



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

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

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE ¹

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is significant in exhibiting aesthetic characteristics valued by the community. Harvey House (Block H) designed in the Federation Free style, the southern sections of A Block in the Inter-War Functionalist style and Agnes Walsh House (Q Block) designed in the Post War International style are very fine examples of these architectural styles. Carson House (D Block) and the Centenary Clinic (C Block) are competent renderings of their time. (Criterion 1.1)

Agnes Walsh House (Q Block), designed by the Public Works Department under the stewardship of Len Green, is a particularly fine example of Post War International style architecture, and was recognized in its day as such with an award of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects bronze medal for architecture. (Criterion 1.2)

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women has a local landmark quality in Barker, Hensman, Bagot and Railway roads, and is an integral part of the vista in this locality. With the combined impact of Harvey House (Block H) A Block, and Agnes Walsh House (Q Block), together with the dominant feature that is created by B Block, mature trees, and the more important landscape settings, the place makes a significant visual impact on its surrounding environment. As a whole it is valued as a cultural environment. (Criterion 1.3 and 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The place has a high degree of significance as The Government Industrial School (1897), which was converted to the State's first public maternity hospital, in 1916, *King Edward Memorial Hospital*, named after the late King Edward VII. Numerous alterations and additions have been made to the site through the twentieth century, as the hospital and associated services have been developed to provide for the needs of women and neonates in the State, and to provide the facilities necessary for the role of the place as a teaching hospital. The place has its highest significance in the evolution of medical care for women and neonates in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

The first building (now Harvey House, H Block) was in 1897, as The Industrial School for Girls, which served for nearly 20 years as the Government Industrial School for boys and girls. The development of the school was indicative of the beliefs and practices in the care of necessitous and delinquent children in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (Criterion 2.2)

The design of The Industrial School for Girls was an extravagant architectural gesture for such building types in a time when the need for economy was being stressed, notwithstanding the wealth brought by the Gold Boom. (Criterion 2.2)

The conversion of the place to the hospital (1916), and much of the later development of the place through the twentieth century, as the place expanded and developed to meet the changing needs of the increasing population of the State and the changes in medical care, are of historic importance to the history of gynaecology, obstetrics, and other aspects of women's health in Western Australia and Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

The Centenary Ward (C Block) commemorated the centenary of Western Australia in 1929. Dedicated to the pioneer women of the State, it is the earliest such memorial to women in the State. (Criterion 2.2)

The women of the State, and their various organisations, have played an integral part in the establishment of the hospital and its further development. Fundraising by the Women's Service Guild and similar bodies, played a crucial role in funding the development and expansion of the hospital; and likewise the contributions of the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia. Their significance is inestimable, for without these funds, the development of the place would not have been possible. (Criterion 2.2)

A considerable number of prominent people have been associated with the place, some of whom are commemorated there. Among them are Dr. Dixie P. Clement, the first honorary obstetrician; Mrs. Jean Beadle and Mrs. Edith Cowan, who were involved with the place from its inception, and who served on the Advisory Board; Matron Agnes Walsh and Sister Mary Carson; Robert Haddon, who designed The Government Industrial School; A. E. Clare, Principal Architect, who was responsible for most of the major buildings at the site in the inter-war period and Len Walters, who was responsible for major buildings in the 1950s; and Edward Kohler, sculptor. (Criterion 2.3)

The 1939 section of A Block designed by A.E. Clare was one of a very finely designed group of buildings that were produced by the Public Works Department under his stewardship and is a particularly well conceived design and received the Royal Australian Institute of Architects bronze medal. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women has demonstrable potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the human occupation of the State, and in particular the development of health facilities for women and neonates. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place is highly valued by the community of the State, for social and cultural reasons, for the inestimable and highly significant role it has played in the development of health services for women and neonates in Western Australia. (Criterion 4.1)

The place contributes to the community's sense of place, as an integral part of the history of the State and the lives of many Western Australians. Its inclusion in the Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places for the City of Subiaco, its classification by the National Trust, its interim registration on the State Register of Heritage Places, and its entry on the Register of the National Estate are evidence of its significance. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

