



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)

- 3.24.2 Providing hospital services
- 9. 1.2 Promoting mothers' and babies' health.
- 9. 5.2 Looking after the infirm and the aged.

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities
- 408 Institution

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Wearne Hostel is significant in exhibiting the aesthetic characteristics of the Federation Queen Anne style. The individual elements constructed between 1897 and 1909 make an increasingly exuberant use of the elements of the style. Many of the interior spaces have fine aesthetic qualities. (Criterion 1.1)

Wearne Hostel is an eclectic assemblage of Federation Queen Anne style elements sited to take advantage of the site contours and the seaside location and creatively exploits all of these attributes to make a rich and finely crafted overall composition in its open setting. (Criterion 1.2)

Wearne Hostel has a landmark quality at the corner of Marine Parade and Warton Street Cottesloe, and is an integral part of the vista in this locality. Cottesloe is a distinctive section of Metropolitan beach frontage. The remaining mature plantings contribute to its landmark quality. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Wearne Hostel, in its role as the M. C. L. Convalescent Home and later as the M. L. C. Home, was one of the largest and most successful philanthropic institutions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It was founded and principally funded by the Ministering Children's League, and it provided a most necessary service to the people of this State for almost 60 years; and in particular, to those from the Goldfields in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It provided services also to women, for whom there

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from 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.

were few medical facilities available prior to the construction of King Edward Memorial Hospital in 1916. (Criterion 2.2)

Subsequently, as the Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe it provided health care services. (Criterion 2.2)

As *Wearne Hostel* it provides service for the Frail Aged. (Criterion 2.2)

Wearne Hostel was constructed during the Western Australian gold boom period, and extended in the early years of the twentieth century, to provide much needed services to those in need of convalescent care. (Criterion 2.2)

In 1984, during the mining boom of the 1980s, major alterations and additions were made to convert the earlier buildings and to develop *Wearne Hostel* for the frail aged. (Criterion 2.2)

Wearne Hostel has been closely associated with a number of prominent persons. Lady Meath, English founder of the Ministering Children's League, is commemorated in the Meath Wing, along with Mrs. Waylen and Walter Padbury, whose bequests were commemorated in the wards named after them. Others include among its founders and lifelong supporters, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Holmes, treasurer and secretary, and their daughters, Phoebe and Emmie; Lady Onslow, patroness and president of the Management Committee; and P. W. Harrison, Architect, who designed all the buildings constructed at the place 1897-1909. (Criterion 2.3)

Wearne Hostel was closely associated with the wives of all the Governors of Western Australia in the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, especially Lady Lawley; as well as with Edith Cowan, Lady Mitchell, John Tonkin and others too numerous to mention. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Wearne Hostel has demonstrable potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the human occupation of the State, in particular, the development of services for the ill and the frail aged. Archaeological values are relevant to the conservation of the particular site, rather than of a wider interest. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Wearne Hostel is highly valued by the community of Western Australia for social and cultural reasons for the important and highly significant role it has played in the health and ancillary services in this State. (Criterion 4.1)

Wearne Hostel is highly valued by the community of Western Australia for aesthetic reasons, as a fine building and part of a recognised vista by the ocean at Cottesloe Beach. (Criterion 4.1)

Wearne Hostel contributes to the community's sense of place, as a landmark in Cottesloe, by the Indian Ocean, and as a place which has benefited many Western Australians over a period of more than a century. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Wearne Hostel is rare as an early and large cottage style convalescent home. It is representative of a building type and mode of health care that is no longer practised. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Wearne Hostel is fine example of the use of the Federation Queen Anne style architecture, which was deliberately chosen to produce a cottage atmosphere for patients. It is representative of a number of health care and ancillary facilities established in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is representative of the philosophy of the location of such facilities by the sea or on high sites to obtain benefit from the fresh air and breezes. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

The fabric remains in sufficiently good condition to properly represent its aesthetic, historic and social values. Most of the cumulative maintenance has been appropriate with the exception of the covering in of verandahs and the alteration of ground levels on the northern side of the buildings. Many of the problems that are impacting on the fabric are the result of works carried out in the post 1980 period. General up keep is good, though endemic problems in the lower ground floor and basement areas have caused them to remain unused or underutilized. Verandahs on the western and south-western sides are in a parlous state. Overall the place varies from very good to very poor condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The precise nature of the original intent is no longer readily legible, though the general intent of the cottage hospital environment remains apparent. Some rooms and spaces do retain their original intent. Generally the hostel use is compatible, though some of the adaptations to achieve the required standards of accommodation have been harsh on the significant fabric. The use has considerable capacity to sustain heritage values. Overall the place retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Much of the original fabric of each of the stages of construction remains in place and intact. Some detail has been lost and a number of rooms have been partitioned for alternative uses. The fabric of the north side of the place has been impacted on by the post 1980 additions. Overall the place retains a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

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

Wearne Hostel is a group of buildings in a large relatively open landscape; the original Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home completed in 1897 in the Federation Queen Anne style; the 1901 additions in a matching style, the 1909 Meath wing in a sympathetic variant of the same style, various minor utilitarian additions and structures such as toilet blocks, a single residence (1976), and the large additions and conversion works to the 1897-1909 buildings constructed in 1984 in a simplified style, derived in part from the existing buildings.

By 1833, a dirt road had been made from Perth to Fremantle, named the Perth-Fremantle (sic) Road.¹ In the 1830s, John Butler established a farm, named 'Prospect Place', on 250 acres by the Swan River at the area of present day Peppermint Grove.² Travellers who wished to break their road journey along the road could break their journey at Butler's farmhouse, which became known as the Halfway House.³

In the 1860s, the construction by convicts of a new Perth-Fremantle Road and the bridge over the Swan River at North Fremantle led to increased traffic on the road. In 1872, the Perth-Fremantle Road became a public highway.⁴ The Halfway House became a popular inn under licensee John Briggs from 1872 to 1882, when it was sold to Robert Napoleon Bullen.⁵ During this period, in 1877, portions of land along the ocean front were reserved for public use.⁶ Bullen recognised the potential opportunities that might follow in the wake of the opening of the Fremantle to Guildford railway in 1881, and began an ambitious plan for improvements, to build the Albion Pleasure Grounds.⁷

In 1886 Cottesloe was named by Governor Broome to honour Captain Fremantle, whose brother had been raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Cottesloe of Swanbourne and Hardwick. Some sub-divisions of land were commenced in Cottesloe in the late 1880s; however, development was very slow.

The Ministering Children's League was founded in England by Lady Brabazon, later Countess of Meath, in 1884, based on the message of Marie Louise Charlesworth's best selling book, *The Ministering Children* (1854), that children be encouraged towards a lifetime of caring for others, with the motto 'No day without a deed to crown it.'⁸ Children who joined the League were encouraged to help others, and engaged in fund raising for various charitable causes. The League spread world wide, with branches established in many parts of the British Empire, the United States, Europe, and Asia.⁹

On 21 May 1891, a notice appeared in *The West Australian*: 'Ladies and Gentlemen interested in the formation of a branch of the M. C. L.' to meet at the West Australian Bank on Saturday, 23 May.¹⁰ Following this meeting, held in the private quarters of the recently appointed manager of the Western Australian Bank, Mr. H. D. Holmes, the first Western Australian branch of the League was inaugurated on 6 June 1891.¹¹ At this meeting, addresses were given by Bishop Parry, the Reverends J. Allen, J. Y. Simpson, and Mr. H. D. Holmes.¹² The foundation members included many of the men and women

1 Arrowsmith's Plan of the town site of Perth, 1833 in Seddon, George, and Ravine, David A *City and Its Setting: Images of Perth, Western Australia* (Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1986) p. 100.

2 Marchant-James, Ruth *Heritage of Pines: A History of the Town of Cottesloe Western Australia* (Town of Cottesloe, 1977) p. 5.

3 Ibid, p. 5. Note: the present day Albion Hotel is in the same locality.

4 Ibid, p. 11.

5 Ibid, pp. 7-9.

6 Ibid, p. 15.

7 Ibid, pp. 7-9.

8 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story: A History of the Ministering Children's League and the Cottesloe Convalescent Home* (Anglican Diocese of Perth, Perth, 1982) pp. 9-10; and Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (Cyclopaedia Co., Perth, 1912-13) p. 115.

9 Ibid, p. 10.

10 *The West Australian* 21 May 1891.

11 Marchant-James, Ruth, op cit., p. 28.

12 Ibid.

prominent in Western Australia at that period. Among them were Mesdames Parry, Lefroy, Courthope, Gibbs, Cowan, Moseley, Holmes, Misses Howes, Francisco, Bent, Allen, Nisbet, Shearer, Manning, Traylen, and Messrs. George F. Atkins, Royal, H. Atkins, Hubert Drummond, Allen Gale, Chas. Knight, J. Sinclair, George Leake, Edwin O. Herbert Parry, Lionel W. Parry, Theodore H. Parry, David Shearer, Livingstone Shearer, Fred Sholl, Wilfred Steere, Percy Traylen, Harold Wilkinson, Chas. Wittenoom, Geoffrey Eliot, Percy Eliot, and Fred England.¹³ Lady Robinson, wife of the Governor, and subsequent Governor's wives also were associated with the League.¹⁴ Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Holmes and their daughters, Emmie and Phoebe, were to be closely associated with the Ministering Children's League throughout their lives.

