



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The Rotunda Hospital is a fine example of a building constructed in the Federation Queen Anne style. The form and proportions of the building make a balanced composition. The building features good examples of internal detailing, including the jarrah staircase, metal ceilings, tiled fireplaces and stained glass. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.2)

The former ward block is an aesthetically pleasing structure, although in a less 'grand' style than the main building. The glazed walls to the original wardrooms, with wide verandahs looking down over the landscaped site contribute to the aesthetic value of the place. (Criterion 1.1)

The large site, including parkland adjacent to Albany Highway, makes an aesthetic contribution to the area. (Criterion 1.3)

The prominent location of the former Rotunda Hospital building, with vistas down the tree-lined entrance driveway and across the landscaped site, is a major contributing factor to the aesthetic value of the place. (Criterion 1.3)

The mature formal landscape planting along the entrance driveway makes a major contribution to the landmark quality of the original building and site. (Criterion 1.3)

The landscape setting of *Edward Millen Home (fmr)* is valued by the community as an attractive, green open space, the lower half of which is accessible for recreation. The landscape elements make an important contribution to the streetscape of Albany Highway, providing a welcome contrast to the otherwise intensively built surroundings. (Criterion 1.4)

The landscape elements are important integral components of the site, as they collectively provide a consciously designed setting for the hospital which has been largely respected during the subsequent development of the site. (Criterion 1.4)

* 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.

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

The extent of the site and the original Rotunda Hospital building are representative of the development of the area in the early decades of the twentieth century. The Rotunda Hospital was the only maternity hospital in the area when it was constructed. (Criterion 2.1)

The siting of the Rotunda Hospital on the elevated portion of the illustrates issues of hospital design in the early twentieth century, when emphasis was placed on fresh air and ventilation. (Criterion 2.1)

The ward block and fumatory, built in 1921, are representative of the efforts of the Commonwealth Government in providing health care for ex-servicemen suffering from tuberculosis following World War I. The site operated as a repatriation hospital from 1921 until 1960. (Criterion 2.1)

The site has been used for a variety of health related purposes since the Rotunda Hospital was first established as a maternity hospital in 1912. The site was taken over by the State Government during the Spanish Influenza epidemic in 1919 and was compulsorily acquired by the Commonwealth Government as a repatriation hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis following World War One. The place operated as a repatriation hospital under 1960. Between 1968 and 1971, the place operated as 'Hillview Clinic', a 'Restoration Centre' for psychiatric patients. From 1971 to 1979, it was used primarily for physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Between 1979 and 1997, the Mildred Creak Centre for autistic children operated from the former ward block. (Criterion 2.2)

Elizabeth Baillie, one of the first group of registered midwives in Western Australia, was responsible for the construction of the original hospital building and was its first Matron. She has been remembered through the naming of Baillie Avenue. The construction of a maternity hospital made a contribution to the development of the area and represents an important phase in the history of maternity care in Western Australia. The Rotunda Hospital was established four years before King Edward Memorial Hospital, Western Australia's first public hospital for women. (Criteria 2.2 & 2.3)

The place is of historic significance for its associations with Mildred Creak, a well-known practitioner in the care of autistic in Western Australia in the 1960s and 1970s. A centre for the treatment and care of autistic children operated on the site from 1979 to 1997. (Criterion 2.3)

The landscape elements of *Edward Millen Home (fmr)* provide a consciously designed setting of the hospital which illustrates various aspects of health care in Western Australia from 1912 to 1997. These elements include: the layout of the grounds with its main drive, avenue planting and the grouping together of the buildings on the high ground well back from the Highway; planting remnants which are evidence of the major landscape development of the site completed on the advice of the Superintendent of King's Park in 1920; and, open lawn areas which are evidence of the development and use of the site for the care and treatment of tubercular patients. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The existence of the sputum destructor and fumatory provide evidence of medical technology in the inter-war period, in particular the care of patients suffering from tuberculosis. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place has social significance for those members of the community who remember it as the Rotunda Maternity Hospital. (Criterion 4.1)

The place has social significance to those associated with the Edward Millen hospital during its years as a repatriation hospital and sanatorium. It is of significance to those who were patients, staff and volunteers of the hospital and to members of the community for whom the place holds memories of family and friends who died there. (Criterion 4.1)

The place has social significance for those associated with the Mildred Creek Centre and Hillview Hospital, either as patients, staff, volunteers, family and friends associated with the hospital's caring role in the community. (Criterion 4.1)

The site has value in the local community for the amenity of the public park and the potential amenity of the buildings. (Criterion 4.2)

The place contributes to the sense of place of the community, having existed as a large landscaped area since 1912. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

The site is a rare example of a private hospital constructed in the style of a grand residence and remaining intact in Victoria Park. The type of residence is generally found in more well to do suburbs of Perth. (Criterion 5.1)

The place represents the standard and nature of rehabilitative care offered to ex-servicemen and tuberculosis sufferers in Western Australia between 1920 and 1960. It is a more intact example than similar sites in Western Australia. Other examples such as Hollywood Repatriation Hospital, Shenton Park Infectious Diseases Hospital and Wooroloo Sanatorium have been significantly altered from their original form. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The landscape elements are representative of the simple orderliness often associated with public sites through the twentieth century. (Criterion 6.1)

The landscaping is an important contributing factor to the historic significance of the place and is integral to the illustration of the nature of care of tubercular ex-servicemen after World War I. (Criterion 6.1)

The place represents an intact example of a hospital dating from the inter-war period and represents the quality of care considered appropriate to the period. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The buildings and landscape have been well managed and maintained since their initial establishment. The place is in good condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The place has a high degree of integrity.

The buildings and landscape have been retained and well maintained as a coherent group, largely intact and in good condition. Later additions to the site have been well integrated.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The fabric of the significant buildings and landscape elements is in a relatively original state and is of medium to high integrity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Hillview East Victoria Park, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Health Department of Western Australia, May 1997.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Hillview East Victoria Park, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Health Department of Western Australia, May 1997.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Hillview East Victoria Park, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Health Department of Western Australia, May 1997.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion and analysis of comparative places, refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Hillview East Victoria Park, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Health Department of Western Australia, May 1997.

13.4 REFERENCES

Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Hillview East Victoria Park, Conservation Plan', prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of the Health Department of Western Australia, May 1997.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
