



**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)

- 3.5 Developing primary production
- 3.24.1 Providing medical & dental services
- 3.24.2 Providing hospital services

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 104 Land allocation & subdivision
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
- 302 Rural industry & market gardening
- 408 Institutions
- 404 Community services & utilities
- 603 Early settlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The extant collection of farm buildings of *Whitby Falls Hostel*, including a group of brick and stone vernacular farm buildings (Toolshed, Stables, Poultry Runs and Sheds and Cool Room, and brick and iron Incubator Room), combined with their setting and the remains of the original house, have strong aesthetic value for their simple brick and stone walling and elegant appearance in a picturesque rural setting. (Criterion 1.1)

Whitby Falls on the eastern side of *Whitby Falls Hostel* is a readily recognisable natural landmark feature viewed from the South West Highway. (Criterion 1.3)

Whitby Falls and the remaining brick and stone farm buildings at *Whitby Falls Hostel* make up an interesting and picturesque landscape combining built heritage, culturally modified landscape, remnant vegetation, and a natural granite formation waterfall. (Criterion 1.3 and 1.4)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

The entrance driveway, meadows, and brick and stone farm buildings make up an interesting cultural environment that is picturesque, especially during the winter and spring period when the whole setting has a rich green tinge. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

The *Whitby Falls Hostel* site, originally known as 'Whitby Falls Estate', has associations with the settlement of the Murray district from the 1840s. After purchase in 1848, the place was developed by early European settler Henry Mead for pastoral and farming purposes. This use has continued to the present (2007) during its ownership by prominent local politicians and businessmen John Wellard and William Paterson, and as part of *Whitby Falls Hostel* itself. (Criteria 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3)

Whitby Falls Hostel was the longest operating facility in Western Australia for the care and treatment of mental illness, particularly long-term care for men in a rural setting, offering such services from 1897 to 2006. The place was established in 1897 to replace the existing asylum at Fremantle, but later became an annexe to Fremantle and later Claremont Hospital for the Insane and *Graylands Hospital*. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Whitby Falls Hostel has significance to the patients, families of patients, hospital staff and members of the community associated with the place from its development in 1897 and to its closure in 2006. Up until recently, the male patients were responsible for the operation of a farm on the site, which provided fresh produce to various hospitals for many years, and also built the 1930s stable, cool storeroom, the poultry batteries/run and the incubator room. These buildings are the oldest surviving structures at *Whitby Falls Hostel*. (Criteria 2.2 & 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Archaeological evidence remaining on the site has the potential to contain information relating to colonial farming practises, such as the water mill, and how methods have changed over time. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Whitby Falls Hostel is of social significance to the patients, families of patients, hospital staff and members of the community associated with the place from its development in 1897 for the care of long term, mentally ill men up to 2006. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

Whitby Falls Hostel is recognised by the community for its social and historic significance. This value is evidenced by its inclusion in the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale's Municipal Heritage Inventory. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Whitby Falls Hostel is evidence of an institutional way of caring for the mentally ill in a rural setting and as such, it represents a practice that is now rare. Contemporary models of care for the mentally ill are currently based on social integration and decentralisation of services. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Whitby Falls Hostel is representative of the care of mental illness in the Western Australia from 1897 to 2006. Buildings on the site provide evidence of the changes in attitudes to, and the treatment of, mental illness in the State over this period. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The early farm group of buildings have been affected by neglect and possibly by earthquake activity. Most remain roofed but are in a fair to poor condition.

The buildings associated with the hostel in the post World War II period were well maintained until comparatively recent times and have begun to deteriorate. They are in fair condition, except for the former staff accommodation, which remains in good condition.

The plantings are generally in poor condition with the exception of the mature and hardier native trees and some exotics such as Jacaranda, Pines, and Poplars.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The original intent of the place is readily legible. Its use as a hostel ceased in 2006. The integrity of the buildings remains moderate to high.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The farming buildings are little modified and retain a high degree of authenticity, while the hostel buildings have been subject to modest changes leaving their authenticity moderate to high.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Kris Bizzaca, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

A corridor that captures the key elements including the hostel, farm buildings, Whitby Falls, and a part of the setting is recommended for inclusion in the curtilage.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Whitby Falls Hostel comprises the remains of Whitby Falls Residence (1854), stone and iron construction Toolshed (1900), stone and iron construction Stables (1930s), stone and construction Stores and Poultry Runs and Sheds and Cool Room (1934), a brick and iron Incubator Room (1934), brick and tile Hostel (1958 and 1963) and former Staff Quarters (1963), brick and tile Deputy Head, Cook (c.1971), and Farm Manager's cottages (c.1971), brick and corrugated asbestos Dairy (1972), and Sheds (various post c.1970), a dam (1996) in a picturesque setting that include Whitby Falls to the east, two brooks, orchards, a pine tree grove, and numerous tree plantings.

