



**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)**

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 4.3 Developing urban institutions
- 6.3 Training people for workplace skills
- 6.4 Building a system of higher education
- 6.6 Educating indigenous people in two cultures
- 8.8 Remembering the fallen

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

- 104 Land allocation and subdivision
- 402 Education and Science
- 406 Religion
- 501 World wars and other wars
- 404 Community services and utilities

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

*Wesley College, South Perth*, is an excellent example of a cultural landscape comprising an aesthetically pleasing, cohesive complex of educational buildings, which feature various references to the design, built forms and established palette of colours and materials of earlier buildings, set within an accessible, inviting and pleasing landscape on the ridge of an escarpment. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.4)

Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel is an outstanding example of a building designed using reinforced concrete in both its external and internal

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

finishes and its appropriate selection of colours and tones to greatly enhance the Post War Ecclesiastical style. (Criterion 1.2)

Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel is as an important landmark within its immediate vicinity in South Perth for its striking double volume cylindrical form, its roof of twelve apexes and valleys and its soaring steel spire. (Criterion 1.3)

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

The history of the school demonstrates how the suburb of South Perth has developed from a remote location in the greater Perth region to an inner city locality, with the development of the suburb around the school to some extent limiting the expansion of the school. (Criterion 2.1)

The place illustrates the development of education in Western Australia in a general context and at *Wesley College, South Perth* in particular. The methods of teaching have changed since the school was opened in 1923 and although the building constructed at that time is no longer used for that purpose its existence and form demonstrates, in a limited way, previous practices. (Criterion 2.2)

The place illustrates the changing social norms of religious education, as girls are now enrolled at the formerly boys-only school in the primary years. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is associated with many individuals from the Methodist Church and the teaching profession who have made a significant contribution to the school, with many features on the school grounds named after such individuals, including all five headmasters who served the school up to 1996. (Criterion 2.3)

The place is associated with Western Australian architects James Hine, Eales Cohen & Fitzgerald, and Hobbs Forbes & Partners, who designed the earlier buildings on site, and Ross Chisholm, whose innovative 1960 design for the chapel won an architectural competition. (Criterion 2.3)

*Wesley College, South Perth* demonstrates a commitment to maintaining a building design that is generally consistent across the site. The use of the same forms and palette of materials, particularly in the building designs of more recent years, indicate a significant achievement over a long period. (Criterion 2.4)

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

The design and materials used in the Chapel were innovative at the time of its construction. The building is a useful education tool in the understanding of the development of building techniques. (Criterion 3.1)

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

*Wesley College, South Perth* is valued by the community of South Perth, the Methodist community and the wider community for its contribution to the education of generations of boys since 1923, its contribution to the religious and spiritual development of the students and the wider community, and its social involvement in the local community. (Criterion 4.1)

*Wesley College, South Perth* has been in the same locality and performing the same basic functions since 1923, during which time the suburb of South Perth has developed around the school and the place has become an intrinsic part of the streetscape and community. It therefore contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

*Wesley College, South Perth*, is one of the few examples of a modern educational facility, built for the Methodist Church of Western Australia, which incorporates a comprehensive education program from early childhood development to secondary and vocational education as well as boarding facilities to support communities living outside the metropolitan region. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel is a fine representative example of Post War Ecclesiastical style, featuring innovative design and building techniques through the use of reinforced concrete ring beams and precast concrete walls and slabs (Criterion 6.1)

*Wesley College, South Perth* is a good representative example of the development of a school complex from the 1920s to the present (2007) in a manner which on the whole, is architecturally sympathetic to earlier elements. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

Generally, all buildings on site are in good and sound structural condition. The buildings have been well maintained and well utilised. There is an ongoing conservation works program to repoint brickwork and replace roof tiles in J. F. Ward Wing and J. S. Maloney House. Extensive conservation works to the structure of Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel have also been carried out.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Wesley College, South Perth*, retains a high degree of integrity in relation to the original intention of the place and the use of the individual buildings. The site has been in continuous use as a school since its establishment in 1923. Most buildings are still used for their intended purpose, although the earliest classrooms are not longer used as such, and neither the 1923 nor the 1937 headmaster's accommodation retain a residential function.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

The original forms and built fabric of the Inter-War buildings are largely intact. Efforts have been made to ensure that all new additions are carried out in a sympathetic manner, keeping to the established forms, palette of materials, and colours. Though extensive refurbishment works have been carried out internally in these buildings, the original planning is largely intact.

Overall, the authenticity of the place and individual buildings on site remains moderate to high.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Prue Griffin, Phillip Pascoe and Yen Nee Goh of Hocking Planning and Architecture, in July 2007, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Wesley College, South Perth* is a school complex comprising two storey brick and tile J. F. Ward Wing (1923), Kefford Wing (1925, 1936, 1957-58, 1962-64), J. S. Maloney House (1937) Clive Hamer Building (1940), and H. R. Trenaman Library and Staff common building (1937, 1970); double volume concrete and metal Old Boys' Memorial Chapel (1961); Old Wesley Collegians' Association Memorial Lych Gate (1953) and Rose Garden (1995); J. F. Ward Oval (1924); and, Jenkins Quadrangle (1978), set in landscaped gardens of grass, shrubs and established trees. The complex of buildings was built for the Methodist Church of Western Australia from 1923 to the present day, for the purposes of education.

The school complex also includes Science Building (1956), R. E. Blanckensee Centre (1987); Harrison Dormitory (1968-70) Manning House (1999); Joseph Green Centre (1973); Rossiter Oval; Junior and Middle Schools; and staff housing, which are recommended for exclusion from the curtilage. These elements will be discussed only briefly. Collins Oval and Change Rooms (1971) are at a separate site at Thelma Street.

At the time of European settlement in 1829, an indigenous population lived in Beeliar, an area from the south banks of the Swan River, including the Canning River, south to Mangles Bay. The flourmill at Point Belches is the earliest surviving building in the district. Its construction in 1835 followed a raid on the original wooden mill, which led to punitive action against Aboriginal people that contributed to the decline of indigenous resistance in the area.<sup>1</sup>

Methodist colonists were involved in early efforts to engage with Aboriginal people, and included Francis Armstrong, who worked as Native Interpreter from the Native Institution at the base of Mount Eliza (1834-38), and John Smithies, who arrived in 1840 sent by the Wesleyan Missionary Society to instruct Aboriginal children in how to become servants and manual labourers for the colony.<sup>2</sup> Specific associations of Aboriginal people with *Wesley College, South Perth*, are not recorded until the early 1960s, when the first Aboriginal students were enrolled. However, it is known that Aboriginal domestic servants were employed in the boarding school before then.<sup>3</sup>

The earliest extant map of South Perth, showing a track to the Canning district which would later become Suburban Road (present day Mill Point Road), was drawn by A. Hillman in 1837.<sup>4</sup> The Causeway across the Swan River via the Heirisson Islands was opened in 1843.<sup>5</sup> The swampy land along the South Perth

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<sup>1</sup> Cecil C. Florey, *Peninsular city: a social history of the City of South Perth*, City of South Perth, 1995, pp. 8-17.

<sup>2</sup> Thea Shipley, *Full circle: a history of Wesley Church Perth*, Uniting Church Synod of WA, 2003, pp. 20-23, 27, 31, 42-44.

<sup>3</sup> P.J. Boyce, *Honest and unsullied days: a history of Wesley College Perth*, Inglewood: Victor Publishing, 2001, p. 153.

<sup>4</sup> Florey, op. cit., pp. 26-28.

