



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

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

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.26.2 Providing hospital services
- 9.1.1 Providing maternity clinics and hospitals

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services & utilities

11. 1. AESTHETIC VALUE*

The Main Hospital Building and Nurse's Quarters together represent a fine example of the use of Inter-War Functionalist style (Criterion 1.1)

Lake Grace Hospital forms a significant cultural environment associated with the provision of medical and hospital services in a regional town. It is valued by the Lake Grace community for its recognisable identity that has been consistent in the community since 1926. (Criterion 1.3)

Lake Grace Hospital, located on the banks of Lake Grace and overlooking the water, contributes to the aesthetic setting created by this extensive salt lake. (Criterion 1.3)

AIM Hospital Museum, the Main Hospital Building and Nurses' Quarters, form an aesthetically pleasing cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Lake Grace Hospital was established to provide medical facilities for the growing population, as a result of the construction of the Great Southern Railway spur line to the area and the subsequent development of the central eastern wheatbelt district of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

Changing health care needs of the community, and changing staff culture, are reflected in the changing uses of the various buildings of *Lake Grace Hospital* from 1926 to the present. (Criterion 2.2)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R. and Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and terms from 1788 to the present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

The AIM Hospital building is associated with the Reverend John Flynn of the Flying Doctor Service, and with the Australian Inland Mission. It is also associated with PWD architect W. B. Hardwick. (Criterion 2.3)

The Main Hospital Building and Nurses' Quarters are associated with PWD architect A. E. Clare. (Criterion 2.3)

Lake Grace Hospital is associated with Dr Margaret Clark, OBE, who contributed much to health care in the area and to the community in general while resident doctor from 1932 to 1960. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Lake Grace Hospital is highly valued by the local community for its associations with health care. The place has functioned as a hospital since 1926, and continues to provide ongoing health facilities for all district residents. (Criterion 4.1)

The AIM Hospital building is highly valued by the local community, as evidenced by their desire to preserve the building from demolition in 1983, and its subsequent purchase and development by Lake Grace Shire as a museum. (Criterion 4.1)

Lake Grace Hospital contributes to the local community's sense of place, having operated as a medical/care facility on site since 1926. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The place contains the only extant example in Western Australia, and one of the only three remaining examples in Australia, of an AIM hospital. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Lake Grace Hospital is a representative example of a rural hospital facility that has undergone minimal change since its inception in 1952. (Criterion 6.1)

The Main Hospital Building of *Lake Grace Hospital* is a fine representative example of rural Inter-War Functionalist style. (Criterion 6.1)

The AIM Hospital Museum is an example of the work of PWD Architect WB Hardwick. The Main Hospital Building and Nurses' Quarters are fine regional examples of public hospital architecture of PWD Architect A.E. Clare. (Criterion 6.1)

The Nurses' Quarters, AIM Hospital Museum and Maternity Block (fmr) make a contribution to understanding ways of life associated with the provision of health and hospital services in Lake Grace since 1926, which are no longer practiced. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Generally the *Lake Grace Hospital* is in good condition due to a regular maintenance program; however, the vacant Maternity Block (fmr) is in very

poor condition due to extensive termite damage, and the Nurses' Quarters show evidence of rising damp.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Lake Grace Hospital has operated continuously as a hospital: AIM Hospital Museum 1926–1970s, Main Hospital Building 1952-present, and Maternity Block (fmr) 1952-1990s. A number of alterations and additions have taken place over the years to accommodate functional changes and facilitate the ongoing use of the place. Overall *Lake Grace Hospital* has retained a moderate to high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

There is considerable evidence of the original fabric of each of the buildings comprising *Lake Grace Hospital*. Overall the place has a moderate to high degree of degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Laura Gray, Conservation Consultant.