The treatment of mental illness in Western Australia dates from 1857, in which year a temporary asylum was established for patients. In 1865, permanent buildings were established at Fremantle for those suffering from mental illness. At this time, the so-called 'treatment' of the mentally ill was incarceration rather than treatment. This approach was reflected in the Lunacy Act of 1871 in which it stated that main purpose of asylums was to provide for the safe custody of persons dangerously insane and of unsound minds.¹

Overcrowding at the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum saw the taking over of Fremantle Hospital's *The Knowle* for patients. Ongoing concerns about the conditions at Fremantle, the inadequate segregation of different types of inmates and the immediate need for accommodation resulted in the appointment of an Asylums Committee to select a site for a new asylum. After inspecting approximately 20 properties in the Perth area, an established farming estate comprising 405 hectares at Whitby Falls was chosen in 1896.²

'Whitby Falls Estate' had been granted to Henry Mead in 1848 and was developed by him for pastoral and grazing purposes, having a ready water supply in the form of a waterfall (from which the place took its name) and brook.³ Mead arrived in the Swan River Colony in August 1842 as part of a Government driven immigration scheme aimed at encouraging agricultural labourers and artisans to settle in the new Colony. With his brothers Thomas and William, Henry went on to have farming, pastoral and commercial interests in the Avon and Murray districts, including supplying horses to the British Army in India.⁴

Mead constructed a substantial two-storey residence on the Whitby Falls Estate, which was 'situated on a natural mound at the foot of the Scarp, overlooking the

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- 1 Ellis, A. S., *Eloquent Testimony: The Story of the Mental Health Services in Western Australia 1830-1975*, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1984, pp. 13-27.
 - 2 Report of the Lunatic Asylum at Fremantle, 1896, pp. 3-4, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1897, Vol. 1; Ellis, op. cit., p. 38-39.
 - 3 Coy, N. J., *The Serpentine – A history of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale*, Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, 1984, p. 30.
 - 4 Coy, op. cit., pp. 30-35; Mann, W., *Harnessing Voices – A People's History of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale*, Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, 2001, pp. 22-24.

brook to the south, and the falls to the east'.⁵ This Victorian Georgian structure was said to have been built in c. 1854 and was used intermittently as a residence by the Mead family. In the early 1870s a water mill and dam were added on the estate at the falls.⁶ Neither the house nor the water mill is extant in 2006.

In 1876, John Wellard of the nearby Serpentine Farm ('Lowlands') purchased the Whitby Falls Estate and two other small landholdings from Mead at a cost of £700. Wellard was a prominent member of the local community, serving as a Justice of the Peace and Chairman of the Murray Roads Board.⁷ Subsequent to his death in 1885, Whitby Falls was eventually purchased by William Paterson, who is believed to have made the estate his main residence.⁸

Like Wellard, William Paterson was actively involved in social and political issues. He was a local magistrate and, in 1889, was elected to Parliament as the Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) for Murray Williams and then Murray (1890-95). He resigned as MLC to take up the position of the first Manager of the Agricultural Bank, which began trading in 1895. Paterson and his family relocated to Perth and Whitby Falls Estate was sold to the Government for £7,500 in 1897 for use as a lunatic asylum, following concerns about the adequacy of Fremantle Lunatic Asylum.⁹ A survey of the estate at the time of its purchase showed the property under cultivation with orchards and vineyards to the north, west and south of the two-storey homestead. Farm sheds were situated to the north and north-east of the main building.¹⁰

The farm remained in use with Mead's two-storey residence becoming accommodation for the staff and patients of the Whitby Falls Lunatic Asylum. The availability of the large, and established, farmstead at Whitby Falls, its setting and its proximity to the railway line would have been seen favourably by the Asylums Committee charged to select the location for the construction of a new, up-to-date building for lunatics in Western Australia. Indeed, the Government's Principal Medical Officer, Dr. Lovegrove, is said to have had a major role in choosing the estate, most likely based on the prevailing philosophy of the time of providing care facilities in pleasant and peaceful surroundings. This was despite another medical expert Dr. Barnett, who was then the Superintendent of the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum, objecting that it was far too distant from Perth.¹¹

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- 5 Coy, op. cit., p. 33; Whitby Falls, 1970s, J S Battye Library of West Australian History (BL) Pictorial Collection: 5239B/2.
 - 6 Coy, op. cit., pp. 35-36.
 - 7 Coy, op. cit., pp. 36 & 82.
 - 8 Coy, op. cit., pp. 82 & 85. Paterson purchased the place from his business partner A. R. Richardson, who had inherited the property on his father-in-laws, John Wellard's, death. (Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Municipal Heritage Inventory, April 2000, Place Number: SJ13-01.)
 - 9 Coy, op. cit., pp. 85-86; Richards, R., *The Murray District of WA*, Shire of Murray, 1978, p. 406; Ball, J., Kelsall, D. & Pidgeon, J., 'Statewide Survey of banks 1829-1939, Southern Region, Western Australia', Vol. 1, November 1997, pp. 14, 27 & 28. Local history has it that William Paterson was an active member of the Western Australian Acclimatisation Society and the farm at Whitby Falls was used to acclimatise such species as the kookaburra and trout. (Cusens, R. (comp.), 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel – Centenary 1897-1997', printed by Armadale Kelmscott Health Services, April 1997, n.p.)
 - 10 Contour Plan, Whitby Estate, 30/6/1897, plans held at Department of Housing & Works (DHW) E-Plans.
 - 11 Report of the Lunatic Asylum at Fremantle, 1896, pp. 3-4, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1897, Vol. 1; Ellis, op. cit., p. 38-39; Ellis, A. S., 'Montgomery of Claremont – The First Fifteen Years', in RWAHS, *Early Days*, Vol. 7, Pt. 7, 1975, p. 43. For further information regarding other institutions established with this philosophy see: Kelsall Binet Architects & Bizzaca, K., 'Woorooloo Sanatorium', heritage assessment documentation, 2002; Griffiths, P. & Chinnery, R., 'Wearne Hostel', heritage assessment documentation, 2000; Kelsall, A. & Sherriff, J., 'WA School for Deaf Children', heritage assessment documentation, 2000; Heritage & Conservation Professionals & Bizzaca, K., 'Graylands Hospital', heritage assessment documentation, 2002.