The Government Industrial School (Harvey House H Block) was the only purpose designed and built Government industrial school, built outside the Education Department school system, and was built in to a flamboyant design in a time when stringency in these matters was the norm. In these respects, the Government Industrial School (Harvey House H Block) has rarity value. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Harvey House (Block H) designed in the Federation Free style, the southern and eastern sections of A block in the Inter-War Functionalist style, and Agnes Walsh House (Q Block) designed in the Post War International style are very fine examples of the styles. Carson House (D Block) and the Centenary Clinic (C Block) are competent renderings of their time. (Criterion 6.1)

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women represents a progression of built places and spaces that reflect the development and management of health facilities for women and neonates through time. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women has been maintained to reasonable standards throughout. The landscape is managed with varying degrees of success with the lawn, specimen tree and bed areas much better maintained than the areas where dense native plantings have been used.

The buildings are generally well maintained, but there are numerous minor defects in most buildings, particularly to the building exteriors. Exterior defects were noted on all buildings, ranging from deteriorating finishes and rising damp, to minor structural defects.

The place is generally in fair to good condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women continues to perform the role and function that began in 1916. The function of the various elements has changed through time with buildings such as the various nurses' quarters changing to new functions following the change from compulsory site residence requirements. The current uses are generally compatible with cultural heritage values. Notwithstanding the numerous changes in practice, the place retains a high level of integrity.

Harvey House (Block H) has been through a number of changes of use and physical changes such that in terms of its original concept it now retains a low degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

All but the most recent buildings have been subject to numerous changes internally and some have been altered significantly externally. Generally, buildings have retained a high degree of authenticity externally and the older buildings have retained moderate to low degrees of authenticity internally.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

Bagot and Railway, Barker and Hensman Roads contain the suggested area for inclusion in the Register. The other elements east of Hensman Road are of little cultural heritage significance.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is a large complex of hospital and hospital related buildings built over an extensive period since 1897 and rendered in a diverse range of architectural styles that reflect the time span over which the various buildings were constructed and changing practices in women's and neonate health care.

The place was first developed as the Government Industrial School for Girls; however, from the outset, boys were also accommodated there, and it was consequently referred to by this name and also variously as the Government Industrial School, the Government Industrial School for Girls and Boys, and the Government Receiving Depot. In the Documentary Evidence, the place will be referred to as The Government Industrial School through the period 1897-1916.

Industrial schools were developed in the United Kingdom in the nineteenth century, as a means of providing for the needs and education of orphans and necessitous children. In Western Australia, a number of Industrial Schools were established in the latter half of the nineteenth century, initially by the Catholic and Anglican Churches. In 1868, the Catholic Church established St. Joseph's Girls' Orphanage, and the Church of England established the Orphanage Industrial School for Protestant Girls.² They were followed by Swan Orphanage Industrial School for Protestant Boys Orphanage in 1871, and a Catholic orphanage and industrial school for boys at Victoria Park in 1872.¹

In 1874, the schools were brought under the Industrial Schools Act, which provided also for 'children or descendants of the aboriginal race.'³ In 1881, the Government Reformatory for Boys was established at Rottnest Island, specifically for the purpose of providing for juvenile offenders.⁴ In 1894, the Government Receiving Depot was established at Claisebrook, in rented premises.⁵ The aim of the industrial schools was 'to impart a general handiness to the lads', and to give the girls 'good practical instruction' so that

¹ Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (Cyclopedia Co., Perth, 1912-13) pp. 505-506.

² *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia* (P. W. H. Thiel & Co., Perth, 1901) p. 137.

³ Ferguson, R. J. *Rottnest Island History and Architecture* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1986) p. 56.

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ Battye, J. S. *op. cit.*, p. 506; and Report by the Superintendent of Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions for the Year ending 31 December 1897 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1898, p. 9.

they would leave the institutions 'well equipped for domestic work.'⁶

In 1896, the Inspector of Charitable Institutions proposed that the government open an industrial school in Subiaco.⁷ Plans were drawn for the Government Industrial School for Girls at Subiaco by Robert Haddon, an English trained architect, employed in the Public Works Department of Western Australia since February 1896.⁸ In early 1896, he had come to Western Australia from the Eastern States, having worked for some years in Melbourne, Adelaide, and Hobart, where he was an instructor at the Technical School.⁹ He served as President of the Western Australian Society of Arts from March 1896.¹⁰ He continued in the PWDWA to 1899, and was known as one of the Department's 'artist architects'.¹¹ Ingrid van Bremen (1990) noted that Haddon was 'one of the few draughtsmen given credit by Poole for the design of Government buildings'.¹²

