



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Culture and the Arts**
State Records Office of Western Australia

Information Sheet

Maps and Plans

The State Records Office of Western Australia (SRO) holds a large number of original cartographic and architectural drawings produced by Western Australian Government agencies, from 1829 onwards. These drawings contain information relating to land ownership, design and construction of government buildings and infrastructure such as railways and water supply, or can be used to trace the history of a house or site.

Finding a plan

To identify an agency which may have created the drawings you seek, use the Agency Index to locate the Archive Note (AN) or Western Australian Agency (WAA) entry for that agency. In addition to the listings that are provided in these files (and may also be accessible online) there are indexes to specific plan records which may be of more immediate use for your research.

You may search the SRO's online catalogue **Archives Explored Online** (aka **AEON**), either by browsing series listings (e.g. WAS 399) through an 'advanced search', or by a search of plan titles via the 'simple search' module.

- **Public Works Department plans (WAS 399)** – a card index to PWD plan sets (mainly of architectural drawings). Also a microfiche copy of the original PWD plan registers.
A large number of plans sets in WAS 399 have been microfilmed and can be viewed in the Microfilm Area. Those plans not filmed will need to be ordered.
NB many original PWD plans are still held by successor agencies i.e. the Departments of Housing and Works & Planning and Infrastructure
- **Western Australian Government Railway Plans** - a card index to civil engineering plan sets, registered by the WAGR as CCE plans. These document railway lines, station buildings and yards. See **AN 260, 262** and the relevant WAA and WAS listings for other sequences.
- **Catalogue of Cancelled Public Plans** - a two volume catalogue of lands and survey plans compiled by Andre Mali and published in 1987. The volumes are divided into townsite and other plans. Cross reference your search with the many plan series in **WAA 42**.

Ordering a map or plan

Drawings held in the Alexander Library Building will be retrieved for the usual retrieval times of 9.30, 12.00 and 2.00. Many drawings are located in off site storage and will only be retrieved for 10.00, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Some plans have been microfilmed or scanned to facilitate public access. These copies are readily accessible during normal SRO opening hours.

Examples of plan listings

Land

- Exploration plans+ - **WAS 50**
- Historic plans+ - **WAS 234**
- Original plans – district and townsite original surveys+ **WAS 235 & 236**
- Public Plans + - **WAS 978 – 980** (see also Mali index)
- Chain series 1903 – 1970 - **WAS 981** (Mali Vol 1)
- Townsites and agricultural districts+ - **WAS 1015 & 2168** (Mali Vol 2)

Architecture and Heritage

- Public (ie Government) Buildings* - **WAS 399**
- Public buildings (eg cinemas, halls) * - **WAS 1457**
- State housing - **WAS 1381, AN 150**
- House plans; City of Stirling, 1917 – 1947 * - **AN 63**
- Commercial properties; City of Perth - **WAS 1320**
- Licensed premises - **WAS 2237**
- Metropolitan Sewerage survey plans* – **WAS 633 & 634**
- Metropolitan Sewerage survey fieldbooks – **WAS 84**

Engineering, Hydrographic and Mining

- Water supply, metropolitan and country – **AN 134, WAS 399**
- Drainage and irrigation – **WAS 399**
- Harbours and Rivers – **WAS 399**
- Roads – **AN 213**
- Admiralty survey charts – **WAS 239**
- Gold mining leases – **WAS 3498**

Railways

- Resumption plans – **WAS 399**
- Railway construction – **WAS 399 & 2238**
- Progress plans – see WAGR card index
- Engines and carriages – **Cons 6300**

Please note that plans and drawings relating to functions taken over by the Commonwealth, e.g. Post Offices and lighthouses, are located at the National Archives. For printed maps and original drawings deposited with private collections, please consult State Library catalogues and finding aids.

* Copies available on Microfilm

+ Digital copies available