<sup>5</sup> Florey, op. cit., pp. 28-29.

foreshore attracted gardeners by the 1850s, with a population of Chinese market gardeners arriving from the 1880s.<sup>6</sup>

The first Methodist settlers had arrived in the Swan River Colony in 1830. Wesleyan Methodism is associated with the beginnings of education in Western Australia. The first Wesleyan primary school in Perth opened around 1835 and it provided education services for approximately one quarter of all children enrolled in the colony, not just Methodist children. The Wesleyan school was amalgamated with the government sponsored schools in 1847 to create two institutions, the Perth Boys' School and the Perth Girls School.<sup>7</sup> A Wesleyan chapel was opened in South Perth at the south-eastern corner of Suburban (Mill Point) Road and Coode Street in 1860, which also served as a Wesleyan school from 1862 until 1879. The chapel, also known as the 'Old Schoolhouse', continued to be used until the end of the 19th century, including for electors' meetings for the South Perth Road Board from 1892.<sup>8</sup> By 1904 an electric power station occupied the site, (which has been commemorated by the Powerhouse Memorial plaque and bell-tower on a solid block of concrete at Wesley College).<sup>9</sup>

The Methodist population of Western Australia had increased with immigration from the eastern states following the gold rushes of the 1890s. By the beginning of World War I, the need for a new Wesleyan school was recognised, in particular to meet the needs of farmers' children requiring city education following several years of rural drought. A Boys' College Committee, formed in 1916, chose a 9 acre (3.6 ha) site on a ridge overlooking the river in South Perth, purchased in 1919 from Haynes, Robinson & Co, for around £1450.<sup>10</sup>

The earliest buildings at Wesley College were designed by architect James Hine, a Methodist parishioner who also had been responsible for the design of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, St. George's Terrace, Perth (1906); and extensions to Methodist Ladies' College, Claremont (1907), amongst many other projects. Hine served as the college architect until his death in 1928.<sup>11</sup> For Wesley College, Hine prepared plans for a single storey E-shaped building, the arms facing Coode Street, consisting of a headmaster's residence, dormitory accommodation for up to 25 boarders, and classroom space for around 100 students which was to double as a place for public worship for South Perth Methodists.<sup>12</sup>

The foundation stone for the original building was laid on 11 November 1922, by Premier Sir James Mitchell, who declared his opinion that, 'the boy with the trained, flexible mind made a good farmer'.<sup>13</sup> The building contractor employed to realise Hine's design was M. Ellyard. When the first boarders arrived a few months later, construction was still in progress, and the boys had to assemble their own beds. Classes commenced on 13 February 1923, but the toilet system

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6 Florey, op. cit., pp. 37-41.

7 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 2-3.

8 Florey, op. cit., pp. 45-51, 72.

9 Florey, op. cit., pp. 51-2.

10 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 8-12. A preliminary title search showed the site is divided into individual housing lots. Numerous titles would be required for a full history of the site's land acquisition. Information supplied in the published history of the school was considered sufficient for this assessment.

11 Boyce, op. cit., p. 77.

12 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 13-15.

13 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 19-20.

had yet to be installed, the paving was makeshift, there were no sporting facilities, nor even, on the first day, any chalk.<sup>14</sup>

In 1923, the South Perth area was populated by under three thousand residents. The streets were largely unsealed, much of the surrounding bushland was undeveloped, and public health amenities such as sewerage were yet to arrive.<sup>15</sup> However, during the 1920s the local population boomed, and new development got underway.<sup>16</sup> The construction of Wesley College represented a major building project in the burgeoning suburb of South Perth.

Existing independent schools around Perth at this time included the members of the Public Schools Association – Christian Brothers' College, Guildford Grammar School, the High School (later named Hale School), and Scotch College. The prominent government school was Perth Modern School.<sup>17</sup> The government school in South Perth was located in Forrest Street, and St Joseph's Convent in York Street (later St. Columba's) educated children from Catholic families in the area. Noted author Tom Hungerford, who attended St. Joseph's during the late 1920s, lived in the less wealthy part of South Perth.

But on the other hand, [Hungerford later wrote] the majority of the children from the other end of South Perth went to Christian Brothers or Scotch or Hale or what was called High school in those days. And all the girls in my class always seemed to be angling for a Wesley boy.<sup>18</sup>

The first headmaster of Wesley College, John Frederick Ward, served from 1923 to 1929. The first class consisted of day scholars from South Perth and surrounding suburbs, and boarders from towns in the Wheatbelt and Great Southern districts.<sup>19</sup> The commencing teaching staff comprised the head, six teachers, and the boarding house's resident matron, Mrs. Paramor. By the second term of 1923, Mildred Le Soeuf (later Manning) began teaching biology at Wesley College, a commitment she would maintain for 54 years of service.<sup>20</sup> War veteran and noted Marxist intellectual, Esmonde Macdonald Higgins, taught briefly at Wesley College during 1926.<sup>21</sup>

Plans for extensions to the main school building were approved in 1924.<sup>22</sup> Two gravel tennis courts for students were constructed, and one grass tennis court for the headmaster's use, were put in between the main school building and Coode Street during 1924.<sup>23</sup> Also in 1924, a freestanding timber dining room was put up alongside the northern end of the main building.<sup>24</sup> A second storey was added in 1927, and, with several new single storey buildings, met the need for additional dormitory and classroom space. The work was done by A. L. Toms, adopting

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14 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 1-2, 25-6.

15 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 12, 22-3.

16 F.K. Crowley, *Westralian suburb: the history of South Perth Western Australia*, Rigby, 1962, p. 76.

17 Boyce, op. cit., p. 24.

18 Tom Hungerford, in Janice Gothard, ed., *Across Perth Water: reminisces of South Perth*, South Perth City Council, 1988, p. 25. N.B. Wesley College is not mentioned in Hungerford's autobiography and social history of South Perth in the twenties and thirties: T.A.G. Hungerford, *Stories from suburban road*, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1983.

19 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 17-21, 28.

20 Boyce, op. cit., p. 29. On Manning, see also Daphne Popham, et al., *Reflections: profiles of 150 women who made Western Australia's history*, Perth: Carroll's, 1978, pp. 198-99.

21 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 30-32. See also Michael Roe, "Higgins, Esmonde Macdonald (1897-1960)", in *Australian dictionary of biography*, Melbourne University Press, vol. 14, 1996, pp. 449-50.

22 Boyce, op. cit., p. 37.

23 Boyce, op. cit., p. 46.

24 Boyce, op. cit., p. 51.

frugality measures such as iron rather than tile roofing.<sup>25</sup> A single storey classroom built in 1925 to the south-east of the main building, adjacent to the main public entrance to Wesley College, set the pattern of classroom blocks addressing Angelo Street.<sup>26</sup>

The school magazine, *The Wyvern*, began in 1926, and has continued publication (later as *The Western Wyvern*) to the present day. The first oval (Ward Oval) came into use from 1927.<sup>27</sup> The College engaged with the South Perth community with concerts, held in the Swan Street Hall (from 1923, demolished 1963), and with speech day ceremonies, which were held from 1927 in the Gaiety Theatre on the south-western corner of Coode Street and Angelo Street.<sup>28</sup>

An avenue of pines from the entrance at Angelo Street was planted in 1929, but was cut down during 1983.<sup>29</sup>

A plan of the site in 1936 shows that *Wesley College, South Perth* consisted of two brick buildings; the original building (Ward) and a single-storey classroom on the location of the western part of Kefford. On the remainder of the site were timber and asbestos buildings.<sup>30</sup>

The second headmaster, James Leonard Rossiter, served from 1930 to 1952, and was renowned for his tolerance, prudence, and commanding presence. At Wesley College during his time, it was said, a sound education rested on the four 'R's: reading, writing, arithmetic, and Rossiter.<sup>31</sup> In 1936, Rossiter moved to rental accommodation off-campus, freeing up rooms for school use. However, the school continued to expand and architects Hobbs, Forbes & Partners were commissioned to produce a master plan for the school. The priorities were to provide a headmaster's residence and a new block containing classrooms, dining hall, and kitchen, with the buildings to face south with an imposing façade overlooking the oval and Angelo Street entrance. The first stage of the plan involved a single storey building containing classrooms, and a dining hall, defining the south and east sides of a central quadrangle, with the intention to remove prefabricated buildings to restore river views, and with provision for addition of second storey extensions.<sup>32</sup> The new dining hall and classrooms were opened on 18 September 1937, by Professor Walter Murdoch. A notable feature of the new dining hall was the stained glass window at the southern end, designed by Wesley Old Boy Arnold Camerer.<sup>33</sup> The prefab dining room was not removed at this time, but became the school library.<sup>34</sup>

Also during 1937, the new headmaster's residence designed by Hobbs and Forbes was completed.<sup>35</sup> Historian P. J. Boyce provides this description:

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25 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 26, 41, 43.

26 Boyce, op. cit., p. 43.

27 Boyce, op. cit., p. 55. See also photo p. 45.

28 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 36, 50, 52.

29 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 44, 225.

30 Metropolitan Water Supply and Drainage Department, sheet 639, dated July 1936, SROWA.

31 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 59, 70-73.

32 Plans held by the City of South Perth, dated September 1936. The two buildings are the former dining hall on the eastern side of the quadrangle and the eastern portion of the Kefford Wing.

33 This stained glass window has been relocated within the dining room to the eastern wall. Information from site visit by Prue Griffin and Yen Nee Goh, July 2007.

34 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 77-78.