The ready accommodation provided by Mead's two-storey residence gave an immediate, albeit temporary, relief to overcrowding in Fremantle. Further to this, the farm's isolated location and its operation allowed for the housing of male patients classified as 'quiet and chronic', who required only minimal security and were capable of carrying out supervised labour.¹² In July 1897, 12 male patients whose mental illness had been classified 'quiet and chronic' were relocated from Fremantle to Whitby Falls with another 12 men arriving in September that year.¹³ By 1901, 46 patients resided at the Whitby Falls Lunatic Asylum.¹⁴

The construction of the new asylum at Whitby Falls seems to have been delayed due to continuing concerns regarding the inaccessibility of the site. A Select Committee investigating the condition of asylums in 1899/1900 found the location to be detrimental to the well being of patients.¹⁵ In the interim, some improvements were made there such as the addition of a large new dormitory to the eastern side of the c. 1854 homestead in c. 1899.¹⁶ Over the next few years, the patients were responsible for building quarters for the farm overseer and two farm labourers (these later became known as the cook's cottages) as well as other ancillary farm buildings like the stables.¹⁷ The dormitory and quarters have since been demolished.

Although plans of the site and some buildings do exist from the early 1900s works program, these do not match those drawn at later dates. This does not mean the earlier structures were replaced altogether, but rather that the plans for various buildings, in particular the ancillary farm buildings, were adapted during construction. This is likely to have been because the work was supervised by the farm labourers and medical attendants and undertaken by the patients themselves.¹⁸

Besides the c.1899 dormitory and farm buildings, by the early 1900s the lunatic asylum at Whitby Falls comprised: the c.1854 homestead residence with associated accommodation for the wardens and superintendent; an exercise yard; a sick room; a laundry; a stable; baths, lavatories and latrines; sheds; water tanks; and, a large dining room and kitchen.¹⁹ None of these structures exist in 2006.

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- 12 Ellis, op. cit., p. 38-39; Report of the Lunatic Asylum at Fremantle, 1897, p. 3, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1898, Vol. 2; Ellis, 'Montgomery of Claremont', op. cit., pp. 39 - 40.
 - 13 Report of the Lunatic Asylum at Fremantle, 1897, p. 3, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1898, Vol. 2.
 - 14 Ellis, op. cit., pp. 42-43. During its lifetime, *Whitby Falls Hostel* has been designated for male patients only.
 - 15 Report of Fremantle and Whitby Falls Lunatic Asylums, p. 989, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1900, Vol. 2; Ellis, op. cit., pp. 42-43. By the turn of the 20th century, portion of the estate had been taken over for an invalid depot for old men in preparation of the closure of the Mount Eliza depot. This does not form part of this heritage assessment. (Public Works Department Annual Report, 1900, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1901-1902, Vol. 2, Part 1.)
 - 16 Public Works Department Annual Report, 1900, p. 62, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1901-02, Vol. 2, Part 1; Whitby Asylum, Proposed New Dormitory, 14/2/1899, plans held at DHW E-Plans.
 - 17 Public Works Department Annual Report, 1900, p. 62, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1901-02, Vol. 2, Part 1; Jarrahdale Junction Lunatic Asylum Farm Buildings, Drwg No. 2, 10/2/1901, plans held at DHW E-Plans; Whitby Estate Lunatic Asylum, Plan & Contours of Farm-Steading, n. d., plans held at DHW E-Plans.
 - 18 See Jarrahdale Junction Lunatic Asylum Farm Buildings, Drwg No. 2, 10/2/1901, plans held at DHW E-Plans; Whitby Estate Lunatic Asylum, Plan & Contours of Farm-Steading, n. d., plans held at DHW E-Plans; Whitby Falls Contour Plan showing existing buildings, 14/8/1952, plans held at DHW E-Plans.
 - 19 Whitby Lunatic Asylum Adds., Drwg No. 1, 5/3/1902, plans held at DHW E-Plans; Whitby Asylum Add'ns., New Dormitory etc., 25/2/1902, plans held at DHW E-Plans. See also *Daily News*, 18/5/1915 & 20/5/1915; Whitby Falls Contour Plan showing existing buildings, 14/8/1952, plans held at DHW E-Plans. The majority of the 1902 works including a new timber dormitory were never completed.

Demand for accommodation for the mentally ill went unabated in the early 20th century. Despite plans being drawn up for a modern asylum at Whitby Falls, these were deferred with Dr. S. H. R. Montgomery, the newly appointed Superintendent of the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum, maintaining his predecessor's objections to the isolated site. Montgomery had been appointed based on his past experience with various asylums in England and was a vocal critic of the difficulties in patient treatment, administration and maintenance, staffing and visitation at Whitby Falls because of its distance from Perth.²⁰ His influence eventually led to a more central site being selected and in 1903 land was set aside in Claremont for the new hospital for the insane.²¹

The change in name from asylums to hospitals for the insane was introduced as a result of the new Lunacy Act of 1903.²² The 1903 Act saw the establishment of a mental health department as distinct from the medical department, together with the adoption of new methods towards the care and treatment rather than the incarceration of those suffering from mental illness.²³ The purpose behind the planning of the Claremont Hospital for the Insane was to provide a secure and pleasant environment for patients that would allow opportunities for recreation, rehabilitation and treatment to possible recovery.²⁴

While no evidence has yet been found as to whether this approach was ever articulated in relation to *Whitby Falls Hostel*, this philosophy of care and rehabilitation as well as the employment of long-term patients in the farm's work lay at the core of its operation. The male patients under the supervision of their attendants and farm labourers and the direction of the farm manager carried out the majority of work at the place. This included a large orchard and vegetable garden, a successful Illawarra dairy herd, a piggery and by the 1930s a well-developed poultry farm. The dry cows from the dairy herd at Claremont Hospital for the Insane were also pastured at Whitby Falls.²⁵ Throughout its history, the majority of the produce from *Whitby Falls Hostel* supplied the other mental hospitals, with the remainder auctioned for additional revenue.²⁶