In December 1891, the League's first 'sale of work' was held at Government House, and Bishop Parry announced that the object for which the members of the League had agreed to work was the building of a convalescent home.¹⁵ He wished them every success; however, 'he thought that it was rather a big undertaking for a children's society.'¹⁶ The members of the League were undeterred by his remarks, and in the next three years continued fundraising, as did the branches that were established in Western Australia from 1892, in the city and suburban areas, Fremantle, the Goldfields, and a number of country towns. New branches were often introduced to a town or locality on the initiative of a prominent citizen or an interested clergyman's wife. Many of the League's members had close associations with the Anglican Church. At this period, the members hoped that 'it might be possible to establish a small cottage somewhere to serve two or three patients at a time'.¹⁷

Circa 1892, Bullen's Siding had been built, providing a rail link to Perth and Fremantle from the Cottesloe district. By 1893, there were six permanent residents living near Cottesloe Beach and three near the Swan River at Peppermint Grove.¹⁸

The gold rush which followed the discovery of gold at Coolgardie in 1892, brought an influx of population to Western Australia, and with poor sanitation, there were outbreaks of typhoid fever, with 84 deaths in 1894, 294 in 1895, and a total of 2,000 in the decade from 1893 to 1903.¹⁹ Existing medical facilities were stretched beyond their limit, and in 1894, the Fremantle Town Council and Dr. Barnett requested the government to allocate £1,000-£1,500 for the construction of a cottage hospital at Fremantle.²⁰ Two thousand pounds was set aside for this purpose in the Estimates; however, it was not until March 1895, that the government announced it would hand over 'The Knowle' as a hospital for Fremantle.²¹

In 1894, the Ministering Children's League presented a petition to the Government, signed by a number of Perth's leading citizens and doctors,

13 Ibid, p. 28.

14 Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia ...*, p. 115.

15 Ibid.

16 Ibid.

17 *The West Australian* 3 May 1897, p. 3.

18 F. A. Moseley in Marchant-James, Ruth *Heritage of Pines ...*, p. 15.

19 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. 90; and Snow, D. *The Progress of Public Health in Western Australia 1829-1977*(Public Health Department, 1981) pp. 70-82.

20 Garrick, Phyll and Jeffery, Chris op cit., p. 46.

21 Ibid, p. 55.

requesting that a portion of the reserve at Cottesloe Beach might be granted to the League as the site for the proposed Convalescent Home.²² Commissioner of Lands, Hon. W. E. Marmion refused the request.²³ On 15 November 1894, his successor, Hon. A. R. Richardson, met with a deputation of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Holmes, Lady Onslow, Mrs. Wittenoom, Misses Eliot and Francisco, Dean Goldsmith, and the Mayor of Perth, Alexander Forrest, who asked again 'for a piece of land at Cottesloe for a site for a Convalescent Home.'²⁴ Subsequently, their request was granted, on condition that the land be built on within three years.²⁵

Various fund raising activities were undertaken by the Ministering Children's League from late 1894, and two generous donations were sent by Lady Meath when she heard of the efforts of the League in Western Australia, and their aim to build a convalescent home at Cottesloe.²⁶

In September 1895, at the meeting of the Ministering Children's League a Committee of Management was appointed with Dr. McWilliams as Chairman, Lady Onslow as President, Mrs. Alfred Burt as Secretary, Mr. H. D. Holmes as Treasurer, and Mesdames Alexander, Hearman, Leake and Holmes, and Misses Moore and Morton.²⁷ A Building Committee was also appointed of which the members were Dr. McWilliams, Messrs. Holmes, Mills and Watts, Mesdames Hearman and Holmes, and Miss Morton.²⁸ The Trustees were Mr. Alexander Forrest, M. L. A., Mr. H. D. Holmes, and the Government.²⁹ Lady Onslow, wife of the Chief Justice, agreed to become Patroness of the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home.³⁰

In October 1895, tenders were called for the sinking of a well, and fencing of the land at Cottesloe.³¹ On 9 October, the plan of the proposed home was placed before the meeting, and tenders were duly called.³² By mid November, the funds in hand for the proposed Convalescent Home amounted to £535/16/7, and the fencing of the land at Cottesloe was in progress.³³ It was completed in December, by which date tenders for the building of the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home had been received.³⁴ The tenders for the buildings and the well varied greatly, and it was decided to defer a decision until it could be ascertained whether the Government would supplement the Ministering Children's League funds on of a £ for £ basis.³⁵

22 Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia ...*, p. 115.

23 Ibid.

24 Ministering Children's League, Executive Minute Book 1894-1901. BL MN 416 Acc. 2012A Item 1a, 15 November 1894.

25 Ibid, December 1894; and Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (Cyclopaedia Co., Perth, 1912-13) p. 115.

26 Ibid.

27 Ibid, 11 September 1895.

28 Ibid.

29 Ibid.

30 Ibid, 9 October 1895.

31 Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia ...*, p. 115.

32 Ministering Children's League, Executive Minute Books, op cit., 9 October 1895. Note: no details of these plans have been located to date.

33 Ibid, 13 November 1895.

34 Ibid, 10 December 1895.

35 Ibid.

By June 1896, the well had been sunk at the site, in readiness for the erection of the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home.³⁶ The meeting on 12 June 1896, was shown the new plans 'so kindly and gratuitously drawn by Messrs. Harrison and Wyburn', which were 'most heartily approved of' by the members, who accepted Harrison's offer to draw up the specifications, and to superintend the construction of the building.³⁷ At this meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison were proposed and elected as Associates, and at the following meeting, on 19 June, Mr. and Mrs. Wyburn were likewise made Associates.³⁸

P. W. Harrison, a prominent Architect in Western Australia in this period, served as honorary architect to the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home, designing all the buildings 1897-1909, and he and his wife were associated with the Ministering Children's League for more than thirty years.³⁹

In mid 1896, tenders were called for the construction of the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home at Cottesloe. On 26 August 1896, Mr. H. D. Holmes, Treasurer, reported to the Committee that the tenders received ranged from £1,700 to £2,000.⁴⁰ With £700 raised by the Ministering Children's League and a supplementary grant of £600 from the government, the Committee was £700 short of the £2,000 they estimated would be required for the building; however, they decided to proceed with the building, and to continue fundraising.⁴¹ The tender for the building was awarded to L. Harrison.⁴²

On 21 November 1896, the Patroness of the Ministering Children's League in Western Australia, Lady Onslow, placed the memorial tablet in the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home.⁴³ The place became known as the M. C. L. Convalescent Home.

Building of the first stage of the M. C. L. Convalescent Home by Lawrence Harrison, Builder, proceeded through the latter part of 1896, and the first half of 1897, under the supervision of P. W. Harrison, Architect.⁴⁴ This stage was completed at the end of April 1897, at a cost of £1,960, of which £200 was still owing.⁴⁵ *The West Australian* reported:

The building itself is constructed on the cottage principle, and is very neat looking. It is built of sandstone, quarried on the site, and a verandah runs round nearly the whole structure. Inside space has not been stinted, for the rooms are large. The main portion of the building contains a matron's room, sitting-room, day room, dining-room, nurses' bedrooms, bath, store and other rooms. A wide entrance-hall leads to a corridor which admits to the main ward, large enough to contain twelve beds. Off the ward are the ward-kitchen, ward-bathroom, and so on, for the use of the patients. The kitchen building is detached, and consists of kitchen, laundry, servants' and men's bedrooms, pantries and storerooms. There is extensive cellarge under the main structure. Water is laid on from a well fitted with a windmill, and there is also a large supply of rain-water tanks. The whole of the drainage is taken

36 Ibid, 12 June 1896.

37 Ibid.

38 Ibid, 12 June, and 19 June 1896.

39 See Comparative Information below for other places designed by Harrison.

40 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 35.

41 *The West Australian* 3 May 1897, p. 3.

42 Ibid.

43 Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia* ..., p. 115.

44 *The West Australian* op cit.

45 Ibid.

away by earthenware pipes to a tiny well located some distance from the home. The building when completed is to have another ward and offices, and will, when finished, form a complete and compact structure. ... The furniture in the building had been given by merchants in Perth and Fremantle.⁴⁶

The windmill had been donated by W. D. Moore, of Henry Street, Fremantle.⁴⁷

On 1 May 1897, the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home was formally opened by Lady Smith, wife of the Governor of Western Australia, for the admission of male patients.⁴⁸ She expressed the view that 'nothing was so greatly needed' as the Convalescent Home, for with typhoid and other diseases being so prevalent patients were of necessity discharged from hospital at a time when 'they still required great care and attention, ... it was of the greatest importance to have a health resort to go to, in good air'.⁴⁹ The opening was attended by 'a large assemblage, including His Excellency the Governor, the Chief Justice (Sir Alex Onslow), and the Anglican Bishop of Perth (the Rev. Dr. Riley).'⁵⁰ Tribute was paid to Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Holmes, Treasurer and Honorary Secretary, 'who have been indefatigable in their efforts to establish such a necessary institution'.⁵¹

The M. C. L. Convalescent Home was to serve those who had been seriously ill 'for whom a fortnight's rest and quietness with the bracing air and the comforts of a home are essential before they resume their ordinary occupations'.⁵² A subscription scheme was the means by which the operation of the Home was to be funded and through which patients could be admitted to the Home.⁵³ Admission was to be by recommendation from a subscriber, and the cost was between 10/- and £1 per week, which effectively precluded some patients discharged from Perth and Fremantle Hospitals.⁵⁴ Donations, in cash and in kind, and continued fund raising by the various branches of the Ministering Children's League assisted the Convalescent Home throughout its years of operation from 1897.

