



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION**

### **11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

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

#### **PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)**

- 3.26.2 Providing hospital services
- 4.1.2 Making suburbs
- 4.3 Developing institutions
- 4.4 Living with slums, outcasts and homelessness
- 9.1.1 Providing maternity clinics and hospitals
- 9.6.2 Looking after the infirm and the aged

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

- 107 Settlements
- 404 Community services & utilities

#### **11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\***

*Hillcrest* is a very fine example of a Victorian Italianate style residence with a sympathetic 1934 addition in a matching style. Many fine interior elements such as the main stair and some of the stone construction fire surrounds are of a very high standard. (Criterion 1.1)

#### **11.2 HISTORIC VALUE**

*Hillcrest* illustrates the high standard of design, building and accommodation to which members of the mercantile elite aspired in the early twentieth century. Additions and alterations to the place for its use as a maternity hospital and later as part of a complex of care facilities for senior citizens illustrate adaptations to a large residence for such uses in the inter-war and post World War Two periods in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

*Hillcrest* was built in the early twentieth century, following the Western Australian gold boom, when the wealthy elite were establishing large suburban residences with marine views to the Swan River and Indian Ocean. Converted to a maternity hospital for unmarried mothers in 1922, it was enlarged to provide additional accommodation in 1934, as Western Australia began its recovery from the Great Depression. (Criterion 2.2)

*Hillcrest* provided maternity care for unmarried mothers and their babies for more than 50 years from the 1920s, when they were seen as social outcasts, through gradually changing social mores to the early 1970s, when much of the former stigma had gone and single mothers were generally accepted, and played an important role in the training of mid-wives prior to establishment of a program at King Edward Memorial Hospital. *Hillcrest* has played a role in providing care facilities in Fremantle through its provision of maternity care to married women at various periods, and, since 1978, through provision of hostel, nursing home and day care centre facilities for senior citizens. (Criterion 2.2)

*Hillcrest* reflects the changing patterns of maternity care throughout the twentieth century and as an extension of these changing needs the acknowledgment of the needs of working mothers. (Criterion 2.2)

*Hillcrest* was used for accommodation for the United States Armed Forces from 1942 to 1944. (Criterion 2.2)

*Hillcrest* was built as the family residence and retirement home for well known merchant Francis Pearse of the prominent North Fremantle Pearse family. His widow, Emma Pearse, donated it to the Salvation Army in 1921, and they continue to own and use the place into 2004. The 1958 and 1979 buildings were designed by well known architects Forbes & Fitzhardinge. (Criterion 2.3)

*Hillcrest* is a handsome residence, its design and execution being of an equally high standard, and befitting its owner, one of the wealthiest men in the State at the time of its construction. (Criterion 2.4)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Hillcrest* is highly valued by the community for social and cultural reasons, as the erstwhile family residence of Francis Pearse, whose family were amongst the earliest settlers and most widely known in Fremantle, after whom Pearse Street is named, and, since 1922, under the auspices of the Salvation Army, for its almost continuous provision of maternity care for more than 50 years, and, since 1978, as an aged care facility, and also for aesthetic reasons as one of the most substantial and handsome residences in North Fremantle. Permanent Registration on the National Estate, Classification by the National Trust of Australia (WA) and inclusion in the City of Fremantle's Municipal Inventory further evidence its high social value. (Criterion 4.1)

*Hillcrest* contributes to the community's sense of place as a well known landmark in North Fremantle for more than a century. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

*Hillcrest* is a rare example of the Victorian Italianate style in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

The construction of *Hillcrest* in 1901 is very late for this style which is usually described as existing between 1840 and 1890. (Criterion 5.1)

*Hillcrest* is rare as an example of the type of accommodation available to the wealthy elite in the early twentieth century. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Hillcrest* is a very fine example of a Victorian Italianate style residence and represents the distinctive accommodation and way of life of the mercantile elite in the early twentieth century. (Criterion 6.1)

*Hillcrest* reflects the history of many substantial homes in Western Australia that were adapted for hospital and nursing home purposes once the period of 'gracious living' had passed. (Criterion 6.2)

*Hillcrest* was one of a number of maternity homes or hospitals and convalescent facilities used as accommodation by members of the American forces in World War Two. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

Notwithstanding its three major alterations, the cumulative effect of maintenance and change have left the value of the place fairly well intact. The fabric of the 1901 and 1934 stage are well maintained and in good order. The belvederes is not maintained. Overall the place is in good condition.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Hillcrest* has undergone three major changes. The original intent of the large family residence remains reasonably apparent. Overall the place retains a moderate degree of integrity.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

Much of the original fabric of the 1901 residence has been retained, though all of its outbuildings have been removed and their sites redeveloped. The changes have been mainly fabric removal and new overlays. Three Norfolk Island pines near the original house are surviving early plantings. The underlying fabric of the buildings is authentic so that the place retains a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Phillip Griffiths, Architect and Robin Chinnery, Historian, in June 2004, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Hillcrest* is an aged care facility comprising the original *Hillcrest* residence, a two-storey stucco and tiles roof building in the Victorian Italianate style built in 1901 for Francis Pearse, a 1934 addition to the house in a sympathetic style, a two storey brick and asbestos roof former maternity hospital completed in 1958 in the post World War Two International Style, and a hostel constructed in brick with an asbestos cement roof completed in 1979 in the post World War Two Perth Regional style.

By 1832, the townsite of Fremantle had been laid out and some building had commenced. In the next decade, as the towns of Perth and Fremantle were developed, four tracks were established leading from Fremantle, to Perth, to Canning Bridge, which was opened in 1843, to the Canning district and Kelmscott, and to the south to Peel. The Swan River Colony developed slowly through to the 1850s, when the introduction of transportation heralded a period of rapid development. A wide programme of public works was carried out with the use of convict labour, including roads and bridges, among them the Perth-Fremantle Road, and the Fremantle Bridge. The track to Canning Bridge became Canning Road, the future Canning Highway. In 1879, construction of the Eastern Railway from Fremantle to Perth commenced, and the line was opened for traffic in March 1881.<sup>1</sup> In the late nineteenth century, residential development would spread from the town centre of Fremantle to the south, north and east along these arteries.

Among the earliest families established in Fremantle was that of William Silas Pearse (b. 1808, d. 1866, Fremantle), who arrived per *Egyptian* in February 1830, as a laborer for Robert Wall. Subsequently, Pearse became a ferryman, a dairy farmer, a landowner, and a butcher 'with a large business', and a member of the Fremantle Town Trust (1848, 1850-51).<sup>2</sup> In 1837, he had married Susannah Hallett Glyde. Their five surviving sons expanded the family's business interests and were prominent in Fremantle in the second half of the nineteenth century<sup>3</sup>, being among those since referred to as 'The Merchant Princes of Fremantle'.<sup>4</sup> Subsequent to leaving school and a period as an assistant teacher at Fremantle Boys' School, Francis Pearse (b. 1847, North Fremantle) worked for four years for Messrs. T. and H. Carter and Co., 'the principal merchants, importers and general shipping agents' at Fremantle in the 1860s.<sup>5</sup> Thereafter, he went to Dongara, where he opened a business in partnership with Edward Newman. After his death, Francis Pearse bought out the remaining partners, and continued the business through into the twentieth century. His various business activities included merchandising, farming and pastoralism, wool buying and selling, acting

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1 Crowley, F. K. *Australia's Western Third: A History of Western Australia from the first settlements to modern times* Macmillan & Co. Ltd., London, 1960, pp. 74-75.

