

Harry Trigg

(Kimberly, W.B., *History of West Australia*, F.W. Niven & Co., Melbourne & Ballarat, 1897, p.110)

Trigg, Henry (Harry) Stirling (1860-1919), was born in Perth. The first architect born and trained in Western Australia, Harry Trigg was the first Australian-born architect to practice in WA. He received his initial architectural training with convict engineer-architect, Thomas Browne (1821-1882), and travelled to gain several years experience on the east coast of Australia. Harry returned to Perth in 1884, and became one of the very few architects practicing in the State during the 1880s. In 1893 he designed the Trinity Congregational Church in St George's Terrace, described as 'American Romanesque', this remains his most visible work. Following family ties to the Congregational Church, Trigg was engaged to design churches for Leederville and Bunbury, as well as church halls in Claremont and North Fremantle. He produced impressive hotels, including the Subiaco Hotel, and the Freemasons on Marine Terrace in Geraldton. He designed business premises, also on Marine Terrace, Geraldton for E.H. Wittenoom in 1892.

In gold-boom Perth of the 1890s, Trigg's many fine Federation-era designs included the Rechabite Coffee Palace, the Goldfields Club Hotel, premises for Phineas Seeligson, workshops for furniture dealer William Zimpel, with numerous shops, showrooms, and domestic projects. Around 1897 Harry Trigg designed his own building, Trigg's Chambers, in Barrack Street, Perth, which for a period also accommodated his younger brother and architect, Edmund Bayley Trigg. Final 'architect' listings for Harry Trigg in WA are found in a directory of 1904. Trigg took his family on a 'grand tour', organising for Bayley to look after his business affairs, not returning until 1905. Trigg descendants carry the memory that Bayley was a

'black sheep' in the family, and that he embezzled or injudiciously speculated with finances at the time. Harry came under pressure from his bankers, and by 1909 was in the bankruptcy court. Pressure from past creditors, combined with the humiliation of his insolvency may have forced Trigg and family to leave Western Australia. They eventually resided at Henley Beach in Adelaide. Harry died in a horse and buggy accident at Springton, north-east of Adelaide, in 1919.

Trigg's life and work, currently uncelebrated and largely unrecognised, would form a fine subject for study at post-graduate level.

References: Taylor, J.J., "Henry Stirling Trigg", *The Architect*, Summer 2007, pp. 12-14, Royal Australian Institute of Architects (WA), Perth.

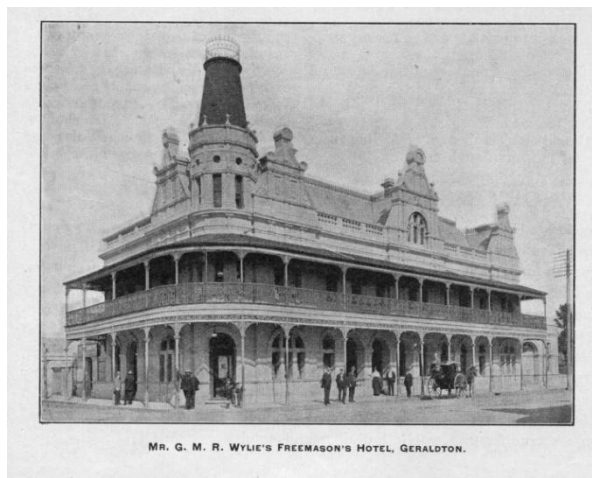
The West Australian, 25 March 1892, p.8 (Wittenoom buildings Geraldton)

Contributing author(s): John Taylor

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MR. G. M. R. WYLIE'S FREEMASON'S HOTEL, GERALDTON.



W. ZIMPEL, HAY ST.

Freemasons Hotel, Geraldton (Battye p.1005), Zimpels Hay Street, Perth (TCIWA p.447)



Seeligson's Barrack Street, Royal Hotel cnr William and Wellington Streets (both John Taylor 2008)



Trigg's Chambers, Barrack Street - the ground floor façade was altered, changing two round arches to form a single flatter arch, in 1979; Trinity Church, St George's Terrace (both John Taylor 2007)



Congregational Hall, Stirling Highway, Claremont (John Taylor 2007)



The Grange, Perth Road [Stirling Highway], Claremont c.1900. Harry Trigg seated on garden chair, Miriam Trigg and children at left. (Claremont Museum 98.419)