Lake Grace Australian Inland Mission (AIM) Hospital (1926) is situated on a special reserve within the Lake Grace Hospital site and is vested as a Shire Museum. It is the subject of a conservation plan: *Australian Inland Mission (AIM) Hospital (fmr) Lake Grace*, December 1998, prepared by Laura Gray. A section from the conservation plan pertaining to the history of the Hospital (pp. 10-14, 16-28) has been appended. The place also has a separate HCWA database number (1435) but has not been previously assessed.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Lake Grace Hospital comprises the Australian Inland Mission (AIM) Hospital Museum (two-storey brick and timber, 1926) situated on a separate site within the Hospital Reserve; Main Hospital Building (brick and tile, 1952, 1964, 1983), Nurse's Quarters (brick and tile, 1952, 1964), former Maternity Block (timber and asbestos, 1952, 1953, 1980); lattice Drying Shed (timber, 1952); and various outbuildings.¹ The early laundry and morgue buildings (1926 and 1952) and Maternity Ward (1938) are not extant. *Lake Grace Hospital* is situated on Reserve 21653.

The township of Lake Grace was gazetted in 1916, as the railhead of the Wagin-Dumbleyung-Kukerin spur line on the Great Southern Railway. Early activities in the area had centred on pastoral pursuits and sandalwood cutting. Agricultural settlement had been slow, dependent on promised extensions to the spur line. Soldier Settlement in the area following World War One boosted development. By 1923, the town had a population of 200, and Lake Grace Road Board was established. The extension of the spur line to Newdegate was begun in 1925, by which time the population of Lake Grace had reached 970. Facilities such as a hospital were required.

¹ Although *Lake Grace Hospital* is referred to locally, and in the Lake Grace Municipal Heritage Inventory, as Lake Grace Memorial Hospital, and is situated on Memorial Drive off Stubbs Street, the name on the Main Hospital Building reads: Lake Grace Hospital, and no reference is made to the word 'Memorial' in Health Department files. The name as appears on the building has been used throughout this assessment.

The Lake Grace Road Board, local Member of Parliament, Sydney Stubbs, and the Reverend John Flynn, Hospital Officer for the Australian Inland Mission (AIM), arranged for the Mission to provide a nursing home for the town and surrounding areas. The two-storey Lake Grace AIM Hospital was opened on 29 March 1926. It was situated on Lot 117, Reserve 19514, which had an area of a little more than five acres (2.13ha).²

The history of Lake Grace AIM Hospital is covered in the conservation plan for the place and is not repeated here.³

By 1937, the Lake Grace AIM Hospital had become inadequate for the needs of the region. Fundraising was begun to finance a new men's ward, operating theatre, laundry and separate staff accommodation. The Reserve boundaries were moved eastward to facilitate better use of the site with regard to the proposed additions. The new reserve, gazetted Reserve 21653, took land off adjoining Recreation Reserve 19517. Reserve 21653 had approximately the same area as the original hospital reserve, being 2.037ha.⁴ The portion of the site no longer required was added to the recreation reserve to compensate for the alienated land.⁵

The advent of World War Two put extension plans on hold. The hospital struggled to remain open during and immediately following World War Two. Like most country hospitals it had difficulty attracting and keeping trained staff, its situation exacerbated by the relatively primitive conditions in the hospital itself, and by a lack of staff accommodation. A 1948 report recorded that staff comprised Matron, 2 temporary nurses, 4 nursing assistants, 4 domestics, and 1 orderly. The domestics were probably recruited from the local area. There were only three staff bedrooms, on the upper floor of the AIM Hospital. Lack of accommodation resulted in a high turnover of trained staff, with the added costs of train fares to and from Perth as nurses came and went. In an effort to keep the hospital open in the 1940s, the Road Board president regularly drove up to fifty miles out to farms to collect a nurse and then drove her home again at the end of her shift.⁶

One long-serving staff member, however, Dr Margaret Clark, who had come to Lake Grace in 1932, was awarded an OBE in 1949 for her contributions to health services. She had been particularly active in keeping *Lake Grace Hospital* open and operating during the Depression and World War Two and was considered a guide and mentor to the local population. She remained at Lake Grace from 1932 to her retirement in 1960.