35 Plans held by the City of South Perth, dated September 1936.

A simple, modern, two-storey design with deeply-recessed front porch and columns topped with square capitals, it occupied an elevated position which gave the headmaster a commanding view of the South Perth foreshore and Swan River. Built in brick and tile and featuring every modern convenience of the period, including that most sought-after commodity, copious built-in cupboards, the new residence would not have been out of place in any of the more affluent suburbs.<sup>36</sup>

After the headmaster moved into the residence, the room with bay windows in the original building, which had accommodated past headmasters, was converted into the first Wesley College chapel, named after A. H. Dickson.<sup>37</sup>

Three grass tennis courts were opened on 7 December 1935. Wesley College was to become pre-eminent in inter-school tennis during the 1940s to 60s.<sup>38</sup>

During 1935, the South Perth Road Board produced a pamphlet advertising the major attractions of the area, such as the Zoological Gardens and Como Beach, Wesley College was noted as a significant and valued place to residents of a suburb which, while not yet considered affluent, was building its reputation.

In spacious grounds in the heart of the suburb at the imposing buildings of Wesley College where many of our foremost citizens and public men received their educational training in early manhood. Such a college as Wesley College being situated in South Perth is, indeed, an asset to the suburb, providing as it does, an opportunity for sons of residents to receive a college education without having to board away from home.<sup>39</sup>

By the 1930s and 40s, historian P. J. Boyce notes, Perth employers could identify Wesley students with training in qualities of good citizenship, such as community service, loyalty, and honourable interpersonal relations.<sup>40</sup> As they made their way to and from the place by ferry, foot, and tram, Wesley College students were recognisable not only by their black, green, and gold uniform, but also by their standard of behaviour. Boyce suggests that by World War II,

an enviable public reputation had been earned in record time [...], the rituals and routine of Wesley had by now been consolidated and an attractive skyline of campus buildings was recognisable from afar.<sup>41</sup>

The gymnasium (later named the Hamer building) was built during 1940.<sup>42</sup> In the lower level an open undercroft provided a space for boxing contests.<sup>43</sup> This building was designed by architects Eales Cohen and Fitzhardinge.<sup>44</sup>

During World War II, war precautions required in 1940 the installation of a district air raid siren at the place. Slit trenches were dug around Ward Oval, and a metal escape ladder was attached to a wall of the administration building. Some of the rungs of the escape ladder were extant at the end of the 20th century.<sup>45</sup> Also

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36 Boyce, op. cit., p. 78-80.

37 Wesley College heritage walk, place 3.

38 Boyce, op. cit., p. 86-87.

39 South Perth Road Board, South Perth: the queen suburb of the City of Perth, Brokensha & Shaw, December 1935, p. 10.

40 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 76-77.

41 Boyce, op. cit., p. 92.

42 City of South Perth municipal heritage inventory, place no. SPCv 8.

43 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 14.

44 Plans held by the City of South Perth, dated 1940.

45 Boyce, op. cit., p. 98.

during 1940, a hot water system was installed and the place was connected to the suburban sewerage system.<sup>46</sup>

A drawing of 'the school as it will be', prepared by architects Forbes & Fitzhardinge, and outlining future building plans for the place, including a chapel, appeared in *The Western Wyvern* in 1947.<sup>47</sup>

During 1950, the water tower (a well-known local landmark) was removed to make way for extensions to the gymnasium which comprised new changing rooms at the lower end and a new classroom block at the upper end.<sup>48</sup> In 1950, the oval in front of the main building, which had been rolled and planted by staff and students in 1924, was named J. F. Ward Oval after the first headmaster.<sup>49</sup> The Rossiter Oval was named at the same time after the second headmaster.<sup>50</sup>

During the early 1950s, with an eye to future expansion, Wesley College began to acquire properties along adjacent streets, starting with numbers 22 and 33 Swan Street, bought in 1952.<sup>51</sup>

The third headmaster, N. R. (Roy) Collins, served from 1953 to 1964.<sup>52</sup>

During 1953, Wesley College joined the Public Schools' Association. Subsequently, a boat shed was erected on the South Perth foreshore.<sup>53</sup>

The memorial lych-gate and rose garden, commemorating the 55 former students killed during World War II, was opened in July 1953.<sup>54</sup> New physics and chemistry labs and undercroft change rooms were built during 1955-56.<sup>55</sup> The first on-campus tuck shop opened in the gymnasium during 1956.<sup>56</sup> Three new classrooms were added above the old third-year classrooms during 1957-58 (now part of the Kefford wing). A second section of the science building, devoted to biology and manual arts, was built during 1958-59.<sup>57</sup> The Junior boarding house, at the corner of Swan Street and Coode Street, was opened in 1959.<sup>58</sup>

The opening of the Narrows Bridge (1959) and Kwinana Freeway encouraged the development of South Perth, Como, and the surrounding suburbs. New southern suburbs such as Rossmoyne and Booragoon provided a wider catchment area for Wesley College. Students increasingly came from non-denominational families. Historian Boyce suggests that from around 1970, enrolment at Wesley 'consolidated one's middle-class status'.<sup>59</sup>

Plans for a chapel finally came to fruition with the construction of the Memorial Chapel during 1960. Old Boy Ross Chisholm (of the firm Cameron, Chisholm & Nichol), a modernist architect, had won a competition for the design with a

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46 Boyce, op. cit., p. 102.

47 Reproduced in Boyce, op. cit., p. 116.

48 Boyce, op. cit., p. 125.

49 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 5. Note that Boyce says that oval came into use in 1927. pp. 45 & 55.

50 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 17.

51 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 125-26.

52 Boyce, op. cit., p. 134.

53 City of South Perth municipal heritage inventory, place no. SPCv 8.

54 Boyce, op. cit., p. 140.

55 Boyce, op. cit., p. 144.

56 Florey, op. cit., p. 263.

57 Boyce, op. cit., p. 144.

58 Boyce, op. cit., p. 153.

59 Boyce, op. cit., p. 145, 311-12.

building noted for its innovative and contemporary use of concrete ring beams and precast slabs, and hailed by the then school chaplain as 'a bold experiment in Church architecture'.<sup>60</sup> The Chapel was built by L. Lilleyman Pty. Ltd.<sup>61</sup>

The chapel organ, constructed by Paul Hufner, cost £3000. The Chapel was dedicated on 19 February 1961 by the Reverend Ralph Sutton, President of the Methodist Conference.<sup>62</sup>

During the 1960s, the Methodist church had assumed responsibility for the Mogumber Mission at Moore River and two boys were provided with places as boarders at the school. Dean Collard and Trevor Holmes were the first Aboriginal students at Wesley College, some four decades after the opening of the place and over a century since Francis Armstrong had worked at the Native Institution beneath Mount Eliza. Several girls were taken from Mogumber to work at the school as domestic servants. Several more Aboriginal boys were provided with scholarships as boarders in the 1970s, including two more members of the Collard family.<sup>63</sup>

In 1962, architects Forbes and Fitzhardinge designed part of the second storey extensions to the existing classroom block which subsequently became the Kefford Wing.<sup>64</sup>

A new Olympic-size swimming pool was opened on 27 April 1963. The pool became available for use by the general public, an example of engagement of the place with the surrounding South Perth community.<sup>65</sup> The history of the place contains an ongoing tension between, on the one hand, the interactions between the communities of Wesley College and South Perth, and on the other, the distinct identity of the place as an institution for families of wealth.

In 1963, the biology laboratory was named after Mildred Manning, in recognition of four decades of service at Wesley College.<sup>66</sup>

Over the summer of 1963-64, three classrooms built during 1926 were demolished, to make way for a new building comprising six classrooms on two levels, at the western end of the main classroom block (named the Kefford Wing in 1998).<sup>67</sup>

During 1964, maintenance supervisor Max de Kroo oversaw construction of Allingham Pavilion, overlooking Rossiter Oval, and the Donald Rae Recreational Centre.<sup>68</sup> Both were later demolished.<sup>69</sup>

The fourth headmaster, Clive Hamer, served from 1965 to 1983.<sup>70</sup>

In 1966, architects Forbes & Fitzhardinge produced a long-range plan for development of the place, which was never fully implemented.<sup>71</sup> The northern

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60 Boyce, op. cit., p. 156-60.

61 City of South Perth municipal heritage inventory, place no. SPCv 8.

62 Florey, op. cit., p. 298. *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 4.

63 Boyce, op. cit., p. 153, 211.

64 Plans held by the City of South Perth, dated 9 October 1962.

65 Boyce, op. cit., p. 160-1.

66 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 13.