2 Erickson, Rica (Ed.) *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre-1829-1888* University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1988, p. 2448; and Ford, David 'The Pearse family of Western Australia' typescript, held in Battye Library, c. 1962, pp. 1-9.

3 Erickson, Rica (Ed.) *ibid*, pp. 2447-2449.

4 Brown, Patricia Ann *The Merchant Princes of Fremantle: The Rise and Decline of a Colonial Elite 1870-1900* University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1996.

5 Ford, David *op. cit.*, p. 13; and *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* P. W. H. Thiel & Co., Perth, 1901, fasc. edition Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, 2000, p. 586.

as agent for Adelaide Steamship Company and for Commercial Union Insurance Company. He was a member of the Hall Committee (1881) and the Methodist Church Building Committee (1883), and donated land for the Manse site. He served as a Justice of the Peace and Irwin Roads Board member, of which he was Chairman in 1887 and 1902. He was responsible for building the first bank in Dongara, and also the Royal Flour Mill at Dongara, reportedly 'one of the most complete in the State' by 1901.<sup>6</sup>

In August 1891, portions of Swan Location 130, Lots 10 and 11, with frontage to Harvest Road, a total area of three roods 31 and a quarter perches, were registered in the ownership of John Bick, publican, of North Fremantle.<sup>7</sup> Lot 11 would be part of the future site of *Hillcrest*, as would the adjoining lot fronting Harvest Road, Lot 12, one rood 35 and a half perches in area, which was registered in the ownership of James Henry Ellery, of Newcastle, on 10 November 1891.<sup>8</sup>

On 29 August 1894, portions of Swan Location 130, Lots 13 and 26, together one acre and two perches in area, also part of the future site of *Hillcrest*, were transferred to George Joseph Gooch, farmer, of Gascoyne. Lot 13 fronted Harvest Road and Lot 26 fronted John Street, and the lots, which adjoined at the rear, both had a side boundary to Helen Street (later re-named Turton Street).<sup>9</sup>

The founder of the Salvation Army, General Booth, on a visit to Melbourne in 1891, had dedicated Major Knight and 12 officers 'as a special contingent for Western Australia', who 'opened their campaign in Perth, Fremantle, and four other localities simultaneously' in the same year.<sup>10</sup> In 1898, the Salvation Army began their care for un-married mothers at Graceville in Perth.<sup>11</sup> By 1900, the Salvation Army were well established in Western Australia, with 17 'barracks' in various localities, and their rescue work, particularly in large centres such as Perth, Fremantle and on the goldfields, was well recognised.<sup>12</sup>

In the mid to late 1890s, as subdivisions of land increased and then accelerated with the West Australian Gold Boom, residential development in North and East Fremantle proceeded apace, and the population increased considerably. On 25 November 1899, the above-mentioned Lots 11, 12, 13 and 26, with a total area of two acres 34 and eight tenths perches, were transferred to Francis Pearse of Dongara.<sup>13</sup> He acquired the adjoining Lots 24 and 25 also, providing him with a large site of two acres three roods and 26 and two tenths perches in total on which to build *Hillcrest*, his retirement home.<sup>14</sup> The land purchase was indicative of Francis Pearse's strong family ties to North Fremantle, where various members of his extended family continued to live and work, their boot factory and tannery near the Fremantle Bridge being a well-known landmark and local employer. James Pearse was a Councillor from the inception of the North Fremantle Council (1895-98) and served also as Mayor (1898-1901) whilst his brother William was the Member of the Legislative Assembly for North Fremantle

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6       ibid.

7       Certificate of Title Vol. XL Fol. 144.

8       Certificate of Title Vol. XLI Fol. 167.

9       Certificate of Title Vol. LXII Fol. 76.

10      *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* op. cit., p. 153.

11      'Hillcrest Maternity Hospital 1922-1974, Hillcrest Senior Citizen's Residence 1978- ' typescript information from Salvation Army to HCWA, March 2004.

12      *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* op. cit.,

13      Certificates of Title Vol. XL Fol. 144, Vol. LXII Fol. 76, Vol. XLI Fol. 167 and Vol. CLXXXI Fol. 183.

14      Certificate of Title Vol. 787 Fol. 105.

(1890-95).<sup>15</sup>

By 1900-01, many 'handsome residences' had been built in North Fremantle, taking advantage of views to the Indian Ocean and the Swan River.<sup>16</sup> The streets were 'wide, well-macadamised thoroughfares, lined with ornamental trees.'<sup>17</sup>

On numerous occasions, it has been reported that *Hillcrest* was built 'in 1890' or 'around 1890', purportedly as 'a private residence and business by Mr. Francis Pearse', which was subsequently 'ceded to the Salvation Army' after his death 'by his wife in 1898'.<sup>18</sup> However, to date no evidence has been located to suggest that the place was built for any use other than residential or to support any earlier date of construction than 1901.

Colin Pearse, grandson of Francis and Emma Pearse, recollected

Hillcrest was a definite labour of love for my Grandparents, and in particular, my Grandfather, who, between the years, 1901-1903, planned and built the picturesque mansion when North Fremantle was undeveloped scrubland<sup>19</sup>

In 1901, the Commonwealth Electoral Roll listed Francis Pearse, merchant, his wife, Emma (nee Snook, m. 1871) with their daughter, Flora Hallett Pearse, as voters at North Fremantle.<sup>20</sup> It appears most probable that they were at a temporary residence, as Francis Pearse was Chairman of Irwin Roads Board in 1902, and did not retire to North Fremantle until 1903, when his new residence was complete.<sup>21</sup> It was a grand two storey residence, of brick and iron construction, in the Victorian Italianate design style<sup>22</sup>, with a distinctive tower providing extensive views to the Swan River, the Indian Ocean and Fremantle Harbour. In the 'immense' grounds, Francis Pearse, 'an avid fruit grower' planted orchards of citrus trees, 'amongst which, were scattered bountiful supplies of fig trees, planted by the early settlers', and built 'huge bird baths in various parts of the garden'.<sup>23</sup>

The Pearses named their new residence *Hill Crest*, reflecting its position at the crest of the hill. It was one of the most imposing residences built in North Fremantle in the Federation period, and became a well known landmark. The place provided ample accommodation for the large family of Francis and Emma Pearse. The main entrance to *Hill Crest* was from Helen Street, and hence Francis Pearse was generally listed at this address in *Wise's Post Office Directory Post Office Directories*, the first such listing being in 1904. Nearby, in Harvest Road, was the Salvation Army Prison Gate Home.<sup>24</sup> Thus the Pearse family would have been familiar with the Salvation Army's work in North Fremantle, as well as through Francis Pearse's friendship with Salvation Army Major E. M. Hasluck.<sup>25</sup> In early 1903, the Salvation Army re-located their care

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15 Erickson, Rica (Ed.) op. cit., pp. 2448-2449.