In June 1897, Mrs. Holmes proposed that the Ministering Children's League work towards raising funds for a ward for women and children.⁵⁵ Lady Smith, wife of the Governor, became the President of the Ministering Children's League in Western Australia, a position which was occupied by successive Governors' wives.⁵⁶

The opening of the M. C. L. Convalescent Home coincided with a severe outbreak of typhoid in the Goldfields in 1897. Patients from the Goldfields were often assisted with the necessary fares and finance by the Goldfields

46 Ibid.

47 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 35.

48 *The West Australian* op cit., p. 3; and Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia* ..., p. 115.

49 *The West Australian* ibid.

50 Ibid.

51 Ibid.

52 Ibid.

53 Ibid, 28 April 1897, p. 6.

54 *The West Australian* 28 April 1897, p. 6, and 3 May 1897, p. 3; and Garrick, Phyll and Jeffery, Chris *Fremantle Hospital: A Social History to 1897* (Fremantle Hospital, Fremantle, 1987) p. 67.

55 Ministering Children's League, Executive Minute Books op cit., 9 June 1897.

56 Ibid.

branches of the Ministering Children's League.⁵⁷ In the first eighteen months of operation only men were admitted as patients to the M. C. L. Convalescent Home, with 149 patients admitted in its first year of operation.⁵⁸

In 1897 and 1898, picnics were organised at the M. C. L. Convalescent Home for Church of England orphans to spend a day at the seaside, and also on separate occasions, picnics for children who were members of the Ministering Children's League, with the latter group planting trees in the grounds.⁵⁹ They became annual events for much of the period prior to World War One.

In December 1898, it was decided to convert the sitting room into a small ward for women patients.⁶⁰ The number of women admitted increased in number in each subsequent year.⁶¹ Patients admitted to the M. C. L. Convalescent Home in the late nineteenth century were principally from the Goldfields, and hospitals at Perth and Fremantle, namely Royal Perth Hospital and Fremantle Hospital.

By late 1899, the Ministering Children's League had raised £722 towards the cost of building a larger ward for women at the M. C. L. Convalescent Home.⁶² However, with the outbreak of the Boer War the Committee decided to delay further fund raising for the proposed ward whilst they concentrated on raising money for the patriotic funds and to assist in relief of the Indian famine.⁶³

In the meantime, a garden at the place was laid out. On 16 June 1900, Arbor Day was celebrated with tree planting at the M. C. L. Convalescent Home, when children belonging to the League planted a number of trees in the presence of members from various branches of the Ministering Children's League.⁶⁴

By the turn of the century, a number of prominent Western Australian families had built residences in Cottesloe, some as beach houses to which they would adjourn at weekends or holidays, and others as their major residences, from which they could commute by rail to Perth and Fremantle. Among them were the Holmes, the Burts, the Cowans, the Moseleys, and the Foulkes, all of whom maintained a long-term association with the M. C. L. Convalescent Home.⁶⁵

In 1900, it was decided to make additions to the M. C. L. Convalescent Home, 'as the space at the disposal of the Committee for women was becoming far too limited'.⁶⁶ P. W. Harrison, Architect, drew plans for the additions, and tenders were duly called for this work, and the completion of the front portion of the Home, with that of Messrs. Rae and Sunderland at a cost of £1,098/10 being accepted.⁶⁷ The work was financed by the funds in hand,

57 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 25.

58 Ministering Children's League, Executive Minute Books op cit., 4 May 1898.

59 Ibid, 7 July 1897, 14 and 20 September 1898; and Progress reports Ministering Children's League, 1898-99. BL MN 416 Acc. 2012 Item 16.

60 Progress reports Ministering Children's League, 1898-99, *ibid*; and Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* ..., p. 115.

61 Battye, J. S., *ibid*.

62 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 36.

63 *Ibid*.

64 *Ibid*.

65 Marchant-James, Ruth *Heritage of Pines* ..., pp. 21-23.

66 Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* ..., p. 115.

67 *Ibid*; and Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 36.

further fundraising by the Ministering Children's League, new donations, and a grant of £250 from the Queen's Jubilee Fund.⁶⁸

On 17 August 1901, Lady Lawley, wife of the Governor, laid the foundation stone of the new wing of the M. C. L. Convalescent Home, which was purpose built as accommodation for women patients at the place.⁶⁹

On 14 December 1901, Lady Lawley formally opened the new wing for the admission of patients.⁷⁰ She was accompanied to the place by her husband, His Excellency the Governor, the Misses Lawley and Mr. Gerald Parker, where they were received on the verandah by Dr. Macaulay, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Holmes, and others.⁷¹ Those present at the opening included the Premier, Mr. A. E. Morgans and Mrs. Morgans, Bishop Riley, Sir James Lee Steere, Messrs. Harrison, Foulkes, Moseley, Jull, and Hardy; and Mesdames Leake, Harrison, Moss, Burt, Lefroy, Moseley, Foulkes, Samson, Illingworth, Pretty, and Richardson.⁷²

Three endowed beds were unveiled, with that endowed by Mrs. A. E. Morgans, wife of the Premier, unveiled by her.⁷³ The two other endowed beds unveiled were named after the Misses Lawley, who had assisted in the fund raising for these beds by appealing for any children who wished to become subscribers to send their names and the annual amount of 2/6 to them.⁷⁴ The Ursula Bed was located in the 'female ward', and the Cecilia Bed in the 'men's ward'.⁷⁵ The newspaper account of the opening waxed lyrical:

The Convalescent Home is charmingly situated at Cottesloe Beach, making it an ideal place for those who after a serious illness are in need of a home at which to rest for a time, and where every comfort and convenience is to be found.⁷⁶

The provision of accommodation for women patients at the M. C. L. Convalescent Home pre-dated the construction of King Edward Memorial Hospital (1916) for women, and was a boon to women in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century when medical facilities for women were few.

By 1901, Cottesloe had become '... one of the most flourishing suburbs of Perth.'⁷⁷ In *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* (1901) the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home is shown, with a circular drive approaching the Home from Warton Street, few plantings in the immediate vicinity of the building, the windmill to the rear of the building, and a timber fence at the west.⁷⁸ The Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home:

may be regarded as one of the most important and successful of the philanthropic institutions in Western Australia ...

68 Ibid.

69 Battye, C. S. op cit.

70 *The West Australian* 17 December 1901, p. 3.

71 Ibid.

72 Ibid.

73 Ibid.

74 Ibid.

75 Ibid.

76 Ibid.

77 Vivienne, *May Travels in Western Australia being a description of the various cities and towns, goldfields and agricultural districts of that State* (William Heinemann, London, 1901) p. ?

78 *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* (P. W. Thiel & Co., Perth, 1901) p. 100.

It is becoming an almost necessary adjunct to the hospitals, and is much availed of by persons from the goldfields.⁷⁹

The success of the new ward at the M. C. L. Convalescent Home encouraged the Committee to embark on more fund raising to enable further extensions to the place. Miss March was appointed as the first Collector-Secretary, and took up residence at the place.⁸⁰

In September 1903, the Matron of the M. C. L. Convalescent Home wrote to the St. George's Branch of the Ministering Children's League requesting assistance in providing a picket fence around the Home, for it was 'very urgently needed'.⁸¹ The estimated cost of the work was £137, and the Branch agreed to provide £50 'at once', with more help to be given after the annual sale of goods.⁸² In 1904, the funds raised by members of the Ministering Children's League financed fencing of the rear of the Lot, to provide privacy and wind protection at the place.⁸³

On 8 September 1904, Mrs. Holmes reported that the estimated cost for the completion of the women's ward at the place was £1,000, towards which the Ministering Children's League had £500, being the bequest of Mrs. A. R. Waylen.⁸⁴ The Ministering Children's League continued its fundraising towards the cost of the proposed additions.

On 30 September 1905, it was reported that alterations and additions were 'in progress at the Convalescent Home, Cottesloe Beach by Messrs. A. Toms and Maskeill, who have obtained contracts from Mr. P. W. Harrison for the work.'⁸⁵

By 1906, the Ministering Children's League had founded 21 institutions internationally, of which the M. C. L. Convalescent Home at Cottesloe was the largest.⁸⁶

By 1908, the need for additional accommodation at the place was recognised, and it was decided to further enlarge it, with the construction of a new wing, to be called the 'Meath Wing'. Finance was available through funds raised by the Ministering Children's League, the bequest of £500 from Mrs. A. R. Waylen, and a matching government grant, with a donation of £200 from Lady Meath.⁸⁷

P. W. Harrison, Architect, drew plans for the new wing, and tenders were called in early 1909, with that of F. W. G. Liebe, Builder, accepted at a cost of £2,629.⁸⁸ Liebe was a well-known builder, whose other work includes His Majesty's Theatre, Perth, and the Peninsula Hotel, Maylands.

On 16 October 1909, the new wing was opened by Lady Edeline Strickland, wife of the Governor, and President of the Convalescent Home (as had been

79 Ibid.

80 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 40.

81 St. George's Branch Ministering Children's League, Minute Book, October 1903-November 1959. BL MN 416 Acc. 2012A Item 9, 10 September 1903.

82 Ibid.

83 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 43.

84 St. George's Branch Ministering Children's League, Minute Book, op cit., 10 September 1903.

85 *Western Australian Building Mining and Engineering Journal* 30 September 1905, p. 19.

86 Mrs. Philp, Organising Secretary for Great Britain, to Mrs. Holmes, read at Annual General Meeting, St. George's Branch, Ministering Children's League, Minute Book, op cit., 13 July 1906.