In late 1896, tenders were called, and the contract for building the place was awarded to H. Rhodes at a cost of £4,177.1.7 on 23 November, for completion by 23 September 1897.¹³ The Government Industrial School was built at the corner of Barker and Railway Roads, Subiaco, fronting Barker Road, with concrete foundations, stone walls, and an iron roof in the main block; and the laundry block was of timber framing and iron construction.¹⁴ Completed in September 1897, at a cost of £4,500, the place comprised a large entrance hall and recreation room, two 16 bed dormitories, two large dining rooms; and 'contained' also kitchens, matron's quarters of two rooms, assistant matron's rooms, an office, two sets of bathrooms, sculleries, stores and larders.¹⁵ There were a detached laundry block, detached punishment cells, and a wood store.¹⁶ A well and windmill, and underground and overhead tanks provided the water supply.¹⁷ A photograph included in the Annual Report of the Public Works Department for 1897-98 shows the place on completion, with a low open picket fence at the front, and a closed picket fence of similar height at the east side.¹⁸

On 6 October 1897, the 'inmates' of the Government Receiving Depot were removed from the rented premises at Claisebrook to the new Industrial School.¹⁹ Whilst the place had been built for girls, from this date the place

⁶ *ibid*, p. 505.

⁷ Spillman, Ken *Identity Prized: A History of Subiaco* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1985) p. 164; and Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *A History of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women* (King Edward Memorial Hospital, Subiaco, 1966), p. 6.

⁸ Oldham, Ray and John *George Temple-Poole Architect of the Golden Years 1885-1897* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1980) pp. 193-194.

⁹ *Ibid*, p. 194; and van Bremen, Ingrid 'The New Architecture of the Gold Boom in Western Australia: Government Buildings under the Direction of G. T. Poole, 1885-1897' Ph.D. Thesis, University of Western Australia, 1990, pp. 297-298.

¹⁰ Oldham, Ray and John *ibid*.

¹¹ van Bremen, Ingrid *op. cit.*, p. 82.

¹² *ibid*, pp. 297-298.

¹³ Oldham, Ray and John *op. cit.*, p. 193; and PWD Contract Book, 1894-1897, SROWA AN 7/14 Acc. 1124 Item 2, p. 135.

¹⁴ Annual Report of Public Works Department for 1897-98 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1898, p. 80.

¹⁵ *ibid*.

¹⁶ *ibid*.

¹⁷ *ibid*.

¹⁸ *ibid*. Note: further work on fencing was carried out by Jas. Tighe in early 1903. (PWD Contract Book 1897-1903, Acc. 1124 AN 7/14 Item 3, p. 208.

¹⁹ Report by the Superintendent of Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions for the Year ending 31 December 1897, *op. cit*.

was used as a mixed institution for boys and girls, who were sent there under Section 8 of the Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act, although it had been hoped that this would be only a temporary arrangement.²⁰ The number of children admitted to the Receiving Depot had doubled in 1897, and there were 27 'inmates' at the new Industrial School in December.²¹ Consequently, the staff increased with the appointment of a schoolmaster and an assistant matron to assist the Superintendent, Mr. Fowler, and the matron, all of whom were accommodated at the place.²²

In his Report for the year ending 31 December 1897, the Superintendent of Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions, reported:

The buildings have a handsome exterior, but the interior arrangements are not so suitable as they might have been. There was no schoolroom arranged for, but by turning one of the kitchens, which is a good-sized apartment, into one, the difficulty has so far been got over; this room is also used for the purposes of a dining room.²³

As the place had been designed for training the girls, the laundry, washing-house, and kitchen were 'well equipped with the necessary requisites.'²⁴ However, as there were no facilities for the boys to receive an industrial training, the Superintendent hoped to obtain the authority to erect workshops in the following year, 'which need not be very expensive.'²⁵ If possible, he proposed to commence with shoemaking and carpentry.²⁶

In 1898, Hillson Beasley, Senior Assistant to the Chief Architect, John Grainger, was responsible for the design of additions to the rear of the place, comprising a carpenter's shop, a tailor's shop, a shoemaker's shop, where the children could be taught the various trades; and the instructor's quarters.²⁷ These were later demolished.