16 *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* P. W. H. Thiel & Co., Perth, 1901, fasc. edition Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, 2000, p. 438.

17 ibid.

18 *Fremantle Gazette* September 1990; and *ACSWA Newsletter* July 2002, p. 8.

19 Watson, Graham *It's Not All Bull* W. C. K. Pearse, South Perth, 1995, p. 75.

20 Voters at North Fremantle, Commonwealth Electoral Roll, 1901.

21 *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* op. cit.; and *Wise's Post Office Directory* 1901 to 1903.

22 Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert, and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1878 to the Present* Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989, pp. 104-107.

23 *It's Not All Bull* op. cit., pp. 75-76.

24 *Wise's Post Office Directory* 1903 to 1907.

25 *Daily News* 20 July 1978.

facility for un-married mothers to Open Door at North Fremantle, which operated until May 1903<sup>26</sup>, when the Salvation Army Maternity Home at Swan Street, North Fremantle, was officially opened by the Governor's wife, Lady Bedford.<sup>27</sup> The Pearse family's tannery, works and boot manufacturing business were also in Swan Street.<sup>28</sup>

In 1904, a substantial brick residence was built at the south-east corner of Harvest Road and Helen Street for Francis Pearse's niece, Jessie May Turton (b. 1877, daughter of James Pearse)<sup>29</sup>, who thus became a near neighbour, along with other Pearse family members residing in Harvest Road and Swan Street.<sup>30</sup>

Early photographs show *Hill Crest* viewed from the north, where a low timber picket fence marks the boundary of the lot. In the earlier photograph, there is a cover over the young plantings nearest to the fence, with more advanced tree plantings including a Norfolk Island pine nearby, and another pine and a palm nearer the main building, to the left of the steps. A year or so later, the second photograph shows these plantings have survived and grown, and additional plantings made in this portion of the garden. Both photographs show the tower, the paired decorative iron posts supporting the verandah and the fine filigree balustrading at the first floor. To the west of the main building is a small separate single storey building with an iron roof.<sup>31</sup>

In November 1908, the Prison Gate Home in Harvest Road was vacated, when the inmates moved to 'a new and more suitable building at Karrakatta.'<sup>32</sup> In 1909, plans were drawn by Commonwealth Commissioner Saunders for alterations and additions, including a new jarrah timber building in front of the pre-existing brick building, to enable its use by the Maternity Hospital, which operated in rented premises in Swan Street. In March 1910, the work was completed. The official opening by the Governor's wife, Lady Edeline Strickland, was delayed until late April, to coincide with Commissioner Hay's visit to Western Australia and the Salvation Army Congress in Perth.<sup>33</sup>

In 1917, Francis and Emma Pearse continued in residence at *Hill Crest*, with their un-married daughter, Gladys Mary (b. 1886).<sup>34</sup> In May 1919, it was reported that Francis Pearse was 'enjoying his well-earned leisure in his stately Hillcrest mansion at North Fremantle'.<sup>35</sup>

On 1 November 1919, Francis Pearse died interstate. Letters of Administration were granted to his widow, Emma Anne Pearse, his sons, Francis Newman Pearse, merchant, of Dongara, and Nelson Archer Leopold Pearse, pastoralist, of Nalbarra, Mount Magnet, and Alexander Halliday, Estate Agent, of Mount Lawley.<sup>36</sup> Emma and Gladys Pearse continued to reside at *Hill Crest*.<sup>37</sup> In 1921,

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26 'Hillcrest Maternity Hospital 1922-1974, Hillcrest Senior Citizen's Residence 1978-' op. cit.

27 *West Australian* 12 May 1903, p. 4. Note: Secondary sources (e.g. Program for Laying of Foundation Stone at Hillcrest Maternity Hospital' 5 April 1957, and Typewritten information '1957: History of Hillcrest' and 'Summary of Social Beginnings' in Hillcrest File, Fremantle Library Local History Collection) generally state that the Salvation Army's maternity work transferred from Swan Street to 'Hopetoun', in Harvest Road, in 1903, which is incorrect.

28 *Wise's Post Office Directory* 1898 to 1904.

29 'Cockburn News' in *Daily News* 30 July 1981; and Erickson, Rica (Ed.) op. cit., p. 2448.

30 *Wise's Post Office Directory* 1904 to 1918.

31 Photographs 'Hillcrest - North Fremantle' in *It's Not All Bull* op. cit., p. 74.

32 *West Australian* 26 April 1910.

33 *ibid.*

34 Voters at North Fremantle, North Legislative Assembly Electoral Roll, 1917.

35 *Fremantle Times* 30 May 1919.

36 Certificate of Title Vol. CLXXXI Fol. 183.

whilst cleaning and sorting through her late husband's books, Emma Pearse came upon his favourite Bible. A piece of paper which dropped from its cover was found to be a letter expressing the wish that in the event of his death *Hill Crest* be donated to charity.<sup>38</sup> Emma Pearse followed his wish, and thus *Hillcrest* was transferred to William Bramwell Booth, Director of the Social Work of the Salvation Army, of London on 4 October 1921.<sup>39</sup> At his death, Francis Pearse had been one of the wealthiest men in the State, having 'amassed a fortune of over three-quarters of a million pounds', and 'through the generosity of his widow a goodly portion of this huge estate' would be 'devoted to private benefactions and donations to charitable institutions', including the Salvation Army.<sup>40</sup>

In early April 1922, Commissioner Richards, the newly appointed head of the Salvation Army in Australia, visited Western Australia for the Congress. The *West Australian* drew attention to its work 'in the reclamation of the outcasts of society', notable examples in this State being their Prison Gate home for those recently released from prison, and the boys' reformatory home where young offenders were trained in agricultural work 'and drafted thence into the country'.<sup>41</sup> The institutions controlled by the Salvation Army in Western Australia included 'A workmen's home, an aged men's retreat, a boy's industrial school, a maternity hospital, a women's rescue home, a girls' reformatory in the country and girls' homes in Kalgoorlie and at the seaside'.<sup>42</sup> On 5 April, the aforesaid maternity hospital was officially opened at *Hillcrest*, under Matron Major A. Sutherland, whose parents had been pioneers of the Salvation Army in Western Australia.<sup>43</sup> A marble plaque was mounted on the wall to the right of the main entrance, commemorating the donation of the place to the Salvation Army by 'Mrs. E. A. Pearse for the purposes of a Maternity Hospital'.<sup>44</sup>

In the first part of the twentieth century most babies were born at home under the care of a midwife. The unmarried women who needed to use the services of *Hillcrest* were often socially ostracized. Although women could choose to birth at *Hillcrest* few did as it was accepted as a reception centre for 'wayward girls'. The provision of this facility by the Salvation Army filled a much needed gap in health services.<sup>45</sup>

In addition to caring for un-married mothers during their confinement, midwifery nurses' training was commenced at *The Salvation Army Hillcrest Maternity Hospital*, as the place was officially known, a significant initiative in the period before King Edward Memorial Hospital commenced training midwives. A photograph on the certificate awarded to Mabel Muldoon on completion of her year's training in July 1923, shows *Hillcrest* viewed from the east, the imposing tower above the main entrance, with a single bay to the right, and the open verandah to the left.<sup>46</sup> Around the same period, a photograph of hospital staff at the eastern entrance steps, shows the above-mentioned marble plaque mounted

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37 Voters at North Fremantle, North Legislative Assembly Electoral Roll, 1920.