67 Boyce, op. cit., p. 161.

68 Boyce, op. cit., p. 162.

69 City of South Perth municipal heritage inventory, place no. SPCv 8.

70 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 173-74.

wing of the original building was refurbished in 1968, to restore the headmaster's study in space vacated by boarders, who moved to the new dormitory building built from April 1967 to early 1968 on the north side of Swan Street.<sup>72</sup> Two new boarding houses, Tranby and Cygnet, occupied the new dormitory building.<sup>73</sup> Forbes and Fitzhardinge designed the refurbishment of the former dormitory building and the new infill rooms in the spaces between the arms of the original 'E' shaped building.<sup>74</sup> These rooms were used for administrative purposes and from that time the original building (1923) became the administration building.<sup>75</sup>

In 1968, plans were prepared by Forbes and Fitzhardinge for the final second storey addition of the Kefford building. At the same time the covered walkway with concrete pillars was added to the Kefford building.<sup>76</sup>

The Trenaman Library was built in 1970, over the old dining hall.<sup>77</sup> The library was named after the Rev Dr H. R. Trenaman, on staff at Wesley College from 1935 to 1970.<sup>78</sup> City of South Perth Librarian K. D. Leach was consultant designer for the library.<sup>79</sup> Around this time, the memorial rose garden was moved, at the headmaster's request, from the northern to the western side of the Chapel, in order to provide a playground for younger boys.<sup>80</sup>

In September 1971, former student Roderick James Sprigg was killed on military service in Vietnam. Subsequently the Memorial Lych Gate and Rose Garden recorded his name in addition to the 55 Old Boys killed during World War II.<sup>81</sup>

Growing school numbers required additional playing fields, but there was no available land at the school site for such additions. In 1971, playing fields were established at Thelma Street, approximately 4km from the school. They were named Collins Oval and Change Rooms, after Roy Collins, who taught continuously at the school from 1931 to 1964, including his eleven years as principal (1953-64).<sup>82</sup>

The foundation stone for the Joseph Green Centre was laid on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1973.<sup>83</sup> The Centre, comprising an assembly hall, performing arts space, lecture theatre, and Old Boys' room, opened in 1974 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary jubilee of Wesley College.<sup>84</sup> Rev Joseph Green had belonged to the Methodist Conference at the time Wesley College was founded, and had served on the Wesley College Council including a period as Chairman.<sup>85</sup>

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- 71 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 190-91. Plans were lodged with City of South Perth in 1966 for the addition of a second storey to the west classroom block which subsequently became the Kefford wing. Further research may establish whether the second storey was added in 1966 or in 1968.
- 72 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 160-61, 183.
- 73 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 20.
- 74 Plans held by the City of South Perth, Forbes and Fitzhardinge, dated 6 August 1968.
- 75 City of South Perth municipal heritage inventory, place no. SPCv 8.
- 76 Plans held by the City of South Perth, dated 7 December 1968.
- 77 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 188-89, 192. Plans held by the City of South Perth, dated 19 August 1970.
- 78 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 11.
- 79 Florey, op. cit., p. 298.
- 80 Boyce, op. cit., p. 192.
- 81 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 1.
- 82 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 24.
- 83 Boyce, op. cit., p. 202-4.
- 84 City of South Perth municipal heritage inventory, place no. SPCv 8.
- 85 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 9.

Wesley College became partly co-educational from the late 1970s. In this period the Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian Churches amalgamated into the Uniting Church of Australia.

A new preparatory school facing the south side of Swan Street was designed by Tony Brand, of Forbes & Fitzhardinge, and constructed by Cooper & Oxley. It was opened on 25 March 1978 by Premier Sir Charles Court.<sup>86</sup>

On 1 October 1978, the Jenkins Quadrangle was named after past Chairmen of the Wesley College Council, the Reverends Charles A. Jenkins and Sydney J. Jenkins.<sup>87</sup>

Further additions were undertaken to the original building in 1978 the most significant being the addition of the upper level walkway.<sup>88</sup> This design was prepared by Forbes and Fitzhardinge.

In 1978, major additions were made to the Joseph Green Centre, including a dining hall, kitchen below the assembly hall, manual arts, and music practice rooms above the assembly hall. In 1979, a human biology lab, sickbay, and matron's quarters on the north side of Swan Street were all built.<sup>89</sup>

During the Western Australian resources boom of the 1970s, population growth and urban sprawl led to further development of the southern suburbs. By the early 1980s, immigrant Asian families moving into the new southern suburbs were increasingly enrolling students at Wesley College.<sup>90</sup>

In 1983, *The Wet*, a watercolour by former art teacher Wim Boissevain, was purchased to commemorate the retirement of headmaster Clive Hamer. The painting was hung in the Joseph Green Centre.<sup>91</sup>

Also in 1983, the headmaster's residence underwent major renovations. This included the removal of some internal fittings and fixtures and an extension on the south-west side to enable further storage. This area had previously been a verandah.<sup>92</sup>

The fifth headmaster, Roderick Edward Kefford, served from 1984 to 1996.<sup>93</sup>

Over summer 1984 to 1985, squash courts in Tranby boarding house were converted into dormitories.<sup>94</sup>

Epworth Court, comprising five new houses on Leane Street, including a manse for the school chaplain, was constructed in 1984 and opened during September 1985.<sup>95</sup>

The Allingham Pavilion, built during 1964, was demolished in August 1985.<sup>96</sup> In its place, the Robert Blanckensee Physical Education Centre was opened by

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86 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 223-24.

87 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 7.

88 Plans held by the City of South Perth, 1978.

89 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 224-25.

90 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 200, 242.

91 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 9.

92 Information from Barbara van Bronswijk, Wesley College archivist during a site visit by Prue Griffin and Yen Nee Goh, 6 August 2007.

93 Boyce, op. cit., pp. 230-32.

94 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 20.

95 Boyce, op. cit., p. 238.

96 A brass plate and heritage plaque notes its former location. *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 15-16.

Blanckensee, a long-serving member and Chairman of the Wesley College Council, on 21 April 1987.<sup>97</sup> The opening of the Blanckensee Centre allowed redevelopment of the gymnasium (built 1940) as senior school classrooms. The refurbished building, named the Hamer Building after the former headmaster, opened on 2 July 1989.<sup>98</sup> The refurbishment necessitated the enclosure of the former double volume space on the ground floor and the insertion of a slab to support the second storey.

The Mildred Manning Biology Laboratory within the science wing was refurbished and recommissioned in January 1990.<sup>99</sup>

Four houses, one on Coode Street, and three on Mill Point Road, were demolished in late 1992 to make way for a preparatory school resource centre, which was opened on 10 April 1994 by Premier Richard Court.<sup>100</sup>

In 1994, *Wesley College, South Perth* was included in the significant building survey by the Art Deco Society of WA and recommended for inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places.<sup>101</sup>

The Memorial Rose Garden was planted with 56 Kardinal rose bushes during 1995, at which time the rose garden was returned to its original location.<sup>102</sup>

In 1995, the physics laboratory was named after Professor John de Laeter, a member of the Wesley College Council for many years including a period as Chairman.<sup>103</sup>

By 1995, over a third of boarders were full fee paying overseas students, often from families practising Islam.<sup>104</sup> Wesley College has shifted its client base over its history, from the original students from mainly lower middle-class families practising Methodism, through to the more affluent families of mixed religious affiliations who moved into the southern suburbs from the 1950s onward, to the multicultural student body of recent decades. The place reflects the broad demographic shifts in the surrounding area. However, *Wesley College, South Perth* has remained an independent school pursuing religious education, continuing the tradition established by the earliest Wesleyan Methodist colonists in Perth.

The sixth headmaster, John M. B. Bednall, served from 1996 to 2002.<sup>105</sup>

From 1996 to 1997, extensions to the senior school general classroom building incorporated new staff offices, air conditioning, and undercover recreation space, and the frontage to Angelo Street was extended to match the cloistered façade of the Hamer building.<sup>106</sup> Architect John Flower also designed the refurbishment of the northern wing of the original building for the greater demands of the administration section of the school. The refurbishment involved moving the headmaster's office from the northern room with the bay window to a location in the centre of the building. This enabled more space for reception and a waiting

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97 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 15.

98 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 14.

99 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 13.

100 Boyce, op. cit., p. 238, 257.

101 Heritage Council of WA website, accessed 6 August 2007, [www.heritage.gov.au](http://www.heritage.gov.au)

102 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 1.

103 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 12.