In 1901, the contract for alterations and additions to the place was awarded to J. Lake at a cost of £278.²⁸ The work was completed on 17 October, at an exact cost of £307.14.2.²⁹

In 1909, in the Public Health Annual Report, the Principal Medical Officer, Dr. James W. Hope disparaged the lack of facilities for pregnant women.³⁰

From 6 to 13 July 1909, a conference was held in Perth at which women from 18 different organisations from Perth and the suburbs met. There was much discussion regarding the need for a maternity hospital in Perth.³¹ On 8 November, the Women's Service Guild held a meeting at Government House Ballroom, attended by 400 people, for the purpose of discussing 'the proposed establishment of a women's hospital in Perth for maternity cases.'³² It was presided over by the wife of the Governor, Lady Edeline Strickland,

20 *ibid.*

21 *ibid.*

22 *ibid.*

23 *ibid.*

24 *ibid.*

25 *ibid.*

26 *ibid.*

27 PWD Plan 6640 no. 1, 1898, SROWA.

28 *ibid.*

29 PWD Contract Book 1897-1903, SROWA Acc. 1124 AN 7/14 Item 3, p. 127.

30 Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *op. cit.*, pp. 1-3.

31 Johnston, Isabel 'Looking Backward Fifty Years in Relation to the Establishment of a Maternity Hospital' (Typescript, Battye Library PR 2243, compiled in February 1959) p. 2.

32 *ibid.*, p. 1.

who explained the system of management at the Alexandra Hospital in Hobart, Tasmania, and suggested a hospital be established on similar lines in Perth.³³ The meeting carried a motion put by Bishop Riley 'That the time has arrived when a maternity hospital shall be established' and, after some discussion, the amendment by Mrs. Ruffy Hill 'And the hospital shall be for both married and single women.'³⁴

A committee was formed to organise and assist in the establishment of the proposed maternity hospital.³⁵ Its members included the Matron of the Home of Mercy (a charitable institution for unwed mothers), Mrs. Edith Cowan, Mrs. Hackett, the Lady Mayoress of Perth, Mrs. Molloy, and Mr. J. S. Battye, who was appointed convenor.³⁶

In May 1910, another meeting was held, at which fund raising for the proposed hospital was discussed, and also the possible name.³⁷ It was agreed that the hospital should be named the *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women* to commemorate the late King Edward VII.³⁸ The name had been suggested by Mr. John Simpson, whose mother was a maternity nurse, who practised from her home in Royal Street, East Perth.³⁹ The site suggested for the proposed hospital was vacant land in Lincoln Street, Perth, adjoining the Home of Mercy.⁴⁰ However, this proposal was not implemented.

A deputation from the committee waited on Premier Scaddan, to request funds to assist in building the hospital.⁴¹ The Government agreed to assist by matching funding, and the Premier promised that he would recommend to Parliament that the proposed hospital be located in the vicinity of the new children's hospital at Subiaco.⁴²

In 1913, a verandah was added at the rear of The Government Industrial School at Barker Road, and the nursery verandah was enclosed.⁴³

In 1913, the Public Health Annual Report noted the suggestion that rather than building the proposed hospital, a new ward for maternity cases could be added to Perth Public Hospital.⁴⁴ A public meeting was held at Perth Literary Institute to protest against the proposal, at which the Government was accused of breaking their promises.⁴⁵ The meeting was attended by more than 100 women, representing various organisations, and Mrs. Jean Beadle was elected to the chair.⁴⁶ Mrs. B. M. Rischbeith, of the Women's Service Guild, and Mrs. Edith Cowan made stirring speeches on the urgent need for a maternity hospital, and a complete women's hospital.⁴⁷ The latter suggested that if finances were the problem delaying the development, she favoured the suggestion of the Women's Service Guild to use the site of The Government Industrial School at Subiaco for the purpose of a small nucleus maternity

33 **ibid.**
34 **ibid.**
35 Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. op. cit.
36 **ibid.**
37 **Ibid;** and Spillman, Ken op. cit., p. 167..
38 **ibid.**
39 **ibid,** preface.
40 **ibid,** p. 4; and Johnston, Isabel op. cit., p. 2.
41 **ibid.**
42 **ibid.**
43 PWD Plan 8319, no. 1, 1913, SROWA.
44 Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. op. cit., p. 5.
45 **ibid;** and Johnston, Isabel op. cit., p.3.
46 Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. **ibid,** p. 6.
47 **ibid;** and Johnston, Isabel op. cit., p.3.