38 *It's Not All Bull* op. cit., p. 77.

39 Certificates of Title Vol. CLXXXI Fol. 183 and Vol. 787 Fol. 105.

40 Cutting from *Western Mail* Centenary Issue 1929, Hillcrest File Fremantle Library Local History Collection.

41 *West Australian* 4 April 1922, p. 6.

42 *ibid.*

43 Typewritten information '1957: History of Hillcrest' and 'Summary of Social Beginnings' in Hillcrest File, Fremantle Library Local History Collection.

44 Plaque at *Hillcrest*, site visit Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 June 2004.

45 Garrick, Phyl and Jeffery, Chris *Fremantle Hospital A Social History to 1987* Fremantle Hospital, 1987, p. 127.

46 Certificate from The Salvation Army Hillcrest Maternity Hospital, July 1923.



on the wall at the right, and in the rear ground may be seen the detailing of the main entry doors with their original leadlights.<sup>47</sup>

In the mid-1920s, *Wise's Post Office Directory* listed the place as the Salvation Army Maternity Hospital in at Harvest Road (cnr. Turton Street), North Fremantle, with the nearby Salvation Army Emigrants' Hostel also in Harvest Road, which became the Salvation Army Women's Retreat in the late 1920s.<sup>48</sup>

Following the Salvation Army (Western Australia) Property Trust Act, 1931, *Hillcrest* was vested in The Salvation Army of Western Australia Property Trust on 16 September 1932.<sup>49</sup>

In the 1930s, there were two categories to the work of the Salvation Army at *Hillcrest*, the first being for un-married mothers, whose babies were generally adopted out with the assistance of the Salvation Army, and the second for private cases, among whom there were also women whose financial circumstances limited their ability 'to pay very much' towards the costs, particularly during the Great Depression. Consequently, in 1932-34, the institution was not self-supporting, and relied for its up-keep on funds from Salvation Army headquarters, which were raised through its 'annual self-denial appeal'.<sup>50</sup>

In 1934, a new wing was added to *Hillcrest* at a cost of £2,000. The addition, at the south side, designed with a bay at the east to match the original bay, comprised 'an airy, well-lighted nursery (30 ft. x 19 ft.)' on the ground floor, to accommodate 30 babies, 'whose mothers have to work during the day and have nowhere else to leave their children', and 'two theatre wards and a sterilising room above' at the first floor.<sup>51</sup> The nurses' quarters were 'remodelled'.<sup>52</sup> On 30 October 1934, the new wing was officially opened by Commissioner W. Maxwell, commander of the Southern Territory of the Salvation Army in Australia, who was en route from London to Melbourne<sup>53</sup>, as commemorated by a marble plaque mounted on the northern wall, at the southern end of the eastern verandah.<sup>54</sup> Following the additions, the place also continued to be used as a training school for midwives.<sup>55</sup>

In 1939-40, a Sewerage Plan shows the Salvation Army Old Women's Home at 15 Harvest Road, and a short distance along the street, *Hillcrest* is shown as 'Salvation Army Hospital', with two distinctive bays at the east, a verandah at the north side returning along the west side of the northern wing, with steps to the front entrance at the east and also to the northern verandah. To the east of is a stone tank, and nearby, a circular concrete pond. There is also a small verandah on the southern side adjoining the south-eastern corner of the building, near which there is a small timber building, to the west of which is a mill beside a somewhat larger galvanised building, with a path between it and the main building. This path joins others extending north and west, with a minor path leading to a small timber dwelling with a north facing verandah, beyond whose western fence is a group of four brick closets. West again, near the southern boundary of the lot, is a small rectangular building of galvanised iron construction,

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47 Postcard, Hillcrest Collection, c. 1922-23.

48 *Wise's Post Office Directory* 1924 to 1929.

49 Certificate of Title Vol. 787 Fol. 105.

50 *West Australian* 25 September 1934.

51 *West Australian* 25 September 1934.

52 *ibid.*

53 *ibid.*

54 Plaque at *Hillcrest*, site visit Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 June 2004.

55 'Hillcrest Maternity Hospital 1922-1974, Hillcrest Senior Citizen's Residence 1978-' *op. cit.*

and nearby is a small stone building. To the north, by the drive from Harvest Road, is a substantial brick building with a verandah to the south side, which returns along the western and eastern sides.<sup>56</sup>

Commencing in the inter-war period, Dr. Dorothea Parker (Mrs. H. Camm) served as honorary obstetrician and consultant at *Hillcrest* for 37 years, in recognition of which the Salvation Army awarded her its Order of Distinguished Auxiliary Service. It was the third such award made to an Australian and the first to a Western Australian. She could reflect on the change in society from the inter-war period, when 'the girls needed a home and hospital under one roof, where they could hide', to the 1960s, when 'girls in similar circumstances walked unconcernedly in the streets.'<sup>57</sup>

In the early World War Two period, the maternity hospital continued to operate at *Hillcrest*. Sister French (later Mrs. M. Carter) recollected 'the atmosphere at the hospital gave the girls the warmth of a family home', where they supported each other and 'were kept busy' 'working at trades and knitting and sewing' during the months of their confinement, with regular entertainment provided by groups such as ToCH, 'to keep their morale high.'<sup>58</sup> From 1942 to 1944, various maternity hospitals, convalescent hospitals, and other substantial buildings were taken over for war-time uses. The Salvation Army's Maternity Hospital temporarily transferred its operations from North Fremantle to residential premises in King's Park Road, West Perth, whilst *Hillcrest* was occupied by the United States Armed Forces for accommodation purposes.<sup>59</sup>

Following World War Two, *Hillcrest* was returned to the Salvation Army, and its use as a maternity hospital re-commenced. Services were extended to married and un-married mothers, before reverting to care of only un-married mothers in 1969.<sup>60</sup> In the period 1953-56, under Matron Senior Major (later Brigadier) Thelma Day, 1635 mothers were cared for at *Hillcrest*, and 271 unmarried mothers were 'helped in their time of difficulty and prepared to return to normal rightful living.'<sup>61</sup> In face of 'increasing demands', it became 'imperative that large extensions be undertaken', to provide 'all modern facilities for the nursing of 25 mothers and their babies' in a new, purpose built building, along with 'extensive improvements and additions' to the original two storey residence to 'bring it up to the required standard' at a total cost of 'over £62,000.'<sup>62</sup>

In spring 1956, plans were drawn by architects Forbes & Fitzhardinge for a new building wing comprising operating theatre, delivery bays and preparation room, four four-bed wards and two two-bed wards, two regular nurseries and one 'prem. Nursery' solarium, and associated facilities and utilities at the ground floor.<sup>63</sup> Notable features were a feature stone wall at the north-west elevation, bearing the lettering 'Hillcrest Maternity Hospital', and a mosaic tile panel in the entrance area to the new and old buildings.<sup>64</sup> The plans for the ground floor of the existing

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56 Metropolitan Sewerage Municipality of North Fremantle, SROWA Cons. 4156 Item 2015, surveyed March 1939, signed 27 June 1940.

