



**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)

- 3.26.1 Providing medical and dental services

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education and Science
- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Perth Dental Hospital Main Block is a well designed Inter-War Stripped Classical style building, displaying orderliness and classical symmetry, with a dignified, symmetrical façade which incorporates Art-Deco motifs, and typifies the use of this style for public and institutional buildings. (Criterion 1.1)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The place has assisted in providing training for dental health care professionals in the state of Western Australia since its construction in 1936. (Criterion 2.1)

The place has been a component of an important provider of dental health care to the indigent poor, old age and invalid pensioners, wards of the State, inmates of charitable institutions and those of limited means. (Criterion 2.1)

The place demonstrates the evolution of dental treatment and changing approaches to the dental health care. (Criterion 2.2)

The place demonstrates attempts to address the increasing demands on services due to the post-war growth in population. (Criterion 2.2)

The place was designed by the prominent Western Australian architect Reginald Summerhayes, who in association with G. A. Rowe, won the design competition, held by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Western Australia in 1935, for the new dental hospital and college. (Criterion 2.3)

* 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. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place has social value as part of an institution that has provided an essential social service to those of limited means since its inception. (Criterion 4.1)

The place has been part of the only dental institution in the State providing dental care, training and research and development facilities. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The place is rare as an original component of the first and only purpose designed dental hospital and dental school in Western Australia up to 2001. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Perth Dental Hospital complex, of which *Perth Dental Hospital Main Block* is a part, is representative of substantial specialist hospital complexes located within the Perth area. Such complexes have typically been subject to ongoing expansion and modification in response to changing approaches to health care and advances in medical technology. (Criterion 6.1)

Perth Dental Hospital Main Block is representative of public buildings designed by Reginald Summerhayes during the inter-war period. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

The place is generally in good condition. There is evidence of damage due to water ingress in isolated places throughout the complex. There is also evidence of deterioration to the eaves lining, roof plumbing and paint finishes. There is some cracking to the garden bed retaining walls to the front of the place.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The place was used as a dental hospital and dental school, however this function ceased at the end of 2001, with the construction of the new Oral Care Health WA Centre at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Subiaco. The place retains a high degree of integrity, as it is now the corporate office of the Western Australia Country Health Service.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The place has a moderate to high degree of authenticity. The exterior form of the building has remained largely unaltered. The lettering to the portico of the place has been changed from the original 'Perth Dental Hospital and now reads 'Dental School: The University of Western Australia'. The interiors have, however, been subject to an ongoing process of replanning and refurbishment.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Wayne Moredoundt, historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Martin Turnor of Palassis Architects.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Perth Dental Hospital Main Block, incorporating the West Australian College of Dental Science, is a two storey brick and tile building designed in the Inter-War Stripped Classical style, situated on a site on the south side of Wellington Street. It was purpose-built in 1936, following a design contest won by Reginald Summerhayes.

In 1894, the first Western Australian Dental Act, which established the first Dental Board in the State, was passed. Some years later, the first official move to establish a dental hospital in Western Australia to meet the needs of indigent people as well as to provide a place for the training of dentists, came about on 5 August 1904. By 1907, there were further moves to establish a dental hospital and college using the funds already held by the Dental Board of Western Australia. However, the following year, it was discovered that under the *Dental Act*, the Dental Board did not have power to use the funds held to establish a hospital and college.¹

In September 1909, the Western Australian Dental Society was founded, with one of its major priorities the dental health of the State's children. Some months later, in 1910, the Dental Society begins examination of children's teeth in two rooms provided for this purpose by the Technical School in James Street. By 1911, the Dental Board suggested that the Perth Hospital should set up a facility for dental services. To this end, the Hospital established a staff position for a dentist. Two years later, in 1913, the Perth Hospital Committee reported on the establishment of a Dental Aid Department by the Hospital. However, by the next year, it was realised that the Perth Hospital had insufficient funds to bring to fruition its plan for a Dental Department.²

With the amendment of the *Dental Act* in 1920, a number of new dentists were registered, although the lack of training of some led to calls for a more systematic programme of instruction to be implemented. In 1923, the Dental Society received funding from the State Government for new equipment to be installed in the rooms provided in the Medical Department building in Murray Street. Permission was also given so that all dental apprentices in the State would be able to attend the new Murray Street clinic. The Dental Students Society also came into being at this time.³

In 1926, the *Dental Act* was amended so that the Dental Board could use its accumulated funds for establishing a Dental Hospital and College. To this end, the Dental Society, now the Odontological Society undertook to pay rental for Hospital premises on the first floor of Vetter's Garage in Murray Street. The first meeting of the newly-formed Perth Dental Hospital Council

¹ R.F. Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, Perth, 1978, pp. 1-2.

² Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, pp. 2-5.

³ Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, pp. 5-7.

took place on 2 December 1926. The official opening of the Perth Dental Hospital in Murray Street took place on Saturday 2 April 1927 at the Young Australia League (Y.A.L.) Building in Murray Street with the first patients seen at the Clinic on the following Monday, 4 April.⁴ Around this time, the Dental Board of Western Australia was granted permission to conduct its examinations in the Hospital.⁵

In 1933, the Dental Hospital Council established a Building Fund. The following year, the Council gave its Building Committee authority to request the Royal Institute of the Architects of Western Australia to call for competitive designs for a new dental hospital and college. To facilitate this development, in 1935 the State Medical Department purchased land on Wellington Street as the proposed site for a new hospital and college. The same year the result of the design contest for the new Western Australian College of Dental Science and the Perth Dental Hospital was announced.⁶ Of the fifteen designs submitted, that of R. Summerhayes and G.A. Rowe, in association, was selected as the winning entry, to be built for an estimated cost of 6,865 pounds. Mr W.B. Hardwick, formerly Principal Architect in the Public Works Department, was the assessor for the competition, assisted in an advisory capacity on technical matters by the Superintendent of the Perth Dental Hospital, Mr A. Graham Poock.⁷

According to Hardwick in his assessor's report:

... (the winning design) provides most completely the hospital's requirements and complies most closely with the terms of the competition. (The plan) provides the best working arrangement sent in. The development and completion of the design will provide a building most adaptable to the Board's requirements and of good appearance.⁸

Reginald Summerhayes, then Vice-President of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Western Australia, was a prominent Western Australian architect who designed a number of well known buildings during this period, including the Karrakatta Crematorium (1932) and the Claremont Municipal Chambers (1937). In a report on the design, the architect, Mr Summerhayes, said that in its preparation,

an endeavour had been made to produce a building that would be an impressive and dignified structure and one representative of the duties it had to perform. Simplicity and symmetry in the façade and straight-forward planning with a simple arrangement of layout and elimination of waste space had been the main aims, in order to provide a building suited to its purpose and of the utmost convenience to staff and patients.⁹

According to a newspaper account of the time, the design for the building provided for a façade in a modified classical style. The general principle in the planning had been to provide central waiting halls for patients with all rooms grouped around in order to provide convenience. By the adoption of the 'T-

⁴ *West Australian*, 4 April 1927, p. 8.

⁵ Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, pp. 10-11.

⁶ The designs were numbered and had no distinguishing marks to indicate their origin, with the name of the winner not known until about an hour before the result was announced. *West Australian*, 12 July 1935.

⁷ *West Australian*, 12 July 1935.

⁸ *West Australian*, 12 July 1935.

⁹ *West Australian*, 12 July 1935.

type' of plan, all rooms would receive adequate direct light and would take full advantage of the south light in surgeries, an important consideration in dental work. It was proposed that the building to consist of a ground and first floor would comprise a reinforced concrete frame and floors of the same material. The roof would be of clay tiles.¹⁰

The main entrance was to be simple and central and was to be further emphasized by the carved symbol of the hospital above. The figure on the crest of the hospital was Hygeia, one of the twin daughters of Aesculapius, her sister being Panacea. As Aesculapius was the son of Apollo, the two sisters were the granddaughters of the latter. Hygeia is holding a lighted torch in her right hand, 'casting light into dark places so that they may be made clean, and to bring people out of the shadows into light'. Beneath the crest was the Latin motto, 'Patiuntur omnibus prosimus', which roughly translated meant 'To all who suffer, we render aid'.¹¹

The building, as finally constructed, differed from the winning design.¹² On 28 January 1936, R. Summerhayes and G.A. Rowe, in association, submitted plans to the Metropolitan Water Supply Department. These plans include a site plan, floor plans, sections and elevations for the proposed new building for the Perth Dental Hospital.¹³ The 'T-type' shape of the winning design was modified so that the front portion of the building was extended east and west to be almost as wide as the back portion of the building. The crest over the entrance to the Hospital was replaced with the lettering for 'Perth Dental Hospital'.¹⁴ The Hospital crest now appeared in spandrels on either side of the main entrance section of the building. The brick retaining walls and paths and the steps to the front of the building were constructed at this time. The new building was officially opened on 29 August 1936 by the Minister for Health, Mr S.W. Munsie.¹⁵

The Wellington Street land, on which the new Dental Hospital was constructed, at 189 Wellington Street, appears to have been vacant land up until this time. Along the south side of Wellington Street, between Hill Street and Lord Street, there were a number of cottages from the late 19th century. By 1910, however, St Patrick's Roman Catholic Boys School was built on the vacant land to the west of where the Dental Hospital would be located.¹⁶ On the land to the east of what would be the Dental Hospital site, by 1916 there was constructed premises for the Paper Bag Co. Ltd (WA) at 177 Wellington Street, later to become Block D of the Hospital complex. This land also appears to have been vacant at the time of the factory construction. By 1925, immediately east of the Paper Bag Co., at 167 Wellington Street, were established premises for the Oralio Manufacturing Co., polish manufacturers,

¹⁰ *West Australian*, 12 July 1935.

