



Bertram Heriot Dods

(Battye, J.S., *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Vol.2, 1913, p.709)

Bertram Heriot Dods (1871-1916) was born 27 December 1871 in Melbourne, where his father Benjamin Hawkins Dods (d.1892) was an engineer. Young Dods was educated at Brunswick College, and at eighteen years of age was articled to architects Lawson and Grey of Melbourne – Robert Lawson having previously made his significant reputation with major projects in New Zealand. After four years, Dods travelled to Queensland for some twelve months, whence he returned to Melbourne and spent another term in his former office. With depressed conditions in Victoria, in February 1895 Dods landed at Fremantle on the *SS Gabo*, one of many young architects moving to seek employment in Western Australia. He married Bridget Elizabeth (Bessie) Kenny at Perth in 1895, and by 1913 they had five sons and two daughters.

In Perth, Dods gained initial employment as chief draughtsman in the office of prominent architect James William Wright. In mid-1896 he was appointed to a Government position with the Mines Department, claiming whilst occupying this post to possess the 'right of private practice', and to have 'carried out most of the hotel buildings on the North Coolgardie goldfields'. Further research into the area around Menzies may reveal detail of buildings by Dods.

In 1897 Dods took up land near Narrogin, before departing to South Africa at some time during the Boer War (1899-1902). He remained there for six years,

engaged both in private practice and also entering the Civil Service. He worked as the supervisor of Parker's Buildings at Cape Town, reputedly the highest steel-constructed edifice in South Africa of that time. Subsequently, Dods returned to WA, and was engaged for a year in the Public Works Department at Perth. From this employ he resigned to take up a farm at 14 Mile Brook near Narrogin, the development of which was carried on in conjunction with practicing his profession in the town, also serviced by another former Victorian architect, G.G. Lavater. In the Narrogin area, Dods claimed that he designed 'some of the finest and most artistic structures by which the place is graced'. Among these were Cornwall's Buildings, Wedd's Buildings, the Duke of York Hotel, the Williams Hotel, the Cuballing Hotel, Johnston's Buildings at Wickepin, Cuballing Hall, King's Hall, and a number of the most prominent residences and workers' homes in the district, as well as the Baptist church at Narrogin.

Dods is noted on the Heritage Council of Western Australia database as the architect of Carnegie House, Williams Road, Geeralying; and the Cornwall Hotel, Doney Street, Narrogin. He was an energetic supporter of movements for railway development and a soldiers' memorial institute before his sudden death in September 1916. At this time Dods would have been gravely worried by the fate of a number of his sons serving in the Australian Imperial Forces during the First World War.

References:

- 'Executive Council', *The West Australian*, 16 July 1896, p.3, (appointed Assistant Mining Registrar Warden's Court, Menzies).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 15 September 1909, p.4 (residence & stables Williams Road, Williams for William Cornwall – now Carnegie House?).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 30 April 1910, p.7 (large hall at Williams for George Brice).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 11 May 1910, p.3 (skating rink at Narrogin for N. Bushalla).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 29 September 1910, p.2 (shops, coffee palace, offices at Narrogin for William Cornwall).
- 'State News', *The Western Mail*, 11 March 1911, p.31 (row of shops Narrogin for P. E. Wedd).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 1 September 1911, p.2 (hotel at Williams for George Brice).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 26 September 1911, p.3 (4 shops Wickepin, E.B. Johnston).
- 'W. Cornwall's New Buildings', *Narrogin Observer and Williams District Representative*, 30 December 1911, p.6.
- 'Tenders', *The Sunday Times*, 2 June 1912, p.2 (Cuballing Hotel for E. Edmeades).
- 'Bertram Heriot Dods', in Batty, J.S., *Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, Vol.2, 1913, p.709.

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 13 July 1915, p.1 (one-storey hotel at Boddington).