57 News cutting from *West Australian*, no details, Hillcrest File, Fremantle Library Local History Collection

58 Mrs. M. Carter in *The Eagle* 3 August 1987, news cutting Private Hospitals File, Fremantle Library Local History Collection.

59 Information on historic file held at Hillcrest; and 'Hillcrest Maternity Hospital 1922-1974, Hillcrest Senior Citizen's Residence 1978-' op. cit.

60 *Daily News* 7 August 1969.

61 Program for Laying of Foundation Stone at Hillcrest Maternity Hospital' 5 April 1957.

62 *ibid.*

63 Working Drawings The Salvation Army Additions and Alterations to Hillcrest Hospital, Forbes & Fitzhardinge, 41-56. W. 2, 26 September 1956, SROWA Cons. 5094 Item 1238 (1957).

64 *ibid.*, 41-56. W. 5., 25 October 1956.

building show removal of the existing dining room and kitchen, with a new kitchen and dining room to be built at the south-west, and various alterations including removal of some walls, windows, doors and fireplaces. The new main entry was to be from the west, and the original main entry at the east was to become the rear entry. Numerous changes were to be made to the first floor to convert it to nurses' accommodation, including alteration of some openings, making of some new openings, some new stud walls, re-location of sinks and basins, removal of stairs at the south side and building of new steel escape stairs, and removal of verandahs at the western side. The ground plan shows the existing laundry and staff building to the west of the 'old building'.<sup>65</sup> This building corresponds with the brick building shown in the same location in 1939-40.

On 6 April 1957, Commissioner George W. Sandells, Territorial Commander, laid the foundation stone for the new building, to which the State Government was contributing 'substantial aid'.<sup>66</sup> The Minister for Health and Justice, Hon. E. Nulsen, M.L.A., attended the ceremony and spoke.<sup>67</sup>

In 1957-58, the above-mentioned works were carried out at *Hillcrest* at a total cost of £66,125.<sup>68</sup>

In mid-April 1958, accompanied by a photograph of the newly completed new wing with its distinctive curved wall of Toodyay stone, the *Fremantle News* announced the forthcoming opening of the new wing at *Hillcrest* Maternity Hospital and reported:

A striking feature of the new wing is the beautiful Italian mosaic which decorates the wall beside the main entrance.

The mosaic depicts in vivid colours, a stork carrying a tiny baby in its beak.

The picture with its hundreds of tiny pieces, was designed and made up in Italy, then sent to Fremantle in foot-square sections.

Each section was numbered so that workmen at Hillcrest could easily assemble the complete mosaic. Originally it stood nine feet high, but nine inches had to be removed so that it would fit as planned beside the entrance.

This mosaic, with the hospital's curved outside wall of picturesque Toodyay stone, helps give the new wing a really attractive external appearance.

Rivalling this is the beauty of the river views which can be seen from every ward in the new building.

Windows run the full length of one wall so that patients can have the full advantage of the view.

Inside the rooms fresh, bright colours give the hospital a cheerful atmosphere far removed from the cold whiteness formerly accepted as the only colour for hospitals and institutions.<sup>69</sup>

The Toodyay stone wall has remained a notable feature through into the twenty-first century, but the mosaic feature has been removed, possibly in the late 1970s, when the place was converted to a seniors' facility.<sup>70</sup>

On 19 April 1958, the Premier, the Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, M.L.A., officially opened 'the new Hillcrest Maternity Hospital', with Commissioner Sandells presiding, in

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65      ibid, 41-56. W. 3, W.4 and W. 1 respectively, October-November 1956.

66      Program for Laying of Foundation Stone at Hillcrest Maternity Hospital' 5 April 1957.

67      ibid.

68      20 April 1958.

69      *Fremantle News* April 1958.

70      Site visit Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 June 2004.

the presence of about 300 people, including members of the Pearse family.<sup>71</sup> The Premier 'praised the hospital as "a great organisation for a worthy purpose", and appealed for donations to raise the balance owing, £1,799.<sup>72</sup> In May, the *War Cry* reported on the opening, and drew attention to the modern facilities which had been incorporated including the large operating theatre, and in particular, the location of oxygen cylinders under the front section from which the gas was piped to various locations, which was 'a new idea.'<sup>73</sup> Noted also were the renovations, including 'a new kitchen and dining room, with individual tables (and a beautiful view from the window), new ablution block, escape stairs and tiled roof.'<sup>74</sup>

The large site of *Hillcrest* continued intact through into 1963, when the land was sub-divided. On 29 July 1963, most of the land fronting John Street, designated as Lots 1 to 6 inclusive, was transferred from the Salvation Army to the Crown, where North Fremantle Primary School was built, and the balance of the land, on which *Hillcrest* was located, was designated as Lot 7.<sup>75</sup> In the late twentieth century, trees at the west of the school would reach a considerable height, obscuring views of the Swan River from *Hillcrest* and similarly obscuring the lower levels of the building when viewed from John Street.<sup>76</sup>

In late 1965, *Hillcrest* accepted an offer from the State Government of financial assistance and agreed to take some private maternity cases.<sup>77</sup>

In early 1969, a building at *Hillcrest*, believed to have been the original coach-house, was converted to a chapel and opened for this use.<sup>78</sup> No specific details of its location are known, and the building is no longer extant in 2004.<sup>79</sup>

On 17 February 1969, a portion of Lot 7, at the north-western corner of the lot was resumed for an amendment to the south-eastern corner of Harvest Road and Turton Street. Subsequently, a new Certificate of Title was issued for the part of Lot 7 remaining in ownership of The Salvation Army (Western Australia) Property Trust, which was reduced in area to one acre one rood 32.5 perches in area, as shown on Diagram 11713.<sup>80</sup>

In November 1969, it was announced that 'one of the wings' at *Hillcrest* was to be extended 'to create a rehabilitation centre' comprising an ante-natal clinic, occupational therapy room, typing room, library and hairdressing salon, at an estimated cost of about \$4,000.<sup>81</sup>

The introduction of the contraceptive pill had a considerable impact in Australia, and consequently the number of un-married women seeking care at *Hillcrest* decreased. From about 18 births each week in the early 1960s, the number declined to about 10 per week by the early 1970s, and consideration was given to converting the place to general hospital purposes. In the mid-1970s, when there

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71 Program 'Opening Ceremony of the new Hillcrest Maternity Hospital' 19 April 1958; and *Sunday Times* op. cit.

72 *Sunday Times* *ibid*; and news cutting *The War Cry* no details, 1959, Hillcrest File, Fremantle Library Local History Collection.

73 *The War Cry* May 1958.

74 *ibid*.

75 Certificate of Title Vol. 787 Fol. 105.

76 Chaplain Gloria Reynolds conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 June 2004.

77 *West Australian* 17 December 1965, p. 16.

78 *Sunday Times* 27 March 1966, p. 22.

79 Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, with Chaplain Gloria Reynolds, 30 June 2004.