Lake Grace was 140 kms from the nearest hospital, which was at Katanning. The town and surrounding area needed a 24-bed hospital comprising 16 general beds and 8 maternity beds.⁷ In 1948, plans for a new hospital were drawn up by the Public Works Department. The PWD Principal Architect at the time was Albert E. (Paddy) Clare. Clare had started as a messenger in the Lands Dept in 1909, and went to the PWD as a Junior Draftsman on 17 July 1912 under Hilson Beasley. He held the position of Principal Architect until his retirement in December 1960, making him the longest serving in that position. From 1935, he was also the first to have full responsibility for the

² *West Australian Government Gazette*, 29 April 1927, p. 1143; DOLA Reserves Index Enquiry.
³ Gray, Laura, *Australian Inland Mission (AIM) Hospital (fmr) Lake Grace Conservation Plan*, December 1998.
⁴ *West Australian Government Gazette*, 5 March 1937, p. 210; DOLA Reserves Index Enquiry.
⁵ Hospital site plans.
⁶ Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file 369/1945.
⁷ Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file 369/1945.

Architectural Division without being under the direction of an Engineer in Chief or a Director of Works and Buildings.⁸ Clare's signature is on the 1948 plans for *Lake Grace Hospital*.

Tenders for construction were called in November 1949. The only tender received was from J. Hawkins & Son Pty Ltd with a price of £84,901.⁹ J. Hawkins & Son was a West Australian firm that had its beginnings during the gold rush years, starting in 1895 with James Hawkins and his son John Bearne Hawkins.¹⁰ The estimate prepared by the PWD in 1948 had been for £32,000, but there was some extra work involved and construction costs had increased. The actual increase in costs from April 1946 to June 1951 has been put at 118%.¹¹ The Health Department asked the Lotteries Commission to provide half the amount needed. They agreed to contribute £23,950. The foundation stone of *Lake Grace Hospital* was laid on 2 December 1950 by S. J. Bishop, using a silver trowel presented to him by John Bearne Hawkins.¹² S. J. Bishop had been chairman of the Lake Grace Hospital Board since 1937.¹³

The contract for *Lake Grace Hospital* covered the Main Hospital Building comprising 16 beds (medical-surgical), an Out-patient section, Operating, X-Ray, Pathology, and Dispensary services; separate Nurse's Quarters; renovation of the existing AIM Hospital for use as Domestic Quarters; and re-erection of the existing Maternity Ward (1938) on a site nearer the Main Hospital Building.¹⁴ Also included in the work was a Laundry with attached Orderly's Room, a Morgue, a Drying Shed constructed in timber and lattice, and two 150,000-gallon underground concrete tanks with a fenced water catchment area. Although the hospital was connected to the town water scheme the supply was far from assured, particularly in the summer.¹⁵

The Nurse's Quarters and the Main Hospital Building were constructed of brick and tile, but the timber Maternity Wing (1938) was to be re-used as there were insufficient funds available to construct a new maternity building in brick. The doctor in charge of *Lake Grace Hospital*, Dr Margaret Clark, however, would not nurse maternity patients in the Main Hospital Building even temporarily. Plans, dated 1951, were drawn up for a much enlarged maternity wing, to be constructed in brick, but these plans were scrapped due to lack of finance and instead, to provide continuous separate maternity accommodation, a duplicate of the Maternity Ward (1938) was constructed in timber on the new site.¹⁶

Dr Margaret Clark was scathing of the design of the Maternity Block. In 1955, she wrote: 'the fly menace on the maternity block is frightful and is only one of the absolutely bad features of that disastrous piece of hospital architecture.'

8 LePage, J. S. H. *Building a State: the Story of the Public Works Department of Western Australia, 1829-1985*, Perth, WAWA, 1989, p. 469.

9 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file 369/1945, SRO

10 Battye, J. S. (ed) *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, Hussey & Gillingham, Adelaide, for the Cyclopaedia Co, 1912-13, Vol. 1, p. 654.

11 Le Page, J. S. H., op cit, p. 484.

12 *Wagin Argus & Arthur, Dumbleyung, Lake Grace Express*, 7 December 1950, p. 6.

13 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file 1295/48.

14 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file LG 01.10.

15 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file LG 01.10; site plan, n.d. file 396/45. **Note.** The Drying Shed is not mentioned in the list of works but appears on the undated site plan as 'proposed Drying Shed'. A similar drying shed was constructed at Bruce Rock Hospital in 1948 (10644 - Memorial House, Bruce Rock).