In 1913, the Whitby Falls hospital was taken over as an inebriate's home. This had been established under the auspices of the *Inebriates Act* of 1912, which allowed for the detention and treatment of alcoholics in a 'home' for up to 12 months. Although the home only operated until 1918, at which time it again became a hospital for the insane, during this period the inmates were responsible for carrying out renovations to the c.1854 residence and continued to operate the farm.²⁷

In the early to mid 1930s a number of works were undertaken at *Whitby Falls Hostel* by the patients. These included the chicken batteries and the cool

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- 20 Report of Fremantle and Whitby Falls Lunatic Asylums, 1901, pp. 3-4, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1901-02, Vol. 4, Pt. 1; Public Works Department Annual Report, 1901, p. 52, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1902, Vol. 1, Part 2; Ellis, 'Montgomery of Claremont', op. cit., p. 43. Detailed drawings of the proposed asylum at Whitby Falls are held at DHW E-Plans.
- 21 Heritage and Conservation Professionals, Conservation Plan for Swanbourne Hospital, prepared for the BMA, September 1994, pp. 25-26; Ellis, 'Montgomery of Claremont', op. cit., p. 43.
- 22 Ellis, op. cit. pp. 50 & 51.
- 23 Ibid.
- 24 Conservation Plan for Swanbourne Hospital, op. cit., pp. 26 -28.
- 25 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel', op. cit., n.p.; *Daily News*, 20/5/1915.
- 26 Report of the Inspector General for the Insane, 1909, p. 6, in *Votes & Proceedings*, 1910-11, Vol. 2, Pt. 1; *Daily News*, 20/5/1915; 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel', op. cit..
- 27 *Daily News*, 18/5/1915 & 20/5/1915; *West Australian*, 12/7/1918 & 27/3/1958; Ellis, op. cit., p. 55.

storeroom (inscribed with the date 7 November 1934) to the north-east of the milking shed and stables and also the incubator or 'egg' shed, as it was known.²⁸ The hatchery in particular is said to have been built by a patient, who was in charge of looking after the chickens and used the place as an office. He is also attributed with the planting of the row of Norfolk Island Pine Trees that form part of the main entry into *Whitby Falls Hostel*.²⁹

In the late 1930s, the existing stables were constructed after the c. 1902 timber building was destroyed by fire.³⁰

A contour plan of *Whitby Falls Hostel* in 1952 shows the existing buildings on the site.³¹ The majority of these were clustered in the vicinity of the c. 1854 homestead. To the north and north-east of this residence were the kitchen and dining room, the engine room, attendant's room, laundry/wash house and lavatory. To the north-west were farm buildings consisting of: a garage; a blacksmith's shop; stables and stockyard; a tool shed; cow and hay shed; cool storeroom; and, poultry runs. The incubator room, cook's cottage, attendant's cottage, farm manager's house, tennis court, orchards and gardens are also shown on the plan.³²

The 1950s and 1960s saw significant changes in the treatment of mental illness from hospitalisation to that of community psychiatry, which sought the reintroduction of patients back into the community. Other changes in the treatment of mental ill health included more emphasis on the development and introduction of programs such as rehabilitation and occupational health therapy.³³

It is within this context that plans were made for a new mental hospital at the Whitby Falls site. This was completed in 1958 to the south-west of the c. 1854 residence at a cost of \$100,000. Designed by the Public Works Department as one structure, it had two wards ('Jacaranda' and Kookaburra') with associated facilities, two day and occupational therapy rooms, a kitchen and dining area, laundry and storerooms, and quarters for nurses and other staff. Partitions in the wards allowed for 8-beds to an area.³⁴ The opening of this hospital in March 1958 resulted in the relocation of the patients and staff from Mead's c. 1854 residence to the new building.³⁵

In 1963, another 24-bed ward ('Illawarra') was added to the hospital together with increased accommodation for staff. The latter consisted of a new building located

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- 28 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel', op. cit., n.p.; Whitby Falls Contour Plan showing existing buildings, 14/8/1952, plans held at DHW E-Plans.
- 29 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel', op. cit., n.p.; *West Australian*, 27/3/1958; Whitby Falls Contour Plan showing existing buildings, 14/8/1952, plans held at DHW E-Plans. The name of this patient is unknown.
- 30 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel', op. cit., n.p.; Whitby Lunatic Asylum Stables, 23/1/1902, plans held at DHW E-Plans.
- 31 Whitby Falls Contour Plan showing existing buildings, 14/8/1952, plans held at DHW E-Plans.
- 32 Ibid.
- 33 Ellis, op. cit., pp. 138-143.
- 34 *West Australian*, 27/3/1958; Whitby Falls, New Mental Home, Site Plan, Drwg No. 1, 18/9/1955, plans held at DHW E-Plans; Whitby Falls, New Mental Home, Drwg No. 4, 16/10/1955, plans held at DHW E-Plans. A new boiler room was added to the existing in 1969. (Whitby Falls New Mental Home, Boiler Room Additions, July 1969, plans held at DHW E-Plans.)
- 35 *West Australian*, 27/3/1958.

to the west of the 1958 hospital.³⁶ Paving and landscaping at the time was carried out by the patients.³⁷

The Meckering earthquake of October 1968 is said to have caused the damage in the form of cracking to the 1930s egg shed and poultry run structures.³⁸