80 Certificates of Title Vol. 787 Fol. 105 and Vol. 1327 Fol. 295.

81 *West Australian* 4 November 1969.

was a shortage of maternity accommodation in Fremantle, a government subsidy was offered to *Hillcrest* to provide additional maternity beds until additions were completed at *Woodside Hospital*, East Fremantle.<sup>82</sup>

In 1974, *Hillcrest* was closed as a maternity hospital. A feasibility study found that the place could be readily adapted for use as a Senior Citizens' Residence.<sup>83</sup> In July 1978, it was announced that following renovations, partially funded by a \$3,000 donation from the R & I Bank, and also by the annual Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, the place would re-open with a new a 50 bed Senior Citizens' hostel building. The main building, i.e. the original residence, was to be 'adapted' to day care facilities for health services, including occupational therapy, which would be available to hostel residents and also to senior citizens accommodated in the neighbourhood.<sup>84</sup> The 1957 building was to be converted to a 30-bed nursing home.<sup>85</sup>

Architects Forbes & Fitzhardinge designed the new hostel building, which was built by Jennings Industries<sup>86</sup>, to the west of the main building, and the single storey brick building shown on earlier plans was demolished to make way for the new building. On 28 April 1979, the hostel was dedicated by the Territorial Commander, Commissioner Arthur Linnett, and officially opened by Senator A. C. Rocher as Hillcrest Senior Citizens' Residence, under the administration of the Salvation Army's Hollywood Senior Citizens' Village, as commemorated on a brass plaque in the entrance to the building.<sup>87</sup> The Commonwealth Government provided financial assistance for the project through a two to one subsidy under the Aged and Disabled Persons Homes Act towards the capital cost, and the State Government contributed on a similar basis towards the cost of furnishings, landscaping, and other non-capital items, and the 1978 Red Shield Appeal provided \$75,000 Capital Project allocation. Assistance was also received from Fremantle City Council.<sup>88</sup>

In 1979-80, the maternity hospital wing was converted to nursing home accommodation and *Hillcrest* was developed to provide various facilities in association with the hostel and nursing home, including a flat at the first floor available for use by residents' relations when visiting from the country or overseas, offices at first and ground floors, physiotherapy, a hair dressing salon, and a day centre to cater for residents and senior citizens living in the local community.<sup>89</sup> The Nursing Home for the Aged was officially opened by Senator A. C. Rocher on 15 June 1980. A commemorative plaque was mounted in the entrance area, along with another plaque commemorating the 'devoted service of officers and staff given to mothers and their babies' at *Hillcrest Hospital* in the period to 1974.<sup>90</sup>

Through the late twentieth century, and into the early twenty-first century, *Hillcrest* has continued in operation under the ownership of the Salvation Army

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82 News cuttings, no details, Fremantle Library Local History Collection

83 'Hillcrest Maternity Hospital 1922-1974 Hillcrest Senior Citizen's Residence 1978-' typewritten, no details, HCWA Place No. 1035.

84 *Daily News* 20 July 1978.

85 'Hillcrest Senior Citizens' Residence History' Prepared BJR, 5 November 1998, p. 3.

86 Program 'Hillcrest Dedication & Official Opening' 28 April 1979.

87 'Hillcrest Maternity Hospital 1922-1974 Hillcrest Senior Citizen's Residence 1978-' op. cit.; Program 'Hillcrest Dedication and Official Opening' 28 April 1979; commemorative plaque, site visit Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 June 2004; and Chaplain Gloria Reynolds, , conversations with Robin Chinnery, June 2004.

88 Program 'Hillcrest Dedication & Official Opening' *ibid.*

89 *ibid.*

90 Commemorative plaque, site visit Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 June 2004.

WA Property Trust. The Commonwealth subsidy supports the cost of hostel and personal care for residents, whilst the remaining cost of provision of care is met from the residents' weekly fees and entry contributions.<sup>91</sup>

In September 1980, *Hillcrest* was assessed by the National Trust of Australia (WA), and subsequently Classified in November that year, under the name "Hillcrest" Salvation Army Home.<sup>92</sup> The Assessment described the place as 'A large two-storied house constructed in the 1890s', which was 'A former mansion, finished in stucco in the late Victorian Italianate style'.<sup>93</sup> It was noted that 'The external facades, particularly to the South, West and East, are mostly intact', and that the building 'demonstrates a now rare towered character'.<sup>94</sup>

In 1982, a separate manager was appointed to Hillcrest Senior Citizens' Residence, which became autonomous. The facilities at this period included 'a custom built hostel for 50 senior citizens and a 30-bed nursing home'.<sup>95</sup>

On 28 September 1982, *Hillcrest* was entered on the Permanent Register of the National Estate.<sup>96</sup>

In 1991, 'the history of Hillcrest senior citizens' residence' was 'the focus of its annual fete' to raise funds for the place.<sup>97</sup> The fete was held in the gardens, with staff serving at the stalls dressed in period costume. Tours of the buildings were offered 'for people interested in seeing the many changes made in recent years'.<sup>98</sup>

In the latter half of 1991, renovations included up-grading some portions of 'the old building', painting and re-carpeting the administration and flat areas at the first floor and the Day Therapy Centre, refurbishment of the bathrooms in the nursing home and painting, including the wards, up-grading of garden areas, and converting the hostel from a shared bathroom facility to provide individual bathrooms for each resident.<sup>99</sup>

On 14 September 1992, a Memorial was registered on the Certificate of Title for *Hillcrest*, under the Retirement Villages Act 1992 (Part 3).<sup>100</sup>

In 1994, the Heritage Study of North Fremantle reported *Hillcrest* had been altered 'unsympathetically'.<sup>101</sup>

In the 1990s, works carried out included re-furbishment of the servery area in the nursing home at a cost of \$55,000, fitting of security doors to residents' rooms and installation of cooling at the hostel, re-painting of the exterior of the 'old building' in 1998, and installation of a hydrotherapy pool.<sup>102</sup>

In June 1998, the 'Administration Building' at *Hillcrest*, 'an impressive building', was reported to be 'in a reasonable state of repair', and it was recommended that

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91 Hillcrest Hostel in Hostel Standards Report, Commonwealth Dept. of Health, Housing and Community Services, January 1996, p. i.

92 "Hillcrest" Salvation Army Home National Trust of Australia (WA) Assessment Exposition, 8 September 1980.

93 *ibid.*

94 *ibid.*

95 'Hillcrest Maternity Hospital 1922-1974 Hillcrest Senior Citizen's Residence 1978-' *op. cit.*

96 HCWA Place No. 1035.

97 *Fremantle Gazette* 30 April 1991.

98 *ibid.*

99 'Hillcrest Senior Citizens' Residence History' *op. cit.*, pp. 3-4.