16 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file LG 01.10; file 396/45.

Also intolerably hot in summer and freezing in winter'.¹⁷ It is probable that her earlier insistence on not having maternity patients in the Main Hospital Building while the Maternity Wing (1938) was relocated had been an attempt to force the construction of a better maternity ward, an attempt which succeeded to the point of plans being drawn up but ultimately failed for economic reasons. As it was, the final contract cost came to £127,114.¹⁸

Lake Grace Hospital was officially opened on 29 November 1952 by Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver, MLA, Minister for Health. The day included lunch for the official party at the Lake Grace Hotel as guests of the Road Board, official opening ceremony, a fete in the hospital grounds organised by the Hospital Auxiliary, afternoon tea in the Nurse's Quarters, an official dinner at Lake Grace Hall as guests of the Hospital Board, following by dancing, for which everyone was invited. The official party included F. D. L. Elliot, chairman of Lake Grace Road Board; S. J. Bishop, chairman of the Hospital Board; H. T. Stitfold, Under Secretary for Health; A. E. Clare, PWD principal architect; John Bearne Hawkins, of contractors Hawkins & Son; Rev McAndrew of the Australian Inland Mission, C. C. Perkins, MLA, and L. W. Hamilton, MHR.¹⁹

At the opening ceremony, H. T. Stitfold stated that *Lake Grace Hospital* was one of the two most modern and up-to-date hospitals in the state, the other being the new hospital at Pinjarra. A third hospital was under construction at Carnarvon but lack of government finances would prevent any further hospital construction for a number of years. PWD Principal Architect, A. E. Clare, said that *Lake Grace Hospital* was designed so that it could be quickly and economically extended to double the existing size. Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver paid tribute to Dr Margaret Clark and the Hospital Board. Dr Clark, for many years had been the only Medical Officer in the district. She had been an untiring advocate of the new hospital, and Dame Florence 'was glad that in future so many of the difficulties under which she has cared for her patients will have been removed, and her work made very much easier'.²⁰ The Hospital Board had also 'stuck staunchly to its responsibilities under great difficulties in periods of shortage of staff. The conditions now available to nurses, both on and off-duty, would end the previous difficulty in securing and maintaining staff'.²¹

A newspaper report spoke in glowing terms of the new hospital:

The new hospital, which is the most modern in the state is a truly magnificent building, and provides 16 beds for male and female general patients and 7 midwifery beds. In addition there is an operating theatre, X-ray, Pathology, & Dispensary rooms, bathrooms and toilet cubicles, kitchen, dining room etc., all very beautifully finished and equipped with the absolute latest in modern medical facilities.

The patients rooms are all delicately coloured in various colour-schemes, and provide every comfort, while provision has been made for Comfort-Cooling in the operating theatre and recovery ward, labour ward and nursery.

The Kitchen is equipped with a slow combustion stove, the latest and best equipment of its nature, and everything has been provided to make the work of the cook and the domestic staff as easy and pleasant as possible.

17 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file 5555/53.

18 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file LG 01.10; file 396/45.

19 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file 1295/48.

20 *Wagin Argus & Arthur, Dumbleyung, Lake Grace Express*, 4 December 1952, p. 1.

21 *ibid.*

The Nurses' Quarters, in a separate building, are really an eye-opener. Every individual room is the last word in comfort, beautifully furnished and each finished in different colour tonings. A spacious lounge is provided, and the nurse on night duty has the use of a sound-proof room for day-time sleeping.

The Hospital block is of a very modern hospital construction, and presents a very attractive appearance both inside and out. The whole of the work is a great credit to the Government Architect and staff, and to the contractors Messrs J Hawkins & Sons.²²

The Maternity Block, which comprised one 4-bed ward and one single ward, was immediately enlarged with the addition of an extra ward by enclosing the eastern verandah with weatherboards and louvres. The Lake Grace AIM Hospital had been run by the Lake Grace Hospital Board with subsidies from the Health Department, whilst *Lake Grace Hospital* was a government run facility. The Hospital Board was no longer required but the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary, established in 1937, continued to provide the extras for patient care and comfort.²³