104 Boyce, op. cit., p. 260.

105 Boyce, op. cit., p. 271-2.

106 Boyce, op. cit., p. 295.

room. The grounds outside this entrance were paved to create a visual cue for the main entrance to the school.<sup>107</sup>

During 1997, Wesley College adopted a long-term site development plan. The plan envisioned a community square and a north to south aligned green spine. The chapel, although no longer adequate for the purposes of the College, was to be retained as a memorial.<sup>108</sup>

On 11 November 1997, foundation scholar Clive Levenson-Gowder laid a commemorative stone to recognise the seventy-fifth anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the original buildings.<sup>109</sup>

The Kefford wing was named on 1 April 1998. Building works undertaken during 1998 included an extension to the science building creating a new external façade on the southern side; the installation of disabled access to the library; and the refurbishment of the ground floor of the administration building, including a new headmaster's suite in the northern wing.<sup>110</sup>

On Valedictory Day 1998, a sculpture by former student Simon Mattiaccio was unveiled in the centre of the Jenkins Quadrangle.<sup>111</sup>

Manning House, the new preparatory school, named after long-serving biology teacher Mildred Manning, was opened on 25 February 1999, by Dr Peter Le Soeuf.<sup>112</sup>

The middle school building, including large classrooms, a performing arts space, and over a hundred computer workstations, was built during 1999 on the site of tennis courts created during 1935, and was opened on 29 March 2000.<sup>113</sup>

*Wesley College, South Perth* was included in the City of South Perth Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places on 14 November 2000 and designated as deserving a high level of protection. A history of the place, written by former student P. J. Boyce and published during 2001, is notable for detailed description of changes to the fabric, providing numerous historic images, and for rigorous research into the people involved in teaching and studying at Wesley.<sup>114</sup> A book of biographies of the former students who died during World War II and the Vietnam War was published during 2002, and complements the Memorial Lych Gate and Rose Garden.<sup>115</sup>

During 2002 the headmaster's residence (built 1936) was renovated to provide space for the Old Wesley Collegians' Association, and the Wesley College Archive and Museum. The building was named J. S. Maloney House during 2003.<sup>116</sup>

A new design and technology building was completed in 2004.<sup>117</sup>

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107 Plans held by the City of South Perth, dated 20 October 1997.

108 Boyce, op. cit., p. 295.

109 Boyce, op. cit., p. 284-5.

110 Boyce, op. cit., p. 295.

111 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 7.

112 Boyce, op. cit., p. 279-80.

113 Boyce, op. cit., p. 320. *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 8.

114 Boyce, op. cit., passim.

115 John Maloney, ed., *They shall not grow old: the stories of Old Wesleyans who died in World War II and the Vietnam War*, Old Wesley Collegians' Association, 2002.

116 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 2.

117 *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 10.

During April 2005 the Memorial Lych Gate was relocated to its present position.<sup>118</sup>

In September 2005, the Wesley College Council Room was named after Craig Redhead, a former student and chairman of the Council.<sup>119</sup>

The Joseph Green Centre is currently undergoing significant renovation and extension.<sup>120</sup> Other planned projects include repairs to the Chapel for its 'concrete cancer' and future extensions to the Chapel in the form of a narthex, kitchen servery, office and prayer space. It is also planned to provide air-conditioning to the chapel and technological improvements for media requirements.

An ongoing programme of conservation of the brick facades of the Ward, Kefford and Hamer buildings is underway. This conservation work consists of repointing the external brickwork and in some instances removing the build up of debris in the cavity wall space that has contributed to water damage.<sup>121</sup>

In 2007, *Wesley College, South Perth* continues to offer kindergarten to year 12 education to boys and primary education to girls. The site is constantly being assessed for the school's future needs and developed in response to these changing needs. The school administrators have sympathy for the heritage buildings on the site and it is noted that the new buildings on the site have attempted to follow the design elements apparent in the existing buildings. For example, the design of the preparatory and middle school have made use of the modified arch form that is first apparent in the 1936 classrooms which are part of the Kefford Wing.

The municipal heritage inventory of the City of South Perth notes that:

*Wesley College* has significant aesthetic, historic, social and representative heritage value. The development of the buildings reflects the history of growth in the school. *Wesley College* has been an important part of many Western Australian boys' lives since its inception in 1923. It is a good representative of a number of educational institutions in the South Perth district.<sup>122</sup>

As an educational institution, *Wesley College, South Perth* has produced graduates who have gone on to achieve highly in many fields, including politics, the public service, business, the humanities, and on the sporting field. A full review of the contribution of Wesley graduates to the community in Western Australia is beyond the scope of this heritage assessment.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Wesley College, South Perth* is set within pleasant landscaped grounds on the ridge of the foreshore escarpment, with a view of the Swan River and city skyline in the distance. The extensive school site comprises three main Precincts,<sup>123</sup> 'Heritage Precinct' on the western portion, 'Senior School Precinct' on the eastern portion and 'Swan Street Precinct' within the central portion of the site. The

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<sup>118</sup> *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 1.

<sup>119</sup> *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 8.

<sup>120</sup> *Wesley College heritage walk*, place 9.

<sup>121</sup> Information from David York, Manager of Property Services, Wesley College during a site visit by Prue Griffin and Yen Nee Goh, 6 August 2007.

<sup>122</sup> City of South Perth, Municipal heritage inventory place record form, place no. SPCv 8.

<sup>123</sup> Precincts are as identified in the Wesley College Heritage Walk, January 2006.

Middle School is located at the foot of a steep slope, north of the 'Heritage Precinct' and the Junior School occupies the northern end of the site.

Individual buildings included within the 'Heritage Precinct' are J. F. Ward Wing (former Headmaster's residence, dormitory, classrooms and residential accommodation 1923; 1927; 1978; 1998), Kefford Wing (1925, 1936, 1957-58, 1962-64), J. S. Maloney House (former Headmaster's residence 1937; 1983; 2002), Old Wesley Collegians Association Memorial Lych Gate (1953; 2005) and Rose Garden (1995), Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel (1961), H. R. Trenaman Library (former dining and assembly hall 1937; 1970) and Joseph Green Centre (1973; 1978; 2007 ongoing). The 'Senior School Precinct' includes Clive Hamer Building (former gymnasium 1940; 1989), Science Building (1956), R. E. Blanckensee Centre (1987), Design and Technology Building (2004), maintenance buildings and service substations. The 'Swan Street Precinct' includes Manning House (1999), Harrison Dormitory (1968 & 1970; 1984/85), boarding house complex which includes Frank Wood Quadrangle and Hanton Quadrangle. The place is a complex of buildings built for education purposes by the Methodist Church of Western Australia, which is situated on a large block of land that is bounded by Angelo Street on the south, Mill Point Road on the north, Coode Street on the west and Leane Street on the east. Playing fields, J. F. Ward Oval and Rossiter Oval are located on the perimeter of the site along Angelo Street. Collins Oval and Change Rooms (1971) are at a separate site at Thelma Street.

The recommended curtilage roughly corresponds to the 'Heritage Precinct', but includes J. F. Ward Oval and Clive Hamer Building, and does not include Joseph Green Centre.

The buildings of *Wesley College, South Perth* are spread out on the extensive site, interspersed with paved and lawn quadrangles and well kept garden beds. Swan Street, a restricted access thoroughfare from Coode Street to Leane Street cuts across the site, dividing the school site into two portions, the Junior School section and boarding house complex on the north and the Middle School, Senior School and central administration on the south. Two large playing fields are located on the perimeter of the property along Angelo Street. The site boundaries are clearly defined by chain link fences, brick walls, steel gates and dense hedges. The primary entrance to the school site is from Angelo Street, through an avenue of mature trees, with secondary and restricted vehicular access from Coode Street, Swan Street and Mill Point Road (access to Junior School). Pedestrian access is located along Coode Street.

The immediate vicinity of *Wesley College, South Perth* site, mainly Coode and Leane Street, comprises predominantly two-storey contemporary houses and some single storey interwar houses set within well kept gardens. Angelo Street is defined by a stretch of commercial strip, from Coode Street to Forrest Street, between established residential blocks. Towards the foreshore, to the north of Mill Point Road, there are a few low-rise apartment blocks and large two and three storey contemporary houses.

*Wesley College, South Perth* has evolved, from 1923 to the present day, from a single storey three winged building and small outbuildings to a complex of administrative and modern purpose-built buildings, designed to be seen as a cohesive complex, with each building sharing similar forms and an established palette of materials comprising mainly of brickwork contrasted with white accents and tiled roofs.