100 Certificate of Title Vol. 1327 Fol. 295.

101 Burton, Craig Heritage Study of North Fremantle, April 1994.

102 'Hillcrest Senior Citizens' Residence History' *op. cit.*, p. 4.

it be renovated 'and peripheral additions removed', that the internal layout 'be adjusted to better suit appropriate uses - in particular a day centre and site facilities', including returning the original main entrance to use, and the kitchen be 'remodeled'.<sup>103</sup> The nursing home was reported to be 'nearing the end of its useful life', whilst the hostel was 'basically a very sound building'.<sup>104</sup> Attention was drawn to several overall site problems including the three 'heritage listed' Norfolk Island pines located 'in the middle of the site' which 'create significant planning constraints and produce a lot of debris'.<sup>105</sup>

In 1998, Elizabeth Thomas of Bullsbrook made a set of stained glass memorial windows for *Hillcrest* to be installed in the entrance foyer of the old building. The symbolic design shows baby birds in the first panel to represent the period in which the place was a maternity hospital; in the second panel the Cross relates to Jesus Christ and the work of the Salvation Army; whilst the heaven-bound dove in the third panel symbolises 'those who have passed away'.<sup>106</sup> The windows, financed by donations from various families, including an initial large donation from that of Irene Davey, were dedicated in a special ceremony on 11 August 1998<sup>107</sup>, commemorated by a plaque mounted on the wall beneath the windows.<sup>108</sup>

On 14 October 2000, *Hillcrest* was included in the Municipal Inventory adopted by the City of Fremantle, with a high level of protection, under the Town Planning Scheme.<sup>109</sup>

In 2002, 30 High Care and 45 Low Care residents were accommodated at *Hillcrest*, where the facilities also included a Day Therapy Centre. On-going renovations and improvements included the recent addition of a spa to provide hydro-therapy for the residents.<sup>110</sup>

In 2004, the disposal of *Hillcrest* and various other aged care facilities operated by the Salvation Army has been proposed as the organisation has decided to return to its original main focus, of providing care for the most needy in the Australian community. Expressions of interest have been sought with the aim of ensuring that the facilities continue to operate as in the past albeit under different ownership.<sup>111</sup> *Hillcrest* continues in the same uses as since 1979.

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Hillcrest* is an aged care facility comprising the original *Hillcrest* residence, a two-storey stucco and tile roof building in the Victorian Italianate style built in 1901 for Francis Pearse<sup>112</sup>, a 1934 addition to the house in a sympathetic style, a two storey brick and asbestos roof former maternity hospital completed in 1958 in the

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103 Loughton Patterson 'Review of Seaforth and Hillcrest for the Salvation Army' June 1998, Section B Hillcrest Review 2.3.

104 *ibid*, Review 2.1.

105 *ibid*, Review 1.2.

106 'Hillcrest News' Vol. 3 Issue 9, September 1998

107 *ibid*.

108 Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 June 2004.

109 HCWA Place No. 1035.

110 ACSWA Newsletter July 2002, p. 8.

111 Manager Hillcrest Senior Citizens' Residence, Paul Carpenter, conversations with Robin Chinnery, June 2004.

112 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. pp. 104-107.

post World War Two International Style<sup>113</sup>, a hostel constructed in brick with an asbestos cement roof completed in 1979 in the Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional style.<sup>114</sup>

There is little left of the gardens apart from the Norfolk Island Pines, and plantings tend to be small patches of left over space, together with the corner bed and Toodyay stone walls at the current entrance on the corner of Harvest Road and Turton Street. The setting does not reflect a particular landscape style.

*Hillcrest* is located on high ground on the corner of Turton Street and Harvest Road, with North Fremantle Primary School located to the south-east, facing on to John Street. The original house is sited on the highest point to take advantage of the views to the Swan River and to the ocean the south-east boundary of the remaining site, with the front of the house facing this boundary. The construction of the school and more particularly its tree plantings associated with the school has all but eliminated views to the river from most ground floor rooms, and some first floor rooms. Similarly, subsequent urban development to the west of the house has reduced the views to the ocean, though the full 360-degree view is available from the top of the belvedere.

The site is intensively developed, with few mature trees left on site and few open green spaces. There are several mature Norfolk Island Pines associated with the original house, while other plantings related to much more recent times and include Hibiscus, Peppermint Trees, Roses, and Palms.

The site is laid out with the original house in the south-east corner of the site and a driveway off Turton Street terminates at the front of the house. The 1934 addition is attached to the house and extends away to the south-west. The 1958 wing extends from the north-east of the 1901 house and then in an 'L' shape that extends along the Turton Street frontage. There is a corner entry statement in Toodyay stone, and a bitumenised parking area on the corner of Harvest Road and Turton Street, and then the 1979 hostel that is an almost square plan building in the western corner of the site.

### **1901 House**

*Hillcrest* is a two storey ashlar ruled stucco walled residence, with a tiled roof in the Victorian Italianate style. The front of the house is arranged around an imposing entrance with a short flight of steps, now ramped over, a balustraded balcony with an arched French window leading out onto it. The latter has a cornice that provides an impost for a heavily architraved curved window head. The strong vertical land mark element then extends a further storey to the belvedere, with paired curved head windows on each side, then shallow pediment, topped with a balustrade that surrounds an open viewing deck. To the right of the entrance, a two storey bayed window element extends though to terminating with a shallow gable. To the left of the entrance, a two storey verandah extends the full length of the remainder of this elevation of the 1901 house. The verandah roof is a flat ogee form and the soffit of the lower verandah is lined with ripple iron. It has paired posts, and cast iron decorative brackets between the posts, and a tubular steel handrail with a mesh balustrade. The wall line extends from the entrance lobby and terminates with a two storey bay of very wide proportions, featuring wide paired double hung sash windows. The roof is tiled and stucco finished chimneys extend through the roof. There is a foundation stone to the right of the entrance commemorating the donation of the house by

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113 Ibid, pp 214-217.

114 Ibid, pp 246-249.



Mrs. E. A. Pearse to the Salvation Army for the purposes of a maternity hospital. The front entrance has a pair of timber framed doors with raised panels, bolection moulds, glass panels, and fanlights.

The interior includes a small basement, then an entrance hall, stair hall, six generous ground floor rooms, and 12 first floor rooms, both original and rooms created by dividing original rooms.

The entrance hall is a generous space with a concrete floor that was possibly tiled when constructed, deep compound timber skirtings, plastered walls with picture rod hooks at high level, run cornices, lath and plaster ceiling, with a cast plaster ceiling rose, and an arched entrance into the stair hall. The arch is carried on stout Corinthian columns and the arch is decorated with an egg and dart trim, and a decorative keystone.

The entrance hall leads on to the grand stair hall. While the same treatments carry through, there is a very fine timber construction dogleg stair between ground and first floors. The underside of the flight is filled in with fine panelling while the stair itself has turned timber newels, wreathed handrails and turned balusters.

Both front rooms carry through the same kinds of features, but have timber floors featuring fine stone fireplaces. The one in physiotherapy is derived from Adams patterns, and that in the day room is robust, dark and a strong design. These rooms have fine cast plaster ceilings and run cornices, with some of the larger rooms having more elaborately patterned cast plaster cornices. Internal doors throughout this section have skirting blocks, fluted architraves, rondel corner blocks and pedimented finials around four panel doors, with part glazed doors to exteriors and former exteriors now captured by additions.

The hairdresser's room appears to have been two original rooms combined and these spaces are much more simply treated in a manner consistent with staff areas of the house. Adjacent to this area, there is a servant's stair, and a stair leading to a small cellar, which has an exposed soffit and roughly rendered walls. Windows in the north-west wall have been filled in to accommodate additions to this side of the building. A room in the north-east corner has been partitioned off to form a reception area, and a corridor linking the stair wall to the current front entry in the north-west wall. Doors are generally four panel, or in the case of external doors are part glazed with stained glass leadlight hopper lights.