¹¹ Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, p. 17.

¹² The original sketch elevation of the building appeared in the *West Australian*, 12 July 1935.

¹³ Dwg Nos. 6360-06 and 6360-07 held by the Department to Housing and Works Plan Room. Dated 28 January 1936.

¹⁴ The present lettering spells out, 'Dental Hospital: The University of Western Australia'.

¹⁵ Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, p. 18.

¹⁶ The School relocated to West Perth around the mid-1950s. At the present time, a re-aligned Lord Street occupies the former school site.

and Leach and Co., general importers. This land also appears to have been vacant ground at the time these premises were built.¹⁷

At the time of the opening of the Dental Hospital in 1936, the above-mentioned companies were still occupying their respective premises, as was St Patrick's Boys School. In 1939, premises for the Comfort Wear Slipper Co and the Myrl Shoe Co. (187 Wellington Street) were constructed on vacant land immediately to the west of the Dental Hospital. The following year, Duncan Preston Ltd, wholesale grocers, were also operating from premises at 187 Wellington Street. By 1945, and continuing until at least 1949, in addition to Comfort Wear Slippers, Myrl Shoe Co. and Duncan Preston Ltd, other businesses operated from premises at 187 Wellington Street - H.R. Solomon, leather goods manufacturers, on the first floor, and Melray Agencies, agents, and Independent Grocers Alliance (WA) Ltd in other premises on the site.¹⁸

In 1937, the College and Hospital were affiliated with the University of Western Australia, the first stage of the structuring of the College and Hospital as autonomous bodies.¹⁹ Further to this development, in the early 1940s the objectives of the Perth Dental Hospital were defined as follows:

(1) To provide the indigent poor, old age and invalid pensioners, wards of state and inmates of charitable institutions with efficient treatment in operative, conservative and prosthetic dentistry, free of charge (2) To provide similar treatment for persons of limited means at fees commensurate with their financial positions (3) To provide facilities for the training of dental students by the Western Australian College of Dental Science.²⁰

In order to accommodate a growing faculty and an increase in the scope of responsibility for community health care by the Hospital, in 1947 a decision was taken to construct a new building to expand available facilities.²¹ With funding commitments of 23,000 pounds from Treasury, 11,600 pounds from the Lotteries Commission, 2,500 pounds from the Hospital Board of Management, and 500 pounds from the Dental Board of WA, planning and preliminary work commenced. Impetus was given to the plans by the decision of the Australian Dental Association to hold the 1949 Congress in Perth. The new building (Block B) was officially opened by the Governor, Sir James Mitchell in July 1950.²²

In spite of this new development, it was soon apparent that more space was required to house the activities of the College and Hospital. Early suggestions were to expand westwards and acquire the land occupied by the Comfort Wear Slipper factory and other manufacturing and commercial concerns. The idea of expanding back towards Goderich Street had been dismissed initially because of the presence of a steam line to Perth Hospital, which lay between the existing Hospital and the proposed development.²³ In spite of pessimistic advice from the Public Works Department (PWD) Architect on the potential for

17 Post Office Directories, 1894-1925.

18 Post Office Directories, 1925-1949.

19 While the University would assume responsibility for the training of dental professionals, the Hospital would educate and train dental technicians (c. 1943), chairside dental nurses (late 1940s), and dental therapists (late 1970s). Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, pp. 27, 32-33, 83.

20 Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, pp. 20-25.

21 PWD Plans, Nos. 6495-13, 6489-20.

22 Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, p. 32.

23 PWD Search and Survey Drawings, Perth Dental Hospital; 6492-23, 16/1/1955.

expansion on the existing site, the Dental Hospital Board preferred to rely on their own experience especially if informed by examination of comparable developments in other states. In 1954, the Board resolved that the only practical solution to address a shortage of facilities was to extend towards Goderich Street.²⁴

During the latter half of the 1950s, the State Government was interested in expanding dental services throughout the State by adopting a process of devolution of services and facilities. This was not to jeopardize the development of the Wellington Street-Goderich Street site, however. By the end of 1956, the Premier's Department confirmed that funding would be available for the additional buildings required on the Wellington Street-Goderich Street site. In 1957, plans for the building development programme commenced.²⁵ The space that the new building would occupy was then the site of two houses, along with a garage and other ancillary structures. In the meantime, the planned scheme of devolution unfolded. During 1958, clinics opened in North Perth (3 July), Victoria Park (15 September), and Albany (29 September). The following year clinics were established in Boulder (19 January), and Bunbury (5 February).²⁶