The extensive school site comprises three main Precincts:<sup>124</sup> 'Heritage Precinct' on the western portion, 'Senior School Precinct' on the eastern portion and 'Swan Street Precinct' in the central portion, to the immediate north of Swan Street. The Middle School is wedged between the 'Heritage Precinct' and 'Swan Street Precinct' whilst the Junior School with a separate administration office is on the northern portion of the site.

The 'Heritage Precinct' consists of four two- and three- storey blocks, J. F. Ward Wing, Kefford Wing, H. R. Trenaman Library and the Joseph Green Centre, arranged around a lawn quadrangle, Jenkins Quadrangle. These blocks are externally connected by means of an enclosed concrete and glazed corridor. Along the western boundary is the two-storey J. S Maloney House, which overlooks the Memorial Rose Garden. A long axis, running east-west, visually connects an entry gate from Coode Street with the Old Wesley Collegians Association Memorial Lych Gate, the south porch of the J. F. Ward Wing and the arcaded ground floor of Kefford Wing. Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel is located to the south of this axis, overlooking the J. F. Ward Oval. The northern extent of the original school site is defined by a steep slope and limestone retaining wall. A steep flight of brick paved steps is built into the slope, connecting the Precinct to the rest of the school site on the northern portion.

Adjacent to the 'Heritage Precinct', to the east, is the 'Senior School Precinct', comprising the Clive Hamer Building, Science Block, swimming pool and R. E. Blanckensee Centre, arranged around a square brick and soft paved courtyard with sail shade structure and low walls. To the east of the R. E. Blanckensee Centre is the Rossiter Oval. The Design and Technology building, the newest building to be completed on site, is located to the north of the Science Block on the east of the Joseph Green Centre. Beyond these buildings is the 'Swan Street Precinct', comprising mainly of the boarding house complexes and associated amenities.

Internally, most buildings have been refurbished and adapted to cater for the expansion of the school and the need to modernise existing facilities over the years. All buildings on site are well maintained and well utilised. There is an ongoing conservation and maintenance program to restore and conserve the external fabric of earlier buildings within the 'Heritage Precinct'. These buildings will be addressed individually in this assessment with emphasis on the earliest buildings within the precinct.

### ***J. F. Ward Wing***

#### ***Exterior***

This two-storey face brick and tile building with rendered banding displays some characteristics of the Federation Arts and Crafts style. Originally designed by architect James Hine as a single storey three winged building in 1923 with an upper storey added in 1927 and in subsequent years two single storey additions were constructed between the wings. It is constructed of load bearing, face brick cavity wall in stretcher bond with roughcast walling featured on the north and west facades. The building is currently the central administration building.

The main entrance into the building is situated on the north façade, which has a two-storey verandah supported by face brick columns with roughcast panels in between, a clapboard clad two-storey bay window in the centre and a gable end

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<sup>124</sup> Precincts are as identified in the Wesley College Heritage Walk, January 2006.

punctuated with a set of three double hung sash windows on each level to the east end of the facade. An escape ladder made up of a series of steel rungs from World War II is still extant on one of the brick columns on the verandah.

The west façade with its three prominent gable ends, the wings, is set back from Coode Street in a well-presented garden setting, with the Memorial Rose Garden in the foreground. The gable ends are almost identical in appearance with some variations on the central wing. Each façade is composed of a series of alternating red face brick columns and roughcast rendered panels upon which the windows and bullnose brick sills are placed. The intersection between the levels is concealed and articulated with a rendered banding and stringcourse. The upper gable is finished in roughcast render, with a contrasting triangular section of face brickwork at the top. On the central wing, there are terracotta-shingled awnings above openings on both levels. The original foundation stone can be seen in the south corner.

Two single storey skillion roofed additions with exposed rafters and clay tiles are added in between the wings. The northern addition, between the north and central wings, has full height French doors and windows, opening out onto a verandah and a small landscaped garden. The southern addition, between the central and south wings, has French doors, casement windows and an outdoor seating area.

### *Interior*

The J. F. Ward Wing is E-shaped in plan and both floors have a main passageway running the length of the long axis with rooms along both sides.

On the ground floor, the main entrance leads into a reception area and a short passageway accommodated with the north wing. The Headmaster's study is located at the end of this passage, in the single storey addition between the central and north wing. To the east of the reception is a gallery and waiting area, formerly the lounge of the pre-1936 Headmaster's residence. An original fireplace with cast iron hearth and tiled surrounds, turned timberwork and decorative timber mantle still exists and has been refurbished. The fireplace is no longer in use. New archways to the east of the waiting area have been created to allow direct access into the main passageway. An alcove has been created along the passageway, abutting the Headmaster's study, as a display area for the various house flags and memorabilia associated with the school.

The central and south wing remains intact as large single spaces, as originally designed, with circular structural columns to support the floor above retained. The central wing is currently the teaching staff room furnished with low partitions and individual workstations. The south wing accommodates photocopying and printing facilities. An enclosed section has been added between the central and south wings, with a narrow passage leading into a single office space and two smaller offices on the south side of the passage. The original south wall and windows of the central wing are extant on the north side of the passage.

Directly opposite the central wing is the main staircase, constructed in 1927 when the first floor was added. Below the landing and upper flight of stairs is a side entrance to Jenkins Quadrangle.

Like the ground floor, the upper floor has a main passageway that runs the length of the building, opening into rooms on both sides of the passage. The northern end of the passageway is enclosed by a full height timber framed glazed window

and door. The entire northern end, including the original north wing, has been subdivided into smaller offices by means of full height partitions.

The central wing is a large single space staff room with individual workstations, similar to the arrangement on the ground floor.

In the southern end of the building, the classrooms have been retained and refurbished to accommodate computer workstations and IT equipment for education purposes. There is a ramp installed, providing disabled access from the enclosed corridor to the first floor. Rooms along the main passage in the southern end of the passageway have been converted into offices and smaller classrooms.

Generally, internal finishes on both floors have been replaced in the recent refurbishment campaign. All finishes, including plastered and painted walls, carpet over slab, suspended flush finished plasterboard ceilings and plaster cornices, are kept consistent throughout the building. There is no visible evidence of original cornices or dado on both levels. Most of the original doors have been replaced. The original timber framed double hung sashes are largely intact and refurbished with replacement hardware and glazing.

## **Kefford Wing**

### *Exterior*

This classroom block is a two-storey brick and tile building, comprising of two 'L'-shaped wings with a centrally placed two-storey addition on the north and south. Originally built as a single storey, single wing building, the second wing, with a mirrored plan of the first, was built and subsequently the second floor and two other additions were added. The building is currently used as the senior school classrooms and the housemasters' offices are contained within the north block. It is predominantly Interwar Georgian Revival in style, with Interwar Gothic Revival style arches in the north and south facades.

There are similarities in terms of design and detailing of the classroom block with the adjacent staff common room, formerly the dining and assembly hall. The large openings composed of a set of three double hung sash windows with rendered and scribed surrounds suggestive of stone quoins is repeated on the ground floor. The face brick walls are supported by a series of face brick wall buttresses with rendered capping.

On the south, the façade is composed of a series of four-pointed arch arcade on the ground floor between three projecting gable ends and on the first floor, the use of large shallow arched openings with a centrally placed round column on a low plinth, accented in white, echoes the formal classical Inter War Georgian Revival façade of the J. S. Maloney House. There is evidence of rising damp problems resulting in a large area of brickwork affected by efflorescent on the western gable.

The north-south orientated central passageway has brickwork to dado height with rendered walls above. Openings are similarly featured with rendered and scribed surrounds with solid timber panel doors. Two passageways with staircases to the first floor are located on either end of the central block.

The face brickwork façade on the north is largely concealed behind the continuous concrete and glazed enclosed corridor, which connects all the

buildings around Jenkins Quadrangle, and connects the north addition to the main building.

The interiors of the classrooms are typical, walls are generally plastered and painted in a neutral hue with acoustical ceilings and carpet throughout. No further assessment of the interiors has been undertaken.

### ***J. S. Maloney House***

#### ***Exterior***

The 1937, two-storey former Headmaster's residence is sited on an elevated location, at the top of a slope on the northern extant of the original school site. The house overlooks the Middle School to the immediate north, at the foot of the slope, and the river and city skyline in the distance.

