



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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)

- 3.26.2 Providing hospital services

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 108 Government Policy
- 402 Education and science
- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct contains a range of buildings with varying degrees of architectural value, each of which is characteristic of its period of development. Kirkman House, Administration Building, and Cancer Clinic have high architectural value. (Criterion 1.2)

The various architectural styles employed at *Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct* demonstrate the progression and development of State Government architecture and style from 1855 through to the 1930s. (Criterion 1.2)

In conjunction with the Moreton Bay Fig Tree, Kirkman House and Administration Building have significant landmark value and together form a significant streetscape. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct has been the premier site of health care delivery in Western Australia since 1855, and contains the first purpose-built hospital in the State. (Criterion 2.1)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct is indicative of the social and economic development of Western Australia since 1855. The continual development of the site reflects the growth and development of the State from a British Colony through to the Granting of Responsible Government, Federation and into the twenty first century. (Criterion 2.1)

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct demonstrates changes in medical practice and health care in Western Australia over time as reflected in the different application of architecture and designs, in particular the growth in importance of nurses', as seen with the construction and later extension of Kirkman House. (Criterion 2.2)

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct is associated with many doctors, nurses, board members, administrators, voluntary workers, benevolent contributors, politicians, architects, and patients. (Criterion 2.3)

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct is associated with a number of significant Government Architects, including James Austin and Richard Roach Jewell (Colonial Hospital), George Temple Poole (Administration Building), Hillson Beasley (Kirkman House), William B Hardwick (Old Kitchen, Nurses' Quarters Extension), A.E.'Paddy' Clare (Outpatients Extension), and John Tait (Cancer Clinic). (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct has the potential, through archaeological investigation to reveal further information about structures, both temporary and permanent, which once operated as part of the hospital, but which have been removed or demolished and no above ground fabric remains. Investigation may reveal further information about, in particular, the operation of the hospital prior to the twentieth century, when the site was relatively undeveloped. (Criterion 3.2)

Changes in medical practice, often in response to technological advances, are demonstrated in the fabric of *Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct*. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct has significance to those nurses who developed their professional status and/or worked at the site. Similarly, the medical profession has a close association with the place as a teaching hospital and a place of work. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct is rare in Western Australia for containing a number of purpose-built buildings, which have been adapted with continual use in the context of an evolving teaching hospital. (Criteria 5.1 & 5.2)

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct demonstrates a distinctive way of life which is no longer practiced, where medical professionals lived at the hospital site. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct is representative of Government public hospitals that have evolved over the years to meet the changing medical needs of the public. (Criteria 6.1 & 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct is, for the most part, in good condition. Regular maintenance, repair and occasional restoration have ensured that the various buildings are in good order.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct has high integrity.

Even though some elements been adapted to suit a different purpose, *Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct* continues to function as a working hospital.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct has a moderate degree of authenticity.

Many of the more recent interventions on the site appear reversible and the original fabric, including much of that of the original Colonial Hospital, is clearly discernable in the various buildings.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by the State Heritage Office, with amendments and/or additions by the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE¹

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct comprises Colonial Hospital (1855) with Outpatients' Extension (1923), *Administration Building* (1894), *Kirkman House* (1908-09) with Nurses' Quarters Extension (1926), Old Kitchen (1909), Cancer Clinic (1930), Moreton Bay Fig Tree (c.1900) and associated gardens, as defined in HCWA Curtilage Drawing 4289.

From the beginning of the Swan River Colony, it was accepted that the Government would bear some responsibility for the provision of medical and hospital services,² in contrast to Melbourne and Adelaide where these services had been founded on the basis of private philanthropy.³ Governor Stirling clearly envisaged a hospital being established even before landing as his instructions to the Colonial Surgeon on patient treatment were dependent on the provision of a hospital.⁴ The Colonial Surgeon was to be based at the Colonial Hospital, from where he would also guide the medical profession in the colony.

