



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

## 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 6.3 Training people for the workplace

### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education and science

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Newcastle Street School* is a pair of well-resolved Federation Arts and Crafts style buildings constructed in limestone and brickwork, with imposing hipped and gabled tiled roofs. The former Newcastle Street School is an imposing structure rising through three storeys, set on a substantial arcaded limestone plinth, rising a further two storeys in brick and stucco, with steeply pitched hip and gabled roofscape with tall brick chimneys. (Criterion 1.1)

The design of the former Newcastle Street School is innovative to the extent that a whole first floor addition to a school building was an unusual solution to providing additional accommodation. Though second and even third floor additions had been made to other government buildings (such as the Central Government Buildings) school sites have traditionally been sufficiently generous to allow single storey expansion. (Criterion 1.2)

The former Newcastle Street School is a very imposing element in the streetscape, rising through three floors with a richly articulated roof and has a landmark quality. It is an integral part of the vista in the locality of Newcastle Street. (Criterion 1.3)

*Newcastle Street School* is an integral part of a late nineteenth century and early twentieth century cultural environment that extends north as far as Vincent Street, east to Charles Street and along Newcastle Street to Loftus Street, where the concentration of fabric from this time is visually harmonious and provides a high density of physical evidence of the period. (Criterion 1.4)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Newcastle Street School* is significant in the development of educational facilities

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\* Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989. pp 140-143.

and the design of school buildings in West Perth and in Western Australia. The place functioned as St. John's Church of England Day School (Assisted), one of only two non-Catholic Assisted Schools. From mid to late 1890s, the place was the West Perth Public School and the West Perth Infants' School, subsequently named the Newcastle Street School and Newcastle Street Infants' School, which served as the local schools until 1928. From 1928, following conversion for the use, as the Junior Technical School. The place constitutes an important part of the history of the area and of education in the State. (Criterion 2.1)

The place is significant for its early development prior to the Western Australian Gold Boom as St. John's Church of England Day School (Assisted); and the major period of its development during the Gold Boom and post Gold Boom, when the extant buildings were constructed as the West Perth Public School (1896-97) and additions 1900-02, and West Perth Infants' School (1898), as West Perth developed as a residential suburb. These developments occurred as a consequence of major changes in education in Western Australia, with the introduction of compulsory education, the cessation of grants to Assisted schools, and the development of separate Infants' Schools. The Infants' School was one of the first purpose built Infants' Schools to be built in the State. The conversion of the place to the Junior Technical School in 1928, and its use for this purpose for more than 50 years, is significant in the development and expansion of Technical Education in this State. (Criterion 2.2)

The place was designed by PWD Architects Charles Rosenthal and Hillson Beasley; and the first campaign was built by R. Bunning. Mrs. Laurina Reid was the first teacher at St. John's, then at West Perth Public School and Newcastle Street Infants' School, where she continued to teach for many years. (Criterion 2.3)

The 1895 building was unusual, making use of the sloping ground to produce a partial basement for a pupils' shelter and the later addition of a second floor in 1902 was an innovative solution, with respect to school design, to providing additional accommodation (ground based extensions were common practice). (Criterion 2.4)

### 11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Newcastle Street School* is highly valued by the community of West Perth and the wider community for its educational and social associations over a period of more than a century, as evidenced by its inclusion in the Municipal Inventory for the Town of Vincent, and oral evidence from past students and residents of the district. The use of the place as the Junior Technical School for more than 50 years and, more recently, use by the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts has widened this association. (Criterion 4.1)

*Newcastle Street School* contributes to the community's sense of place as a focal point in the local community, a landmark and the dominant building in Newcastle Street for more than a century, and as a major educational facility in the district to 1928, and in Perth following its conversion to the Junior Technical School in 1928. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12.1. RARITY**

The former Newcastle Street Senior School building is a rare, and possibly unique, example of a school to which a first floor addition was made in the early twentieth century. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Newcastle Street School* is a pair of well-resolved Federation Arts and Crafts style buildings in limestone and brickwork, with imposing hipped and gabled tiled roofs and is representative of the Public Works Department's use of the style applied to a school building. The place is also an integral part of a cultural environment and an important component of the evidence of education in the West Perth community. (Criterion 6.1)

*Newcastle Street School* is representative of the design, construction and evolution of an education use site, providing evidence of this usage since 1895. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

Alterations and, sometimes, indifferent maintenance have left the fabric in fair repair internally. These management practices have degraded the presentation of the original interiors, especially the larger rooms. The exterior fabric has some local failures but the whole of the external fabric is in fair to good condition.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

From an external perspective the buildings closely reflect their traditional uses. The interiors have been altered in many ways obscuring the reading of the spaces. Though there has been much alteration, the basic intent and themes of usage remain in place. The current uses are capable of being compatible, though many previous responses to change in education have had a detrimental impact on the place. The integrity of the place is moderate.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The exterior of the fabric has undergone some change so that elements such as the shingled roof are now tiled and some chimneys have been removed. There have been changes to staircases, some opening treatments, and the arcade beneath the Newcastle Street School has been filled in. The interiors have been altered significantly in some locations and have been left with little change in other locations. The authenticity of the exteriors is moderate to high. With some exceptions, the authenticity to the interiors is moderate to low.

## **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

*Newcastle Street School* is a group of buildings comprising the former Senior and Infants' Schools, later Perth Junior Technical School, and currently leased to Edith Cowan University for use by the Academy of Performing Arts. The

place was built in 1896-97, and 1898 respectively, with later alterations and additions.

The place has gone through a number of changes of name, as the different buildings on the site have undergone changes of name and of use. Throughout the Documentary Evidence the place, and the individual buildings, will be referred to by the name(s) in use at that date.

Note that in 1928, a new Infants' School was built to the north-west of the existing buildings. It was known as Newcastle Street Infants' School and later as West Perth Primary School. It was demolished to make way for the redevelopment of the site in the late twentieth century. As the place is no longer extant, its history is not included in the Documentary Evidence.

The Elementary Education Act (1871) was the first step in Western Australia towards the provision of compulsory education.<sup>1</sup> Governor Weld, a devout Roman Catholic, supported the demands of the leaders of the Church to re-instate financial assistance from public funds to their schools, which had been withdrawn in 1856.<sup>2</sup> Under the new Act subsidies for Church schools were re-introduced in 1872.<sup>3</sup>

On 6 September 1878, Perth Town Lot Y262, three roods and 22 perches in area, was transferred to William Love, Superintendent Wesleyan Minister, and the Trustees of the Wesleyan and Methodist Church in Western Australia.<sup>4</sup> A portion of this lot was resumed in 1896, to become part of the site of the place.

Following the opening of the Perth-Fremantle Railway in 1881, there was some sub-division for residential development in the areas to the north and west of Perth, and by the mid to late 1880s, some residential development had taken place in the West Perth area.

In 1885, Bishop Parry presented to the annual Synod of the Church of England in Western Australia, a change of policy whereby a Church of England elementary school would be established as an Assisted School; however, the policy was strongly opposed.<sup>5</sup> In 1886, the new Dean, Frederick Goldsmith, gave strong support to the policy, and supported efforts by the Reverend James Allen to establish a Church of England Day School on this basis.<sup>6</sup>

By 1889, there were 19 Assisted Schools in operation, of which all were Roman Catholic other than the Orphanage established by the Church of England.<sup>7</sup>

In 1890, following considerable efforts to obtain the Assisted Schools grant, St.

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<sup>1</sup> Crowley, F. K. *Australia's Western Third: A History of Western Australia from the first settlements to modern times* (Macmillan & Co. Ltd., London, 1960) p. 77.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. XIV Fol. 153.