At first floor level, there is a grand stair landing and a flat over the entry and to its north-east, and offices to the south-west, and a change in level to the north-west and four further spaces including three stores and a bathroom.

The detailing is similar to that on the ground floor, except that ceilings are lath and plaster throughout. There is a flat that has been formed by re-dividing two rooms to form three. The rooms have been left more or less intact in terms of detail, but the bathroom is a product of the 1958 works, with brightly coloured fittings and tiles. There are several sets of stained glass door panels at this level. Air conditioning has been fitted to most spaces and grilles are generally located in ceilings or at high level in the walls.

With the exception of the formation of the first floor flat, ground floor reception and a kitchen, the place retains much of its original fabric. This part of the building is very well maintained and is in good condition.

### **1934 Maternity Hospital Extension**

The 1934 extension is to the south-west of the house and begins at the end of the original front verandah. It is executed in the same style as the 1901 house and externally at least, makes use of the same language, materials and detailing. On the front elevation, it simply repeats the bay window and able from the opposite end of the original building, then extends an additional double window bay, using the same window element as that employed in the bay windows on the verandah. The addition is visually seamless. A Carrera stone tablet on the verandah commemorates the opening in 1934.

The extension is comparatively small and comprises two major rooms at the front of the building, two sets of toilets to the rear, and a much later laundry single storey laundry addition. At first floor level, there is an office at the front of the building and a series of small rooms that are used as stores, and an external metal escape stair. A single storey building containing a dining room, stores and office has been added to the rear. While the exterior extends the original design almost exactly, the interiors of the extension are simpler versions of the main house. The skirtings are more modestly scaled, doors are five panel typical of the inter-war period, with simple splayed architraves, while ceilings are generally plasterboard and cover batten, with simple cornices.

### **1958 Wing**

The 1958 former maternity wing is now used as a nursing home section of the place and this is a two storey brick and asbestos roof building in the post World War Two International Style.

The building connects to the north-west end of *Hillcrest* and extends along Turton Street towards Harvest Road. The elevations are generally simply treated with face brick end panels terminating aluminium framed window and flat asbestos cement spandrel panel walls. Rolled steel joists attached to the facades extend out from the wall plane to pick up the low pitched roof supporting steels, which in turn allows the roof to have very wide eaves to shade the windows strips. The roof is low pitched at around 8 degrees and is covered with corrugated asbestos cement sheeting. Low gables are filled with Shadowline profile asbestos cement sheeting. While the building is generally a calm and repetitive module, a curved stone wall that faces the site entrance provides some visual contrast. It is designed to give the impression of a free floating curved plane and is constructed in small units of Toodyay stone, with a number of stone set proud of the wall face to add some complexity to the element. The Salvation Army Crest and words above the crest have been removed, but the word 'HILLCREST' in painted metal letters remains in place.

The semi-basement contains service functions while the ground floor's 'L' shaped plan has a more or less central corridor linked back to reception, and wards, bathrooms, staff room, stores, pan rooms, and day rooms arranged along both sides. The main area floors are vinyl covered concrete, with plastered walls, and flush plasterboard ceilings. The wards are fitted out with dividing curtains, beds and a small amount of storage for occupants.

The place has been adapted from maternity to nursing home use and upgraded to meet contemporary requirements.

The building is well maintained and is in fair condition.

### **1979 Hostel**

The 1979 hostel is constructed in brick with an asbestos cement roof completed in the Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional style. It is located in the northern

corner of the site and has the largest footprint of all the buildings on the site. It is connected back to *Hillcrest* with a ramp system and is a two storey building.

The building is built on retained land, with a face brickwork retaining wall running along Harvest Road, and this is topped with a pool fence for safety. There is a small prefabricated gazebo at the entrance end of the building. The elevations comprise skillion roofed face brick ends visually terminating the long elevation treatments between them, with low pitched corrugated asbestos cement gabled roofs between the ends. Each hostel unit has a pair of double aluminium doors, and either a terrace at ground floor level or a small concrete balcony with a timber balustrade. Also, each unit has a small bathroom window that adds some further visual interest to the elevation.

The place is planned around an internal courtyard with bedrooms arranged either side of paired bathrooms, a central corridor, and the arrangement of bedrooms and bathrooms on both sides of the corridor. Other facilities include lounges at ground and first floor, laundries, stores, a reception area, office and lift service. A ramp connects this building back to *Hillcrest*. There is a separate dining room and kitchen between the hostel and *Hillcrest* and this is sited very close to two mature Norfolk Island Pines. The latter pass through the verandah roof and this arrangement has given rise to maintenance problems caused by leaf accumulation on roofs and in gutters.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

In the late nineteenth century, in the wake of the Western Australian gold boom, numerous members of the Fremantle merchant elite moved outward from the town centre to build substantial family residences, often taking advantage of the opportunity to build with views to the Swan River and/or to the Indian Ocean. Most of these residences were two storeys, of brick and/or stone construction comprising gracious formal rooms, family accommodation, servants' quarters and stables, all set in spacious grounds. By 1912, North Fremantle, which had been mainly a residential suburb, developed as 'an active manufacturing centre', becoming 'the industrial suburb of the port', whilst East Fremantle remained 'a favourite residential suburb'.<sup>115</sup> It was a distinction that persisted through into the late twentieth century, and consequently relatively few substantial residences were built in North Fremantle after the 1910s.

*Hillcrest* and *Woodside* (HCWA 0792) were two of the most substantial Federation period two storey residences built in North and East Fremantle respectively for well known members of the Fremantle merchant elite. Both were converted to maternity hospitals in the inter-war period, during which the conversion of large residences for use as maternity or convalescent hospitals was a common practice. In private ownership, *Woodside* served as a maternity hospital from 1924 to c. 1945-46, then was converted to flats, before being purchased by the State Government in 1951, and re-converted to a maternity hospital which opened in 1953.<sup>116</sup> Use of maternity homes or hospitals and convalescent facilities as accommodation by members of the American forces in World War Two such as occurred at *Hillcrest* was common. The 1978 conversion of the place from maternity hospital to provide aged care facilities appears to be uncommon, whilst the Salvation Army's provision of maternity care for unmarried mothers and their babies at *Hillcrest* for an almost unbroken period of 52 years

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<sup>115</sup> Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* The Cyclopaedia Company, Perth, 1912-13, Facsimile Edition Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, Western Australia, 1985, Vol. 1, p. 554.

<sup>116</sup> HCWA Place No. 0792.

and the initiation of midwifery training at the place were unique in Western Australia.

The use of Toodyay stone and other kinds of stone in front elevations of buildings and for fireplace surrounds was a common and fashionable practice in the mid 1950s through to the early 1960s. The use in panels alongside front doors, external faces of chimney breasts and for garden walls was quite common. The curved wall of the 1958 maternity wing is a large example of the use of the material. By the mid 1960s the use of this type of motif virtually ceased and in more recent times examples are being lost as architecture of the period is subject to redevelopment pressure.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

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#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Early Rate Books and building records for North Fremantle are no longer extant.

Further research may reveal additional information including the architect of *Hillcrest* (1901-03), relating to its conversion to maternity hospital (1922), the addition of the south wing (1934), and in relation to its builders.