

Heritage Item #

MI Reference: 43 HCWA No: 1864	Place Name: Commercial Hotel (fmr)	Other Name/s: Hotel 190 Northam
		Date of Review: September 2021



Address: 190 Fitzgerald Street East, Northam	Lot No: 19 Property Key: Plan Diagram: 697 Vol Folio: 1695/392 Assess No: A13530
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Locality: Northam	GPS:
Current Use: Hotel	Original Use(s): Hotel

HERITAGE LISTINGS

Listings: Statewide Hotel Survey

CONSTRUCTION

Date of Construction: 1902 to 1903

Architect / Builder: Michael Cody

Architectural Style: Federation Filigree

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Description:
Commercial Hotel (fmr), located at 190 Fitzgerald Street East, is a two-storey brick building with a concealed corrugated steel roof displaying characteristics of the Federation Filigree style of architecture.

The building has a zero setback along the street with a rectilinear form. The building has a parapet with a simple rendered cornice and six rendered blocks topped with finials. Inscribed in the parapet are the words 'COMMERCIAL HOTEL 190 NORTHAM' with the word 'commercial' painted black.





The front façade has a two-storey corrugated steel bull nose verandah supported by square timber columns. The first floor has a decorative steel balustrade and the underside of the verandah is lined with mini orb sheeting.

The southern end of the building has face brick arched dividing walls to the first floor and a shop front to the ground floor. The shop front has rendered masonry pillars clad with glazed ceramic tiles and a corrugated steel bull nose awning overhanging the footpath. The building's ground floor walls have a three-part composition containing a rendered base, a central section of painted brick and tuck pointed brick above. There is some cracking to the north east corner of the front façade.

<p>The doors to the ground floor are a combination of contemporary glazed sliding doors and timber swing doors, each with textured highlights. The windows are timber double hung with arched highlights. The ground floor openings have rendered arched surrounds with detailed banding at head and sill height.</p> <p>There is a timber decked contemporary designed seated area in the street along the front façade with a verge tree. As of September 2021, the hotel contains a bottle shop and a shoe repair shop to the southern end.</p>
Condition: Good
HISTORICAL
<p>Notes:</p> <p><i>The following information has largely been sourced from the heritage assessment of 23-325 & 16-334 Fitzgerald Street and 1-15 & 12-18 Peel Terrace, Northam, prepared by Greenward Consulting, June 2015.</i></p> <p>According to the Shire of Northam Heritage Inventory, the Commercial Hotel was built by local builder, Michael Cody, a colourful Irishman ... [with] considerable business interests in Northam, [who] also owned the Grand Hotel</p> <p>Cotemporary newspaper notices state that the hotel was also designed by Michael Cody.</p> <p>Work had commenced on the new building by July 1902 and it was ready for occupation by March of the following year:</p> <p><i>It is with much pleasure and confidence that Messrs. BEARD and WELFORD announce the fact that "The COMMERCIAL HOTEL" that palatial and judiciously arranged Hotel in the best position in Northam is now almost complete and ready for occupation. The "COMMERCIAL HOTEL" has been designed to meet not only the special requirements of the commercial community, but of tourists and the particular demands of the people living in the districts. It will be found to be the Leading Hotel of the Eastern Districts of W.A. Full particulars on application. Inquiries from people requiring accommodation invited. COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Fitzgerald-st., NORTHAM. Saloon's now open. Rest of the House will be ready soon.</i></p> <p>In 1926 the size of the hotel was almost doubled:</p> <p><i>A contract for about £8,000 for alterations and additions to the Commercial Hotel, Northam. has been let to Mr. W. T. Clarke, and is expected to be finished in about six months. The work necessitates the demolition of cottages on the block adjoining the hotel, and from plans prepared by Hobbs, Smith and Forbes, architects a two-storey structure will be erected on the vacant ground. On the street frontage there will be three lock-up shops. The increased hotel accommodation will consist of a dining room 43ft. by 30ft, and a new kitchen. The existing dining room will be converted into a lounge, and the present kitchen into a staff dining room. About 20 additional bedrooms will be provided, and the owner is having installed complete lavatory bathrooms, and an upto date septic tank system. The present bar will be enlarged, and the existing building will be improved in several respects. The new building will measure 56ft. by 88ft. deep, just about doubling the size of the hotel.</i></p> <p>In recent years Mr Tom Murphy put the hotel into the Ballygrowman Trust, managed by a family member.</p>
Theme: Hospitality Industry and Tourism
Associations: Michael Cody
Heritage Assessment or Conservation Plan: Heritage Assessment of 23-325 & 16-334 Fitzgerald Street and 1-15 & 12-18 Peel Terrace, Northam. Prepared by Greenward Consulting, June 2015.
Public Access: Yes
SIGNIFICANCE
Level of Integrity: High

Level of Authenticity: Medium
Statement of Significance: Commercial Hotel (fmr) is of cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The place is aesthetically pleasing, demonstrating elements of the Federation Filigree architectural style, and contributes to the streetscape of the main commercial street of Northam. • The place also has social significance, resulting from its association with a local identity and its use as a venue for social gatherings over the years.
Level of Significance: Considerable
Heritage Category: 2

Additional Photographs

	
East Façade Source: Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2012	“Commercial Hotel” inscribed in parapet Source: Stephen Carrick Architects September 2021
	
Rendered block with finials Source: Stephen Carrick Architects September 2021	First floor verandah balustrade Source: Stephen Carrick Architects September 2021
	
Ground Floor entry Source: Stephen Carrick Architects September 2021	First floor verandah archway Source: Stephen Carrick Architects September 2021



Northern end of front façade with external seating
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
September 2021



Ground floor verandah and footpath
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
September 2021