hospital.⁴⁸

The meeting unanimously carried a motion that 'the site of the Industrial School at Subiaco should be used for the purpose of a Maternity Hospital, which would be a first step in the direction of a Women's Hospital.'⁴⁹ It was considered that this would relieve pressure on Perth Public Hospital, and also that a midwifery training school for would 'naturally follow', to cater for the 'growing demand' for trained midwives.⁵⁰ The Minister for Health, Rufus Underwood, who was present at the meeting, agreed that the hospital should be commenced immediately, and thus the buildings of the Industrial School were taken over for this purpose in 1916.⁵¹ The Industrial School was relocated to Marquis Street, West Perth, as the Government Receiving Depot⁵². The work of conversion from school to hospital was carried out departmentally in that year at a cost of £270.11.2.⁵³ The new and existing buildings were to provide accommodation for 20 patients and the staff.⁵⁴ In April 1916, an Advisory Board was appointed for the new hospital, of which Mrs. Edith Cowan was a member.⁵⁵ She maintained her association with the place for the remainder of her life. Mrs. Beadle was Secretary of the Board, and served the Board from its inception until December 1941, when she resigned due to ill health.⁵⁶ She was also a pioneer of the Women's Labour Movement in Western Australia, a Justice of the Peace, and President of the Women Justices Association for eight years.⁵⁷

The existing buildings at the Government Industrial School were 'thoroughly cleaned and renovated'.⁵⁸ On completion, the accommodation comprised three large wards for 20 patients, special reception and delivery rooms, an operating theatre, an isolation ward for three beds, and 'comfortable' staff quarters, 'well equipped' kitchen and laundry, with hot water laid on.⁵⁹ The grounds were 'in first rate condition'.⁶⁰

In July 1916, *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women* was officially opened, and put into immediate use, with all 20 beds and cots occupied.⁶¹ In addition to the hospital facilities, the place was to be used as a training facility for

48 *ibid.*

49 *ibid.*

50 *ibid.*

51 *ibid.*

52 The reasons for removing the Industrial School functions were not determined in the course of this research. However, it seems likely that the motivating factor was public pressure for a maternity hospital coupled with the desire for a cheap solution, rather than concerns specific to the Industrial School, as a 1919 Royal Commission into the workings of the State Children and Charities Department said of the new location, '*the Department must have searched the city for the most unsuitable building, and succeeded in finding it. It is impossible to imagine a more undesirable place.*'

Interim Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly appointed to Inquire into the State Children and Charities Department. Royal Commission of State Children and Charities Departments 1921, in V&P 1921-22, Vol. 2, No. 18, p.12.

53 PWD Contract Book 1915-17, SROWA AN 7/14 Acc. 1124 Item 12, p. 110.

54 Architectural Division, Annual Report of the Public Works Department in *Votes and Proceedings* 1916-17, p. 27.

55 Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. op. cit., p. 7.

56 *ibid.*, p. 35.

57 *ibid.*

58 Architectural Division, Annual Report of the Public Works Department in *Votes and Proceedings* 1916-17.

59 *ibid.*

60 *ibid.*

61 Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. op. cit., pp. 7-9.

midwifery nursing. However, some of the conditions were found to be far from satisfactory for an hospital, as there was no septic or drainage system to speak of, and inadequate facilities for sterilising linen or for scrubbing up.⁶² A galvanised shed, formerly in use as a TB ward at Coolgardie, served as an 'After Care Ward.'⁶³ The need for more accommodation and better facilities was obvious.