However, for a long time there was a fundamental philosophical difference between successive Colonial Surgeons, who believed that the hospital should be for the wider public good, and the Government, who believed it was primarily for the poor and destitute. This difference had a profound effect on the development of the Colonial Hospital, and attitudes towards it through to the 20th century.⁵

Several hospitals, some very temporary and others in buildings adapted for this purpose, opened and closed at various locations during the 1830s and 40s, largely because of the overall precarious state of the Colony. In 1850 the scandalous conditions of the Colonial Hospital (at this time located in a leased building on Irwin Street) was recognised, and spurred Governor Hutt to establish Western Australia's first purpose-built hospital. Hutt chose for the new hospital to be sited at an elevated and accessible position to the east of the Colony's main settlement, and resumed an area of land between Goderich Street (now Murray Street), Victoria Square, Lord Street and Wellington Street for the erection of a new Colonial Hospital.⁶

Plans for the new **Colonial Hospital** (north-west portion of 'N' Block) were drawn up in 1852 by James Austin, the Superintendent of Public Works.

1 The names of extant buildings within this precinct have been highlighted in bold.

2 Bolton, G. C. & Joske, Prue, *History of Royal Perth Hospital* (Perth: Royal Perth Hospital, 1982), p. 1.

3 *Ibid.* p. 2.

4 *Ibid.* p. 3.

5 Considine and Griffiths Pty Ltd Architecture, 'Royal Perth Hospital Group: Conservation Plan' (September 1995), p. 3.

6 Bolton, G. C. & Joske, Prue, *History of Royal Perth Hospital* (1982), p. 14.

Austin was succeeded by Richard Roach Jewell in 1853, who is also thought to have influenced the final design of the building.⁷

Construction of the Colonial Hospital was delayed due to a shortage of skilled manpower and materials. The situation was only relieved once convicts were deployed on the construction of public buildings in 1853.⁸ The Colonial Hospital finally opened in 1855. It was a two-storey pavilion-style building fronting Goderich Street with an imposing entrance at one end and wards at the other. Apart from the entrance, the building was surrounded by verandahs. The wards were compartmented, with small groups of patients in separate confined spaces. The basement contained the kitchen, scullery, and stores, as well as cells for 'lunatics' that were added late in the design at the Government's insistence.⁹ Unlike previous Colonial Hospitals, the new establishment did not admit Aboriginal patients.¹⁰

As a Government hospital, rather than one run by a private board with a vested interest in increasing patronage, there was little incentive or money to improve infrastructure or patient care at the Colonial Hospital. Between 1855 and 1890, the only structures to be erected at the hospital site were a mortuary in 1857 and an isolated infectious disease ward in 1885,¹¹ which put pressure on the hospitals services.

The pressure on the Colonial Hospital was slightly relieved with the construction of a hospital in Fremantle in 1883; however it increased once again during the 1890s after the discoveries of gold at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie led to a dramatic increase in the Colony's population. In 1892, funding was allocated to extend accommodation at the Colonial Hospital; however this did not eventuate due to shortages of building materials and tradesmen.¹²

The 1890s also brought significant changes to the management, administration and size of the Colonial Hospital, particularly due to the granting of Responsible Government in 1890. In the mid-1890s, the hospital was retitled Perth Public Hospital, which recognised the change in Government, as well as identifying the intention for hospital to cater exclusively for those who were not in a position to afford private hospital care.¹³

In 1894, Premier John Forrest introduced the *Hospital Bill*, which clarified the financial and management structure for all public hospitals in the State. The *Hospital Bill*, modelled on South Australian legislation, stated that public hospitals would be maintained by Government funding, with additional revenue provided through public subscription.

Perth Public Hospital underwent a significant program of expansion during the 1890s, starting in 1894 with construction of a new **Administration Building**

7 Considine and Griffiths, 'Royal Perth Hospital Group: Conservation Plan' (1995), p. 3.

8 Bolton, G. C. & Joske, Prue, *History of Royal Perth Hospital* (1982), p. 14.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid. p. 22.

11 Ibid. pp. 20, 37-38

12 Ibid. pp. 48-49.

13 Ibid. p. 55.

('M' Block). The building, which was designed by George Temple Poole and built by prominent local builder Robert Bunning, was a highly ornate brick four-storey Federation Queen Anne style building, which differed from the existing Colonial Hospital is style, in order to distinguish it as an office and quarters rather than a treatment building. Ground floor plans of the building dated 1898 show it was joined to the western corner towers of the Colonial Hospital by two gangways.¹⁴

By 1898, a new large surgical wing (known as Block A) had been constructed to the north-east of the site. This three-storey building accommodated three wards, including one specifically for children and another for women, a modern, well-equipped operating theatre, a bacteriological laboratory, and X-ray facilities.¹⁵ The building had been designed according to principles of the 'Nightingale Ward', which dictated the ideal dimensions of wards including ceiling and window heights, the specific ratio of beds to windows, ventilation measures, and the positioning of the nurses' stations.