A 1960 report recorded that staff comprised Matron, 3 Sisters, 2 nursing aides, 4 nursing assistants, a cook, laundress, 2 domestics (3 had recently resigned) and 1 Orderly. The nursing staff occupied the Nurse's Quarters, which included Matron's flat, and the domestic staff occupied the Domestic Quarters (formerly the AIM Hospital). Some domestic staff may also have lived off site. There were 10 general patients and 1 maternity patient occupying *Lake Grace Hospital* at the time of the report. The Maternity Ward (1938) had been put to other uses. One large room had been converted into a waiting area for midwifery patients, and another room was furnished by the Hospital Auxiliary for the use of women from outlying districts prior to confinement. Nursing assistants and some domestic staff also used the place. In 1961, the Laundry was extended and its operations mechanised.²⁴

In 1964, *Lake Grace Hospital* was completely rewired for conversion of power supply from DC to AC. Cost of the work was \$8,792. It was also reported at this time that staff were experiencing some inconvenience in nursing maternity patients in a separate building. It was particularly difficult at night when there was only one nurse on duty as there was no means of communication between the Maternity Block and the Main Hospital Building. By the mid 1970s, maternity patients were being housed in the Main Hospital Building and the former Maternity Block was unused. Consideration was given to converting the former Maternity Block into a frail aged hostel. This was done in 1980, at a cost of \$17,000. A new kitchen/lounge room was built, six single bedrooms furnished, bathroom facilities upgraded, the building air-conditioned and a laundry equipped.²⁵

In the late 1970s, the Maternity Wing (1938) was in use as storage for old furniture, and the AIM Hospital (Domestic Quarters) were unoccupied and in poor condition. Both buildings were marked for demolition. As documented in *AIM Hospital (fmr) Lake Grace Conservation Plan*, Lake Grace Shire Council took over responsibility for the AIM Hospital in 1983, and the place was eventually restored for use as a museum²⁶. The Maternity Wing (1938) was demolished in 1983-84, as part of a contract involving a major repair and

22 ibid.

23 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file LG 01.10; file 396/45.

24 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file 5241/59.

25 Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file, LG 07.05.05 & LG 5.6.

26 Lake Grace Shire Council purchased the AIM Hospital building, but not the land, which remained property of the Minister for Health.

renovation programme for *Lake Grace Hospital*. The work, costing \$235,000, included the upgrading of bathroom facilities to cater for the care of high-dependency patients.

Services at *Lake Grace Hospital* were restricted. During periods when the town had no doctor in residence, no general patients were admitted and the hospital catered only for permanent care patients. When a doctor operated in solo practice, *Lake Grace Hospital* only dealt with normal and low risk midwifery patients, no major surgery, and minor elective surgery only when a doctor from another town could attend.²⁷

By 1995, the former Maternity Block was considered structurally unsound. It had served its purpose as a temporary frail aged hostel. The Lakes Village Aged Units had been established and those elderly needing permanent nursing care were housed in the Main Hospital Building. The former Maternity Block was also used by various allied health services such as the physiotherapist, podiatrist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, Lions Save Sight, skin cancer screening and hearing testing, women's health clinics, and Weight Watchers.²⁸

Changes to health care services in the late 1990s, put the future of *Lake Grace Hospital* as part of a Multi-Purpose Services facility under the Upper Great Southern District Board. A joint venture medical centre, funded by the Health Department and the Shire, and incorporating a child health clinic, allied health services, dental services, etc, was constructed on a section of the recreation reserve site, on the east side of Memorial Drive. Funds which had been allocated to refurbishment of the Nurse's Quarters were instead redirected to the construction of the new Health Services Centre. The health services that had been occupying the Maternity Block were moved into the new Centre.

In 2001, the administrators of *Lake Grace Hospital* would like the former Maternity Block removed due to its poor condition and a lack of use for the building.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Lake Grace Hospital is situated at the south end of Memorial Drive, off Stubbs Street on the western edge of the town of Lake Grace. The Main Hospital Building is aligned parallel with Memorial Drive, from the south end, towards Lake Grace. The building is set back from the road frontage with an extensive garden and grassed area screening much of the view of the place, except for the main entry and north end of the main wing. An access road continues south from Memorial Drive and sweeps around a curve to the west to the Nurses' Quarters on the southwest side of the Main Hospital Building, aligned east-west, overlooking the lake. A carpark on the west side at the end of Memorial Drive leads to the AIM Hospital Museum situated to the northwest of the Main Hospital Building. The former Maternity Block is situated between the Main Hospital Building and the AIM Hospital Museum and is aligned north south.