A works campaign was undertaken at *Whitby Falls Hostel* in the early 1970s. This incorporated the construction of a new dairy and a new farm manager's residence (also used as an independent living unit) on the site of the existing buildings as well as a cooks' residence near the main entry into the hospital site and an occupational therapy building to the south of the 1958 hospital. Mead's c. 1854 residence, which had fallen into disrepair, was eventually demolished in c. 1971 leaving only the stairs that originally led to the southern verandah. A small toilet block marks the location of an earlier bathroom attached to the two-storey building. Also removed at this time were the cooks' cottages, the kitchen and dining room, laundry/wash house and blacksmith's shop. The former patients' tea room and store room were built on the site of the blacksmith's shop.³⁹

These occurred concurrent to the 1971 decision to replace the Claremont Mental Hospital with two facilities: *Swanbourne Hospital* and *Graylands Hospital*.⁴⁰ This was influenced by the changing attitudes towards the treatment of mental illness that had developed in the 1960s in relation to the patient's integration back into the community with an increasing focus on out-patient care, which in turn led to the disbandment of the large residential institutions like *Swanbourne Hospital*.⁴¹

The hospital at Whitby Falls was designated a transition hostel and became an annexe to *Graylands Hospital* for the care of long-stay male patients. The approximately 60 patients continued work in agriculture and horticulture as part of rehabilitation and occupational therapy programs.⁴²

Whitby Falls Hostel was subject to repairs and renovations in 1986 such as repainting, modernisation of bathrooms and kitchen, and updating air-conditioning. Plans of the 1958 hospital show that additional partitions had also been installed in the wards to provide for single bed accommodation.⁴³ Since this time, other works on site have included the creation of a trout farm with funds donated from the Friends of Whitby in 1993, a new dam in 1996, a patio to the

36 *West Australian*, 2/2/1963; Whitby Falls, New Mental Home, Ground Floor Plan, Drwg No. 3, 21/10/1955 (adjusted 24/10/1984), plans held at DHW E-Plans; Male Nurses' Quarters, Whitby Falls Mental Hospital, 1962, plans held at DHW E-Plans. These plans were completed by architectural firm Krantz and Sheldon to match the existing. (*West Australian*, 2/2/1963.)

37 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel', op. cit., n.p.

38 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel', op. cit., n.p.

39 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel', op. cit., n.p.; Mental Health Services, New Dairy, Whitby Falls, Drwg No. 2, November 1972, plans held at DHW E-Plans; Whitby Falls Hostel, Services, Site Plan, undated [c. mid 1980s], 1962, plans held at DHW E-Plans.

40 Annual Report of the Director of Mental Health, 1972, p. 7; Annual Report of the Director of Mental Health, 1973, pp. 7 & 28.

41 Annual Report of the Director of Mental Health, 1972, p. 7; Ellis, op. cit., p. 154; 'Conservation Plan for Swanbourne Hospital', op. cit., p. 38.

42 'Memories of Whitby Falls Hostel', op. cit., n.p.

43 Ibid; Whitby Falls Hostel, Repairs, Renovations & Minor Alterations, part floor plan, May 1986, plans held at DHW E-Plans; Whitby Falls Hostel, Repairs, Renovations & Minor Alterations, Administration Building, May 1986, plans held at DHW E-Plans.

hospital in memory of former patient Sam Hazlitt, and the erection of shade and hot houses as well as prefabricated sheds.⁴⁴

In 2000, the recommendations of a 10-year review of *Whitby Falls Hostel* and its patients were released to the public. In general, the report found that the place 'did not meet modern mental health treatment standards and the residents were isolated from the community and could not mix with other people'.⁴⁵ By this time only 18 patients resided at the hostel and plans were put in place to relocate them to alternative facilities according to their individual needs.⁴⁶

Subsequent to the decision to close *Whitby Falls Hostel* and to turn over the farm to a private operator, the 1958 hospital has been closed with the four patients remaining at the place now living in the former 1963 staff/administration building. The farm is currently leased to a local veterinarian.⁴⁷

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Whitby Falls Hostel comprises the remains of Whitby Falls Residence (1854), stone and iron construction Toolshed (1900), stone and iron construction Stables (1930s), stone stores and Poultry Runs and Sheds and Cool Room (1934), a brick and iron Incubator Room (1934), brick and tile Hostel (1958 and 1963) and former Staff Quarters (1963), brick and tile Deputy Head, Cook (c. 1971), and Farm Manager's cottages (c. 1971), brick and corrugated asbestos Dairy (1972), and Sheds (various post c.1970), a dam (1996) in a picturesque setting that includes Whitby Falls to the east, two brooks, orchards, a pine tree grove, and numerous tree plantings.

Whitby Falls Hostel is located to the east of the South West Highway on a line that extends from the town of Serpentine on the junction of Kiernan Street. The main developed elements are arranged along a private road that extends east of the South West Highway. While the deputy manager's house is on the western side of the road, the farm and hostel buildings are arranged along the sides of the valley along which the Manjedal Brook flows. The brook is fed by a flow of water from Whitby Falls still further east, and the Gingagup Brook. While there appears to be some remnant vegetation around the falls, the remainder of the land is developed. There are pastures to the north of the brook, and the remains of orchards and vegetable gardens to the south of it. The entrance driveway is lined with Monterey Pines, with other plantings that include Cape Lilac, Jacaranda, Chinese Pepper Trees, Coral Trees, Poplars, Mulberry, Wattle, Fiddlewood, Carob, Queensland Box Trees, Sheoak, Stone Pines, Cypress, Bottlebrush, and Umbrella Trees. In a number of locations adjacent to buildings there are plantings of bamboo.

Whitby Falls is a granite formation that is on the edge of the Darling Escarpment and overlooks the whole of the complex.