87 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 40.

88 Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia* ..., p. 115.

the wives of earlier Governors), and named the Meath Wing after the founder of the Ministering Children's League, Lady Meath.⁸⁹ The foundation tablet was inscribed accordingly, and included the motto of the Ministering Children's League "No day without a deed to crown it".⁹⁰ 'A beautiful verandah and balcony' surrounded the wing, 'overlooking the ocean, which will surely be a delight to the patients fortunate enough to go there.'⁹¹

The Meath wing was 'the completion of nearly 20 years of hard work'.⁹² The new wing comprised a two storey addition, with 'a fine upstairs ward named the "Waylen Ward", and one of a similar size on the ground floor', the two new women's wards together to hold some 20 beds.⁹³ The Waylen Ward was named after the late Mrs. A. R. Waylen, past President of the Ministering Children's League, who had bequeathed £500 to the Convalescent Home.⁹⁴ An oil painting of her by Mrs. H. D. Holmes was hung in the ward.⁹⁵

At the first floor, there were also 'two comfortable rooms for the officials, daintily furnished by a member of the League at Cottesloe', and rooms to let to paying patients 'at two guineas and 30s. a week.'⁹⁶ It was planned that after Christmas 1909, provision would be made 'for the taking in of a mother and infant a side of the work for which there has been a long felt-want.'⁹⁷ These additions effectively completed the M. C. L. Convalescent Home, with the total cost of the works from 1897 to 1909 at £5,700, of which only £450 remained to be paid off.⁹⁸ However, the ground floor ward, named the Padbury Ward, to commemorate the bequest of Walter Padbury, was not used for the admission of patients until 1914.⁹⁹

In February 1910, Lady Meath and her husband, the Earl of Meath, visited Western Australia, and made a visit to the M. C. L. Convalescent Home at Cottesloe.¹⁰⁰

In Battye's *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia* (1912-13), the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home was described:

The Home is situated at Cottesloe Beach, the most healthy of the suburbs, and the inmates enjoy the refreshing cool breezes direct from the Indian Ocean. The number of inmates increases every year, especially the women, from all parts of the State, to whom the Home is a great boon. During the fifteen years of its existence, up to the end of 1912, 2,682 patients have been admitted; of these, 1,300 were men and 1,382 women.¹⁰¹

The photograph in Battye (1912-13) shows the addition of the Meath Wing, and the development of the gardens at the front of the M. C. L. Convalescent

89 Ibid.

90 *The West Australian* 18 October 1909, p. 3; and site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 12 August 1999.

91 *The West Australian* 18 October 1909, p. 3.

92 Ibid.

93 Ibid.

94 Ibid.

95 Ibid.

96 Ibid.

97 Ibid.

98 Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia ...*, p. 115.

99 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story ...*, p. 40.

100 Ibid.

101 Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia ...*, p. 116.

Home since 1901, with plantings bordering the driveway, and in proximity to the Home.¹⁰²

In 1913, a 'rotunda' was erected in the grounds of the M. C. L. Convalescent Home as a gift from the Ministering Children's League.¹⁰³ By this year, the interest on the investment of the £350 raised for Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Fund, initiated by Miss Best at the Karakatta Women's Club, was sufficient to enable the Ministering Children's League to maintain a free bed for a woman at the Home.¹⁰⁴

On 7 March 1914, Lady Forrest opened the ground floor ward of the Meath Wing at the M. C. L. Convalescent Home for the admission of patients.¹⁰⁵

During World War One, the Principal Medical Officer at the Department of Defence requested the reservation of a room at the M. C. L. Convalescent Home for the use of returned nurses.¹⁰⁶ The 'Mother and Baby Room', at the south-west corner of the ground floor, was made available, and consequently became known in this period of its use by the nurses as the 'Military Nurses' Room'.¹⁰⁷

In the period 1915-17, fewer patients were admitted to the M. C. L. Convalescent Home, which was attributed to the effects of the war and the prevailing drought, which strained the finances of many Western Australians.¹⁰⁸ In 1917 substantial maintenance and repairs were carried out, as some sections of the buildings were 'in dire need of repair'.¹⁰⁹

The Ministering Children's League continued to administer the Home, and to raise funds for the Patriotic Fund. Children continued to play a part in the activities of the League, and also on occasion boys were engaged in odd jobs around the Home.¹¹⁰

In 1920, Mrs. H. D. Holmes died. She had served the Ministering Children's League faithfully and well from its inception in Western Australia, and from her home nearby at 'Banksia' (*Lefanu*) she had had a close involvement with the M. C. L. Convalescent Home. Her dedication and service were commemorated with a pair of iron gates on brick piers erected at the south-west entrance to the Home, on the corner of Swanbourne Terrace (now Marine Parade) and Warton Street. On 23 December 1923, the gates were formally opened and dedicated by Archbishop Riley.¹¹¹ The inscription read:

These gates have been erected in memory of the late Mrs. H. D. Holmes, the founder of the M. C. L. in W. A. It is owing to her initiative, foresight and to her stimulating example that its members were chiefly instrumental in raising funds for the erection of this Home.¹¹²

102 Ibid.

103 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 24; and St. George's Branch, Ministering Children's League, Minute Book, op cit., 20 September 1930.

104 St. George's Branch, Ministering Children's League, Minute Book, op cit., Annual General Meeting, 26 June 1913.

105 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 40.

106 Ibid, p. 46.

107 Ibid.

108 Ibid.

109 Ibid.

110 Ibid.

111 Ibid, p. 49.

112 Ibid.

A number of substantial legacies supported the work of the M. C. L. Convalescent Home in the first half of the twentieth century, including those from Sir William Loton, Messrs. Walter Padbury, F. Moss and Laker, Mrs. A. R. Waylen, and Misses Samson and Benham.¹¹³ Donations were made to the Home by countless individuals at all levels of Western Australian society, in cash and in kind. Subscriptions were taken up by not only those who were prominent in Western Australian society, but also by business enterprises and unions who took up the subscriptions in the interests of their employees and members. In March 1926, an article in the *Western Australian Government Railway and Tramway Gazette* extolled the benefits of 'this ideally situated institution, that renders signal service to many who have undergone operations and others suffering from weakness or shattered nerves', and described the place:

The rooms are large and lofty, and the surroundings are very pleasant. Everything is well kept, clean and tidy and the needs and wants of those who require rest and building up are amply catered for. The grounds are large and spacious, and the beach is only a few minutes walk from the place. There is ample verandah space and a well fitted smoking room for men and equally congenial room for ladies.¹¹⁴

On Arbor Day in 1929, as part of the celebrations of the Western Australian centenary, more than a hundred trees were planted at the M. C. L. Convalescent Home at Cottesloe, including Norfolk Island pines and Victorian ti-trees.¹¹⁵ Lady Champion, wife of the Governor, planted the first tree, in the presence of a large crowd which included the Chief Justice Sir Robert McMillan and Lady McMillan, Mr. F. D. North, M. L. A., the Mayor of Cottesloe, Mr. Wilkes, Mrs. Edith Cowan, and other prominent Western Australians.¹¹⁶

The Depression affected the finances of the M. C. L. Convalescent Home as donations and subscriptions were decreased substantially, in common with most other institutions. In this difficult period, Mr. H. D. Holmes, Founder, Trustee, Treasurer and Financial Adviser of the Ministering Children's League in Western Australia, died. His eldest daughter, Phoebe, was elected to replace him as Trustee, and Mr. M. Moss succeeded him as Treasurer.¹¹⁷ In 1932, long-term member of the Ministering Children's League in Western Australia, Lady Mitchell, wife of the Premier, Sir James Mitchell, became Patroness of the League in this State.¹¹⁸ In this capacity, she continued her association with the M. C. L. Convalescent Home at Cottesloe Beach.

As economic conditions improved in late 1932, so did the Home's financial position, and it was possible to divide the position of Collector-Secretary between two appointees, with both employed on a non-residential basis.¹¹⁹

In this period, the M. C. L. Convalescent Home was brought under the Arbitration Court Award, which necessitated the employment of more staff, consequently increasing the amount expended on wages, and straining

113 Ibid.

114 *Western Australian Government Railway and Tramway Gazette* March 1926, in Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 50.

115 Marchant-James, Ruth *Ibid.*, p. 49; and photograph of Miss Pretty planting a Norfolk Island pine, Arbor Day, 1929, p. 47.

116 *Ibid.*, p. 49; *The West Australian* 6 November 1929; and St. George's Branch, Ministering Children's League, Minute Book, op cit., Annual General Meeting, 18 November 1929.

117 *Ibid.*, p. 50.

