff included a cook, two maids, and a chauffeur. The house cost £4,684 to build, and architect J. J. Talbot-Hobbs was paid £234 for his services. The name of the house 'Dilhorn' originates with the home town of Loton, Dilhorne in Staffordshire, England.

William Loton married Annie Morris (1840-1923) in 1868 and the couple had six children and some of the younger children would have lived at this house.

The palm tree in the front yard had been planted by around 1914-19. Dilhorn overlooks Perth Oval, which was part of Loton's landholdings and formerly known as Loton Park. Loton sold a portion of Loton Park to the City of Perth in 1904 for £8,500 on the condition that it remain in use for recreation.

William Loton was knighted in 1922, and died in 1924. Lady Loton died three years later and Dilhorn was sold to Annie Bannon, who ran a boarding house in the place until 1940. In 1949 Dilhorn was sold to Florence Isabel Lavan and then to Madelone Gladys Frybery.

In 1952, it was purchased by the Commonwealth Department of Defence and was occupied as Army Headquarters for the 13th Infantry Brigade (1952-1960), the 1st Royal Western Australia Regiment Battle Group (1960-1965), the 2nd Task Force (1965-1976), the Army Museum and the 5th Military District Detachment of the 4th Army Quality Assurance Unit (1978-1988). Then solely by the Army Museum (1988-1995).

Following the relocation of the Army Museum to Fremantle the property was sold to private owners. Also included in the purchase were two cottages: one built for Sir William Loton's chauffeur and the other for a caretaker in the 1970's.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1999, the new owners carried out a large restoration/renovation program under the Heritage Council's guidelines and the place was converted to professional rooms. The place continues to be used for that purpose.

Historic theme	Economy: Commerce	
	Governing: Law, order and Defence Peopling WA: Demographic Development	
Associations	Sir William Loton and Loton Family	Owner and occupiers
	Army Museum J.J. Talbot Hobbs	
Sources	P2168 Dilhorn Assessment Documentation	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGERY



Dilhorn 1903, Courtesy SLWA b2412058_8.