In a number of locations along and near the Manjedal Brook there are Blackberry Bushes, Bamboo, and Arum Lilies, which appear to be under a program of management.

44 Whitby Falls Hostel, New Water Service Pipeline, 14/3/1996, plans held at DHW E-Plans; Whitby Falls Hostel, Hydraulic Services, Renewal of Dam Water Mains, March 1996, plans held at DHW E-Plans; Site Inspection, 19/7/2006.

45 *Comment News*, 18-24/4/2000.

46 Ibid.

47 Site Inspection, 19/7/2006.

The orchards include Oranges, Mandarin, Lemons, Almonds, and Plums. There are also plantings of grape vines, and a pine grove. Though the older plans indicate an oval, it was not located during the inspection. There are a small number of plantings south of the old house site that may be remnants of the early orchards.

Record drawings indicate an orange grove to the east of the Incubator Room, but there is little remaining of it. Similarly a tennis court located between the orange grove and incubator room was not discernible.

There are indications of the garden area noted on drawings between the two brooks, immediately south of the old house site. The evidence comprises a levelled area and formations in the ground that suggest gardens.

There are very few cultivated gardens around the site with garden beds restricted to the vicinity of the hostel, mainly around its northern side. These gardens include Roses, Japanese Jade, Sward Ferns, and Ficus Trees. In the area immediately around the hostel there are managed lawns and a picnic area.

While the roads leading to the hostel are bitumen paved, east of the hostel road is gravel finished. Most of the fences around the site are post and wire.

East of the developed area, there is the remains of a dam and a stone bridge across the creek.

There are various kinds of fences, mostly post and wire, with some metal fencing and gates.

Whitby House (Ruin 1854)

The remains of the house are located at the eastern end of the developed part of the site, north of the brook. Aboveground evidence of the house comprises the verandah's southern edge retaining wall, and a set of steps leading down from the verandah to the ground below.

Stables (1930s)

The stables consist of two parts. The western part is a simple skillion pitched corrugated iron roof and random rubble stone walled building with brick quoins designed in a simple rural vernacular style, with a single timber door with a concrete lintel in the north wall and a single window in the south wall, a further two doors in the east wall links with the framed section of the building to the east. The floor in this part of the building is earth as far as can be ascertained without excavating, the walls are rendered and limewashed, and the soffit is unlined. There is a partition wall separating north and south sides and a concrete trough on the south wall. A skillion roof extends from the southern side of the building. Part of the roof is missing and plaster is detaching from the lower sections of walls. This building set the pattern for all subsequent stone and brick buildings in the farm area of the site. There is extensive cracking in some walls.

The eastern part of the stables was built in the same construction as the western end, but the top of the stone walls have been removed and a steel and timber framed system put in place of the demolished sections, the walls clad in metal decking, while the roof remains corrugated iron. There are highlight openings a long the south wall and the eastern wall has been left open. It has an earth floor, plastered walls in the stone section, an unlined soffit, and a brick construction loose box, with a pipe railing and wire mesh steel framed gates.

There is a good deal of cracking in the wall between the two halves of the building. Where the walls have been cut back the twin skin construction of the random rubble system makes interesting viewing. Notwithstanding the partly ruined state of this building, it makes a visual contribution to the group of which it is part.

A recently constructed timber pole and railing fence surrounds part of the yard. There is a metal construction stock-loading ramp at the western end of the buildings.

Incubator (1934)

This is a single room brick and rendered brick building with twin roofs covered in green painted corrugated iron, in gable format. The two roofs are linked together, with a pattern of vents along the eaves. There are two iron ventilators arranged along the ridgeline. There are two vents in the long walls and these are covered with ledge and boarded shutters. There is a four-panel door in the eastern gable wall and a further hatch in the opposite wall. The gables have been given a decorative treatment of vertical boards, finished with scalloped bottoms. The interior is a single space, with a concrete floor, rendered dado and brick upper walls, exposed roof structure, and sawn sarking boards, all of which is painted with white limewash. The place is cabled but there is no evidence of the incubators.

The place is well designed and has a simple charm. It is in good condition and appears to be highly authentic.

Toolshed (?)

The Toolshed appears to be part of a suite of buildings associated with the location of the original house or possibly a replacement building on a site very close to it, and all of which are constructed in stone with brick quoins with iron roofs. As a collection, this group has a picturesque quality.

The Toolshed is a simple skillion pitched corrugated iron roof and random rubble stone walled building with brick quoins, with a single metal construction door with a concrete lintel in the east wall and a single window in the west wall. It has a concrete floor, part rendered and limewashed walls and a bench along the western wall, with evidence of racking along the same wall, indicating that the window and bench are later alterations. The soffit is unlined.

There is a good deal of cracking in walls, notably between the junction of quoining and stonework. The building makes a visual contribution to the group of which it is part.

Poultry Runs and Associated Buildings (1934)

This group is arranged around a central axis running north and south up the rising contours of the land. It comprises an Egg Shed, a Shed Ruin on the west side of the axis and a long range of Poultry Sheds on the east side of the axis. The buildings are all part of the random rubble and brick quoined group of buildings, with iron roofs.

On the western side there is a gable roof Egg Shed with a timber ledge and braced door in the eastern wall, with a vent over it and an equivalent vent high in the west wall. The interior is rendered and white washed, the floor is concrete, while the soffit is unlined. The place is used for storage and there is no evidence of its original function in the form of racking. The building is quite badly cracked.

On the western side of this poultry run there are three sides of a shed left standing in the same construction as other masonry sheds. This building is unroofed. A large Chinese Pepper tree shades the structure. A further shed to the north of this run has been demolished and without excavation no evidence of it was found.