118 *Ibid.*

119 *Ibid.*

finances. In 1934, and 1936, grants from the Charities Commission of £250 and £500 respectively were utilised to assist in defraying the additional costs, and to connect the place to the deep sewerage system being installed in the Cottesloe district.¹²⁰

The M. C. L. Convalescent Home was surveyed for the sewerage work in December 1934, and the field book drawings of that date and the sewerage drawings of February 1935 show the place at that period. At the south-west corner of the lot, at the corner of Warton Street and Marine Parade are the memorial gates, with brick pillars.¹²¹ Located in the grounds, to the north-east of the gates, are an open timber shade house (the 'rotunda'), and farther to the north, galvanised iron fowl pens.¹²² Farther east again, at the rear of the Home, in a row extending south to north to the boundary of the lot, are seven outbuildings, six of galvanised iron construction and one of timber, two of which are open to the east, and of which two are cow sheds.¹²³ Another timber weatherboard building is located to the east of these outbuildings.¹²⁴ In closer proximity to the Home, to the north, is the windmill and bore, with another unidentified item erected to the north-west of it.¹²⁵ In addition to the bore, there are 12 rain water tanks, located rear of the Home and another to the east of the eastern ablution block.¹²⁶

The Home is as completed in 1909, with verandahs on the north, west, and south sides, and a path along the east side of the eastern part, which extends north to steps covered with galvanised iron, as is the covered landing, to the eastern ablution block.¹²⁷ This block comprises three stalls, each with a pan, and a bathroom.¹²⁸ The second ablution area is at the north-west of the Home, with three basins at the ground floor, and a bath etc. at the first floor above, whilst there are w.c.'s at the rear of the Home, to the east of this ablution block.¹²⁹ A number of stone retaining walls are shown at the north and east sides of the Home.¹³⁰ Most of the main building is of stone construction, with some small sections of brick; and whilst the main part of the kitchen is of stone construction, a section to the west is of brick, and similarly, the laundry at the north side of this building.¹³¹

The late 1930s saw funds available for the M. C. L. Convalescent Home decrease further, and the Committee was hard pressed to meet even day to day financial demands. The Executive met with members of the Hospital Advisory Board to discuss the dilemma, and subsequently it was agreed that Cot Cases would be admitted to the Home for the first time, to be accommodated in the ground floor women's ward.¹³² A Sister-in Charge was appointed, Sister Jean Pullen, with a trained sister to assist her, and also with

120 Ibid.

121 Field Book 3446, PROWA WAS 84 Acc. 3464 Item 33, December 1934, pp. 9-9a; and Metropolitan Sewerage Municipality of Cottesloe PROWA Cons. 4156 Item 1246, February 1935.

122 Ibid.

123 Ibid, pp. 7-8a.

124 Ibid.

125 Ibid.

126 Ibid.

127 Ibid.

128 Ibid.

129 Ibid.

130 Ibid.

131 Ibid.

132 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story ...*, p. 53.

assistance on two days per week from the Perth and Fremantle branches of St. John's Ambulance, whilst the necessary equipment was donated by the Charities Commission.¹³³

Prominent people associated with the Ministering Children's League and the M. C. L. Home in the period 1897 to 1939, included Edith Cowan, a foundation member in 1897, and through to her death in 1932, who served the League in various capacities, including President; Lady James, a member for more than 20 years, who also served in various capacities; Neil McNeil, Trustee from 1920 to 1927; Sir Talbot Hobbs, Trustee from 1927 to 1938; and Lt. Col. H. D. Moseley, President from 1935 to 1948, and Trustee from 1941 to 1951.

In March 1942, the M. C. L. Convalescent Home was requisitioned for use by the Military Forces, for which a rental of £325 per annum was paid.¹³⁴ In the summer of 1943, in the interval between the occupancy of the place by two military batteries, a party of 50 children from the Country Women's Association Western Division holidayed at the place, under the supervision of the C. W. A. organiser of holiday camps.¹³⁵ In 1945, the place was vacated by the military, at which date it was in need of renovation.¹³⁶

In 1946, the M. C. L. Convalescent Home was returned to the Ministering Children's League, who began the task of renovation with the assistance of a grant of £2,500 and the donation of a refrigerator from the Charities Commission, and also from the Red Cross, who assisted in refurnishing the Home.¹³⁷ The total cost of the work was about £5,000.¹³⁸ Details of this work have not been ascertained. The replacement of the galvanised iron roofs with asbestos roofing may have occurred at this period.

In April 1946, the Committee met to discuss future plans for the place, which was of necessity now registered as a C Class Hospital.¹³⁹ In May 1946, the first post World War Two patient was admitted.¹⁴⁰

On 24 May 1947, the 50th Anniversary was celebrated with a birthday cake at the Annual General Meeting of the Ministering Children's League, and the top tier of the cake was taken to the Home for a tea party held there that afternoon for guests and patients.¹⁴¹

In the post World War Two period, there was considerable change and improvement in medical services available in the State, with a consequent decline in the popularity and need for convalescent homes. The introduction of the 40 hour week from late 1947, coupled with increases in the Basic Wage, the difficulties of obtaining reliable staff and also declining support in the form of subscriptions and donations, compounded the problems faced by the Management Committee of the M. C. L. Home in this period.

By 1949, children were no longer actively involved in the work of the Ministering Children's League, and so it was decided to rename the place, by

133 Ibid.

134 Ibid.

135 'Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home (M. C. L.) Cottesloe' Typewritten, no details. BL MN 416 Acc. 2101A Item 50.

136 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story ...*, p. 53.

137 Ibid.

138 'Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home (M. C. L.) Cottesloe', op cit.

139 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story ...*, p. 53.

140 Ibid.

141 Ibid.

omitting the word 'Children'; henceforward, it was known as the Ministering League Convalescent Home, or the M. L. C. Home.¹⁴²

In 1952, the Ministering Children's League donated £250 towards the repair of the memorial gates at the M. L. C. Home.¹⁴³ The brick piers remain at the entrance to the place; however, the gates are no longer extant in 1999.

In 1953, the number of patients admitted to the M. L. C. Home dropped to half that of the preceding year, and many beds at the place continued to be unoccupied.¹⁴⁴ The increased costs of running the Home had to be passed on. With reluctance the fees to the patient were raised; and although still moderate, they were beyond the reach of pensioners, who were no longer able to avail themselves of the benefits of a recuperative stay at the Home.¹⁴⁵

By the mid 1950s, it was evident that the M. L. C. Home was no longer economically viable. It was arranged that Fremantle Hospital would send some post-operative cases and others to the place; however, this did not prove successful, and the Home's financial predicament continued.¹⁴⁶ In 1956, the Committee reluctantly accepted the Government's offer to lease the place on a temporary basis.¹⁴⁷ From 1897 to 1956, 14,390 patients had been admitted to the Convalescent Home whilst under the auspices of the Ministering Children's League.¹⁴⁸

Prominent Western Australians associated with the Ministering Children's League and the M. L. C. Home in the period following World War Two included the Hon. John Tonkin, Premier of Western Australia, who was a member of the Committee from 1934, and Vice President from 1949; Sir Ernest Lee Steere, and Lady Lee Steere.

From November 1956, the M. L. C. Home was leased to Fremantle Hospital for five years, which was extended for three more years to 1964. The place was utilised as Mosman Park Annexe for Fremantle Hospital in this period. It was used as a pre-discharge ward for post-operative and medical cases. In 1957-58, 677 patients were admitted to the 35-bed facility.¹⁴⁹ In 1959, the place was used also as a temporary training school for nurses.¹⁵⁰

In 1963, the place was sold to the Government for £32,500 for use as an annexe to Fremantle Hospital, with a proviso in the contract of sale that the Government should provide, in lieu of the Cottesloe grant, a parcel of land, subject to the approval of the organisation, at which their work might be extended to care for the aged.¹⁵¹ The Meath Aged Home (1972) at Trigg was established in this way, and financed from the proceeds of the sale of the M. L. C. Home at Cottesloe, the bequest of the major share of Phoebe Holmes

142 Ibid, p. 54.

143 St. George's Branch, Ministering Children's League, Minute Book, op cit., 5 November 1952.

144 'A Short History of the Ministering Children's League' Handwritten notes, no details, 1953. BL MN 414 Acc. 2012A Item 50.

145 Ibid.

146 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 54.

147 Ibid.

148 'Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home (M. C. L.) Cottesloe', op cit.

149 Garrick, Phyll and Jeffery, Chris op cit., p. 388.

150 Ibid, p. 303.

151 Marchant-James, Ruth *The Meath Story* ..., p. 54; and Extract of Fremantle Hospital Board Minutes, 1 April 1963, Mosman Park Annexe, Wearne Hostel (formerly Mosman Park Annexe) Fremantle Hospital & Health Services File.

estate on her death (1966) for that purpose, and a Commonwealth Government subsidy on a two for one basis.¹⁵²

From 1963, Fremantle Hospital continued to use the place as an annexe, known as the Fremantle Hospital Annexe at Mosman Park, until the early 1980s.

It has not been possible to ascertain whether any changes were made to the place in the period 1963-69, as the Fremantle Hospital file for the place during this period appears to be no longer extant. It is likely that the toilet block adjacent to the north-east corner of the building was constructed in this period, as it is shown on a plan of 1969 as 'New Toilet Block'.¹⁵³

In 1969, minor works were carried out at the place, including laying lino in a number of rooms at the place, painting some walls, and the installation of oil space heaters in the Padbury and Waylen Wards.¹⁵⁴

In late 1969, the existing galvanised iron water service at *Wearne Hostel* was replaced with copper pipe, at an estimated cost of \$3,800.¹⁵⁵ In the same period, a bitumenised parking area with bays for 21 cars at the front of the place on the south with entry from Warton Street was constructed by Pavearths at a cost of \$2,140.¹⁵⁶

In 1970, work was carried out on the kitchen at *Wearne Hostel*, with the replacement of wood and gas stoves with a gas range and a smaller electric stove.¹⁵⁷ The verandah adjacent to the Treatment Room was enclosed to extend the Physiotherapy treatment area.¹⁵⁸

In 1972, the corner of Warton Street and Marine Parade was converted to a curve, to reduce the traffic hazard, when the latter road was widened, and the land necessary for the work was transferred accordingly from Fremantle Hospital.¹⁵⁹

Photographs taken by Frank Sharr in 1972, show the Fremantle Hospital Annexe at Mosman Park at that date, with the verandahs enclosed.¹⁶⁰ The open timber shade house shown in the sewerage plans of 1935 is extant. The place changed little over the next decade, as seen in an aerial photograph of the place c. 1983.¹⁶¹

152 Ibid, p. 56.

153 23/14, n.d., Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe, File 2, 1969-77.