The site slopes down to the lake on the south side. Much of the site is grassed with the remainder gravel. The roads are bitumen.

Lake Grace Hospital comprises the Main Hospital Building, (1952, 1964, 1984) Nurses' Quarters (1952, 1964), AIM Hospital Museum, (1926, 1938, 1960, 1983)

²⁷ Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file, LG05.05.

²⁸ Health Dept, Lake Grace Hospital file, LG 5.6.

either through the kitchen, from the verandah that runs along the north side of the wing, or from the south side where the service vehicle access is located.

Although the Main Hospital Building has undergone a number of upgrades and refurbishment over the years in line with maintaining a functioning hospital facility, the integrity and authenticity of the place have been retained to a high degree and is in a good condition.

Nurses' Quarters. The building shows some influence of the Inter-War Functionalist style, possibly in response to the hospital building designed and constructed at the same time. The rendered verandah dado along the south frontage and part of the east frontage is a strong horizontal element, contrasted by the vertical face brick piers on the verandahs. The remainder of the exterior of the building is also rendered, and the double hung sash windows have a horizontal emphasis.

The building is a single-storey masonry construction with a hipped terracotta clay tile roof. The footprint of the building is an 'L' shape. Externally and internally, there is minimal evidence of change since construction. The floors are covered concrete, the walls are painted hard plaster and the ceilings are lined with plasterboard. The entrance on the south, in the southeast corner, features a central entry door flanked by with matching side lights in timber-framed glazing with five horizontal panels in a vertical format for each door.

The entrance opens into a central corridor that runs the length of the building to the west. On the right (east), at the end of the corridor, is the former Matron's accommodation. The original fireplace and timber mantle are in place. Left from the entrance is the living room, on the left. It is a spacious room opening onto the protruding porch on the south, and the original fireplace is intact. Off the living room is the pantry, which still has the original cupboard fitout. The accommodation rooms on the left of the corridor, and each side of another corridor to the right, are as constructed, and each has built in sliding door wardrobes. On the right of the corridor are the bathroom facilities that are c.1960s refurbishments. There is evidence of some fabric damage in the bathrooms and rising damp damage to internal walls in the north-south corridor.

The integrity and authenticity of the place have been retained to a high degree. Although the place has lacked regular maintenance it is in a fair condition.

AIM Hospital Museum. The building shows some influences of Interwar Georgian Revival style, and the Australian Inland Mission Hospital stylistic emphasis on designing in response to local climatic conditions.

The building is a double-storey construction with a stretcher bond face brick ground floor and a timber framed and weatherboard clad upper level, with corrugated iron roofs to the main building and the surrounding verandahs. The footprint of the building is a square. The original setting has been compromised by the subsequent developments to the hospital, and the original front door, facing east, is immediately adjacent to the rear of the recent laundry building. The main entrance on the north side was formerly the rear entrance.

Externally, there has been some change, both when the place was an operational hospital and during recent refurbishments in the 1980s, but much of the original fabric remains intact. A plaque on the south wall reads:

This stone was laid by
the
Hon. Sydney Stubbs M.L.A.
on
14 Nov 1925

Internally, there has been minimal change to comply with contemporary standards at various times, but the structure, layout and much original fabric, including the colour scheme, remain in place. The existing entrance on the north side opens into a corridor with the kitchen and hall and two wards on the right. The hall is the original entry, where the staircase is accessed, and the living room is on the right. Upstairs, the staircase opens into a short corridor with two rooms on the left, one ahead, and the bathroom on the right. The floors are oiled 0.135 tongue and groove jarrah boards throughout, although areas of the verandah floors have been replaced. The walls on the ground floor are painted hard plaster with a painted red dado line and a timber picture rail in the hall and living room. The dado line extends up the staircase. Upstairs the walls are lined with flat asbestos sheets in a horizontal format to dado line where they change to a vertical format. The ceilings are plasterboard downstairs and flat asbestos sheeting upstairs. All the original panel doors and hardware have been retained intact. The windows are the original timber framed casements throughout. The original fireplaces and mantelpieces and the wood stove in the kitchen have been retained. The return timber staircase has square timber vertical balusters. Each of the three upstairs rooms has cupboards across truncated corners.