<sup>5</sup> Fletcher, Laadan Ed. *Pioneers of Education in Western Australia* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1982) p. 265.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid; and Report to Synod by the Very Reverend Dean of Perth, Administrator of the Diocese, President of the Synod, in Report of the Third Session of the Eighth Synod of the Diocese of Perth, Western Australia (Sands & McDougall, Perth, 1895) 16 October 1894, p. 7.

<sup>7</sup> Report of the Central Board of Education for the Year 1889 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1890, p. 8. Note: 'A Thematic History of Public Education in Western Australia' prepared for the Building Management Authority by Jenny Gregory and Lisa Smith, Centre for Western Australian History, 1995, only refers to assistance to Catholic schools.

John's Church of England Day School (Assisted) opened at Newcastle Street, West Perth, on Lot Y261, which had been transferred to George Dent in 1874 per Crown Enrolment 4379.<sup>8</sup> The Report of the Central Board of Education for the Year 1890, recorded that the school was in operation that year, that the building was 'unsuitable', and the school had an enrolment of 57 children, and an average attendance of 44.<sup>9</sup>

In 1891, there were 19 Assisted Schools in operation in Western Australia, of which 17 were Catholic.<sup>10</sup> St. John's Church of England Day School (Assisted) had an enrolment of 77 children.<sup>11</sup> The Inspector of the Assisted Schools reported:

The building, which is only a temporary one, is very unsuitable for School purposes. At the time of my visit there was very little apparatus of any kind in the School.

The new school-room, now in course of erection, will be of great help to the successful working of this School.<sup>12</sup>

The enrolment at St. John's increased steadily with 115 enrolled in 1892, 114 in 1893 and 129 in 1894.<sup>13</sup> The teacher was Mrs. Laurina Reid.<sup>14</sup>

An Amendment Act to govern education in Western Australia was passed in 1894, and as of 1 January 1895, the new regulations for education in Western Australia were introduced.

In early 1895, St. John's was transferred from the Trustees to the Government, and 'converted into a State School.'<sup>15</sup> The portion of Perth Y261 on which the school was located was transferred from Dent to the Minister for Education; however, a Reserve was not declared.<sup>16</sup> On 22 March 1895, the *Government Gazette* notified the public that 'the St. John's Day School (Assisted) has, from the 7<sup>th</sup> ultimo, been taken over by the Education Department, and will henceforth be conducted as a Government School, under the name of the "West Perth Public School".<sup>17</sup> The teacher, Mrs. Laurina Reid, remained at the school, where she was assisted by three pupil teachers in the education of the 156 children enrolled at the school.<sup>18</sup>

In the Report of the Education Department for the Year 1895, it was noted 'Additions are now being made to the school at West Perth.'<sup>19</sup>

From June 1895, compulsory school attendance, in accordance with the provisions of the Amendment Act, 1894, was enforced in 15 districts, and in

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<sup>8</sup> Report of the Central Board of Education for the Year 1890 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1891-92, p. 8 and p. 57; and information from DOLA, per telephone November 2000. See also Plan of Perth Showing Sub-divisions to 31 Dec 1903, Battye Library Old Map Collection 292C. Note: the relevant DOLA file was destroyed in 1987.

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Report of the Central Board of Education for the Year 1891 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1892, p. 4.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 48.

<sup>13</sup> Report of the Central Board of Education for the Years 1892 and 1893 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1893, 1894 and 1895, p. 16, p. 20 and p.77 respectively.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 43.

<sup>15</sup> Education Department Report for the year 1895 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1896, p. 4.

<sup>16</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 73 Fol. 42. Note: City of Perth Rate Book, North Ward, 1895, records the transfer of Y261 from Dent to the Church of England.

<sup>17</sup> *Government Gazette* 22 March 1895, p. 421; 29 March 1895, p. 445; and 5 April 1895, p. 479.

<sup>18</sup> Education Department Report for the year 1895 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1896, p. 13.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22.

additional districts in the late 1890s.<sup>20</sup> The introduction of compulsory attendance coincided with the Gold Boom in Western Australia, and the result was an unprecedented and unforeseen increase in the number of children attending schools in the State. The Public Works Department built many schools and made additions to many existing schools in the late 1890s, as efforts were made to keep pace with the demands of the increasing population.

In November 1895, plans were drawn by Charles Rosenthal, draughtsman in the Architectural Division of the Department of Railways and Public Works, for a new school at Newcastle Street, on the site of the existing school.<sup>21</sup>

A Surveyor's Fieldbook drawing (1895-96) shows the Church of England Day School was a brick building on Newcastle Street, with a west facing verandah, and brick water closets located near the northern boundary towards the north-eastern corner of the site.<sup>22</sup>

The proposed new school was similar in design to other schools of the period, in which a large gallery school-room and adjacent class-rooms were the norm. The plan shows a basement with seven archways at the south elevation to Newcastle Street; and at the ground floor, separate cloak lobbies for infants, girls, and boys; three classrooms, one for each of these groups at the front of the building; a large gallery schoolroom centrally located; and a teachers' room.<sup>23</sup> The girls' entrance was located at the west side of the building and the boys' entrance at the east.<sup>24</sup>

Charles Rosenthal (later Sir Charles Rosenthal) (b. Berrima, N. S. W., 1875; d. Green Point, N. S. W., 1954), at age 15 years was articled to A. J. Derrick, Architect, at Geelong, Vic., and completed his articles in Melbourne with J. Edmund Burke, after Derrick ceased to practise.<sup>25</sup> In 1895, he came to Western Australia, where he took up a position as draughtsman in the Architectural Division of the Department of Railways and Public Works.<sup>26</sup> During his employment with the P. W. D., he moved to Coolgardie, from whence he continued to be involved with plans, not only for Coolgardie, but also for buildings in Perth, including Perth Law Courts, the Royal Mint, and the Free Public Library.<sup>27</sup> He was also responsible for the drawing to convert the Knowle into Fremantle Hospital.<sup>28</sup> In November 1898, after his health was threatened with typhoid, he resigned and returned to Victoria.<sup>29</sup> In Victoria, Rosenthal joined G. C. Inskip and W. R. Butler, Architects and Surveyors, who sent him to manage the Sydney office in 1900.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Education Department Report for the year 1895, op. cit.

<sup>21</sup> Oldham (1980) mistakenly attributed the design of the West Perth School (1897) to George Temple Poole, Colonial Architect and Superintendent of Public Works and Assistant Engineer-in-Chief, in which capacity he designed and/or oversaw the design and construction of most major and minor public buildings in Western Australia in this period.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Surveyor's Fieldbook 2386, SROWA Cons. 3464 Was 84 Item 17, p. 37.

<sup>23</sup> PWDWA 4066, 21 November 1895.