Block A provided the blueprint for the design of Block B (1904-06) and Block C (1920-23). The location of these buildings had all been anticipated in the site plan of 1897, which allowed for garden space between the buildings.¹⁶ Block A was demolished in 1939 for the present 'A' Block which is not part of this precinct. Both B and C Blocks remain extant but are also not part of this precinct.

Also in 1906, alterations were carried out to original Colonial Hospital, which adapted it to function as an outpatient's facility. These alterations were carried out to the design of Hillson Beasley.

Three years later, in 1909, purpose-built nurses' quarters were added to the hospital site, in the form of the four-storey Federation Queen Anne **Kirkman House** ('K' Block).

From the late 1890s and into the early 1900s, the number of nurses working at the hospital had increased due to the introduction of a two-year nursing certification program in 1896. While living conditions for nurses at the hospital had always been poor, as they were accommodated in the basements of the Colonial Hospital and Block A, it wasn't until nursing numbers surged towards the end of the 1900s that a new nurses' home was proposed.¹⁷

The Nurses' Quarters, more commonly known as Kirkman House after Annie Kirkman the first nurse to become a certified nurse through the hospital's certification program, was also designed by Hillson Beasley. The building provided accommodation for 100 nurses, each with their own bed-sitting room with new furniture, a large lounge-recreation room, a dining room that could be used as a hall, lecture rooms and a study.

As the standard of food at Perth Public Hospital had long been criticised, a new hospital kitchen was constructed in 1909 to the rear of the Administration

14 Considine and Griffiths, 'Royal Perth Hospital Group: Conservation Plan' (1995), p. 6.

15 Bolton, G. C. & Joske, Prue, *History of Royal Perth Hospital* (1982), pp. 58-59. and Van Bremen. Ingrid H., *The New Architecture of the Gold Boom in Western Australia Government Buildings under the direction of G. T. Poole, 1885-1897*, (University of Western Australia, 1990), p. 305.

16 Considine and Griffiths, 'Royal Perth Hospital Group: Conservation Plan' (1995), p. 40.

17 Bolton, G. C. & Joske, Prue, *History of Royal Perth Hospital* (1982), pp. 52, 78.

Building. This building, which was designed by William B Hardwick, is referred to as **Old Kitchen** ('L' Block). It was built with many modern conveniences including a granolithic floor that could be easily washed and drained.¹⁸

Following the end of World War One, the hospital was under increased pressure to provide rehabilitation treatment for returned servicemen. The State and Commonwealth Governments came to a financial arrangement resulting in the erection of a new large rehabilitation wing, a large outpatients department, and additional nurses' accommodation.¹⁹

Commonwealth funds financed extensions to the Colonial Hospital and to Kirkman House.

In 1926, the original Colonial Hospital building was enclosed by an extension to the south and east to create an outpatients department.²⁰ This addition was designed by the PWD Architect A.E. 'Paddy' Clare and is known as **Outpatients' Extension**.

Also in 1926, the nurses' building had become insufficient for the ever growing number of nurses accommodated onsite, and was extended to the north. This extension, which another designed of William B Hardwick, is identified as **Nurses' Quarters Extension**.

During the 1920s the hospital experienced increased pressure to provide facilities for the treatment of cancer, and in 1928 appealed to the public for monetary donations towards a Cancer Clinic.²¹ Following a number of generous donation, a purpose-built **Cancer Clinic** ('P' Block) was constructed at the hospital in 1930. The three-storey red brick classically-styled building was designed by the PWD Architect John Tait and housed the Department of Radiology and treated cancer patients.²²

During the second half of the twentieth century, a number of buildings included within *Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct* underwent alterations, often to adapt the building for another hospital function. The hospital's role as a teaching hospital played a particularly important role in the evolution of *Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct* and adaptation of individual buildings.