154 PWD WA Job No. 23/44/M, Ibid, July 1969; Administrator, Fremantle Hospital to Stores Clerk, Fremantle Hospital, 27 June 1969; and Administrator, Fremantle Hospital to Elvins Plumbing Services, *ibid*, 15 August 1969.

155 Administrator, Fremantle Hospital to Under Secretary for Works, *ibid*, 31 October 1969.

156 J. J. Stokes, District Supervisor, PWD, to the Secretary, Fremantle Hospital; Fremantle Hospital Board Meeting; Administrator, Fremantle Hospital to The Manager, Pavearths, *ibid*, 10 September, 27 October, and 14 November 1969 respectively.

157 Administrator, Fremantle Hospital to Sister in Charge, Mosman Park Annexe, *ibid*, 20 March 1970.

158 Extracts from Building Committee Meeting Minutes, *ibid*, 8 September, 20 October 1969, and 13 April 1970.

159 Town Clerk, Town of Cottesloe, to Administrator, Fremantle Hospital; and Fremantle Hospital Board Meeting Minutes, *ibid*, 22 and 27 March 1972 respectively.

160 Photographs by Frank Sharr, National Trust of Australia (W. A.), Fremantle Hospital Annexe, 12 November, and 3 December 1972.

161 *Cottesloe Aged Persons' Homes (Inc.) Newsletter* March 1983.

In 1974, 'an unsightly shed situated on the Warton St. side of the Fremantle Hospital Annexe' was removed, which was approved by Cottesloe residents in the vicinity as 'one can now see the picturesque Rotunda.'¹⁶²

On 12 May 1975, the place was recorded for historical reasons by the National Trust of Australia (W. A.).¹⁶³ It was in 'excellent condition inside', and the grounds were 'well kept'.¹⁶⁴ It was considered that alterations and additions to the place had 'affected character of buildings'.¹⁶⁵

From early 1974, the Board of Fremantle Hospital had sought suitable accommodation in the vicinity of Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe for the Sister in Charge, to enable the adaptation of the quarters which she occupied for use by other hospital personnel.¹⁶⁶ Unsuccessful in their efforts, the possibility of erecting a residence within the grounds of Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe was considered and estimates of the cost obtained.¹⁶⁷ The initial suggestion had been to erect a one-bedroom residence; however, after further investigation it was decided that a three-bedroom house would be more suitable, with the cost estimated at \$18,000.¹⁶⁸

In April 1976, tenders were called for 'Design and erection of Sisters' Residence' at Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe.¹⁶⁹ The lowest tender at \$25,927 from Doncaster Homes was accepted.¹⁷⁰ The residence was built fronting Warton Street, at the south-east corner of the Lot, 'to enable the area of land surrounding the house of approximately a quarter of an acre to be excised from the Annexe site to give a separate title for sale purposes if required.'; however, a request for a separate title was refused in 1978.¹⁷¹ It was completed in late 1976, with the groundworks and retaining walls completed in April 1977, enabling the Sister in Charge to occupy the residence.¹⁷²

In mid 1976, it had been proposed that shelter be provided at Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe for patients arriving and leaving the place; however, staff were not available to investigate the site to determine the most satisfactory location for the shelter until late 1976.¹⁷³

In mid 1977, an enclosed covered way link to the hydrotherapy pool at Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe was constructed at a cost of \$9,000.¹⁷⁴

162 Mavis Tuckey to Administrator, Fremantle Hospital, Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe, op cit., 17 December 1974.

163 National Trust of Australia (W. A.), 12 May 1975.

164 Ibid.

165 Ibid.

166 Fremantle Hospital Board Meeting Minutes, Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe, op cit., 14 January, 24 June 1974.

167 Ibid, 28 July, 11 and 25 August 1975.

168 Under Secretary for Works to Administrator, Fremantle Hospital, ibid, 5 November 1975.

169 *Government Gazette* 9 April 1976.

170 Administrator, Fremantle Hospital to Under Secretary for Works, Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe, op cit., 19 May 1976.

171 Ibid, 2 December 1978, and 1 June 1979.

172 Fremantle Hospital Building Committee Meetings, ibid, 4 November and 2 December 1976, 28 February, 7 April, and 5 May 1977.

173 Assistant Administrator, Fremantle Hospital to Administrator; and Fremantle Hospital Building Committee Meeting, ibid, 14 May and 2 December 1976 respectively.

174 Administrator, Fremantle Hospital to Under Secretary for Works, ibid, 29 April 1977.

In August 1977, the Fremantle Hospital Board recommended that a sum of \$10,000 be made available to the PWD for the erection of a shelter for patients arriving at Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe by vehicle.¹⁷⁵ Work commenced on the canopies for the ambulance bays in November 1977, and was completed later that year.¹⁷⁶

In 1979, Cottesloe Aged Persons' Homes, known by the acronym CAPH, was formed with the aims of establishing support services for the aged who wished to remain in their own homes, and to provide a range of alternative accommodation for well and frail aged persons.¹⁷⁷ The organisation was incorporated in 1983.¹⁷⁸

In 1981-2, with the prospect of the closure of Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe when the additions to Fremantle Hospital were completed, interest was expressed in the place by a number of organisations. On 22 January 1982, Fremantle Hospital Annexe Mosman Park was closed, and all the patients were transferred to Fremantle Hospital.¹⁷⁹

From March 1982, negotiations took place between the Fremantle Hospital Board and CAPH, which resulted in an offer from the Board in March 1982, of the lease of Fremantle Hospital Mosman Park Annexe at a peppercorn rental, for its conversion into a frail aged hostel.¹⁸⁰ In July 1982, plans were drawn by Summerhayes Way & Associates for the addition of aged persons' units to the site of *Wearne Hostel*, and alterations to the existing buildings.¹⁸¹ This plan was not implemented. A grant of \$650,000 was obtained from the Commonwealth Department of Social Security under the Aged or Disabled Homes Act towards the proposed hostel at *Wearne Hostel*, which was later increased to an amount of 'up to \$781,040'.¹⁸²

In November 1983, Summerhayes Way & Associates drew new plans for *Wearne Hostel*. The plans for a frail aged persons' hostel to accommodate 50 persons incorporated the existing buildings, which were to be altered as required for the conversion to the new use, and major additions.¹⁸³

In December 1983, tenders were called for additions and alterations to *Wearne Hostel*.¹⁸⁴ On 30 December 1983, *Wearne Hostel* was handed over to CAPH on a 21 year lease, with the option of a further 10 years, with the rental 'to be subject to review in this subsequent period on date of commencement thereof.'¹⁸⁵ CAPH has had full responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the place since that date in accordance with the lease.¹⁸⁶

175 Fremantle Hospital Board Meeting, *ibid*, 22 August 1977.

176 Building Committee Meeting Minutes, *ibid*, 10 November 1977, and

177 'A Home of our own for our Elderly People' Town of Cottesloe, File *Wearne Hostel*.

178 Feasibility Report on Frail Aged Hostel, Marine Parade, Mosman Park. Prepared by Cottesloe Aged Persons Homes Incorporated, 15 February 1993.

179 Administrator, Fremantle Hospital, to Under Secretary for Lands, *ibid*, 22 February 1982.

180 C. A. P. H. Frail Aged Hostel Appeal, Town of Cottesloe, File *Wearne Hostel*, p. 2.

181 Cottesloe Aged Persons Homes 50 Bed Hostel, Summerhayes Way & Associates Pty. Ltd. 12 July 1992.

182 Feasibility Report on Frail Aged Hostel, Marine Parade, Mosman Park. Prepared by Cottesloe Aged Persons Homes Incorporated, 15 February 1993, p. 12; and C. A. P. H. Frail Aged Hostel Appeal, *op cit.*, p. 2.

183 *Wearne Hostel*, Summerhayes Way & Associates, 7 November 1983. Note: For details of the work, including the alterations to the place, see plans and specifications.

184 *Wearne Hostel* (Formerly Mosman Park Annexe) Fremantle Hospital, 1983-99.

185 Lease Cottesloe Suburban Lot 87, *ibid*.

186 *Ibid*.

On 10 February 1984, the building licence for the work, at an estimated cost of \$953,600, was issued to Format Constructions Pty. Ltd. of North Perth.¹⁸⁷ Work proceeded through 1984, and *Wearne Hostel* was formally opened as planned on 31 October 1984, by the Premier, the Hon. Brian Burke, M.L.A.¹⁸⁸ Plaques commemorating the renovation and extension of *Wearne Hostel*, and the official opening were fitted to the wall by the front entrance.¹⁸⁹

In 1984, changed its name from Cottesloe Aged Persons' Homes to the Curtin Aged Persons' Homes, to reflect the wider area of the catchment, as the development of the frail aged facilities was supported by the Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe, and Mosman Park Councils.¹⁹⁰ The same acronym was retained.