On 15 May 1961 construction of new and improved facilities began, to plans developed by the Architectural Division of the PWD, comprising a new building - Block C- facing Goderich Street, plus renovations to *Perth Dental Hospital Main Block* (Block A) and additions and remodelling of Block B.²⁷ Remodelling of to *Perth Dental Hospital Main Block* was undertaken during the student vacation in order to avoid disruption of the faculty teaching programme. The PWD undertook the work on a day-labour basis and the work was completed in time for the commencement of the 1962 academic year. During 1963, with as little disruption as possible, the work of extending Block B for faculty was carried out by the PWD on a day-labour basis. At the end of 1964, renovations and additions to Block B were completed successfully, although not in time for the 17th Annual Congress of the Australian Dental Association, held in Perth during May 1964.²⁸ Even with the completion of additional facilities there was still inadequate space for the Hospital operations. In the early 1970s the building to the east of to *Perth Dental Hospital Main Block* (formerly the WA Paper Bag Co. premises, built in 1916, and now Block D) was acquired for the purpose of constructing within it an Operative Technique Laboratory. In addition, the Legacy Clinic was relocated to this building, as well as staff rooms to accommodate an increasing number of Hospital workers.²⁹

Meanwhile, in 1971, the PWD Principal Architect presented feasibility sketches for a Theatre and an Administration block and a plan to convert the Wellington Street building into surgeries and offices for the Dental School extensions. However, no detailed work could be commenced until funding was assured. The State Minister for Health advised the Dental Hospital Board

²⁴ Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, pp. 39-40, 47-48. PWD Plans, No. 6492-23.

²⁵ PWD Plans, No. 6492-23; Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, pp. 53-54.

²⁶ Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, p. 57.

²⁷ PWD Plans, Nos. 6354-24, 6354-28, 6349-30, 6354-30.

²⁸ Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, pp. 60- 67.

²⁹ Stockwell, *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, p. 74.

to proceed with the planning of a permanent building to provide all facilities required. The Board appointed work-parties to determine the requirements of each of the units to be provided for, so that the target of the preparation of the documents to tender stage could be met by November 1973, with the work to commence in January 1974.³⁰

Planning began in 1972 for the construction of a new building - Block K-between Blocks B and C. In September, the Board was advised that the Principal Architect's office would write the architectural brief and an architect and quantity surveyor were to be appointed, the expected tender stage being November/December 1973, the building to commence in 1974, at an estimated cost of \$1.75 million. During October, representatives of the PWD and the Dental Hospital visited those Eastern States Dental Hospitals where the building of new clinical areas had recently taken place.³¹

In 1973, final plans for the building extensions were completed by July and the Board indicated its approval, excluding the proposed car park.³² These plans included alterations in the existing Block C, facing Goderich Street, which would arise from the transferring of some Departments to the new extensions-General Store, Linen Rooms, Head Orderly's Room, the Prosthetic Laboratory, the Central Sterile Supplies Department, and Patients' Records.³³ In March the following year, the Board was informed that limited funds had become available from the Commonwealth Government. This allowed the Principal Architect to call tenders for construction of a new building- in April the tender of A.V. Jennings was accepted. During May, demolition of the old slipper factory, and other buildings in the area, had commenced and in June, Jennings commenced excavations of the foundations of the new building, and alterations to Block C to house new transformer equipment that was to be installed.³⁴ By 1975, steady progress had been made on the new building work despite delays caused by industrial problems, site excavation difficulties and inclement weather.³⁵

In order to effectively utilize the expanded and improved facilities to be provided in the building extensions it was thought necessary to reorganize and upgrade existing facilities. The following changes were to be made, beginning in 1976 - (a) Modification of the Prosthetic Laboratory area in Block C to provide accommodation for the Head of Department and updated sterilizing facilities for this area (b) Expansion of patient reception and waiting areas in Block C to cope with the expected increase in patient movement following the opening of the new building (c) Redevelopment of the first floor of Block C, to be vacated by the movement of the Dental Records Department and Private Automated Branch Exchange (PABX) equipment to the new building (d) Air conditioning the first and second floors of Block C and a section of the ground floor waiting room by drawing upon the reserve capacity of the air conditioning plant being installed in the new building (e) Installation

30 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1972.

31 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1973.

32 PWD Plans, Nos. 6254-07, 6254-13, 6250-03, 6250-01, 6250-02.

33 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1974.

34 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1974.