Alterations were carried out to the Old Kitchen ('L' Block) during the 1960s to convert it for use as a nurses' lecture hall, and in the early 1970s, Kirkman House and the Nurses' Quarters Extension ceased to function for nurse accommodation and was remodelled into offices.²³

The hospital continued to grow through the remainder of the twentieth-century, with the erection of the A Block from 1939 (on the site of the demolished Block A), the construction of 'D' Block in c.1950 (not the proposed 'Nightingale Ward' Block D, but a salmon face brick laundry and engineering

18 Bolton, G. C. & Joske, Prue, *History of Royal Perth Hospital* (1982), p. 79.

19 Ibid. p. 101.

20 Considine and Griffiths, 'Royal Perth Hospital Group: Conservation Plan' (1995), p. 71.

21 Bolton, G. C. & Joske, Prue, *History of Royal Perth Hospital* (1982), p. 107, and 'Cancer Treatment: Appeal for Clinic. State Wide Service', *The West Australian*, 5 November 1928, p.13.

22 Considine and Griffiths, 'Royal Perth Hospital Group: Conservation Plan' (1995), p. 66.

23 Ibid. p. 72.

building), a Resident Medical Officer's Quarters ('H' Block) in 1966, Ainslie House ('H Block') in 1966, the Emergency Centre ('Q' Block) from 1969, Jewell House nurses' residential accommodation in 1971, 'R' Block from 1975 and the Medical Research Foundation ('G1' Block) in 1993. In addition, the hospital acquired a number of neighbouring properties, including the former Electrical Sub-station ('E' Block), the former Government Stores ('I' Block), and Medical Clinic Facility ('G2' Block).²⁴ None of these buildings are included as part of *Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Group*.

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct continues to function for medical purposes today.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

The information in this section is based on the *Royal Perth Hospital Precinct Conservation Plan* by Considine & Griffiths Architects (1995) and the individual register entries for the *Administration Building* (1992) and *Kirkman House* (1992), with additional information from site inspections by staff from the State Heritage Office.

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Group comprises Colonial Hospital (1855) with Outpatients' Extension (1923), *Administration Building* (1894), *Kirkman House* (1908-09) with Nurses' Quarters Extension (1926), Old Kitchen (1909), Cancer Clinic (1930), Moreton Bay Fig Tree (c.1900) and associated gardens.

Colonial Hospital (1855) with Outpatients Extension (1923) ('N' Block)

The Colonial Hospital is a two-storey face brick building with timber floors and balustrade details and an iron roof. The north face including the verandah are most intact. The building had square towers on each corner that contain narrow rectangular windows set in arched recesses. The northeast of these is still visible. Internally, although the building has undergone many changes, much of the original fabric is still evident. The two-storey latrine extension to the north-east appears to be externally intact.

The Outpatients Extension Building is a single-storey brick and tile extension that wraps around the front and east sides of the Colonial Hospital and subsumed its ground floor verandahs. The building is highly intact, including the large barrel-vaulted waiting hall that links the two buildings. Externally, the face brick is rough-cast above dado level and 12 pane double-hung windows run along the two street frontages giving the building a strong visual rhythm. As the ground slopes down along Murray Street to the west, there are also semi-basement windows. The original entries on both frontages are extant and identified by suspended flat awnings and steps up to double doors. The eaves are detailed with exposed rafters.

Administration Building (1894) ('M' Block)

The *Administration Building* is an ornate richly articulated four-storey red brick and tile building in the Federation Queen Anne style. It features a dominant elevated first floor entry set under a faceted bay window accessed by a split stone staircase. There are decorative stepped stair windows on the west elevation and tall chimneys and dormer windows in the roof. The garden is an

²⁴ Considine and Griffiths, 'Royal Perth Hospital Group: Conservation Plan' (1995), pp. 61-71.

important component of the scale and character of the building.

Kirkman House (1908-09) with Nurses' Quarters Extension (1926) ('K' Block) and Moreton Bay Fig Tree (c.1900s)

Kirkman House is a four-storey Federation Queen Anne style building which compliments the Administration Building to its east. The building is more restrained in its decorative elements than the Administration Building, but does incorporate a striking a three-storey verandah on its front façade.

A four-storey red brick utilitarian structure, referred to as Nurses' Quarters Extension, was added to the rear of Kirkman House in 1926. The addition included additional nurses' accommodation as well as a lecture and sewing room.