The building, designed with an Inter-War Georgian Revival façade, is constructed from load bearing brickwork in stretcher bond. The building has a formal symmetrical façade with a central porch defining the main entry. The porch has brick paved floor, openings on the east and west with brick steps and a large centrally placed opening, featuring a pair of columns in the Tuscan order and steel balustrading in between. All openings feature modern details expressed through lintels of vertically placed bricks, and supported by flat steel lintels. Above the porch is an enclosed room with large glazed openings. A corbelled feature on the eastern end of the front façade adds a whimsical touch to an otherwise formal façade.

Brick lintels are formed by standing the face bricks on their vertical edge, supported by pieces of flat steel lintels. Because of the slope, the front entry is elevated a few steps above the brick paving.

On the west elevation, the window of the front room has shutter stays which are still extant, although the shutters have been removed. There is a brick paved verandah approximately mid length of the house, between the front room and rear rooms. A pair of French doors opens out onto the verandah and brick paved surroundings along the western curtilage. The western boundary is demarcated by a tall dense hedge and brick wall.

The rear (south) elevation overlooking Memorial Rose Garden has an informal arrangement of windows and roof forms, featuring a pair of small dormers and deep eaves against hipped roofs over the main area of the house. The southwest corner of the house has been extended and re-roofed with a large hip roof. There is a skillion roof supported on square timber posts over a brick paved area. The lichen-covered tiles are of light and dark toned Marseilles pattern roof tiles manufactured by Bristile.

#### ***Interior***

The original planning is largely intact with some alteration within individual rooms. The main entrance leads into a linear foyer, with a medium sized front room to the west and the original staircase to the east of the entrance. Openings into four other rooms are located at the end of the foyer. The former lounge room, currently the enrolment office, is located on the eastern side of the building, next to the foot of the staircase. The room has a bricked up fireplace and is divided into two offices by a glazed partition. A pair of narrow doors with glazed panels opens out onto a paved area.

Adjacent to the lounge room, facing the staircase is an opening, which leads into a toilet and a small museum. The toilet is refurnished with tiled floor and wall and modern amenities. Adjacent to the toilet is the museum, occupying an area that formerly housed a kitchen and pantry/storage. Individual glass display cabinets and standalone display units display valuable historical artefacts, found objects around the school site and contributions from former students and staff, medals and various school memorabilia. The museum has full width, full height glazed openings on the south and east walls, opening out on the south onto a paved area and garden beyond.

The former dining room is located in the southwest corner of the house. The room has been extended to the south and the west curtilage. Tucked in the alcove of the dining room is the only surviving face brick fireplace. Generally on the ground floor all original solid panel doors, architraves and skirting have largely been retained and conserved though in some, the backs of the doors and architraves have been painted to match the neutral colour scheme.

The staircase is well proportioned, with modest square and chamfered details on newel posts. The stairs are composed of three flights with two landings. Above the landings is a large timber framed glazing, looking out onto the enclosed sunroom. Rooms are arranged around the first floor foyer, two front rooms and three rear rooms overlooking the Memorial Rose Garden. The enclosed sunroom is located to the north, between the two front rooms. All the former bedrooms have been converted into offices and the northeastern room has been converted into a meeting room. Built in robes are featured in the former bedrooms and have been retained with a separate shelving unit inserted within the timber structure.

The original bathroom, presently a unisex toilet, has been refurbished with tiled floor and walls and modern amenities. The pair of original rectilinear windows remain. Adjacent to the toilet is a small kitchen and tea preparation area. A former sleepout / verandah, featured in earlier drawings has been removed.

Generally the internal spaces have suspended flush finished plasterboard ceilings with air conditioning vents, replacement plaster cornices, painted skirting and carpet over timber flooring throughout. Offices are typically furnished with modular workstations, shelving units and portable electric heaters.

### ***Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel***

#### ***Exterior***

The Memorial Chapel is designed in the Post War Ecclesiastical style, featuring reinforced concrete ring beams, precast concrete walls and slabs. It is a cylindrical building, elevated on a square terrazzo paved podium with a steel portico on the southern side. Four square garden beds are located on each corner of the terrazzo paved podium. To the west of the Memorial Chapel, parallel to Coode Street is the Sunken Garden with a free standing cement rendered reinforced concrete cross.

The roof comprises a series of twelve steel framed sheet metal clad apexes and valleys, surmounted in the centre by a tall steel spire. Each steel valley rafter functions as a gutter, draining into twelve strategically located circular pipe columns. Precast concrete panels with exposed aggregate finish are alternated with panels of cement render finish to create a play of dark and light tone on the façade. Alternate panels are set back from the edge of the ring beam to allow room for an insert of steel framed louvred glass windows.

The congregation enters the Chapel on the south side by means of a small flight of steps onto the elevated terrazzo paved podium, through a pair of glazed double doors with vertical glazing bars and into the narthex. There is an alternative eastern side entrance with similarly detailed double doors.

Internally, the circular space is screened off on three sides by timber stud and blackbutt board lined walls. The central double volume space accommodates a nave and side aisles, leading to a chancel on the north. The original design of the nave had long, solid jarrah pews on both aisles, which have been removed and replaced with plastic moulded chairs to allow for flexible seating arrangement. Some of the pews have been salvaged and reused in the foyer and rehearsal room. A soft wash of blue diffused light filters in from above, through the coloured openings between the timber lined ceiling and upper ring beam. Memorial brass plaques and wall mounted spherical light fittings line the timber walls surrounding the nave. Twelve spherical light fittings are suspended above the nave from the timber-lined ceiling, from the underside of the valleys.

The rehearsal room is located in the western section, the store and vestry in the eastern section and the narthex in the southern section. Above the narthex, the rehearsal room and vestry is the gallery level. A custom designed and built organ is located on the east gallery, above the rehearsal room. The choir is accommodated in the south gallery, above the narthex.

The original marble foundation stone is laid in the narthex, on the same north-south axis as the main entrance, the nave and chancel. There is a stairwell on the east, adjacent to the vestry.

### ***H.R. Trenaman Library Building***

The rectilinear building was originally designed as a single storey brick and tile dining and assembly hall in 1937 and in 1970 a brick and tile upper storey was added above the existing ground floor. The building is predominantly Interwar Georgian Revival in style.

#### ***Staff common room (ground floor)***

On the ground floor, the east and west dark tone brickwork facades in stretcher bond are contrasted by large openings placed at consistent intervals, which are composed of a set of three double hung sash windows with leadlight and rendered, scribed surrounds suggestive of stone quoins. Similarly detailed openings are also featured in the adjacent Kefford Wing and Clive Hammer Building. On the west, facing Jenkins Quadrangle is an impressive main entrance, elevated a few steps from the ground level. The entrance has an external leaf of solid matchboard doors within ornate external plaster moulded surrounds and an internal leaf of a pair of panel doors and infill panel. A leaf of brickwork in an English bond conceals the base of the original east wall. The intersection between the two levels is concealed and articulated with a rendered banding.

Internally most of the original fabric is intact. Walls are generally plastered with moulded dado. The colour scheme of the room is inconsistent, half the room is in a green and purple scheme whilst the rest in a neutral hue. The original double sash windows with leadlight have been refitted with block out blinds and timber ledges under the openings are still intact. The ceiling features a grid of timber beams with flush panel inserts and timber-framed lattice over ceiling vents. A former stage on the southern end of the room was removed and refurnished with

a well-equipped kitchen. The plaster moulded detail and corbel above this area is still extant.

Furnishings within the common room are contemporary, with café style tubular steel and moulded plywood seats and tables in the timber floored dining area and upholstered armchairs in the lounge area. The lounge area has carpet over timber flooring. Display racks and shelving are placed along the rear wall. Ceiling fans and contemporary fluorescent light fittings are suspended down from the beams.

The northern end of the original dining room has been converted into a music studio at some stage. This section was not accessible at the time of inspection.

#### *H.R. Trenaman Library (first floor)*

The first floor addition features face brick work with large square steel framed glazing on the east and west facades. The concrete and glazed enclosed corridor continues along the west façade, linking the library with Joseph Green Centre on the north and the Kefford Wing to the south.

Internally, the library is a large singular rectilinear space with a series of exposed 'A' framed steel structure. The underside of the roof is lined with plasterboard panels and battens. An enclosed steel and glazed ramp connecting the library to the Science Block is located on the east wall.

#### ***Old Wesley Collegians Association Memorial Lych Gate and Rose Garden***

The Memorial Lych Gate, a rectilinear structure, is constructed of limestone blocks and timber stop chamfered posts supporting a terracotta-shingled gable roof above. The structure is oriented with its longer sides on the east-west axis. The Wesley College coat of arms is featured on the shorter side elevations. Within the portal, there are two built in timber-slatted benches and two brass plaques engraved with the names of the fifty-six Old Boys who lost their lives during World War II and the Vietnam War. Each name is also represented by a Kardinal rose bush in the adjacent cruciform planned Memorial Rose Garden.