35 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1975.

of a gas fired incinerator on the northern side of the new building to permit on-site disposal of flammable waste materials.³⁶

A working party had also been established to plan the redevelopment of *Perth Dental Hospital Main Block* and Block B to provide improved facilities in student teaching areas for patients and staff. In addition, the demolition of the Warehouse on the corner of Wellington and Lord Streets allowed for redevelopment and landscaping of this site for vehicle parking and to allow a new open aspect to the western frontage of the Dental Hospital.³⁷ With financial support from the State Medical Department of \$150,000, and an allocation of \$57,000 from the University of Western Australia, work of alterations and improvements commenced towards the end of the year.³⁸

The new Kendrew Wing (Block K) had stages ready for occupation in January 1977, with the official opening on 23 March of that year by the Premier, Sir Charles Court. Contractors were off site with all work completed by May. A number of minor building projects were also undertaken during the year including - (a) Reorganization of the Prosthodontic Department to provide a more adequate surgery for the Head of the Department and to improve sterilising facilities for this Department (b) Redevelopment of the Legacy Clinic in Block D to accommodate the Chrome Cobalt Laboratory following the transfer of the Legacy Clinic to the Kendrew Wing (c) Alterations to the Goderich Street entrance and re-organization of the patient reception, assessment and waiting area of Block C (d) Installation of sterilizing equipment to serve the Diagnostic Department in Block C (e) Re-organization of the Stores and Service Departments in the Basement following the move of the Engineer's Workshop and Linen Store to the new Wing.³⁹

In 1979, the Dental School Clinic 2 in Block B was re-modelled and re-equipped, while the adjacent Senior Laboratory was converted to a clinical area. To compensate for the loss of the Senior Laboratory, the Junior Laboratory in Block B was altered and upgraded. The structural alterations cost around \$160,000, and were carried out by the PWD. The upgraded clinical areas were officially opened by the Minister for Health, Ray Young, on 5 June 1979.⁴⁰ A number of minor building projects were also undertaken during 1980 including alterations to the Special Dental Laboratories, in Block D; the provision of a store, in the basement of the Kendrew Wing (Block K); and conversion of the ex-Caretaker's Flat to facilities for the School of Nursing.⁴¹

With the assistance of the Architectural Division of the PWD, a number of minor building projects were carried out during 1981, including- installation of an air conditioning system in the entrance foyer of Block C which extended to the Diagnostic Department and the General Office; installation of an Intruder Alarm System throughout the Hospital; completion of fire detecting installations throughout the Hospital; conversion of the ex-Caretaker's Flat,

36 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1976.

37 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1976.

38 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1977.

39 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1977.

40 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1979.

41 Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1980.

Block C to provide Common Room facilities for clinical staff; and alterations and partitioning of areas on the second floor of Block C to provide facilities for the School of Nursing, including space for a library.⁴²

On 20 April, 1982, C.M. Campbell and Associates were commissioned to undertake a study to enable preparation of a master plan for development of the Hospital.⁴³ The report was received by the Board in November, and contained recommendations for a two-stage development. In Stage I - the demolition of Block D and the two houses on Goderich Street; the extension of Kendrew Wing westward on all existing floors; the upgrading of the ground floor of Block C; the provision of car parking facilities in the areas currently occupied by the buildings to be demolished. In Stage II - the demolition of *Perth Dental Hospital Main Block* and Block B; the construction of a three-level building at the corner of Goderich and Lord Streets; provision of car park facilities in the areas currently occupied by *Perth Dental Hospital Main Block* and Block B. The estimated cost of the first Stage was \$2.95 million and \$4.75 million for Stage II.⁴⁴ The planned demolition of *Perth Dental Hospital Main Block* and Block B, and their replacement by car parking, was not carried out.

In 1983, C.M. Campbell and Associates were contracted to proceed with the preparation of briefs and sketch plans for Stage I. On the advice of the Project Director, C.M. Campbell, a new concept of building development was approved. This provided for a more horizontal development than was originally planned, encompassing an extension west of the Kendrew Wing (Block K) up to first floor level, and a new structure of two levels at the corner of Lord and Goderich Streets. This latter structure was to link with the extension to the Kendrew Wing and also with Block C at the ground floor and first floor levels. This lateral type of development was adopted essentially to facilitate work flow. The new design facilitated an improved layout for surgeries and enabled laboratories to be accommodated on the same floors as the clinical areas that they served. The retention and upgrading of a portion of Block D was also approved with the idea of retaining space that would be needed for bulk stores, student's common room etc.⁴⁵

As recommended by the Board, and approved by the Government, the project was to be undertaken as a 'turn-key' development. In January 1984, building contractors were invited by advertisement to register their interest in the project. Of the firms which showed interest, a short list was prepared and those selected were invited to submit tenders. The successful tender was Jaxon Constructions Pty Ltd. The Project Director of the PWD was to monitor the project and ensure that acceptable standards were achieved. Plans were drawn for construction of Blocks E and F. Future stages show Block D converted to Workshop and Student Amenities with Staff Change facilities demolished and converted to parking.