<sup>24</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Serle, Geoffrey (Eds.) *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1981) Vol. 11, p. 451.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> Considine and Griffiths Architects, *The Knowle, Conservation Plan 1999*. PWD Plan set 4556 and p9.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* Note: He was declared bankrupt a second time, in 1930, during the Great

Rosenthal served with distinction during World War One, rising to the rank of General, and he was appointed C. B., C. M. G., K. C. B., D. S. O., and also awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre, the French Croix de Guerre, and Legion d'honneur.<sup>31</sup>

Rosenthal became a leader in the architectural profession, and served two terms as President of the Institute of Architects of New South Wales (1926-30), a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and a Life Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.<sup>32</sup>

In late November 1895, tenders were called for the construction of West Perth School.<sup>33</sup> On 6 December 1895, the contract was awarded to R. Bunning, at a cost of £2,400, for completion on 18 August 1896.<sup>34</sup> Robert Bunning and his brother, Arthur, completed many government contracts throughout Western Australia.<sup>35</sup>

The West Perth School, in course of erection at June 1896, was located on the north side of Newcastle Street, 'on the site of the existing school.'<sup>36</sup> Built in brick and stone, the place comprised 'school-room, three class-rooms, teacher's room, lavatory, and cloak rooms for about 240 children.'<sup>37</sup> The school 'to replace the old school' was constructed with concrete foundations, a stone basement, brick walls, and a shingle roof, and a covered play shed.<sup>38</sup>

In 1896, the staffing at the West Perth Public School remained at the same level, whilst the enrolment increased considerably to 260 children, with an average attendance of 161 children.<sup>39</sup>

In early October 1896, approval was given for the resumption of a portion of Perth Town Lot Y262 from the trustees of the Wesleyan Church for the purposes of the West Perth Public School.<sup>40</sup>

On 16 March 1897, the public were notified that 'the Public School situated [sic] in Newcastle Street, Perth, and hitherto known as "West Perth School"

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Depression.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid, p. 453.

<sup>33</sup> *Government Gazette* 29 November 1895, p. 1863.

<sup>34</sup> Report of the Department for Public Works for the Year 1895-6, in *Votes and Proceedings* 1896, p. 108; and PWD Contract Book 1896-1901, SROWA Acc. 1124 An 7/14, Item 3a, p. 42. Note: However, on 21 February 1896, the *Government Gazette* advised the contract for the building of a school at West Perth, on the north side of Newcastle Street, at the site of the existing school had been awarded to Cohen & Wright at the price of £2,400.<sup>34</sup> Oldham (1980) assumed that Cohen & Wright built the place; however, the PWD Contract Book and the Report of the Public Works Department for the period, record Bunning as the contractor responsible for the work. Report of the Department for Public Works for the Year 1895-6, op. cit.; and PWD Contract Book 1896-1901, op. cit.

<sup>35</sup> Mills, Jenny *The Timber People: A History of Bunnings Limited* (Bunnings Limited, Perth, 1986) pp. 10-21.

<sup>36</sup> Report of the Department for Public Works for the Year 1895-6, p. 53.

<sup>37</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> Public Works Department Report for the Year 1897-98, in *Votes and Proceedings* 1898, p.65 and p. 101.

<sup>39</sup> *ibid.*, p. 22 and p. 41.

<sup>40</sup> Executive Council 4015/96 Minute Paper for the Executive Council, Resumption of Lands for Playground West Perth School SROWA Acc. 541 AN3/3, October 1896, p. 1. Note: the notice in the *Government Gazette* on 5 November 1896, and also the Order in Council stated the land concerned was Perth Town Lot Y162. The matter was remedied in 1897. (*ibid.*, pp. 10-13.)

will, on and after this date, be known as "Newcastle Street School."<sup>41</sup>

The school building was not completed until 31 July 1897.<sup>42</sup> Additions to the original contract cost £242 0s 3d, and the total cost of the school when completed was £2,407 1s 7d.<sup>43</sup> The town water supply was laid on.<sup>44</sup>

In 1896-97, the enrolment at the West Perth School increased rapidly, to an average enrolment for 1897 of 294.<sup>45</sup> On 20 July 1897, a plan was drawn showing levels at the place.<sup>46</sup> In August 1897, a site plan for a proposed new Infants' School to the north-west of the school built in 1896-97, shows the newly completed school, with the boys' latrines located to the north-east in the boys' playground, and the girls' latrines located to the north-west in the girls' playground.<sup>47</sup> The former Church of England Day School is shown as 'Temporary Infants' School'.<sup>48</sup> There were close picket fences at the west, north and east boundaries of the site, with a gate in the rear fence, and a picket fence at the front boundary on Newcastle Street; and a tank and also a separate tank stand located by the northern fence.<sup>49</sup>

In December 1897, plans for West Perth Infants' School were drawn by Hillson Beasley.<sup>50</sup> The proposed school comprised a basement with a cement floor, to serve as covered playground and shelter area under the south-east portion of the building; two class-rooms, and a gallery school-room; and cloak-lobby and lavatory opening from the entrance, and to the school-room.<sup>51</sup>

As the number of children seeking enrolment at the West Perth School continued to increase through 1897 and into early 1898, there was insufficient accommodation at the school. Consequently, in 1897-98, a galvanised iron building was removed from Subiaco School and relocated at the West Perth School.<sup>52</sup> It was intended to be temporary, however it remained there for 30 years.<sup>53</sup>

On 18 January 1898, portion of Perth Town Lot Y262, was transferred from the Trustees of the Wesleyan Church to the Minister for Education of Western Australia, at a cost of £375.<sup>54</sup> Subsequently, a right of carriage-way was granted over a portion of the land, 12 feet wide and nine perches in area, to

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41 *Government Gazette* 16 March 1897, p. 521.

42 PWD Contract Book 1896-1901, op. cit.

43 *ibid.*

44 Public Works Department Report for the Year 1898, op. cit.

45 Report of the Public Woks Department for the Year 1896, op. cit., p. 21.

46 West Perth Infants' School, copy of PWDWA 5591, 20 July 1897.

47 PWDWA 5797, Hillson Beasley, 24 August 1897.

48 *ibid.*

49 *ibid.*

50 West Perth Infants School, PWDWA 5797, 29 December 1897, Drawing no. 2.

51 *ibid.*

52 Public Works Department Report for the Year 1897-98, op. cit., p. 110.

53 Newcastle Street Senior School Buildings and Works SROWA Acc. 1497 AN 45 Item 238/17, p. 79; and Newcastle Street School Conversion into Junior Technical School PWDWA 25546, 1927.

54 Certificates of Title Vol. XIV Fol. 153, and Vol. CXLIII Fol. 18; and Burnside to Under Secretary for Lands, Resumption of Land ..., op. cit., 21 May 1897, p. 14. Note: on the CT the area was recorded as one rood and thirty nine and four tenth perches in the first instance, which was amended to two roods. In the above Lands file, the area was recorded as one rood and thirty nine perches, which was reduced to one rood and thirty perches after the excision of the right-of-way.



allow access between the Manse and the Wesleyan Church in Charles Street.<sup>55</sup>

On 3 February 1898, tenders were called for the erection of the West Perth Infants' School.<sup>56</sup> On 17 March 1898, the contract was awarded to Lake & Gurr of Roe Street, Perth, at a cost of £1,340 13s, for completion on 17 September 1898.<sup>57</sup> Building commenced in March 1898, and the Infants' School was completed on 11 August at a cost of £1,292 13s 11d.<sup>58</sup> It was constructed of concrete foundations, with brick walls, and an iron roof.<sup>59</sup> It comprised a schoolroom for 100 children, with an infants' gallery for 50 children, and two classrooms for 50 children each, with 'hat and cloak lobbies, and shelter underneath.'<sup>60</sup> The town water supply was laid on.<sup>61</sup> Other work by Lake & Gurr in 1898-99 included the Midland Junction Police Station and additions to Plympton School.<sup>62</sup>

In January 1900, Reserve 3594 was cancelled, and Reserve 3765, with an area of three roods thirty four and one tenth perches was gazetted for the Newcastle Street School site.<sup>63</sup>

In November 1900, plans were drawn by Hillson Beasley for additions to Newcastle Street School, comprising a new classroom to be added at the north-east, with provision for a future extension at the south-east.<sup>64</sup> The work included conversion of the boys' entrance to a lavatory, and a new boys' entrance at the south side of the new classroom.<sup>65</sup> On 7 December 1900, tenders were called.<sup>66</sup> On 19 December 1900, the contract for the work was awarded to W. C. Rose, contractor of Loftus Street, Perth, at a cost of £469, for completion on 19 March 1901.<sup>67</sup> The new classroom was on concrete foundations, with brick walls, and a shingle roof, and to accommodate 50 children.<sup>68</sup> The work was completed on 21 March 1901, at an exact cost of £483 4s 9d.<sup>69</sup> Other work carried out by W. C. Rose in 1899-1900 included Greenbushes School and Quarters, Coalville School, and Armadale School and Quarters, and the Collie Coalfields Lock-up.<sup>70</sup>

As the school population at the Newcastle Street School continued to increase, the accommodation was again over-crowded; and in August 1902, plans were

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<sup>55</sup> Transfer 292/98, Certificates of Title Vol. VIX Fol. 153, and Vol. CXLIII Fol. 18; and correspondence in Resumption of Land ... *ibid*, pp. 17-22.