The first Matron appointed to the hospital was Miss Eleanor Harvey, who had previously trained at Perth Public Hospital in general nursing, and as a midwife at the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin, Ireland.⁶⁴ She served as Matron for the next two years; and many years later, she was commemorated in the naming of the former Government Industrial School as Harvey House. The first obstetrician at the new hospital was Dr. Dixie P. Clement, whose surgery was in West Perth.⁶⁵

In 1917, it was discovered that the site of the hospital was not vested, and was a Class 'B' Reserve.⁶⁶ Subsequently, in July 1918, the Principal Medical Officer requested that the site be transferred to the Medical Department, and designated for hospital purposes.⁶⁷ The matter was finalised in August, when approval was given for Reserve 'B' 3271 (Perth Sub Lots 229 and 230) to be changed from 'Girls' Industrial School' to hospital.⁶⁸

On 31 July 1920, Sister Agnes Walsh was appointed to the hospital.⁶⁹ She had previously completed her general nursing training at Perth Public Hospital, and midwifery at Paddington Hospital for Women.⁷⁰ In 1922, she was appointed Matron, and served in this capacity for more than 30 years.⁷¹ She is commemorated in the Agnes Walsh Nurses' Home. Sister Mary Carson was appointed to assist Matron Walsh.⁷² She is commemorated in Carson House.

Following World War One, the Red Cross had been left with surplus funds from monies raised towards the war effort. It was decided to distribute these to the Dominions, of which Australia received £150,000, to be distributed according to the decision of the Governor General.⁷³ A total of £25,000 was allocated to Western Australia, with £15,000 to the Bush Nursing Trust, and the balance, £10,000, for *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women*, with the suggestion that it could be used to provide additional accommodation for the wives of returned servicemen.⁷⁴ This provided funding for alterations and additions to the hospital.

On 22 August 1922, the additions were officially opened, and commemorated by a plaque, produced by Cumpstons Engraving Works, acknowledging the donation by the British Red Cross (This is located at the Medical Museum in

62 *ibid.*
63 *ibid.* Note: At a later date, this building was converted to use as the Engineer's Shop. (*ibid.*, p. 13)
64 *ibid.*, p. 8.
65 *ibid.*; and Johnston, Isabel *op. cit.*, p. 6.
66 Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *ibid.*, p. 7.
67 *ibid.*
68 *ibid.*
69 *ibid.*, p. 12.
70 *ibid.*
71 *ibid.*, p. 13.
72 *ibid.*, p. 14.
73 *ibid.*
74 *ibid.*

2001).⁷⁵ The new 10-bed maternity ward, with two single bed private rooms, was built at the corner of Hensman Road.⁷⁶ Many years later, it was converted to a laboratory.⁷⁷ It has since been demolished.

In 1922, nurses' quarters (now the ground floor of Carson House) were built by Todd Bros. to accommodate 15 nurses, and also a new labour ward, theatre, and sterilising room.⁷⁸ In addition, the capacity of the hospital laundry was doubled, the kitchen was improved, a new staff dining room was built, and a hot water service was installed throughout the institution.⁷⁹

Through the early 1920s, the number of admissions increased from 565 in 1923 to 928 in 1924.⁸⁰ The accommodation was 'hopelessly congested.'⁸¹

In 1924, the Hospital Advisory Board considered the best method to raise funds to establish an Antenatal ward, following the suggestion put forward by Matron Walsh and Dr. Roberta Jull.⁸² A deputation to the Minister for Health obtained the promise that the Government would match funds raised for this purpose £ for £.⁸³ At that date, the estimated cost was £1,000.⁸⁴ The organiser, Mrs. Beadle, collected £450, which was made up to £500 by J. L. Glick of Adelaide, Tailoring Company.⁸⁵

In 1926, the proposed additions were made to the place, comprising an antenatal and postnatal ward, which was connected to the original stone building via a covered way; and an isolation ward and maids' quarters, the total cost of which was over £3,000.⁸⁶ The antenatal and postnatal ward was constructed of brick, cement rendered, with a brick dado 3' 6" high from the ground, surrounded on three sides by verandahs; with a tile roof.⁸⁷ The accommodation included a premature ward with two beds; a four-bed ward; patients' dining room; toilets; and rooms for pre-natal examinations.⁸⁸

On 17 December 1926, the new ward was officially opened by the Minister for Health, Mr. Munsie.⁸⁹ It was a demonstration of the far sightedness of Matron Agnes Walsh, who recognised the benefits of antenatal care for expectant mothers, which was a new practice at that period.⁹⁰ These buildings have since been demolished.

In 1927, further additions in proximity to the original building were constructed by W. Fairweather, including a Medical Officer's Quarters, of brick and tile construction, comprising a bedroom, sitting room, and bathroom, facing onto a verandah; and also a new bathroom and pan rooms which were added to the former Industrial School.⁹¹ Also completed in 1927, were Orderlies' Quarters, of brick construction, comprising one room and a

⁷⁵ Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 23 March 2001.