A Moreton Bay Fig Tree, planted in c.1900, dominates the front view of Kirkman House, and is considered to have landmark value.

Old Kitchen (1909) ('L' Block)

The Old Kitchen is a single-storey double-volume purpose-built kitchen facility, later converted into a nurses' lecture hall. The building is constructed of brick with an iron clad roof, which originally comprised a large industrial kitchen, as well as a number of store rooms. The building has undergone little alteration, although a number of doors and windows have been inserted into the ground floor fabric, the building is generally authentic.

Cancer Clinic (1930) ('P' Block)

The three-storey classically-styled Cancer Clinic building is constructed of red brick and concrete with a hip tiled roof. At the centre of the building is a lightwell, surrounded by a waiting room, x-ray rooms, film developing rooms and storerooms. Despite the introduction of air conditioning unit to the top of some of the windows, the building is noted to be generally intact and the majority of alterations reversible.

Associated gardens

Gardens to the south of the *Administration Building* and *Kirkman House* are noted to be an important component of *Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Group*.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Architects Associated with Royal Perth Hospital

In reflection of the importance of Royal Perth Hospital to the State of Western Australia, the architects engaged for the design of its buildings were the most prominent Government Architects of the day, either being the Superintendent of Public Works, Clerk of Works for the Colonial Works Office or the Principal Architects of the Public Works Department.

Government Architects involved with the design of *Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct*, include James Austin and Richard Roach Jewell (Colonial Hospital), George Temple Poole (Administration Building), Hillson Beasley (Kirkman House), William B Hardwick (Old Kitchen, Nurses' Quarters Extension), A.E.'Paddy' Clare (Outpatients Extension), and John Tait (Cancer Clinic).

This group of architects were also responsible for some of Western Australia's most notable Government buildings, including:

- P2117 *Old Perth Boy's School* (1853) and Fremantle Boy's School (1854) (registered as P842 *Film and Television Insitute*) - James Austin.
- P2119 *The Cloisters*, Perth (1858) and Pensioner Barracks, Perth (1863) (registered as P2120 *Barracks Arch*).- Richard Roach Jewell.
- P1973 *Central Government Offices*, Perth (1874) - Richard Roach Jewell, George Temple Poole, Hillson Beasley.
- P3470 *Government Printing Offices (fmr)*, Perth (1894) - George Temple Poole, Hillson Beasley, William B. Hardwick.
- P1979 *Perth General Post Office* (1914-23) – Hillson Beasley (with Commonwealth architect John Smith Murdoch).
- P2173 *Perth Girls School (fmr)*, (1936) - A.E. 'Paddy' Clare (with PWD architects Len Green and Len Walters).

Western Australian and Australian Hospitals

The majority of Australian Hospitals followed the English funding model, whereby subscribers who contributed an annual payment were entitled to elect the hospital's management committee and nominate patients for admission. This system had originated as an insurance policy, so that sick apprentices and employees could be treated without exposing the household to unlimited expense. Although inappropriate for Australian social conditions, Melbourne, Adelaide and several other Australian cities adopted the subscriber system as a way of absolving the government from responsibility for funding hospitals.

Although Royal Perth Hospital received the majority of its income from the Government, for some years, the existence of subscriber funding meant that it was inadequately supported. By 1901, the Hospital operated on a budget of £10,000 a year, of which private donations accounted for only two percent, and patients' fees another three per cent. The remainder was contributed by the State Government.²⁵

The planning of Geraldton Hospital (now *Bill Sewell Complex*) and Fremantle Hospital reflect the philosophy and approach taken at Perth Public Hospital. However, by the time the new A Block was constructed in 1937-1948, Royal Perth Hospital was the leading hospital in the State and was in line with current developments, while Geraldton and Fremantle continued to function in late 19th century buildings until the 1960s.

Hospitals in other states comparable to *Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct* include:

General (Rum) Hospital, Sydney (1811-16): one of the major public works constructed under Governor Lachlan Macquarie and one of the oldest surviving buildings in Australia. Two storeys, the place is sandstone in the

²⁵ Bolton, G. C. & Joske, Prue, *History of Royal Perth Hospital* (1982), pp. 15-16, 39-40, 67-68.

Old Colonial Georgian style and has a colonnaded timber verandah to Macquarie Street.