<sup>56</sup> *Government Gazette* 4 February 1898, p. 309.

<sup>57</sup> PWD Contract Book 1896-1901 *op. cit.*, p. 138.

<sup>58</sup> *ibid*; Public Works Department Report for the Year 1897-98, in *Votes and Proceedings* 1898, p. 101; and Public Works Department Report for the Year 1898-99, in *Votes and Proceedings* 1899, p. 90.

<sup>59</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>60</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>61</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>62</sup> PWD Contract Book 1896-1901 *op. cit.*

<sup>63</sup> Note of amendment to Diag. 100/49, re Reserve 3765; Minute Paper for Executive Council; and Notice to *Government Gazette*, in Resumption of Land ... *op. cit.*, pp. 40-42. Note: No details of Reserve 3594 have been located through searches at DOLA and per *Government Gazettes*.

<sup>64</sup> Perth Newcastle St. School Additions, PWDWA 7837, 16 November 1900.

<sup>65</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>66</sup> *Government Gazette* 14 December 1900, p. 4700.

<sup>67</sup> *Government Gazette* 21 December 1900, p. 4778; and PWD Contract Book 1896-1901 *op. cit.*, p. 306.

<sup>68</sup> Public Works Department Report to 30 December 1900, in *Votes and Proceedings* 1901-02, p. 5.

<sup>69</sup> PWD Contract Book 1896-1901 *op. cit.*, p. 306.

<sup>70</sup> *ibid*, p. 202, pp. 219-20, p. 225, p. 267, and p. 283.

drawn for further additions to the place.<sup>71</sup> The proposed additions comprised the addition of a first floor to the original building, replicating the floor plan of two class-rooms and large hall, with the school-room at the ground floor shown as a hall; the girls' cloak-lobby at the ground floor to become the boys' hat room, the boys' cloak-lobby at the ground floor converted to a corridor, and the original infants' cloak lobby converted to an entry lobby for the girls, with stairs to the first floor.<sup>72</sup> Escape stairs were to be built at the rear of the building.<sup>73</sup> The decision to make the addition of another floor was probably necessary because of the limited area of the site. Such an addition to a school is rare, and possibly unique, at this period in Western Australia. On 26 September 1902, tenders were called for the Additions to Newcastle Street School.<sup>74</sup> On 22 October 1902, the contract was awarded to J. Carlson at a cost of £1,913 4s.<sup>75</sup>

In May 1906, plans were drawn for alterations and additions to the Infants' School, comprising a corridor and a new class-room to be built adjacent to the school-room, with external steps leading to a landing at the entrance to the corridor; the removal of the existing steps; the site of the steps and entry porch to be converted to a teacher's room; and new steps and entry porch to be built adjacent, leading into the hat room.<sup>76</sup> On 10 May, tenders were called, and that of C. H. Carter was accepted on 20 June, at a cost of £559 19s 5d.<sup>77</sup>

In April 1907, Sewerage drawings show the existing schools. The Newcastle Street School is shown following the additions of 1902-03.<sup>78</sup> The galvanised iron class-room re-located to the school in the late nineteenth century, is shown adjacent to the class-room addition (1900).<sup>79</sup> The Infants' School is shown to the north-west of the Government School.<sup>80</sup> The former Church of England Day School is no longer extant.<sup>81</sup>

There were continuing concerns about the small area at the Newcastle Street Schools. Over a number of decades, there was discussion of ways in which the site might be increased. In mid 1907, the Wesleyan Trustees proposed selling a portion of S114 for this purpose. However, the proposal faltered when the Methodist Conference declined to state a price at which they were prepared to sell, and it was found that funds were not available at that date.<sup>82</sup>

In November 1907, the proposed expansion of the site by the acquisition of a portion of land, 2 acres and 3 perches in area, from the Wesleyan Trustees was revived.<sup>83</sup> The Inspector General, Cecil Andrews, wrote to the Minister of Education and Andrews noted: 'We have only an acre of ground at

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<sup>71</sup> Newcastle Street School Addns. No. 2, PWDWA 9308, signed M. C. 30 July 1902.

<sup>72</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>73</sup> *ibid.* Note: the stairs are not shown per Sewerage plan, Sheet 73, Copy of PWDWA 12794, in Newcastle Street School Buildings and Works SROWA Acc. 1497 AN 45/1 Item 1548/20, April 1907.

<sup>74</sup> *Government Gazette* 26 September 1902, p. 3918.

<sup>75</sup> *Government Gazette* 24 October 1902, p. 4161.

<sup>76</sup> Infants' School Newcastle Street, PWDWA 12514, 14 May 1906.

<sup>77</sup> *Government Gazette* 11 May 1906, p. 1415, and 22 June 1906, p. 1963.

<sup>78</sup> Sewerage plan, Sheet 73, *op. cit.*

<sup>79</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>80</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>81</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>82</sup> Correspondence between Under Secretary of Public Works and Inspector General of Schools *ibid.*, pp. 14-15, 3 and 15 July 1907.

<sup>83</sup> Correspondence between Inspector General Andrews, the Minister for Education, and the Under Secretary for Lands, *ibid.*, pp. 33-34, November 1907.

Newcastle Street, and some 700 children. ... it is very important that we should increase the size of the block if possible.<sup>84</sup> The offer of £1,200 was refused by the Trustees, who were asking for £2,000 and the Minister decided that the purchase should not proceed.<sup>85</sup>

In 1908-09, negotiations with the Wesleyan Trustees for the purchase of additional land for the Newcastle Street School were resumed.<sup>86</sup> Concerns about the limited area of the playground were increased when it became known that the Reserve at the north-west of the place, which had been in use by the children, was to be sold.<sup>87</sup> F. Gill, MLA, requested the Minister for Education to consider securing a portion of the Reserve for school purposes, before it was sold to individual owners.<sup>88</sup> In November 1909, the Wesleyan Trustees accepted an offer of £1,300, and the land was duly incorporated in the school grounds.<sup>89</sup>

In the 1920s the number of children enrolled at the schools decreased, and the galvanised iron classroom was no longer in use, nor was 'the upstairs room immediately above the office.'<sup>90</sup>

By 1923, the place was badly in need of renovation, as the Head Teacher wrote: 'It is in a very bad state indeed. ... The roof also is nearly rusted through. The appearance of the school is sordid and unpleasant.'<sup>91</sup> It was 'nearly 20 years' since the place had been painted externally, the paint had 'perished', and the interior was 'very dingy.'<sup>92</sup> The Public Works Supervisor considered the school 'the worst in the Metropolitan Area in this respect.'<sup>93</sup> The estimated cost of the required renovations to the Senior and Infants' Schools was £320.<sup>94</sup> However, there were not sufficient funds available for the works, and it was not until March 1926, that the Director of Education was informed that internal renovations to the place had been authorised.<sup>95</sup> The renovations, including painting of the interior, were carried out in mid-1926.<sup>96</sup>

On 14 September 1926, it was announced that the Newcastle Street Schools would be closed.<sup>97</sup> The average attendance at the Newcastle Street Schools had declined to 384 children, in contrast to 758 children in 1905, and there was

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<sup>84</sup> Cecil Andrews to Minister for Education, *ibid*, p. 33, 13 November 1907.

