

Joseph Herbert Eales

(Battye, J.S., *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Vol.1, 1912, p.637; RAIA c.1930s)

Eales, Joseph Herbert (1864-1957), was born 19 October 1864 at Exmouth and educated at the Totnes Grammar School, both in Devon, England. Eales gained his initial architectural education by entering into articles at Exeter with Edward Hall Harbottle, ecclesiastical surveyor for the Diocese of Hereford and county surveyor for Devon. Having completed his indentures Eales continued with Harbottle for another two years, gaining valuable experience, particularly in church restoration. Subsequently Eales spent time studying and sketching on the Continent, before deciding to move to Australia in 1887.

Eales first joined the Civil Service in Melbourne as a draughtsman, afterwards resigning to accept a post as chief draughtsman in a private practice. With the onset of the great economic down-turn in Melbourne during the early 1890s, he moved to establish himself at Ballarat. But with ongoing economic malaise in the State of Victoria, Eales was attracted by the gold boom economic conditions of Western Australia. In 1897 he voyaged to Fremantle, and with Charles Lancelot Oldham subsequently won a competition for the design of Fremantle Markets. Eales practiced with success at the port for nine years, before moving to Perth. While Eales was responsible for numerous urban hotels and commercial buildings, in the early Twentieth Century he also produced designs for many homesteads, farm buildings and shearing-sheds in pastoral areas of the State.

At Fremantle, the Esplanade Hotel was renovated and redesigned by Eales in 1903. Eales' plans reorganised the interior structure of the Esplanade, and made the exterior facade of the hotel more distinctive and ornate. Perhaps the most significant addition he made was the dome shaped corner turret, still one of the main features of the Esplanade Hotel today. Other Eales designs at Fremantle included Detmold's

Building (with C.L. Oldham 1899, demolished 1970), the Terminus Hotel, the Catholic Girl's School and additions to the Federal Hotel.

Anglican church designs by Eales individually include St Paul's Beaconsfield in 1905, St George's Carnarvon in 1907, All Saints Collie in 1915, and St George's Bluff Point, Geraldton in 1935. At Vancouver Street, Albany, *Garryowen* is a substantial residence built in 1908 for merchant Herbert Robinson. Claimed to be the 'best all-round shearing shed in the North-West', Eales design at Towera Station in the Ashburton was erected for Henry Twitchin in 1908, and is another illustration of his versatility. His country hotels include the Katanning in 1905, and both the Esplanade and Freemasons in Albany around 1910. In 1913 Eales formed a successful partnership with Eustace Cohen in Perth, expanded in 1930 to Eales Cohen & Bennett, and from 1937 as Eales Cohen & Fitzhardinge.

A Protestant and Freemason, none-the-less Eales enjoyed correspondence with Catholic priest-architect John Hawes, and as a gifted amateur musician Eales was at times organist at St Patrick's Basilica, Fremantle, and at St Mary's Cathedral, Perth - both Catholic churches. He also showed great skill with rifle shooting, at playing golf, and lawn bowls. Eales married Mabel Hannah Lilly in 1908. Active in professional affairs, he was President of the West Australian Institute of Architects during 1917-1919, and made a Life Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in 1946. Mabel Eales died at Claremont in 1930, and J. Herbert Eales spent a great deal of his later years at The Weld Club in Perth, living to almost 93 years, passing away 25 September 1957.

References:

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- 'Obituary: The Late Mr J. Herbert Eales', *The Architect*, Vol.3, No.4, 1957, p.17.
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St Paul's Church Beaconsfield 1905 (Google 2012)



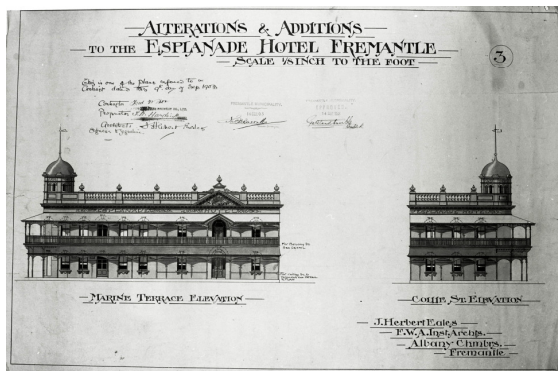
St George's Church Carnarvon 1907 (HCWA pic113)



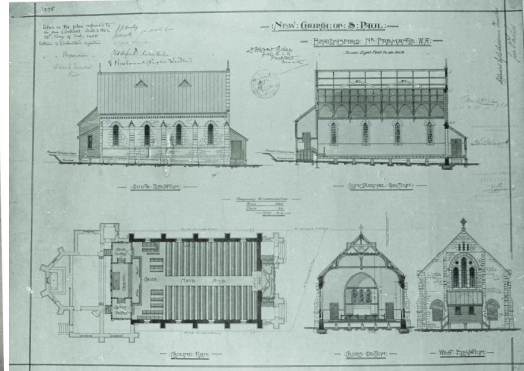
All Saints Church Collie 1915 (HCWA pic160)



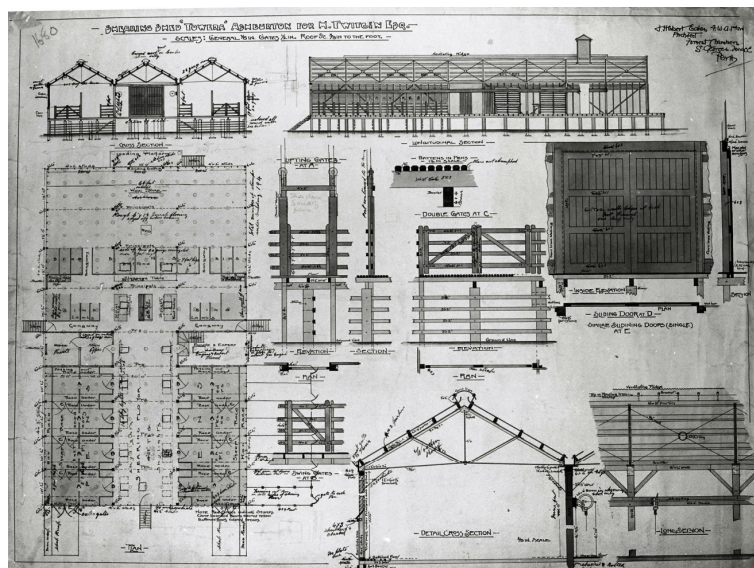
Garryowen, Vancouver Street, Albany (Google 2012)



Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle (Muhling Collection)



St Paul's Church Beaconsfield (Muhling Collection)



Shearing shed at Towera Station for Henry Twitchin (Muhling Collection)