The new wing, to be named the Gilbert Henderson Wing in honour of one of the founders of the Hospital, was scheduled to be commissioned early in the

⁴² Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1981.

⁴³ Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1982.

⁴⁴ Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1983.

⁴⁵ Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1984.

second half of 1985. Unavoidable delays prevented the new extension being completed within the original time frame and it was decided that the official opening of the new wing and alterations should take place when the total project was completed. The Minister for Health accepted an invitation to officiate at the opening ceremony, which was held on 12 December 1985.⁴⁶

The building programme for the new wing was completed, apart from some minor work, in February 1986. Building work continued, however, with alterations to existing buildings, mainly in Block C. The new layout on the ground floor of Block C meant that the additional space provided for the new Admissions and Radiography Department permitted a Priority Treatment Clinic to be incorporated and enabled the X-Ray Unit to be consolidated in one area immediately adjacent. This meant that patients no longer had to be directed some distance away to Block B where the majority of x-ray procedures had been carried out previously.⁴⁷ Alterations on the second floor of Block C enabled the School of Nursing to extend into the former Staff Room. Other alterations provided additional space for the Preventative Department on the ground floor of the Kendrew Wing (Block K) and more space and improved layout for the Supply Department in the basement of Block C and the Engineering Department in the basement of the Kendrew Wing. In addition, the portion of Block D that was retained was altered to accommodate dental students' common rooms, carpenter's workshop and bulk store.⁴⁸ The building project had been undertaken as a 'turn-key' operation, the first by this method for a public hospital in the metropolitan area. With this new type of construction method, considerable savings were achieved. The overall cost of the project was around \$3,700,000 including \$420,000 for equipment and furniture. The University of Western Australia contributed \$370,000 towards the total project.⁴⁹

In 1988, repairs to the concrete render facing of the Kendrew Wing were undertaken. The contract for the work was let to G and J Raphael at an initial cost of \$95,000.⁵⁰ From this time to the present no major construction works have been undertaken.⁵¹ At the end of 2001, the Dental Hospital complex ceased to be used as a Dental College and Clinic function, this transferred to the new Oral Care Health WA centre at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Subiaco.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Perth Dental Hospital Main Block comprises a two storey brick and tile building designed in the Inter-War Stripped Classical style, constructed in 1936. The Dental Hospital complex occupies the western half of the block bounded by Goderich, Lord and Wellington and Hill streets. To the west of the complex, on the opposite side of Lord Street, is the Royal Perth Hospital. To the south-west is St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral. Mercedes College is located on the opposite side of Goderich Street. Immediately to the east of the complex is Jewell House, a multi-storey building occupied by the YMCA.

⁴⁶ Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1985.

⁴⁷ Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1986.

⁴⁸ Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1986.

⁴⁹ Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1986.

⁵⁰ Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Report, 1988.

⁵¹ Perth Dental Hospital: Annual Reports, 1988-2000.

Jewell House and the Royal Perth Hospital are linked via an underground tunnel that traverses the Dental Hospital site from east to west. The various buildings, referred to as 'Blocks', which comprise the Perth Dental Hospital are as follows: *Perth Dental Hospital Main Block* (Block A) (1936), Block B (1950, 1964), Block C (1962), Block D (c1916), Blocks E & F (1986), and Block K (1977).

Perth Dental Hospital Main Block addresses Wellington Street and is set back from the front boundary by approximately 10 metres. Along the front boundary there is a low rendered brick retaining wall. Painted concrete stairs lead up from street level to the main entrance. Abutting the front elevation, either side of the main entrance, there are garden beds with rendered brick retaining walls, containing flowers and low shrubs. To the west of the building there is a bitumen car park, which extends to the Lord Street boundary of the site.

The building has a dignified symmetrical front facade. There is a central, projecting bay with a vestigial entrance portico, which features columns of an Art-Deco inspired design. The portico opening is surmounted by a rendered spandrel panel, which is embellished with a pattern of vertical fluted grooves. Black metal lettering fixed to spandrel panel reads: 'Dental School University of Western Australia'. The windows flanking either side of the projecting bay have a rendered spandrel with which bears image of the hospital crest.

External walls are red-brick, articulated by panels of a darker burnt brick. The burnt brick is also used as a window surround. There are twelve-pane steel framed casement windows to the ground floor and eight-pane steel framed casement windows to the first floor. Above the lintel height of the first floor windows there is a continuous band of render. Below the ground floor windows there are wall vents of an elaborate Art-Deco design. The building has a hipped tiled roof with battened eaves. External elements such as the window frames, rendered details, gutters, and eaves lining are painted white.

The interior has been subject to an ongoing process of replanning and refurbishment, however at the time of assessment, the main entrance opens onto a foyer, which has brown carpet flooring and a painted plaster finish to the walls and ceiling. The ceiling is fitted with a plaster cornice of a simple design. A passageway runs directly south from the foyer and connects with Block B. The ground floor accommodates various office spaces, which typically have suspended ceilings with fluorescent lighting. The first floor is accessed via a set of half-turn stairs with a terrazzo finish, which are located on the western side of the entrance foyer.