<sup>85</sup> *ibid*; and Under Secretary for Public Works to Inspector General, in *ibid*, 29 January 1908, p. 44.

<sup>86</sup> Correspondence in Newcastle Street School Buildings and Works *op. cit.*, 1908-09, pp. 60-140.

<sup>87</sup> F. Gill, MLA, to Minister for Education in *ibid*, 7 January 1909, pp. 90-92.

<sup>88</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>89</sup> Correspondence, and details of CT Vol. 389 Fol. 111 and Vol. 457 Fol. 185, in *ibid*, November 1909, pp. 142-146. Note: details of this purchase are not included on the DOLA File for the place for the period 1896-1986.

<sup>90</sup> Dr. Roberta Jull, Report to Commissioner of Health, in Newcastle Street School Buildings and Works SROWA Acc. 1497 AN 45/1 Item 1141/22, 7 June 1923, p. 99.

<sup>91</sup> Geo. W. Bailey to Director of Education, in *ibid*, 9 July 1923, p. 119.

<sup>92</sup> Wallace Clubb to Director of Education, in *ibid*, 13 July 1923, p. 120.

<sup>93</sup> Acting Under Secretary for Works and Trading Concerns to Director of Education, in *ibid*, 29 August 1923, p. 128.

<sup>94</sup> Acting Under Secretary for Works and Trading Concerns to Director of Education in *ibid*, 8 September 1923, p. 130.

<sup>95</sup> Under Secretary for Works and Trading Concerns to Director of Education in *ibid*, 28 January 1925, p. 173; and in Newcastle Street School Buildings and Works SROWA Acc. 1497 Item 1508/25, 11 March 1926, p. 48.

<sup>96</sup> Head Teacher to Director of Education, in *ibid*, 1 June 1926, p. 50.

<sup>97</sup> Report in Newcastle Street Infants' School Building and Works Acc. 1497 AN 45 Item 168/29, 16 October 1926, p. 32.

discussion of the possible conversion of the place to provide much needed accommodation for the Technical School.<sup>98</sup> It was considered that there was 'no necessity for the continuance of the Newcastle Street School', as there were five schools within a mile of the place, and 'It is unjustifiable to leave these large buildings half empty while the Technical School is cramped in badly lighted, unsuitable rooms with no playground.'<sup>99</sup> On 16 October 1926, a deputation of residents of West Perth met the Minister for Education and presented a petition protesting the proposed closure.<sup>100</sup> Whilst the Minister would not accede to their requests to retain the existing schools, he gave consideration to an alternative proposal to build a new Infants' School in the vicinity.<sup>101</sup> A possible site in Charles Street was considered in late 1926; however there were not sufficient funds available to acquire the site and build a new school.<sup>102</sup>

The period of 'National Efficiency' from 1903 to 1945 resulted in the establishment and provision of a progressive education system from infants schools through to university.<sup>103</sup> One of the Inspector General of Education Cyril Jackson's first duties when he began at the Education Department in 1896 was to develop a technical education system for post primary aged children.<sup>104</sup> The popularity of the evening classes on technical subjects at James Street Central School resulted in the opening of Perth Technical School in 1900 and Fremantle Technical School circa 1901.<sup>105</sup> Technical schools offered training courses for both male and female students.

In 1927, plans were drawn under J. M. Tait, Principal Architect, for the conversion of the Newcastle Street Senior School and the Newcastle Street Infants' School into the Junior Technical School.<sup>106</sup> At the ground floor, the Senior School was to be altered with the two class-rooms at the south-west converted to Metal Working Room, the remaining two classrooms retained as classrooms; the schoolroom/hall to serve as Assembly Hall, with the wall between it and the male teacher's room removed, and a new dais to be erected at the eastern side; and the lavatory converted to an office.<sup>107</sup> The galvanised iron room at the north-east was still extant at this date, and it was to be converted to a store room.<sup>108</sup> At the first floor, three classrooms at the east and south were to be retained, and the third classroom at the south-west converted to a science room, as was the hall, with a new partition, 8' high, to be erected at the south side of the latter to create a corridor, and a science store built into the north-west corner of the former hall.<sup>109</sup> A new building, the blacksmith's shop, was to be erected to the east of the Infants' School

<sup>98</sup> Memorandum in *ibid*, pp. 1-3, and attachment.

<sup>99</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>100</sup> Memorandum, in *ibid*, 16 October 1926, p. 31.

<sup>101</sup> *ibid*, pp. 32-33.

<sup>102</sup> Correspondence, in *ibid*, November 1926-January 1927, pp. 43-45.

<sup>103</sup> Centre for WA History (Gregory, J. & Smith, L.), 'A Thematic History of Public Education in Western Australia', prepared for the Building Management Authority, 1995, pp. xi, 19 - 23.

<sup>104</sup> 'A Thematic History of Public Education in Western Australia', *op. cit.*, pp. 19 - 20; Palassis Architects, 'Conservation Plan for Perth Modern School', prepared for CAMS, March 1998, Vol. 1, p. 95.

<sup>105</sup> 'A Thematic History of Public Education in Western Australia', *op. cit.*, p. 26; 'Conservation Plan for Perth Modern School', *op. cit.*, p. 95.

<sup>106</sup> Newcastle Street School - Alterations Conversion into Junior Technical School, PWDWA 25446, microfiche at SROWA.

<sup>107</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>108</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>109</sup> *ibid*.

(1898).<sup>110</sup>

At the Infants' School, the two original classrooms were to be converted to Manual Training Room No. 1 (Woodwork), the schoolroom/hall to Manual Training Room No. 2 (Woodwork), and the third classroom (1906) to drawing room.<sup>111</sup> The basement was to be converted to blacksmith store and timber store.<sup>112</sup>

On 26 August 1927, the Newcastle Street Senior School was closed.<sup>113</sup> The Infants' classes were to continue for a period at the Infants' School until the modifications to the Senior School had been completed, and when those at the Infants' School (1898) would be commenced.<sup>114</sup> Lobbying for the continuation of Infants' classes at the place, or alternatively the erection of a new school in the vicinity, continued.<sup>115</sup> Finally, the suggestion of Mr. G. James to erect a new Infants' School on a portion of the land at the north of the school was adopted, and approval given by the Colonial Treasurer.<sup>116</sup>

On 4 November 1927, tenders were called for the conversion of the place to the Junior Technical School.<sup>117</sup>

In December 1927, plans were drawn for a New Infants' School at Newcastle Street, to replace the Infants' School (1898), which was to become part of Perth Junior Technical School.<sup>118</sup> The proposed new school was to be located to the north-west of the existing schools, on a portion of the land acquired from the Wesleyan trustees in 1909, and comprised three classrooms, teacher's room, a verandah 20' wide as open air teaching space, store, hat-room and lavatory.<sup>119</sup> Similar plans had been in use for Infants' Schools in Western Australia since 1913. The site plans of the proposed new Newcastle Street Infants' School show a pavilion style classroom used in association with the Junior Technical School located to the south of the proposed new school.<sup>120</sup>

In late December 1927, the contract for the conversion to Junior Technical School was awarded to A. Woolhouse at a cost of £1,469, and the work was implemented in 1928.<sup>121</sup>

On 5 January 1928, tenders were called for the building of Newcastle Street Infants' School.<sup>122</sup> On 1 April 1928, the contract was awarded to J. Lake at a cost of £3,771 11s 6d.<sup>123</sup> The school served as the Infants' School and later as Newcastle Street Junior Primary School until 31 December 1977, when it was closed, and subsequently demolished to make way for the re-development of

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<sup>110</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> Newcastle Street Infants' School Perth - Conversion into Junior Technical School, *ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>113</sup> Memorandum, Newcastle Street School Buildings and Works *op. cit.*, 26 August 1927, p. 77.