***Clive Hamer Building*** was originally designed as a double volume purpose built gymnasium. It is predominantly Interwar Georgian Revival in style, with Interwar Gothic Revival style arches in the north and south facades. It was in use until 1978 when the new gymnasium, present day R. E. Blankensee Centre, was completed. Since then, a new ground floor slab, first floor and stairs were added within the original load bearing brick structure.

The south façade, overlooking the Ward Oval, is composed of the original four-centred pointed arch arcade on the ground floor with a secondary façade of full width and height aluminium framed glazed windows, set back behind the arcade, and four large glazing openings with rendered surrounds on the first floor.

The north façade is similar to the south on the first floor. On the ground floor however, the secondary full width and height aluminium framed glazed façade is set back further away from the four-centred pointed arch arcade to include a covered passage. A flight of stairs to the first floor is located at the eastern end of the covered passage. The building is currently used as the senior school classrooms with four classrooms on both floors. The building was not inspected internally.

***R. E. Blankensee Centre***, a large rectilinear building, which was completed in 1978 to replace the 1940 Clive Hamer Building as the main gymnasium for the

school. There is an outdoor heated pool to the west of the building and stadium style seating on the east elevation, overlooking the Rossiter Oval. The building was not inspected internally.

**Joseph Green Centre** is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment work and additions to its northern end. From documentary evidence, the concrete and brick building was built in 1973 with characteristics of the Late Twentieth-Century Brutalist style.

The **Middle School** is a U-shaped planned building with a central glazed atrium, facing the Joseph Green Centre on the east and bounded by Coode Street on the west and a small car park on the south. The building was not inspected internally.

**Science Building** is a two-storey 'T'-shaped building to the north of the Clive Hamer Building. On the south façade is a steel and glass enclosed ramp and lift structure, which provides both, disabled access and continuous linkage between the Science Building and the adjacent H. R. Trenaman Library, Kefford Wing and J. F. Ward Wing. The building was not inspected internally.

**Design and Technology Building**, completed in 2004, is a large, square block which accommodates classrooms and workshops. The design of the building, in particularly the three gable facades and brickwork, echoes the design of the earlier buildings on site. The building was not inspected internally.

The buildings to the north of Swan Street, the boarding house complex and Junior School section in the northern extant of the school site are not inspected as they were mostly built after the 1970s and 1990s. Although the buildings are not considered to be historically or culturally significant, they form a cohesive whole with the rest of the school site, sharing some similar design details and materials of the earlier buildings.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

#### **Federation Arts & Crafts (J. F. Ward Wing, 1923)**

There are 108 places in the database noted as Federation Arts & Crafts style, of which 54 are Registered. Sixteen of these entries relate to schools. All of these are earlier than J. F. Ward Wing, which is to be expected, as the style generally refers to places from the Federation era.

#### **Interwar Georgian Revival (Kefford Wing, 1925, 1936, 1957-58, 1962-64; J. S. Maloney House, 1937; Trenaman Library, 1937 & 1970; Clive Hamer Building, 1940)**

There are 39 places in the database noted as Interwar Georgian Revival style, of which eleven are Registered. Two of these entries relate to schools: P03463 *1915 Block* (part of Albany Primary School (1915) and 03345 *Park Avenue Building* (part of UWA) (1923-25).

The dominant arch features of the Kefford and Clive Hamer buildings are reminiscent of the Interwar Gothic style as applied to 03237 St George's College, UWA (1929).

#### **Post War Ecclesiastical (Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel, 1961)**

There are 37 places in the database noted as Post War Ecclesiastical style, of which three are Registered: 02225 *St Peter's Anglican Church & Memorial Hall*, Victoria Park (1954 hall is in this style, designed by Clifton & Leach; 1935 church is Interwar Romanesque); 04576 *St Lawrence's Anglican Church & Rectory*,

Dalkeith (1957, designed by Polish architect Anthony Solarski, in the firm of Hawkins & Sands); 13227 *Anglican Church of the Holy Cross*, Geraldton (11964, designed by Edwin Whittaker. None of these entries relate to schools. Wesley College Old Boys' Memorial Chapel is a particularly distinctive example of the style.

### **Methodist schools**

The Methodist church has been involved in schooling in all parts of the state. A search of the HCWA database was not conclusive but the most credible comparative place is 03857 Methodist Ladies College Group; the buildings' age and design are not consistent with *Wesley College, South Perth* but the use and association with the Methodist Church is apparent.

### **James Hine**

James Hine, the architect of the original 1923 building, was also associated with 03857 Methodist Ladies College Group. He is also noted as architect for three places that are included on the State Register: 00210 *Queens Methodist Church, Boulder* (1904) Federation Free Classical style; 00489 *St Aidan's Uniting Church and Hall* (1904), Federation Free Style and 02099 *St Andrew's Church, Perth* (1906) a brick, timber and slate roof in the Federation Gothic style. It should be noted that James Hine died in 1928 therefore the design of Wesley in 1923 was in the later part of his career. The places which are registered, are all from earlier in his career and it could be suggested the style of the original Wesley may reflect earlier Federation styles.

### **Hobbs Forbes & Partners**

Places associated with Hobbs Forbes and Partners are numerous as the firm had many evolutions of names and partnerships. There are 19 places on the State Register which are associated with Hobbs and Forbes, of these only 00594 *WA School for Deaf Children* (1900, 1971) had an educational function. There are 24 places associated with Forbes and Fitzharding, but only 04809 Penrhos College is associated with education.

### **Eales Cohen & Fitzharding**

There are eight places associated with the architectural firm Eales Cohen and Fitzharding, or Eales and Cohen, which are on the State Register and constructed between 1920 and 1950. They are: 01543 *Applecross District Hall*; 02161 *Carlton Hotel*, East Perth; 02430 *Chapel of St Michael and All Angels* 02430; 01426 *Kulin Town Hall*; 01620 *Morowa Shire Office and Town Hall*; 14788 *National Australia Bank, Northam*; 00436 *St John's Anglican Church, Capel*; and 01362 *St Peter's Church*, Badgebup.

### **Ross Chisholm**

There are no places in the HCWA database identified as designed exclusively by Ross Chisholm. However, three places in the database constructed after 1958 are noted as being by Cameron Chisholm and Nicol, the firm for whom Chisholm worked from 1958 to 1992. These are: 08899 Floreat Forum Shopping Centre (1963); 09107 British Empire & Commonwealth Games Village Precinct (fmr) (1962); and, 09995 South Fremantle High School (1967).

### **1920s schools**

In the broader context, there are seven secondary schools on the HCWA database, including *Wesley College, South Perth*, which were built between 1920 and 1930. Of those only 01883 *Northam Senior High School* is on the State Register. The others are 03122 Boddington Old School (1920-2005), 05613 Bunbury Senior High School (1922-23); 06684 Narembeen District High School (1925-1972); 11655 Catherine House, Mosman Park (1930) part of St Hilda's girls school; and 16058 Williams School (1928).

### **Continual use as a school**

The role of *Wesley College, South Perth* in providing schooling since its construction is significant, as many other schools have changed their function even if the buildings have remained. Those places that continue to provide educational services since construction include; 00330 *Paisley Centre, Bunbury* (1886); 01883 *Northam Senior High School* (1921); 02450 *Perth Modern School* (1910); 03101 *Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon* (1937) 03372 *Kent Street Senior High School, Victoria Park* (1939); 07596 *Claremont Primary School* (1893) and 15744 *John Curtin College of the Arts* (1943). All of these places are entered in the State Register.

### **Conclusions**

The Chapel is a fine example of the Post War Ecclesiastical style.

The place is a good representative example of the development of a school complex from the 1920s to the present (2007) in a manner on the whole architecturally sympathetic to earlier elements.

The place includes fine examples of the work of numerous Western Australian architects of note, in particular the award-winning chapel designed by Ross Chisholm.

## **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

City of South Perth Municipal Heritage Inventory place record form, LGA place no. SPCv 8.

P. J. Boyce, *Honest and unsullied days: a history of Wesley College Perth*, Inglewood: Victor Publishing, 2001.

## **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Future works on the site should consider the potential for discovery of archaeological sites within the school boundary.

Further research into the impact of the school on the South Perth community and the wider Western Australian community may be of value. Of particular interest would be research into the impact of the scholarship programme offered by the school to regional Aboriginal students.