In October 1990, concerns were raised about the asbestos roofing on the earlier buildings at *Wearne Hostel*.¹⁹¹ It was replaced with Zinalume to match the roofing of the additions.¹⁹²

In 1993, a Recreation Room, constructed of brick and iron, designed by Geoffrey Summerhayes Architecture and Design, was added to the place, at a cost of \$125,000.¹⁹³ The Geoffrey Leyland Recreation Room, as it was named, was opened in October 1993.¹⁹⁴

In March 1994, CAPH proposed that Fremantle Hospital transfer its trusteeship of the A Class Reserve on which *Wearne Hostel* is located to CAPH.¹⁹⁵ The proposal was made because the organisation felt inhibited in its consideration of any future plans for expansion whilst its use of *Wearne Hostel* was restricted to the term of the lease.¹⁹⁶ In June 1994, the Board advised CAPH that the title to *Wearne Hostel* would not be transferred.¹⁹⁷

In September 1995, *Wearne Hostel* was included in the Municipal Inventory adopted by the Town of Cottesloe.

On 9 December 1997, *Wearne Hostel* was placed on the Interim Register of the National Estate.

In late 1997, CAPH sought the consent of Fremantle Hospital to demolish the verandahs at *Wearne Hostel*.¹⁹⁸ The demolition was authorised, subject to endorsement of the work by HCWA, in February 1998.¹⁹⁹ The verandah enclosures were subsequently removed.²⁰⁰

187 Town of Cottesloe, Application 1818, 10 February 1984.

188 *Claremont Nedlands Post* 14 August 1984.

189 Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 12 August 1999.

190 *Civic Centre News* (Town of Cottesloe) Vol. 34 No. 5, February 1984, p. 7

191 A. Brand, CAPH, to Administrator, Fremantle Hospital, *Wearne Hostel* (formerly Mosman Park Annexe) op cit., 1983-99, 23 October 1990.

192 Ibid, 18 March 1991.

193 Recreation Room, *Wearne Hostel*, 40 Marine Parade, Cottesloe. Geoffrey Summerhayes Architecture and Interior Design. Town of Cottesloe, File no. 34/8, 14 September 1992.

194 *Civic Centre News* (Town of Cottesloe) Vol. 44 No. 11, October 1993, pp. 6-9.

195 Michael Denny, CAPH, to Board of Management, *Wearne Hostel* (formerly Mosman Park Annexe) op cit., 13 June 1994.

196 Ibid.

197 Fremantle Hospital Board of Management to Michael Denny, CAPH, ibid, 28 June 1994.

198 Ina Simson, CAPH Management Committee, to Executive Director, Fremantle Hospital, ibid, 2 and 23 December 1997.

199 CEO, Fremantle Hospital, to Ina Simson, CAPH Management Committee, ibid, 25 February 1998.

200 Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 12 August 1999.

Wearne Hostel continues on the current peppercorn lease to Curtin Aged Persons' Homes to 2004. *Wearne Hostel* continues in use as a hostel for the frail aged. The Health Department of Western Australia (HDWA) is currently negotiating with the Department of Land Administration for a conditional transfer of *Wearne Hostel* to either CAPH as the current lessee, or the Town of Cottesloe (on behalf of the three local governments in the catchment area). HDWA is currently seeking advice from Contract and Management Services regarding the preparation of the necessary Conservation Plan and Heritage Agreement as a pre-requisite to transfer of the property.²⁰¹

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Wearne Hostel is a group of buildings in a large relatively open landscape; the original Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home completed in 1897 in the Federation Queen Anne style; the 1901 additions in a matching style, the 1909 Meath wing in a sympathetic variant of the same style, various minor utilitarian additions and structures such as toilet blocks, a single residence and the large additions and conversion works to the 1897-1909 buildings constructed in 1984 in a simplified style, derived in part from the existing buildings.

Wearne Hostel is located in the south ward of Cottesloe and the site of the *Wearne Hostel*, together with that of the Deaf School to the east takes the whole of the super block bounded by Marine Parade and the sea to the west, Gibney Street to the north, Curtin Avenue and the Fremantle to Perth railway lines to the east and Warton Street to the south. *Wearne Hostel* takes up all the land on the western half of the site and is located on the high terrain near the centre of the land. The early buildings are designed to take advantage of the sloping terrain, and the last buildings to be constructed have required modifications to the terrain to allow connections between new and existing buildings to be made.

The structures completed by 1909 have been sited to take advantage of the ocean views and the fresh sea breezes. The land between the buildings and the southern and western boundaries has been landscaped in two distinct styles. The main approach is via the south-west corner and a long driveway that terminates at a carpark to the south of the initial group of buildings. The driveway passes between a set of piers, which once had gates, and this device makes a visually significant statement at the entry and sets off the picturesque building group that comprise the early 1897-1909 group of buildings to the east. The western boundary is treated as a rehabilitated dune with a mixture of coastal heath vegetation. East of the dune vegetation system, the landscape is characterized by the orienting elements of buildings, garden shelter and driveway, vast expanses of lawn and tree planting, together with some bed planting. The road surface has been formalized and is bitumen finished with concrete kerbs. Pavings are a mixture of insitu concrete and brick construction.

The open landscape is subject to the influence of strong onshore winds and much of the planting has been effected by the elements, such that tree shapes are often quite unusual. Mature trees include Norfolk Island Pines (*Auracaria heterophylla*), Peppermint Tree (*Agonis flexuosa*) and Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*). The latter, in particular, have been wind pruned and have taken on shapes reflective of the influence of the prevailing winds.

²⁰¹ Letter from Minister for Health to Minister for Heritage dated 9 December 1999.

The 1897-1909 sequence of buildings is located near the centre of the site and makes use of the slope of the site from the east down to the west. The ancillary buildings undertaken before 1960 have largely been removed, but of those that remain, siting appears to be more a matter of expediency than of design. By way of contrast, the substantial 1984 additions were arranged around a circulation system to provide links from the hostel accommodation back to the communal facilities and administration. To achieve an efficient circulation system, the north-east corner of the site was benched to achieve a plateau for construction. The radiating wings of accommodation do not pay high regard for their outlook and comparatively modest windows overlook the views. In preparing for the last sequence of building, the northern side of the 1897-1909 group of buildings has been partially buried and obscured by landfill and construction.

The 1897-1909 buildings are all constructed of limestone with timber framed and corrugated iron and replacement Colorbond custom orb replacement roofing. All of the exposed limestone has been painted. The planning and roofscape are asymmetrical in the manner that is characteristic of the Federation Queen Anne style.²⁰² The planning makes use of the rectangular plan form and places emphasis at salient points by the use of the thrust and diagonal bay, together with a corner polygonal tower element. This group of buildings, later accretions apart, were realized over a short period and although each stage varies from its predecessor according to function and topography, and even design, the family of elements fit together in a rich and varied manner within the broad stylistic parameters of the Federation Queen Anne style.

Cottesloe Convalescent Home and Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home-Meath 1897-1909

This group of buildings divides into three basic stages with later adaptations and major additions, which were implemented to achieve *Wearne Hostel*.

Cottesloe Convalescent Home 1897

This section of the building was designed in a simplified rendering of the Federation Queen Anne style and consisted of rectangular plan elements arranged around short corridors. Later additions and adaptations have altered the reading of the original plan, but its fundamental elements remain intact. This section consists of the rooms numbered 1-8,15-16, 27-29 and sections of passages D, F and the main entry at the upper ground floor level and two rooms which are no longer generally accessible at the lower ground floor level. The exterior is constructed in coursed rubble limestone for general walling and the quoins to openings and changes of direction are made of rock face limestone blocks. Windows are single pane double hung sashes and double hung sash French windows. There is a verandah to most of the perimeter that remains exposed. The verandahs in this section have insitu concrete floors, stop chamfered timber posts and gently curved valance boards. Access to the lower floor level is available from the northern verandah. The roofs are clad with replacement custom orb sheeting and the quad profile eaves gutters are a replacement quad profile with circular downpipes.

The entry (Room 3) Passage D, Passage F and Rooms 15, 16, 27, 28 and 29 retain the majority of their original features, including lath and plaster

²⁰² 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. 132-135.

ceilings, ceiling roses, fireplaces and surrounds (although fireplaces are generally blocked in), timber floors (now carpeted), timber 4 panel doors and windows. The hall features a stained glass window between Passage F and the Library (Room 29). These spaces are capacious and well lit by daylight, and retain their authentic elements. Room 29, which is used as the library, was probably the original dining room and it is a particularly finely proportioned and detailed space. The original space to the east, which would appear to have been a single room dormitory in the original concept, has been divided into a number of spaces to provide bedrooms and bathrooms. These are now rooms 4-9 inclusive and Passage B. Although fragments of detail have been preserved in this wing, all other original features have been lost by partitioning, new floor finishes, and suspended ceilings. These are all elements of the 1984 campaign. A 1984 addition to the eastern end of the southern elevation has obscured about 25% of the length of this elevation. The basement was only inspected from the access manhole, but appears to have plastered walls and an earth floor.

Overall this section of the building is well maintained and presented; and, with the exception of the adaptations and additions to the east wing and the 1984 additions to its south, retains a high proportion of its original qualities.

Separate from the main building and to its north is the kitchen block and from photographic evidence, this too was part of the original campaign, together with a series of later additions in brick construction. The building is constructed in the same limestone materials as the first stage of the main building. The features such as chimney breasts may still be seen and lath and plaster clings are still intact, but all other features have been removed in subsequent alterations and upgrades. The floor is finished in non-slip tiles, walls are tiled up to 1.8 metres in height with white glazed tiles, and all the kitchen fittings are modern stainless steel.