<sup>114</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>115</sup> Correspondence, and news cuttings from *The West Australian* and *Sunday Times* in *ibid.*, August 1927, pp. 55-63.

<sup>116</sup> Correspondence, in *ibid.*, August-November 1927, pp. 63-77.

<sup>117</sup> *Government Gazette* 7 November 1927, p. 2457.

<sup>118</sup> Newcastle Street New Infants' School, PWDWA 25514, 3 and 8 December 1927.

<sup>119</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>120</sup> Newcastle Street Infants' School, 3 December 1927, PWD 2137/26.

<sup>121</sup> *Government Gazette* 30 December 1927.

<sup>122</sup> *Government Gazette* 6 January 1928, p. 21.

<sup>123</sup> *ibid.*, 5 April 1928, p. 895.

new buildings for the Department of Education and Training.<sup>124</sup>

On 12 February 1934, tenders were called for additions to Perth Junior Technical School.<sup>125</sup> On 24 February, the contract was awarded to J. Shuttleworth of Maylands, at a cost of £230, for the erection of a 30' x 20' timber classroom at the place.<sup>126</sup>

On 4 December 1934, tenders were called for additions to Perth Junior Technical School.<sup>127</sup> On 29 December, the contract was awarded to A. Woolhouse at a cost of £497.<sup>128</sup> He had been responsible also for the works to convert the place to the Junior Technical School in 1928.

In 1953, the Sewerage plan shows the Junior Technical School and the Newcastle Street Infants' School, with two pavilion style classrooms used by the Technical School at the south-east corner of the latter site.<sup>129</sup> The galvanised iron room is no longer extant at the Junior Technical School, and the plan shows the blacksmith's shop (1928) located to the east of the former Infants' School.<sup>130</sup>

In late August 1959, portions of Perth Town Lots S114 to S117, purchased from the Wesleyan Trustees in 1909, 2 acres and three perches in area, the site of the Newcastle Street Infants' School (1928), was re-vested in the Crown, designated as Perth Lot 800, and set apart as Reserve No. 25415, for the purpose of "Schoolsite (Newcastle Street Infants)."<sup>131</sup>

In the early 1970s, the Education Department began to consider the purchase of properties in the vicinity of the Newcastle Street Infants' School and the Junior Technical School in order to expand the area of the site.<sup>132</sup>

In October 1976, the City of Perth purchased Lots 2 and 3 of Perth Town Lot Y263, located on the southern side of Prospect Place.<sup>133</sup> Subsequently, the rear of Lot 1, and most of Lot 2 have been redeveloped as car parks.<sup>134</sup>

In 1978, the area of the site was expanded by the purchase of adjoining lots, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, located at the south side of Prospect Place, by the Crown for inclusion in the school site.<sup>135</sup> On 30 May 1978, the Minister for Works requested the Minister for Lands to initiate the cancellation of Reserve 25415 'School site (Infants) and the amalgamation of the land with Lot 287 in Reserve B 3765, and advised that the adjoining lots had been acquired and

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<sup>124</sup> Newcastle Street Junior Primary School SROWA Acc. 1612 AN 45/14 Item 402/59.

<sup>125</sup> *Government Gazette* 16 February 1934, p. 220.

<sup>126</sup> *Government Gazette* 9 March 1934, p. 335.

<sup>127</sup> *Government Gazette* 7 December 1934, p. 1889. Note: details of the additions are not known.

<sup>128</sup> *Government Gazette* 18 January 1935, p. 113. Note: at the same date, Woolhouse was awarded the contract for the addition of a new brick classroom at South Perth School at a cost of £448. (Ibid.)

<sup>129</sup> SROWA Cons. 4156 Sheet 73, 16 October 1953.

<sup>130</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>131</sup> Correspondence between Acting Under Secretary for Lands and Director of Education, Newcastle Street Junior Primary Lands op. cit., March- September 1959, pp. 1-4.

<sup>132</sup> Correspondence, in *ibid.*, 1970-75, pp. 5-21.

<sup>133</sup> Certificates of Title Vol. XL Fol. 186 and CT 1448 Fol. 893; and Vol. 499 Fol. 158, CT 1448 Fol. 893 respectively. Note: Colonial Investments Pty. Ltd. of 12-24 Lindsay Street, Perth, the family company of H. C. Moore, had owned the properties from 1 September 1938.

<sup>134</sup> Site visit, Robin Chinnery, 19 September 2000.

<sup>135</sup> Under Secretary for Works to Under Secretary for Lands, Resumption of Land ... op. cit., 30 May 1978, p. 53.

action was requested also in relation to those lots.<sup>136</sup> The re-vesting of the above Lots in the Crown was proclaimed in the *Government Gazette* on 30 June 1978.<sup>137</sup>

The former Newcastle Street Senior and Infants' Schools served as the Junior Technical School for more than 50 years, and the place is valued by former students. There were few major changes to the place in the period 1934-2000. The former Senior School was subject to some internal modifications in the late twentieth century, which have further altered the hall and classroom areas at both the ground and first floors.<sup>138</sup>

On 28 February 1986, a portion of Lot 2 of Perth Town Lot Y263, extending across the front boundary to Charles Street and including the corner at Prospect Place per Plan 7624, was transferred from the City of Perth.<sup>139</sup> On the same date, a right of carriage-way over a portion of Lot 3 was granted to the Crown.<sup>140</sup> On 10 August 1993, this was transferred to the Minister for Education and subsequently, on 28 July 1997, to the Minister for Training.<sup>141</sup>

In November 1992, Class B reservation on Reserve 3765 for the purpose of school site was cancelled, and the purpose of the reserve was changed to "Technical School Site."<sup>142</sup> Subsequently, in 1993, the Reserve was amended to exclude the portion of Perth Town Lot Y287 comprising Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 on Office of Titles Plan 392.<sup>143</sup>

On 23 August 1993, Lot Y287, 2023 square metres, and Perth Lot 800, 8170 square metres, and Perth Lot 913, 2122 square metres, on Land Administration Diagram 100/49 on Office Titles Plans 382 and 2931, the site of the West Perth Infants' School (1928) and the lots on the southern side of Prospect Place were registered on a new title, remaining in Crown ownership.<sup>144</sup>

In 1995, the place was included in the Municipal Inventory for the Town of Vincent, and in view of its aesthetic, historic and social value, it was recommended for entry in the State Register of Heritage Places.

On 16 August 1996, Memorial G 259075, under the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*, was lodged on a portion of Perth Town Lot Y262, when the former *Charles Street Mission Methodist Chapel and Methodist Church*, fronting Charles Street, were entered on the Register of Heritage Places.<sup>145</sup>

In May 1997, C Class Reserve 3765, being Perth Town Lot Y287 and Perth Lots 800 and 913, with a total area of 1.2315 hectares, was vested in the Minister for Training.<sup>146</sup>

In recent years, the place has been leased to Edith Cowan University for use by the Academy of Performing Arts. During this period, there has been little work at the place as its future has been uncertain, and neither party to the

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<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> *Government Gazette* 30 June 1978.

