

Timeline | 18 Colin Street

1911

Lexbourne House was a family home designed by Cavanagh, Cavanagh and Parry for builder and entrepreneur Robert Law.

1947

Death of Robert Law.

1954

Sold and converted for use as the Government School of Nursing. Changes at this time included the conversion of the residence to student accommodation and the construction of a training block in the grounds. The majority of the garden features were retained.

Internally, the television lounge, office, pool and recreation room, dining room, kitchen, laundry and maids' dining room was located on the ground floor, while bedrooms (accommodating two to three beds each), office and toilet were located on the upper floor.

The external pavilion (Summer House) was converted to offices for the matron and typist.

1960

A three storey accommodation block was added, designed by the Public Works Department.

1975

Renamed to *Lawton Hostel/House* for the intellectually disabled. Operated by Mental Health Services.

1987

Classified by the National Trust of Australia.

1990

Purchased by Tipperary Investments.

2001

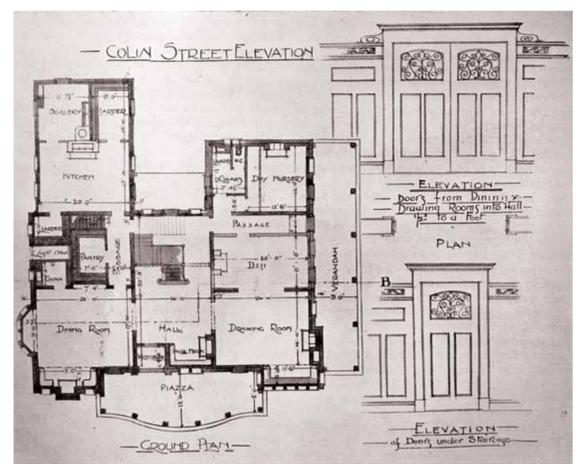
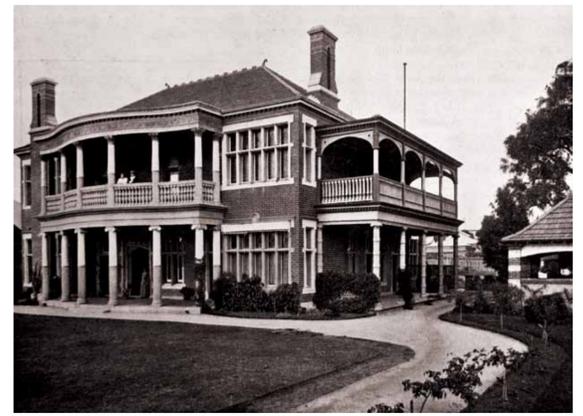
Included on the City of Perth Municipal Heritage Inventory.

2005

Listed on the State Heritage Register.

2015

Perth Centre for Photography.



The salon: being the journal of the Institute of Architects of New South Wales. July 1915

Origins

The Owner

Robert Law

Robert Oswald Law purchased a portion of Perth Town Lot H91 on the corner of Colin Street and Colin Grove, West Perth, in May 1910. By this time, much of Colin Street was extensively developed with large houses and medium sized houses, interspersed by a few vacant lots, including Law's. Robert Law came to Western Australia in 1881 to join his father, David Law, in the family building business. The Laws completed a number of building contracts, including bridges, jetties, and railway lines. David Law died in 1886, leaving 19 year old Robert to supervise the construction of a large wharf at Derby. The following year Robert Law constructed the Long Jetty at Fremantle and in partnership with William Atkins successfully tendered for the Perth-Pinjarra Railway which was completed in 1893. Other prominent works completed by

Law and Atkins included the Perth Mint, the Perth Boys' School, Boans Emporium, Perth's drainage and sewerage system, Cue Public Buildings (1895), Fremantle Post Office (1907), One Mile Jetty and Tramway, Carnarvon (1896) and extensions to the Bunbury and Busselton jetties (1911).

Law was the founding president of the Master Builders' and Contractors' Association, which was formed following a series of industrial disputes in the 1890s. He was also a Mason, and member of the Western Australian and South-Western Clubs and the Liberal League. He was President of Amateur Sports Club and a member of Croquet Club for a number of years, though Battye in his *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, does not make clear whether these were local or State organisations.

The Architect

Michael Cavanagh

Michael Cavanagh trained as an architect with the South Australian Public Works Department and studied in London before arriving in Western Australia to set up a branch of his South Australian architectural practice. He went on to become one of the State's best known architects of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1900, his younger brother James joined him in partnership in Perth. Herbert Parry joined the firm in 1908. The firm designed many buildings for the Catholic Church, as well as a range of commercial and residential properties.

Sources:
Heritage Perth
State Heritage Office
State Library of Western Australia