Macquarie, on his arrival in the colony in 1810, discovered that the town hospital consisted of tents and temporary buildings in the notorious 'Rocks' area. Macquarie set aside land on the western edge of the Government Domain for a new hospital. Although plans were drawn up, the British Government refused funds for the project. Consequently, Macquarie entered into a contract with a consortium of businessmen to erect a new hospital. In exchange the consortium received a monopoly on rum imports, convict labour and supplies. In the end, however, the hospital did not turn out to be very profitable for the contractors.

Up to the late 1830s, hospitals in the colony were free to settlers, soldiers and convicts. However, the colonists realised that the British Government would not continue to support free health care, and so various charitable institutions came into existence. By the 1830s, private benevolence had become a permanent feature of colonial society. By the mid-19th century, the subscriber system was firmly established.

In 1843, the General Hospital was handed over to the Sydney Dispensary and in time the whole complex became Sydney Hospital.

Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Melbourne: Melbourne Hospital was established in 1846, and it is possible that some of the original hospital buildings may survive within the existing complex.

In 1841, a group of influential citizens, headed by Charles La Trobe, who later became the hospital's President, called for a public meeting to discuss the urgent need for an enlarged public hospital. At this meeting a provisional committee was formed, with the aim to raise £800 for a building fund. A year later only £300 had been collected.

In 1845, after two unsuccessful applications, the Committee was able to claim a Government subsidy of £1000 for the building of the hospital. At this time the Government also granted a site for the hospital. In March 1846, the foundation stone of Melbourne Hospital was laid by the Mayor of Melbourne.

In 1847, subscribers elected the hospital's doctors, and in March 1848 it opened its doors to the public. Disbursements for the year were £576 and receipts were £1016, making an end of year surplus of £439.

Most of the present buildings date from a 1910 scheme, designed on a pavilion principle with a long central corridor. In 1946 Melbourne Hospital moved to Parkville and Queen Victoria Hospital took over the site.

Royal Adelaide Hospital Historic Buildings Group: Royal Adelaide Hospital was founded in 1841, and was originally known as the Adelaide Hospital. The first building on this site was opened in 1855, however the hospital's 19th century buildings have been demolished and the oldest remaining buildings date from the early 20th century.

Cooktown Hospital (fmr), Cooktown: Built in 1879, the hospital was extended two years later, and is extremely simple with male and female wards placed to each side of a central administration area. Over the central administration

area, a second storey (formerly staff quarters) is believed to have originally been an isolation ward for fever cases.

There are 182 places associated with hospitals on the State Heritage Office database, of which 34 are entered in the Register. Of these, only four were constructed before 1900 in the Metropolitan area. The most comparable of these are:

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women (1897): A large complex of hospital related buildings built over an extensive period since 1897, rendered in a diverse range of architectural styles that reflect the time span over which the place was constructed. It was the State's first public maternity hospital, and since 1916 has been developed to provide for the health-care needs of women and neonates, and also developed as a major teaching hospital.

The Knowle, Fremantle (1853): A distinctively shaped two-storey building within the Fremantle Hospital grounds. Last used as a private residence in 1867, the building fell into some disrepair before being rescued when the Forrest Government turned it into Fremantle Hospital. The immediate changes brought about by this adaptation followed the principles of the original design, with the exception of the broad verandahs which are now characteristic of the place.

Woodside Hospital (1897): Originally an imposing Federation Free Classical style two-storey brick and rendered town house, it is now converted into a maternity hospital. Not really comparable as not purpose built and, unlike *The Knowle*, not showing substantial external signs of adaptation.

Other hospitals include *Swanbourne Hospital Site (1904)*, *St John of God Memorial Hospital (1920)*, *Kensington Hospital, Subiaco (1922)*, *Lemnos Hospital (1926)*, *Perth Dental Hospital (1926)*, *Heathcote Hospital (1929)*, *Hollywood Hospital (1942)*, and *QEll Medical Centre (1958)*.

Royal Perth Hospital Heritage Precinct is unique in Western Australia as the oldest hospital complex in continuous use, and is one of the oldest hospitals in continuous use in Australia.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Bolton, G. C. & Joske, Prue, *History of Royal Perth Hospital* (Royal Perth Hospital: 1982).

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, *Royal Perth Hospital Precinct Conservation Plan* (1995).

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
