

HOUSE, 140 PALMERSTON ST, PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	House, 140 Palmerston St
Other names	Ormiston College Presbyterian Ladies College Palmerston House
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	8737
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	140 Palmerston St
Locality	Perth
Survey	LOT: 4 D/P: 1287
Vol/folio	2089/666
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity.
Management category	Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.
Statement of significance	<p>This place is a good and intact example of the Federation Queen Anne style of residence applied to a generous two storey family home which is a landmark in the streetscape.</p> <p>The place reflects the expansion and development of residential and commercial buildings on the city fringes during the rapid population increase of the 1890's gold boom and the early years of the twentieth century.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with Ormiston College Girls School, the forerunner of Perth Ladies College which operated here in the early 20th century.</p> <p>The place is representative of a substantial residential building for affluent members of the community and is valued by the community for the continuity of its presence in the streetscape which contributes to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Residential: two storey residence
Current use	Residential: two storey residence
Other use	Educational: Primary School

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Construction date	1898
Walls	Painted Brick
Roof	Terracotta tile
Architectural Style	Federation Queen Anne
Physical description	A substantial two storey residence with large verandahs at both levels, with filigree decoration. The building has a projecting bay window on two levels beneath a flying gable with a fretted bargeboard. The upper sashes of the double hung windows are multi-paned coloured glass. The verandahs are supported with stop chamfered posts with decorative timber work balusters. A valance of turned spindles decorates each level of the verandah. Evidence suggests the verandah detailing is not original. The brick chimneys have a corbelled stucco trim. Setback behind a brick pillar and palisade fence in a garden setting.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

No. 140 Palmerston Street is situated on town Lot N76. It does not appear on the 1897 PWD sewerage plans but in the 1898 City of Perth rate books the place is shown as occupied by builder C. A. Chandler and owned by Mrs Alston.

The substantial residence is one of several built in Palmerston Street at around this time. Wise's Post Office Directories for 1903 indicate that the place was occupied by Mr Hankin and 1905 by William Abbott. The City of Perth rate books indicate that in 1906 the owner was Miss Rostron and the occupier was Hetty Ryan.

In 1910, the subject place was occupied by Ormiston College, a private girls' school run by the three Misses Wilson between 1907 and 1916. This school had been established by Miss C. E. Wilson (the headmistress) in 1907. It also had a kindergarten section which operated in the North Perth Presbyterian Church Hall. The sisters paid rents of 2 pounds per week for No. 140 Palmerston Street and 10 shillings for the hall.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

By 1915 the school had 80 students on its roll, 13 of whom were boarders and it had moved to a large single-storey residence at 123 Palmerston Street, fronting Robertson Park. In 1916, Ormiston College was taken over by the Presbyterian Church in WA. Miss Wilson stayed on as acting principal until someone suitable could be found to replace her. Meanwhile the name was changed to Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC). It moved to premises in Cottesloe in 1917.

According to the Directories, Mrs Z. Voseda was the resident in 1925, and in 1949, the last year they were printed, Mrs May Lee ran a boarding house there. City of Perth records indicate some building work was carried out in 1951 and a swimming pool installed in 1979. In the late 1980s P. M. Damo used it as a meditation centre and in the 1990s Mr Ramsey used it for meditation classes and community projects.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onward show the aforementioned building work and pool installation. The swimming pool was then removed by the turn of the century. The building form and extent remain visibly unchanged from that time.

Historic theme	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Cultural Life: Domestic Life Educational: Primary School	
Associations	C. A. Chandler Mrs Alston Ormiston College Miss C. E. Wilson Mrs Z. Voseda Mrs May Lee P. M. Damo Mr Ramsey	Builder Owner Occupant Head teacher Resident Resident Occupant Occupant
Sources	Australian Electoral Rolls, 1903-1983. Wises Post Office Directories. Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