This poultry run is surrounded by a steel pole and wire fence indicating that it has not been used as a poultry run for a good while. The western run is shorter than the eastern run and a number of Coral Trees assist with defining the line of the access paths between the sheds to the extent of the longer shed.

The eastern poultry run and sheds comprise one very long shed, stepped up the hill in six stages, constructed in random rubble with brick quoins and with a corrugated iron skillion roof. The east face of the building is open, but is screened from the outside by a timber and chain mesh full height screen. Each section has a ledge and braced door into it. The remainder of the poultry run has a chicken mesh fence around it. The interior has concrete floors, stepped up at each stage of the long run of the building, rendered and lime washed walls, and an unlined soffit. The building is partly unroofed and some sections of walling are badly cracked. There are old fluorescent light fittings suspended from the roof, together with a good deal of the equipment relating to laying and roosting.

Hay Shed (c1970)

The hay shed is simple steel structure with a gabled roof, and open sides, which runs east west along the contours, with a skillion roof extension to the north. It has a framed and sheeted western wall. A machinery shed is attached to the western end of the building. It also has a steel frame, gabled roof format, and a concrete floor. This group is typical of farm sheds of the post World War II period.

Dairy (1972)

This building is designed in two parts. The southern part contains the milk room, engine and change rooms, and the northern part the milking stalls. The southern section is a simple face brick building with a low-pitched gable roof, and a concrete construction loading dock along its southern side. The building has louvre windows and flush doors, a flat ceiling, concrete floor. The interior is divided into three spaces with the larger space, the milk room being glass face cement rendered, partly tiles, and equipped with stainless steel sinks. A lavatory and change room with lockers is located to the east. The western room is a narrow room equipped with a freezer, benches and chalkboards. The engine has been removed.

The milking section has a steel portal framed roof, and masonry walls are rendered. There are steel doors, steel gates and fences and milking stalls, and concrete floors. The yards also have a concrete paved surface with steel mesh fencing and steel gates. The machinery has been removed. The building is similar to dairies found elsewhere in the state dating from the post World War II period. The building is in sound condition.

Miscellaneous Sheds (1970s)

On the site of the old kitchen, dining room and blacksmith's shop there is a collection of metal construction sheds and a prefabricated office. There is no readily identifiable evidence of any of the earlier buildings in this area, though it is possible that the present buildings conceal evidence of them. The sheds are

either open sided, three sided or fully enclosed. Their construction varies and includes metal framing and cladding, timber framing and asbestos cladding.

Farm Manager, Cook, and Deputy Head Residences (c.1971)

The Farm Manager's House is a standard pattern State Housing Commission brick and tiled gabled roof house, with Shadowline gable ends, and integral carport partly enclosed with breezeblock walls, and a brick and concrete verandah with wrought iron balustrades. It has aluminium joinery, lined soffits, Sheerline gutters and a metal-framed pergola at the rear, complete with a brick construction barbeque. The interior has concrete floors, plastered walls and plasterboard ceilings, built in furniture and tiling to wet areas. Most of the cabinetwork is original veneer or painted finish, while floor coverings and tiling are replacements.

The place is in good order and is unoccupied.

The Cook's House is a standard pattern State Housing Commission face brick and concrete tiled gable roofed house, with timber joinery, with a porch on the south side, a carport on the west side, and a lawned garden setting. There is a post and wire fence with metal and chain mesh gates, a bitumen driveway and a small number of trees and shrubs. The place is in fair order, unoccupied and used for storage.

Deputy Managers' House was not inspected.

Hostel Group

The Hostel Group comprises the Hostel (or Hospital) Building, the former Nurses' Quarters (latterly the Administration and then Hostel), and a series of sheds. Both buildings have very simple styling that was typical of many buildings in the immediate post World War II period and prior to the late 1960s: simple face brick walls, few features, gabled roofs with low pitches and painted timber joinery. They were simply functional buildings.

Hostel (1958 and 1963)

The Hostel is a long narrow low pitched gable asbestos covered roof building with red face brick walls, painted timber joinery, and concrete verandahs with roofs supported on circular hollow steel columns. Windows are double hung spiral sash types and doors are flush panel partly glazed. Verandah soffits are lined in flat asbestos sheet and eaves lined with bird boards. Verandahs extend along the whole of the south side and part of the north side of the hostel. While the rear of south areas are simply grassed with a small number of plantings, with a road extending the length of the elevation, the north side is presented as the front of the building. There is a birdcage towards the western end of the building, with a small stone memorial dedicated to former residents. This feature has a Toodyay stone base and is surrounded by trees and shrubs, and various stones placed to enhance the setting. At the eastern end there is a small water feature designed in the form of a rock pool, with a brick paving surround and a standard kit pattern timber lattice gazebo.

The hostel has three 24-bed wards at the eastern end of the building, recreation and administration space towards the centre, a dining room, then kitchen and laundry area to the west.

The planning is long and linear, with four sets of rooms running off the spine. Starting from the west, there is a group of service rooms comprising laundry,

cleaner's rooms, an activity workshop, staff living quarters, then a kitchen and dining room.

The next set of rooms is arranged around the central corridor that runs the length of the building to the eastern-most ward. To the north and south of the corridor at the western end lies one of the original wards (Kookaburra), with a large day room on the southern side of the building that includes a stage and was used for entertainment. Next along the axis are the bathrooms and toilets on the south side and single wards on the north side, most of which are converted for office and consulting room use.

The interior has been re-fitted so that the open wards have been converted into private cubicles with lightweight partitions. This part of the block also contains a linen room, pan room (converted to a laundry), occupational therapy rooms, and a duty room. The long axis terminates with the second of the original wards (Jacaranda) and a further day room, which is more intimate in scale than the large dayroom.