'Narrogin Pioneers', Extract from the *Narrogin Review* published in 1936 with additional information by M White, <http://www.ozburials.com/CemsWA/Narrogin%20Info/pioneers.htm>

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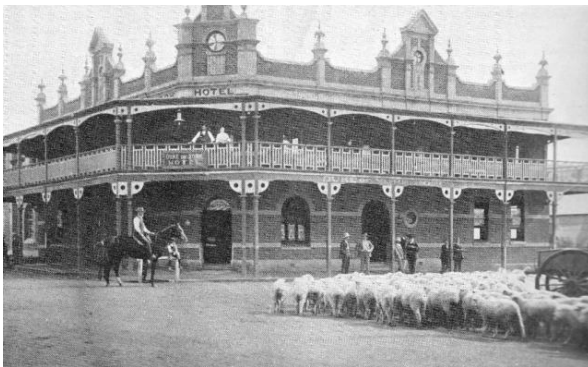
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Williams Hotel, Albany Highway, Williams
(Battye, J.S., *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Vol.2, 1913, p.711;
<http://publocation.com.au/pubs/wa/williams/williams-hotel> 10 Nov 2011)



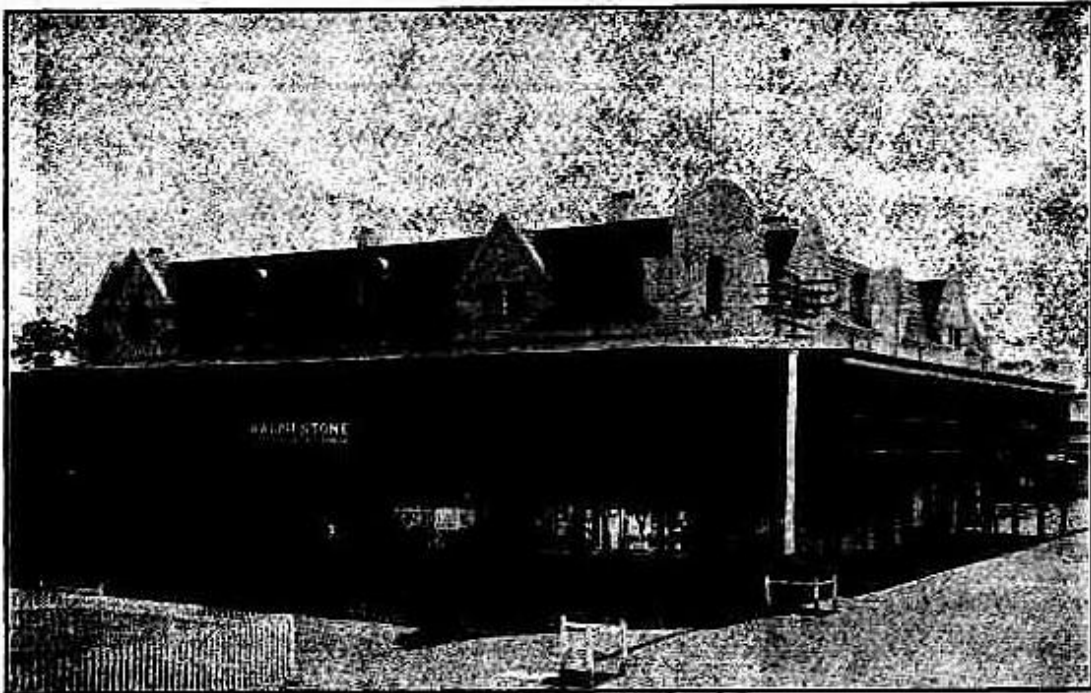
Duke of York Hotel, 61 Federal Street, Narrogin
(Battye, J.S., *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Vol.2, 1913, p.712; Google 2011)



Cuballing Hall (HCWA Pic2103); Baptist Church, Fortune Street, Narrogin (SLWA 012618D)



Cornwall Hotel, Doney St, Narrogin; Cornwall's Buildings, Egerton St, Narrogin
(SLWA 023743PD; Google 2011)



**W. CORNWALL'S New Buildings, corner Federal and Egerton Streets, Narro gin.
(Photo. by HEBB.)**

W. Cornwall's Buildings, cnr Federal and Egerton Streets, Narrogin
(*Narrogin Observer and Williams District Representative*, 30 December 1911, p.6)