Although the former hospital has undergone a number of changes over time, to accommodate different functions, the integrity and authenticity of the place have been retained to a medium to high degree and the building is in a good condition.

The Maternity Block (fmr). This is a functional vernacular structure with no particular style characteristics.

It is a single-storey timber framed construction with a corrugated iron hipped gambrel roof that breaks pitch over the verandahs roof. The rectangular floor plan is aligned north south with surrounding verandahs, although all except the west side have been enclosed. The original building is clad with weatherboards to dado height and asbestos above. The east verandah has been entirely enclosed with a weatherboard dado wall and aluminium framed sliding glass windows. An extension, also on the east side, at the north end, is clad with asbestos sheets and also has aluminium framed windows.

A short corridor links the former Maternity Block with the west wing verandah of the Main Hospital Building. At the south end of the former Maternity Block, the enclosed verandah along the east side forms a corridor with the original wards along the left (west). At the north end, there are bathroom facilities on the left and a large lounge room extension on the right. The wet areas show extensive evidence of termite damage.

Internally, there has been minimal change to the original fabric, but there is considerable evidence of termite damage, and the verandah floors have subsided along the perimeter edges, particularly on the east side. The walls are lined with flat asbestos sheets throughout. The ceilings in the rooms are lined with plasterboard and the verandah is lined on the rake with caneite. Both ceilings show considerable evidence of moisture ingress.

The former Maternity Block has undergone change to accommodate a different, but associated function. The place has a low to moderate degree of integrity, but has retained a moderate to high degree of authenticity. The place is vacant and in poor condition.

The Drying Shed is a timber structure with a hipped corrugated iron roof and lattice enclosed walls on all four sides. It has a high degree of integrity and authenticity and is in a fair condition.

The laundry is a recent construction, and the adjacent morgue is a transportable structure. Neither is of heritage significance.

Lake Grace Hospital is generally in good condition. It has undergone a number of incremental developments and changes over time to facilitate the ongoing function of a hospital and health facility in a rural town, and has a moderate to high degree of integrity. There is considerable evidence of all periods of development, and the place has a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Lake Grace Hospital is an example of an ongoing rural hospital facility, which has adapted to the changing requirements of its population base, in comparison to some rural hospitals which have been closed because they were outgrown by the districts they served, such as: *Rosella House*, and *Bill Sewell Community Recreation Complex*, both in Geraldton, *Vancouver Arts Centre*, Albany, and *York Hospital Precinct*; or were no longer fully utilised by a dwindling population base which also had access to modern health facilities in a larger centre, such as: *Wongan Hills Hospital (fmr)*, and *Old Hospital Complex*, Margaret River.

Lake Grace Hospital was one of the first three hospital projects undertaken by the Health Department following World War Two, and was subject to stringent cost restrictions resulting in the construction of the former Maternity Block in timber. The other two hospitals built at this time were at Pinjarra (1951) and Carnarvon (1953). Three other hospitals were constructed later in the 1950s, at Wittenoom Gorge, Hall's Creek and Meekatharra.²⁹

The new hospital at Hall's Creek also replaced an AIM hospital, one of the seven opened in Western Australia. In 2001, the *Lake Grace AIM Hospital* building is the only one remaining in the State, and one of only three remaining in Australia, the others being at Alice Springs and Innamincka.³⁰

13.4 REFERENCES

Gray, Laura, *Australian Inland Mission (AIM) Hospital (fmr) Lake Grace Conservation Plan*, December 1998.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

²⁹ Le Page, J. S. H. op cit, p.484.

³⁰ Gray, Laura, *Australian Inland Mission (AIM) Hospital (fmr) Lake Grace Conservation Plan*, December 1998, pp. 27-28.