Off the south near the eastern end lies the additional ward built in 1963 (Illawarra), which was built in the same style as the original wards. The original planning of the wards indicated a small amount of partitioning to separate the spaces into five major spaces, four of four beds each and one of eight beds. This was modified to the current configuration to give each person a living space with a much higher degree of privacy.

Generally the interiors have concrete floors, plastered walls, and plasterboard ceilings with cornices. Wet areas are tiled with parts of their walls tiled as well as the floors.

The exterior is in fair to poor condition with some brickwork in very poor condition. The interiors are dark and gloomy and are poorly maintained.

Administration Building (1963)

This building was designed as staff accommodation, became offices and then the hostel for the small number of men who remained resident at the final period of operation before closure of the place.

The building is brick construction with a gabled tiled roof, and painted timber joinery. It is a simple functional design without any strong stylistic characteristics.

It is planned around a long corridor with habitable rooms on the north side and service rooms on the south side, with one large room at the western end that was designed as a lounge, converted to a conference room and then turned back into a day room and meals area for the residents. The interiors are carpeted or tiled concrete floors, plastered walls, and plasterboard ceilings. There are no special features. This building is in good condition.

Archaeology

The 1870s dam was not located.

Sheds to the north and east of the house indicated on the 1897 plan have been removed and there is no surface evidence of them.

The dormitory that was added to the west side of the 1854 house in 1899 was removed when the house was demolished and there is no surface evidence of this structure.

Similarly the structures that were added in the vicinity of the house in 1900 including the cook's cottages and the dining room and kitchen have been removed without leaving surface evidence. Although the laundry that was built to the east of the house has been removed, its concrete floor slab remains visible. Archaeological evidence of both structures, and the activities carried out in them, probably remain beneath the current ground levels.

There is little evidence of the orchards near the house and no trace of the vineyards was detected.

There is likely to be below ground evidence of the mill built on the creek.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Whitby Falls Hostel is comparable to other mental institutions such as: Asylum for the Criminally Insane, Fremantle, the first permanent institution for the mentally ill, operating as such from 1865 to 1905; *Graylands Hospital*, a remnant of the Claremont Hospital for the Insane established in 1904; *Lemnos Hospital* opened in 1926 for the care of returned servicemen suffering from mental ill health; and Heathcote Mental Reception Home opened in 1929 for patients seeking treatment on a voluntary basis.⁴⁸ All four places have been entered on the Register of Heritage Places, and only *Graylands Hospital* continues to function as a hospital.

Both Lemnos and Heathcote Hospitals were designed along the lines of providing facilities of a more domestic character, with an emphasis on opened landscaped areas and the provision of fresh air.⁴⁹ In comparison, the Asylum for the Criminally Insane, Fremantle, as suggested by its name, was constructed in an era when mental illness was associated with criminality, and although intended to be designed for good light and ventilation, it is a heavy Gothic building designed strictly within a nineteenth century institutional framework.⁵⁰ The original 1904 portion of the Claremont Hospital for the Insane (Swanbourne Hospital) was designed to address perceived deficiencies in the Fremantle asylum, to allow it to be closed. It is constructed on an elevated site, for ventilation purposes, and the planning and design of this hospital is formal and institutional in character. This was also the case for the 1910/11 X Block, constructed as the second phase of development of Claremont Hospital for the Insane and now operating as *Graylands Hospital*.⁵¹

Subsequent to the closure of Swanbourne Hospital in 1983, the majority of the buildings on the site were demolished including all the wards associated with the original 1904 development. All that remains of Swanbourne Hospital are buildings from the 1904 service core: the Administration building; the kitchen block; and, Montgomery Hall (dining hall).⁵² In this context *Graylands Hospital* is a remnant of Claremont Hospital for the Insane, the main State institution for the treatment of mental illness from 1904 until 3 September 1972 and since 1983 is the only

48 Heritage Assessment for Lemnos Hospital, op. cit., pp. 18 - 19; Hocking Planning & Architecture, Conservation Plan for Heathcote Hospital Complex, prepared for Health Western Australia, the BMA, HCWA and the City of Melville, January 1995, Vol. 1 & Vol. 2.

49 Heritage Assessment for Lemnos Hospital, op. cit., pp. 18-19; Conservation Plan for Heathcote Hospital Complex, op. cit.

50 HCWA Register Documentation P00875 *Museum & Arts Centre, Fremantle*.

51 Heritage Assessment for Lemnos Hospital, op. cit., pp. 18-19; Conservation Plan for Swanbourne Hospital, op. cit., pp. 26-28.

52 Conservation Plan for Swanbourne Hospital, op. cit., p. 39.

part of the former Claremont Hospital for the Insane which continues to function as a facility for the care of those suffering from mental illness.

Whitby Falls Hostel was to have been an ambitious scheme with a large amount of accommodation broken down into cottage style units developed in stages. In fact, due to a lack of support for the location by successive administrators, there was no major investment in the place until the Post War period. The place was grafted on to an existing farm and the initial stages were modest expansions to the existing complex. Patients took part in farm production and in due course the farm was improved and production diversified.

Even when the significant developments occurred in the Post War period, the number of people accommodated at *Whitby Falls Hostel* was modest.

Whitby Falls Hostel is distinguished from its comparatives by its bucolic setting, an important natural feature in Whitby Falls, its agricultural buildings, and its modest scale. The buildings designed to accommodate patients at Whitby Falls were modest in scale and design in comparison to all other sites and are built to basic standards.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

The exact dates of all changes to *Whitby Falls Hostel*, in particular the removal of earlier structures on the site, are not known.