<sup>138</sup> Note: no documentary evidence of these alterations has been located to date.

<sup>139</sup> Certificate of Title CT 1448 Fol. 893.

<sup>140</sup> Certificate of Title CT 1448 Fol. 892.

<sup>141</sup> Certificate of Title CT 1448 Fol. 892.

<sup>142</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 3101 Fol. 657.

<sup>143</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 3099 Fol. 350; and *Government Gazette* 10 August 1993.

<sup>144</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 3101 Fol. 657.

<sup>145</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. CXLIII Fol. 18.

<sup>146</sup> Certificates of Title Vol. 3101 Fol. 657 and Vol. 3099 Fol. 350; and *Government Gazette* 6 May 1997.

lease has been prepared to expend large sums on it in these circumstances. In 2001, it continues to be used by the Academy.

### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

*Newcastle Street School* comprises a pair of buildings in a predominantly bitumen paved setting. The pair of buildings comprises a single storey limestone, brick construction and tiled former Infants' School with a part basement and a two storey school constructed in the same materials, with a partial basement also. The buildings are presently used by Edith Cowan University for arts-related subject areas.

The site is located on the north side of Newcastle Street, set some 60 metres west of Charles Street. Newcastle Street is a two-way pair divided road with concrete kerbs, a narrow unpaved strip of land and then a public footpath made of concrete paving slabs, along the front edge of the property boundaries. There are shops to the east comprising a 1960s flat roof construction lunch bar and a row of turn of the nineteenth century shops. The sites to the west comprise late nineteenth century and early twentieth century houses. Most of the land to the north is taken up by the concrete block construction technical school buildings of the 1970s. The site itself is almost completely bitumen paved, with a small number of eucalypts adjacent to the buildings. The bitumen paving is divided up by stormwater spoon drains. The surrounding fences are Supersix style, with a post and galvanized pipe rail fence along the front boundary. There is a scattering of modern street furniture in the vicinity of the buildings, including refuse bins, signage and aluminium construction seating benches.

The two storey former Newcastle Street School building is located at the front or south of the site and the former Infants' School is located to the rear or at the north.

#### **Former Newcastle Street School**

##### **Externally**

The former Newcastle Street School is a two-storey building with a basement level constructed in limestone, with a Marseilles pattern tiled roof in the Federation Arts and Crafts style. The building is almost symmetrical, with an ABCBA rhythm frontage, together with an ABCAD rhythm pattern rear elevation. The elevations have quite different forms of architectural expression, with the front elevation being an imposing composition on its limestone arcaded podium and tall central gable.

The ground floor of the south elevation has a basement arcade storey constructed of pick faced limestone with black tuck-pointed joints. The arches are formed with voussoir limestone blocks and have projecting keystones. The arches have been filled in with brickwork and the brickwork clad with metal louvred vents. The ground floor above the podium level is predominantly a brick, stucco stringcourse, and window composition. The walls are laid in stretcher-bond brickwork, with stucco string courses and rock faced limestone lintels. The windows at this level are narrow (3.5:1 proportion) double hung sashes with hopper lights over them, which contrast with the windows at first floor level (2:1 proportion).

The first floor or additional floor elevation is similar to the ground floor, except that the lintels are concrete, and the windows are almost twice the width of the ground floor windows. The roof is a Marseilles pattern tiled hipped roof with a massive central gable. The gable is decorated with



timbering and roughcast render, with timber louvred vents and birdboard lined soffits. The tiles replace the original shingle roof. The eaves are lined with bird boards and have fascias and ogee gutters. The roofscape also features a number of tall brick chimneys; some have been removed during re-roofing. There is a long flight of stucco finished stairs to the east side of the building, leading to a finely detailed porch with timber posts, roofing timbers and a tiled roof. A more recent entrance treatment is located on the west side to the building. There is a toilet block on the west side of the building that is simply constructed in stretcher bond brickwork with louvred windows.

The rear elevation treatment is very similar to the front elevation, except that there are two polygonal shaped room forms with corresponding polygonal roofs. Chimneys to these roofs have been removed. A steel escape stair extends down from the first floor.

### **Internally**

The plan is organised around the two former separate entries with three classrooms on the southern side of the ground floor, the former assembly hall north of the classrooms, a former cloakroom and a classroom addition to the east. There is a toilet block to the west. Some of the original spaces have been subdivided into smaller spaces. For example the eastern classroom has been divided into four rooms and the main assembly hall has been divided to create a corridor along its southern side. The original structure walls are plastered brickworks with glass faced cement render below dado level in former service rooms such as cloak rooms.

Room 1, which was once a classroom, has been divided into four rooms with lightweight partitions. The floors are carpeted timber with a fireplace and surround located in the south east corner of the room. The windows facing Newcastle Street have been double glazed. The original ceiling has been concealed by a mini-strip acoustic ceiling.

Room 2 is the entrance hall. The floors are carpeted timber with a quad at the perimeter skirting. Matchboard and glazed partitions separate this room from the adjacent rooms to the north and west. It has a dropped ceiling and a framed and boarded entrance door. The walls are plastered, and have an incised dado.

Room 3 was the original boys' entrance, and later converted to a lavatory, and subsequently, office. The floors are carpeted timber with a quad at the perimeter. This room has a ripple iron ceiling and the walls are plastered with an incised dado. Air conditioning ducting is suspended from the ceiling.

Rooms 4, 6 and 7 were classrooms and are still used for teaching. The floors are carpeted timber with a quad at the perimeter. The rooms have two pane and panel door with diagonal matchboarding panels. These rooms have plasterboard and cover batten ceilings and the walls are plastered with an incised dado. The remaining fireplaces have been blocked in. A masonry wall separating rooms 6 and 7 has been removed and subsequently replaced with a plasterboard partition wall in the same location.

Room 5 was the schoolroom, and later assembly hall, but has been divided to provide a corridor along its southern side, and the space is still used for teaching. The floors are carpeted timber with a quad at the perimeter. This room has a richly detailed coffered plaster ceiling and the walls are plastered with an incised dado. Partitions are timber framed, clad and part glazed. The formation of the corridor includes a mezzanine level floor, which makes the

corridor ceiling height quite restricted. The fireplace, now part of the corridor, has been blocked in.

Room 8 is an entrance hall and contains a timber stair with simply treated square newels and balusters. The stair is simply treated and has had some repairs to the balustrade to stiffen the section near the bottom of the flight. The underside of the stair is enclosed for storage. The floors are carpeted timber with a quad at the perimeter and the room has a two pane and panel door with diagonal matchboarding panels to the adjacent classroom and a glazed screen to the southern exterior wall. This room has a plasterboard ceiling and the walls are plastered with an incised dado.

Room 9 is a former cloakroom, now used for printing and to provide access to toilets that are a later addition on the site of the original girls' and infants' entrance. The floors are vinyl-covered timber with a quad at the perimeter skirtings. This room has a plasterboard ceiling and the walls are plastered with an incised dado. The room is divided up with a linkmesh screen wall to secure the printing equipment and materials.

Room 10 is the ladies toilets, which have terrazzo floors, partitions, glass faced cement render wall and a flush ceiling. There are fixed glass louvred windows in the north wall. Room 13 on the first floor has matching treatments.