At the first floor level the stairs open onto a passageway that runs in an east-west direction. The passageway has painted plaster finish to the walls and ceiling. The walls to the passageway feature plaster dado rails and picture rails. To the north side of the passageway there is a row of dental surgeries, which are no longer in use. The surgeries are furnished with dentist chairs and other pieces of medical equipment. They are also fitted with stainless steel sinks, which have glazed ceramic tile splashbacks. Windows are fitted with venetian blinds. To the south of the passageway is the large, open-plan teaching clinic. The teaching clinic has painted plaster walls with engaged piers and a suspended ceiling with fluorescent lighting. The teaching clinic is furnished with two rows of cubicles. A doorway to centre of the south wall provides access to block B.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The Perth Dental Hospital complex may be compared with other substantial hospital complexes located within the Perth area. Royal Perth Hospital and King Edward Memorial Hospital have all been subject to periodic expansion and modification in response to changing approaches to health care and advances in medical technology.

Perth Dental Hospital Main Block may be compared to other public buildings designed by Reginald Summerhayes during the inter-war period. The Karrakatta Cemetery Crematorium (demolished) (1932) and The Claremont Municipal Chambers (1937) both display the principal characteristics of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style. These characteristics include: symmetrical façades, vestigial classical columns and entablature, vestigial classical porticos, simple surfaces of face brick or render and the use of Art-deco motifs. Karrakatta Crematorium assumes a more solemn and restrained appearance, befitting a building of its purpose. The dignified, classical symmetry characteristic of the Inter-War Stripped Classical Style was seen as particularly appropriate for public and institutional buildings.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Stockwell, R.F., *The History of Perth Dental Hospital*, Perth, 1978.

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13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

APPENDIX A – PHYSICAL EVIDENCE FOR BLOCKS B, C, D, E, F, & K

BLOCK B (1950, 1964)

Block B comprises a three-storey brick and tile building constructed in a functionalist style. External walls are red brick with timber framed double hung sash windows. A section of the façade, adjacent to the north-west corner, has a rendered finish that has been painted white. The building has a hipped tiled roof with boxed eaves. All external joinery is painted white. The building abuts Block A, thus obscuring much of the north elevation. The south elevation directly abuts Block K. Internal walls are generally masonry with a painted plaster finish. The main passageway, which runs in a north-south direction, has a carpet floor covering. Laboratories and service areas have a vinyl floor covering with vinyl skirting. There are suspended ceilings with fluorescent lighting throughout the building interior. The building accommodates various laboratories and teaching clinics utilised by the dental school. A lecture theatre and a student library are located on the second floor.

BLOCK C (1962)

Block C comprises a three-storey building (plus basement) constructed in the Late-twentieth Century International style. The building addresses Goderich Street and has a set back from the front boundary of approximately 6 metres. Along the eastern side of the building there is a bitumen carpark. The structural system comprises flat plate reinforced concrete floor slabs supported by a regular grid of reinforced concrete columns. The building has shallow pitch, corrugated asbestos gable roofs supported by steel trusses. The floor to ceiling height is approximately 2700mm.

The south and north elevations comprise regularly spaced aluminium framed windows with painted asbestos spandrels. Between each window is a brick infill panel clad in mosaic tile. Adjacent to each window is a vertical aluminium sunscreen. The façade is given a strong horizontal emphasis by means of the projecting floor slabs. There is a rectangular, single storey section along the eastern half of the front (south) elevation which wraps around the east elevation. Windows to the single storey section are concealed by a concrete-block grill of a diagonal pattern. A projecting entry porch serves as the main entrance to the hospital. On the east elevation, the single storey section has infill panels clad in mosaic tile and aluminium windows with adjustable vertical aluminium sunscreens. Above the single storey section, the east elevation largely comprises a blank wall of face brickwork. The west elevation is not visible as it directly abuts Block F.

The main entrance off Goderich Street opens on to a large waiting area furnished with plastic chairs. Columns in the waiting area are finished in mosaic tile and the ceiling has a sprayed vermiculite finish. At the north-west side of the waiting area is the main reception desk. A passageway runs past the reception desk in a north-south direction and connects with Block K. A doorway to the western side of the waiting area opens onto the ground floor of Block F. Stairs to upper levels are located near the south-east corner of the waiting area. The hospital's radiography department is located to the east of the stairs. Toilets are located at the northern end of the floor. On the first floor level, the building is divided in half by an open roof terrace that runs in an east-west direction. The section to the south side of the roof terrace has an additional storey. An enclosed walkway links the two sections. The first floor

houses staff locker rooms, toilets and a staff common room (former caretakers flat). Many of the rooms on the first floor are no longer utilised. The second floor accommodates lecture rooms two practice rooms equipped with dentist chairs and a library, all of which are no longer in use. The basement houses the maintenance department, store rooms and various service areas. Generally, waiting areas and main passageways have a carpeted floor, whereas surgeries, laboratories and service areas have a vinyl floor. Internal walls are masonry with a painted plaster finish. Ceilings have a plaster finish applied directly to underside of floor slab.