Additions 1901

The second stage of construction was completed in 1901 and, according to photographic evidence and the development of the floor plan, comprised the southern addition, which lengthened the Passage D and added three further rooms and an ante-room, together with a large single space and two smaller spaces to the west of the original wing. The kitchen may also have been enlarged at this time or in stage 3. This section of work made use of the more full flowering of the Federation Queen Anne style, particularly with the configuration and design elements used in the southern wing and the current spaces that make up this section are Rooms 17 to 25 inclusive. The plan takes the form of a central corridor with three original rooms and an anteroom. The three original rooms have been divided up to make a number of smaller spaces.

The exterior is made of limestone to match the original concept; however, the expression is more complex than the original building. A new gabled roof thrust bay is the central focus of the 1901 addition, and the two flanking rooms have diagonally planned window bays facing south east and south west away from the central bay, and this sets up a roofscape of gables in addition to the original mainly hipped roof. These design elements were characteristic of the Federation Queen Anne style. The original verandah format was followed for this addition, and the floor levels are contiguous with the original campaign. The same design devices are employed, but with the addition of the St. Andrew's cross motif in the balustrade. While the interior of the corridor retains its original treatments and details, the rooms to either side have had fireplaces blocked, some new walls added and

bathrooms installed, together with the addition of suspended ceilings in the accommodation sections.

The addition to the west was a small corridor (Passage G) and the Rooms 30-32. The original purpose of each of these rooms remains unclear, but they comprise the craft room, the hairdresser, and a bedroom. These rooms retain most of their original features and have simply been adapted for their present uses. Fireplaces have been blocked, the french windows to the north of Room 30 have been shortened, and a new opening made in the west wall of Room 32.

Overall the two sections of the building that comprise stage two additions are well maintained and presented and with the exception of the adaptations principally made in 1984 additions, these section retain a high proportion of their original qualities.

Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home-Meath 1909

This stage was the last in the Federation period and comprises a two-storey building, which was added to the west side of the existing buildings. Like the second stage, the third stage differed in its design from the previous stages. It too represents a full flowering of the Federation Queen Anne style with its irregular plan and roofscape, its corner octagonal rooms culminating at the roof level with a flat conical roof, which is a replacement for the original witch's hat roof. A range of chimneys further enriches the roofscape. The style of this section is a startling contrast with the other sections of the building. Here the style is given full flight with the tower element, deep two storey verandahs with the striking sweeping concave curved awning to the lower ground floor level. The original verandahs had a St Andrew's cross balustrade, but most of the balustrade is now closed in, making the balustrade and awning merge as a single element of custom orb profile sheeting. The verandahs remain in their original timber construction and floor format, but are in a parlous state. Sections of the verandah facing into the south-westerly breezes have been enclosed to protect the south-west aspect.

Many of the same design devices are employed in this stage as those used in the previous two stages. Thus the walls are made of course square rubble, the quoins in rock faced limestone, and the windows a single pane double hung sashes, and the roofing material are replacement Colorbond custom orb.

This stage of development exploited the slope of the site, and while it retained the same floor level as the existing elements up to the western side of the stair lobby, it formed a lower ground floor by partial excavation into the site on the eastern side of the extension and a short flight of steps to raised floor level to the western most section to achieve the required height.

The addition is planned around the stair between the two floors and short access corridors. The original rooms on the upper ground floor include the corridor, Passage G, the timber construction staircase, the envelope enclosing Rooms 33 and 34, and Room 35, together with the envelope enclosing Rooms 36-39 and Passage H. Room 35 retains all its original features. The latter group has been completely re-organized to produce two hostel rooms and a corridor, and in the process much of the original fabric has been lost or covered by finishes such as plasterboard suspended ceilings. The rooms at this level are generally in good order.

The staircase and its hall are particularly fine features. The hall at the upper ground floor is generously proportioned, and the stairwell detailed in timber with turned newels, balusters and profiled handrails. Over the landing on the northern wall there is a series of stained glass panels depicting rustic scenes.

The lower ground floor is also arranged around the staircase. The original plan replicates the floor above, and like the floor above has been substantially adapted for accommodation. The rooms at this level have had most original finishes overlaid or replaced and the spaces with the exception of the staircase and Room 43. Rising and falling damp have proved to be endemic problems in these rooms and they are underutilized, with sections of plaster removed to allow damp to dry out. Remedial action has taken place with little effect. Sources of damp include accreted ground levels, the inherent nature of the construction, backing up of the drainage system and water passing through verandah floors down the face of the walls.

In common with all limestone construction sections of the building, the external walls of this building have been painted.

Wearne Hostel Additions

Though it has yet to be established with certainty, it would appear that a two-storey brick construction addition was made to the north and west of the 1909 additions. These additions have concrete floors and are utilitarian in their design approach.

Garden Shelter

The garden shelter ('rotunda') appears in photographs of the completed building from 1913. It comprises stop-chamfered posts, post brackets in the form of diagonal struts, a replacement concrete floor, and a timber lap boarded roof. Much of this structure appears to be authentic fabric or fabric that has been properly repaired in the original manner.

Bathhouse and Lavatory Block

This element appears on the 1935 sewage plan. It is located on the eastern side of the main building complex and is set on a level slightly above the main building. It is a simple rectangular plan building in a standard Public Works Department pattern with masonry walls up to the height of the open ventilation strip and has a hipped Colorbond roof. It is a utilitarian structure, and has had all its fittings removed to serve as a store.

Windmill

The original windmill has been removed, and its location has been covered. Its location is east of the kitchen, and about 4 metres south of the poolroom.

Residence

There is a small single storey residence constructed in 1976 in the south-east corner of the site that belongs in a late 1970s Perth Regional style. It is a very simple brick and low pitched tiled roof swelling with anodised aluminium windows. It is stylistically unrelated to any other structures on the site.

Wearne Hostel

The 1984 works to achieve *Wearne Hostel* included much adaptation of the existing structures, the demolition of some of the minor outbuildings, and a substantial amount of new building. The new buildings drew on elements of the existing buildings to arrive at their form of architectural expression. The references are slight and basically relate to elements of roofscape.

The new elements are linked into the early and original buildings via the dining room and lounge, which make a transition between these elements and four radiating wings of hostel accommodation.

The new buildings use cream flush jointed brickwork, anodized aluminium windows, and a Colorbond custom orb roof with heritage red Colorbond gutters. The design makes use of a plan form that articulates the walls by using the bathroom element as the prominent element and recessing the bedrooms, which gives a curious prominence to relatively unimportant rooms. Further, the bedrooms have relatively small windows and little advantage of the potential views. The end walls of each of the wings, which probably enjoy the finest aspect, are blank. In contrast with the early buildings, which have a delicate balance between solid and void and fine tracery like joinery, the 1984 additions are rather solid and utilitarian in their overall impact. As well as encroaching on the Federation groups to a certain extent in the physical sense, the additions encroach in a visual sense as well.

The 1984 additions appear to be in good condition and are well maintained.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

A number of places designed by P. W. Harrison, Architect, are extant. Some of those listed in Municipal Inventories include the Telegraph Station (1897), halfway between Eyre's Sand Patch and Norseman Balladonia; St. Andrew's Church and Hall (1911), Katanning; Anglican Church (1914), Mundaring; St. Augustine's Anglican Church (1939), Bolgart; the Town Hall (1929), Corrigin; and houses in Belmont at 56 Leake Street (1900), and in Claremont at 10 Walter Street (1906), 30 Reserve Street (1913), and 7 Brae Street (1928).²⁰³

With relatively few medical facilities in Western Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a number of small private hospitals were established in the wake of the gold boom in Western Australia. Some were for general cases, whilst others were more specialised, such as the Madeleine Hospital for expectant mothers, and the Surgical Sanatorium and Convalescent Home at Monument House on Monument Hill, Fremantle.²⁰⁴ They were exclusive, as they were the preserve of those who could afford private care. The M. C. L. Convalescent Home at Cottesloe Beach was larger than the above facilities. Whilst its subscription precluded some of the general populace, it was nonetheless more readily available than any similar facility in the period. Those who could not afford the subscription or did not know someone nominate him or her as a patient may have been excluded. The Committee endeavoured to keep the fees at as low level as possible, and the taking up of subscriptions by employers and unions allowed the use of the Home by their employees and members.

The only place similar to the M. C. L. Convalescent Home in the early twentieth century was the Lady Lawley Cottage (1903). It was established at the suggestion of Lady Lawley as a convalescent home at Cottesloe for children under 12 from the Goldfields to recuperate by the sea, and its erection was financed by money collected to farewell the Lawleys from Western Australia at the conclusion of his term as Governor. The Cottage (1903), built to accommodate 16 children, was supported in part by public subscriptions, partly by payments from parents, and by Government subsidies of £ for £ up to £250.²⁰⁵ Children were referred to Lady Lawley

²⁰³ HCWA database, P. W. Harrison, Architect.

²⁰⁴ Garrick, Phyll and Jeffery, Chris op cit., p. 68.

²⁰⁵ Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia* (Cyclopedia Co., Perth, 1912-13) p. 116.

Cottage from the Children's Hospital, in the same way that patients were referred to the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home by Fremantle Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital.

The M. C. L. Home, Lady Lawley Cottage and the Deaf and Dumb School were all located in the immediate vicinity in keeping with the then current philosophy of the benefits of the maritime environment for children and invalids.

13. 4 REFERENCES

National Trust Assessment Exposition, 12 May 1975

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Wearne Hostel, Town of Cottesloe

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research may provide details relating to the 1905 works, the erection of the rotunda in 1913, the period of use by the military in World War Two, and changes wrought on the place at unknown dates, including the enclosure of the verandahs.

Future work undertaken at *Wearne Hostel* may provide the opportunity for archaeological investigation, which may provide additional information.