

PERTH MOSQUE, PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Perth Mosque
Other names	Perth Mahommadean's Mosque
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	2156
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	427-429 William St
Locality	Perth
Survey	LOT: 100 D/P: 65361
Vol/folio	2734/86
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Exceptional</p> <p>Essential to the heritage of the area. Rare or outstanding example. Consider for nomination for State Register of Heritage Places if not already included.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 1</p> <p>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.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>Perth Mosque is a notable and unique place within the Northbridge streetscape which demonstrates elements of the Late 20th Century Immigrant Nostalgic style.</p> <p>The place has close associations with the Muslim community and the earliest Afghans in Western Australia, the cameleers, who facilitated much of the State's exploration.</p> <p>The development of the Mosque in the later part of the 20th century demonstrates the growing Muslim population in Western Australia at that time.</p> <p>The place is a rare example of a Mosque in Perth built in the early 20th century.</p> <p>It is highly valued by the growing and diverse Muslim community and is a highly tangible demonstration of multiculturalism.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Religion: Synagogue, Mosque or Temple
Current use	Religion: Synagogue, Mosque or Temple
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1906; 1979; 1984; 1997
Walls	Rendered brick
Roof	Terracotta tile
Architectural Style	Late 20th Century Immigrant Nostalic

Physical description	<p>The Mosque is set behind walls with a prominent columned entrance way. The Mosque has had several campaigns of development, however, there are two basic campaigns.</p> <p>The original mosque forms the northern wing of the mosque complex, set behind a courtyard. The principal façade of the prayer space is set behind an extended verandah and has a high tripartite parapet, topped with a cornice of small domes, set between domed tourelles. The upper parapet appears to have functioned as a tower, en lieu of a minaret. The tiled verandah forms the transition between the prayer hall and the courtyard.</p> <p>The major extension of recent times forms the southern wing consisting of accommodation for associated activities of the mosque, such as meeting rooms and residential accommodation. It consists of a rectangular structure with a two storey arched loggia between the accommodation and the courtyard, set under a rectangular parapet wall with up stand columns.</p> <p>A squat tower, matching the original parapet height, is located to the rear of the structure. Between the two wings, aligned with the entry portal, is an arcaded connection between the two structures which leads to the rear of the mosque. Setback behind high rendered walls with a central framed portico.</p>
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CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
The Mosque has grown incrementally with considerable change from the original structure, however, the modifications have been for the purposes of accommodating growth in the Mosque's activities.	
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

It was as a result of the discovery of gold in the Kimberley, Goldfields and Murchison regions that brought Muslim migrants to the state in significant numbers. The main reason for this was the importation of camels, and with them their handlers, as a means of transporting goods throughout the mining regions. The first teams of camels and their Afghan handlers arrived in Fremantle in c. 1890.

By 1904, the Muslim population in WA was approximately 400. Although this community was widely scattered as well as being from different countries, the commitment to their faith resulted in a desire to build a mosque in Perth and a committee was formed for this purpose. Jemadar Faiz Mohamet, a Muslim from India, was heavily involved in the committee and travelled throughout the state raising funds towards its construction.

The committee purchased four lots of land on the corner of William and Robinson Streets in North Perth in 1904/1905. The foundation stone for the place was laid on 13 November 1905 (the 15th day of Ramadhan 1323) by Jemadar Faiz Mohamet.

In 1906, it was announced that the major part of the building had been completed at a cost of £1,850 paid through statewide fundraising in the Muslim community. The Mosque was built on Lot 16 and a 3 roomed brick cottage and kitchen with an open meeting hall on Lot 17.

Work still had to be completed on various elements such as the exterior, the fountain cistern (for ablutions) as well as the proposed eastern wing of the building, which was to include the committee rooms, library and reading rooms.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The cottage was for the use of Muslims who came to Perth occasionally and could not find other accommodation.

In the inter-war period, most of the founders of the Mosque had died or departed from Western Australia, and the number of people regularly attending the Mosque was very small.

A Sewerage Plan in 1951 shows Perth Mosque enclosed by a brick wall. The fountain is in front of the Mosque, with steps leading from the small verandah to the forecourt.

In 1979, 1984 and 1997 respectively, development approvals were granted to the Mosque for additions, alterations and renovations which comprised additions around the original building up to the property boundary.

The site of the former cottage was cleared in 2006 and subsequently developed as a commercial property.

Perth Mosque remains in use as Western Australia's principal mosque.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Religion Peopling WA: Demographic Development
Associations	
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 and 2009. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. The Geraldton Express, 19 Feb 1906, p. 2.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



Perth's Mahommedan Mosque

Where during the past week local believers in the faith of Mahomet celebrated the birthday feast of the Great Prophet.

Sunday Times, 18 May 1930, p. 18.



Perth Mosque, 1970. HCWA