BLOCK D (c1916)

Block D comprises a single storey former factory building, the front façade of which is constructed in the Federation Free Classical style. The building is located on Wellington Street and has no set back from the front boundary. To the east of the building is a bitumen carpark and to the west are Blocks A and B. The building is connected to these blocks by means of a covered walkway. The symmetrical front façade comprise a red brick parapet wall embellished with simple, rendered details. It is divided into three bays by means of four engaged pilasters. The middle bay contains a doorway that is no longer in use. There is a timber-framed window on the bay to either side. To the rear of the front façade the building assumes far more utilitarian appearance. The east wall is clad in corrugated fibro cement, the west wall is of brick construction and the south wall is clad in battened fibro sheet. The roof is clad in corrugated iron and has capped ridge ventilator. Internally, the building has vinyl flooring over timber boards, stud walls and a suspended ceiling with fluorescent lighting. The northern half of the building is presently used as storage space whilst the southern half is used as a student common room.

BLOCKS E & F (1986)

Blocks E and F comprise a two-storey brick and aluminium building constructed in the Late-Twentieth Century International style. Block F is located along Goderich Street and is separated from Block E by a central courtyard. The blocks are connected by means of an enclosed passageway along the west side of the building. Both blocks have a rectangular plan, orientated on a east-west axis. External walls are face brick with fixed pane aluminium framed windows. The building has shallow pitched roof clad in aluminium decking. Windows to the north and south elevations have rendered spandrel panels. The west elevations of block E and F are divided by means of a projecting stairwell with a curved wall. The west elevation of Block F comprises a series of regularly spaced windows with projecting brick surrounds. The west elevation of Block E comprises a full height face brick wall. The ground floor of block E accommodates a variety of laboratories, whilst the first floor houses teaching laboratories and lecture rooms used by the dental school. The hospital's general practice area is housed on the ground floor of Block F. The first floor of Block F accommodates the hospital administration area and staff canteen. The administration area, waiting rooms and corridors have a carpeted floor. Surgeries, laboratories and service area typically have a vinyl floor covering. There are suspended ceilings with fluorescent lighting throughout the interior.

BLOCK K (1977)

Block K comprises a four-storey building (plus basement) constructed in the Late-Twentieth Century International style. The building has a rectangular plan, 45 metres long and 20 metres wide, orientated on an east-west axis. The structural system comprises projecting reinforced concrete floor slabs supported on a grid of reinforced concrete columns. The south and north elevations are divided into bays by regularly spaced face brick piers with recessed infill panels. The infill panels comprise rendered concrete with aluminium framed windows at 3/4 height. Aluminium sunscreens are fixed to the exterior of each bay. A reinforced concrete lift shaft is located to the centre of the north elevation. Windows on the north face of lift shaft are concealed behind a concrete block grill. The east and west elevations of the building comprise blank face brick walls. The building has a shallow pitched gable roof clad in corrugated asbestos.

Internally, rooms are generally enclosed by partitions with a pale timber veneer finish. Surgeries, laboratories and service areas have vinyl flooring and skirting, whilst waiting areas and main corridors have a carpeted floor. There are suspended ceilings with fluorescent lighting throughout the interior of the building. Fire escape stairwells with terrazzo flooring are located at the western and eastern ends of the building. Toilets are located at the north-west corner of each floor.

The basement level accommodates a plant room, workshop and linen supply. A vehicular access driveway runs along the southern side of the building, marking the division between Block K and Block C. There is a stairwell located at the western side of basement that leads down to a tunnel running from Royal Perth Hospital, to the west of the Dental Hospital, to Jewel house, to the east. The ground floor is accessed via a passageway, which runs directly from the waiting area in Block C. Much of the ground floor is divided into surgeries used by the hospital's orthodontic and periodontic department. The first floor level is occupied entirely by the Dental School and is accessed on the south side by a flight of stairs, which lead up from the first floor of Block C. A doorway on western side, adjacent to the lift shaft, opens on a covered walkway, which accesses Block B. The second floor accommodates the hospital's surgical area, which includes a waiting room, a recovery ward and various operating theatres. The third floor houses a plant room, the Central Sterilising Supply Department and the hospital records store. A boardroom is located at the south-west corner. The boardroom has a carpeted floor and is enclosed by timber veneer partitions.