At first floor level, rooms 12, 16 and 17 were classrooms and are still used for teaching. The floors are carpeted timber with a quad at the perimeter. Each room has a two-pane and panel door and a fireplace, but all of the fireplaces have been blocked in. Rooms 12 and 17 have plasterboard and cover batten ceilings and the walls are plastered with an incised dado. Room 16 has a cathedral ceiling with detailed timber and tie rod trusses, which are exposed below the ceiling level. The trusses are an elegantly resolved element and a fine feature of the first floor level. There are benches and sinks in each room and some perimeter benching that would appear to be very recent.

The present room 15 was the science room for the Junior Technical School and a corridor, and these two spaces have been combined. A partitioned room has been created in the south-west corner of the room. The floor is carpeted timber with a quad at the perimeter. It has a cathedral ceiling, the same as room 16, with detailed timber and tie rod trusses which are exposed below the ceiling level.

Room 14, a former cloakroom, has plasterboard ceilings with a cove cornice, with wall vents, and incised dado and built-in benches. Room 18, a former teacher's room, is very simply treated with face painted brickwork walls, a partition wall to the corridor to the south, a plasterboard ceiling with cove cornice, and a fireplace and mantle with the firebox blocked in.

The building was built in stages as noted in the documentary evidence and each stage is clearly discernible in the minor construction differences between each stage.

The fabric has been poorly treated in some respects. There is some deterioration in the masonry externally, but the interiors are quite badly damaged by alterations in some parts of the building.

## **Former Newcastle Street Infants' School**

### **Externally**

The former Newcastle Street Infants' School is a single storey building with a basement level constructed in limestone, with a Marseilles pattern tiled roof in

the Federation Arts and Crafts style.<sup>147</sup> The building is asymmetrical on the southern or main frontage and an ABA rhythm pattern rear elevation. The southern elevation is the most impressive with its tuck-pointed limestone plinth wall, well-built brickwork over and tiled gabled roof form.

The south elevation has a basement storey constructed of limestone with tuck-pointed joints. The arches are flat and the openings are filled with glazing and matchboard panels, some of which are badly damaged by termite activity. The elevation is predominantly a brick and window composition. The walls are laid in stretcher bond brickwork, with stucco string courses and lintels. The windows at this level are double hung sashes with hopper lights over them. There is a stair on the western side of the elevation and a stair on the southern elevation. The original sections to the west and south (Rooms 1-5) are Flemish-bond brickwork and the additions to the east are laid in stretcherbond. The building has a gable roof with Marseilles pattern tiles replacing shingles. Tall chimneys are a feature of the roof to this building. It has a stucco string course and two pane double hung sash windows with hoppers over them.

The rear and side elevation treatments follow the same pattern.

### **Internally**

The building is composed of two sets of rooms running along either side of an east-west dividing wall. The original portion of the building lies to the west, while Rooms 6 and 7 are later additions. Three former classrooms run along the northern side, while the former assembly hall (Room 3) and the Drawing Room are the major rooms on the southern side. Room 5 has been subdivided into smaller spaces, while the former assembly hall has been extended east as part of the Room 7 additions. Stairs provide entry to the building from the east, west and south.

Room 1 has vinyl covered timber floors, perimeter quads, and a ripple iron ceiling. It has two pane and two panel doors, two pane double hung sash windows, and some basic kitchen fittings. This room was a lavatory or washroom, but there is no evidence of its former function.

Room 2 is a former classroom and is now used essentially for storage. The floors are 3" (75mm) wide timber boards with a quad at the perimeter. The walls are plastered with an incised dado. The masonry wall between Rooms 2 and 5 was removed in 1928 and has since been replaced with a stud wall in the same location. It has a ripple iron ceiling and this ceiling treatment extends through the remainder of the rooms, with the exception of Room 7. The walls are plastered with an incised dado.

Room 3, the former assembly hall, is now a studio and is painted out a very dark grey, making a proper inspection difficult. However, the treatments are the same as Room 2, except that the room has a centrally located chimney breast. The fireplace is blocked in and the mantle has been removed. This room has a ripple iron ceiling, with ceiling ventilators, and the walls are plastered with an incised dado. All windows have been blocked in, and there is a suspended ceiling grid for mounting the lighting and sound equipment associated with the studio.

Room 4 is a minor room and was not inspected as no key could be found for access at the time.

Room 5 was originally a classroom and retains the same features as the

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<sup>147</sup> *ibid.*

adjoining room 2, but the volume of the room has been changed by its division into a number of smaller rooms. These have been created by the use of lightly constructed timber framed partitions.

Room 6 was constructed in the Technical School era and was designed to match in with Room 2 in an architectural sense. The internal treatments are somewhat different. It has a vinyl covered timber floor, plasterboard and cover batten ceiling, cast plaster ceiling vents and a corner fireplace, which remains complete. Its styling is much more in the Inter War idiom.

Room 7, a former Drawing Room for the Technical School, has 6.5" wandoo floors, a quad skirting, ceiling and vents similar to Room 6 and a fireplace without its mantle. The doors are flush panel and the northern door opening is a later addition.

There are three spaces under the building, with the western space being the original section, previously used as a play area. It has granolithic floors, limestone walls and the soffit is unlined, revealing the floor structure of steel bearers, timber joists and floorboards.

The exteriors of the buildings have received continuous basic maintenance and are in fair condition, with some local mortar erosion and evidence of termite damage. The interiors have been treated in a cavalier fashion and many changes have been made to them for adaptive purposes. Many of the changes have not been well considered and have diminished the authenticity of the interiors. Walls and details have been removed in successive campaigns with little regard for design. Many of these changes were poorly constructed and are now in poor condition, whereas the underlying structure is in fair to good condition. Both buildings started with shingle roofs and these have since been replaced with Marseilles pattern tiles, which are out of scale with the roofscape.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The plan form of the Newcastle Street School was typical of its time, although its two-storey format was rare; to date only part of Victoria Park Primary School has been identified as a two-storey primary school within the State. The separate entries for boys, girls and infants was a contemporary standard pattern. The school hall as the central element was the norm, with classrooms located along one of more sides of the hall. Lavatories or washrooms were integral with the school building and toilets were located away from the main core in the school grounds. Many of the detailed elements were based on standard plans and detail sheets and can be seen at a number of locations.

The Infants' School was one of the earliest purpose built schools of its type. Infants' Schools were introduced in the 1890s as part of the changes to the Education Act, and with the introduction of compulsory education. These changes included an emphasis on the introduction of education for infants.

Many schools were built in the late 1890s and the early part of the twentieth century as a result of the great expansion in population. This school was somewhat unusual in that its expansion included the addition of a whole first floor. Modifications to allow the place to become a Junior Technical School in 1928 were also not common. These kinds of changes took place at *Princess May Girls' School* in Fremantle and the former Bunbury Boys' School. Further changes were made in the 1960s and later. Many schools remain with comparatively little change.

The place may be compared with *Claremont Primary School Precinct*, which comprises Claremont Primary School (1893), the former Claremont School of Art (formerly Infants' School; 1903), former painting studio (formerly Claremont Household Management Centre; 1908), two pavilion classrooms, several free standing classrooms, ancillary buildings including toilets and stores on a landscaped site of approximately two hectares.

#### **13.4 REFERENCES**

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#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Further research may reveal information about the removal of other buildings once located at the place, including St. John's Church of England Day School (Assisted), the galvanised iron classroom, and the blacksmith's shop.

Additional research may also reveal information about the unspecified additions to Newcastle Street School, for which the contract was awarded in December 1902, at a cost of £513 5s; and details of any former teachers or students who have been significant in the history of Western Australia.

To date, little documentary evidence has been located regarding changes wrought in the post World War Two period, and further research may reveal more information about the place in the period.