⁷⁶ Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. op. cit.; and PWD Plan 21820c. 6220.

⁷⁷ *ibid.*

⁷⁸ *ibid.*

⁷⁹ *ibid.*

⁸⁰ *ibid.*, p. 17.

⁸¹ *ibid.*

⁸² *ibid.*

⁸³ *ibid.*

⁸⁴ *ibid.*

⁸⁵ *ibid.*

⁸⁶ Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., *ibid.*, pp. 16-18; and PWD Plan 24467c. 7097.

⁸⁷ *ibid.*, p. 18.

⁸⁸ *ibid.*

⁸⁹ *ibid.*, p. 17; and *The Western Mail* 23 December 1926.

⁹⁰ Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., *ibid.*

⁹¹ *ibid.*, p. 18; and PWD Plan 25038c. 7360.

verandah, at a cost of £1,370.⁹²

Through the 1920s, the number of admissions continued to increase, and the hospital required additional ward facilities, a purpose built isolation ward, and a theatre.⁹³ In November 1929, a meeting of the Hospital Advisory Board decided that to celebrate the centenary of Western Australia, a Centenary Appeal would be made to raise money for these facilities, in particular, to establish a gynaecological and intermediate ward, 'as a real nucleus of a women's hospital.'⁹⁴ As Cohen and Hutchinson (1966) noted, this marked two important advances in the conception of the hospital: for the first time, there was an acceptance that the hospital should take private and intermediate paying patients; and that the ultimate aim was to have 'a complete women's hospital embracing all phases of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.'⁹⁵ Mrs. Beadle, Secretary of the Hospital Advisory Board, suggested the concept of building the new hospital block as a 'lasting memorial to the pioneer women this State.'⁹⁶

As the State was in the midst of the Great Depression, the plans had to be deferred for a period until sufficient funds had been raised for the purpose.⁹⁷ In the meantime, Matron Walsh was sent overseas to ascertain the most up-to-date requirements of hospital demands.⁹⁸ The Government Architect, A. E. Clare, incorporated in his plan for the new building the results of her study, along with the suggestions from the various honorary groups associated with the hospital.⁹⁹

On 11 April 1932, the contract for the new Centenary Ward (C Block) was awarded to H. McNally of Maylands, at a cost of £3,300, for completion on 13 August 1932.¹⁰⁰ The building work was completed on 3 September, at an exact cost of £2,660.18.10.¹⁰¹ The new building comprised two main 10-bed wards, with two intermediate wards at either end to accommodate a total of four private patients.¹⁰² It was connected to the original stone building by a ramp.¹⁰³ The overall cost including building and equipment of approximately £5,000, it was the only public building completed to that date completely funded by private sources.¹⁰⁴ The Appeal Committee had raised £700, over £2,000 was donated by the Western Australian Charities' Commission, with the balance being paid from Hospital Trust funds.¹⁰⁵

On 5 September 1932, the Centenary Ward was opened by the Minister for Health, C. G. Latham, who declared 'it would provide great comfort for mothers and future sons and daughters.'¹⁰⁶ He paid particular tribute to Mrs. Edith Cowan, for whom the building represented 'the fulfilment of her great desire', i.e. for the hospital to include Gynaecology; to Matron Walsh; to the

92 *ibid.*

93 *ibid.*, p. 25.

94 *ibid.*

95 *ibid.*

96 *ibid.*

97 *ibid.*

98 *ibid.*, p. 27.

99 *ibid.*

100 PWD Contract Book 1929-33, Acc. 1124 AN 7/14 Item 19, p. 267.

101 *ibid.*

102 *The Western Mail* 8 September 1939.

103 PWD Plan 25038c. 7360 *op. cit.*

104 *The Western Mail* *op. cit.*; and Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., *op. cit.*

105 *ibid.*

106 *ibid.*

Architect; and to the builder.¹⁰⁷ A plaque at the right of the entrance commemorates the opening of the building 'Erected through the efforts of Women's Associations as a tribute to the Pioneer Women of Western Australia.'¹⁰⁸ It would be another 50 years before their contribution was again recognised, in the memorial in Kings' Park.

The need for further additions to the hospital to provide further accommodation was recognised; and in 1934, the Western Australian Charities Commission agreed to donate £15,000 for this purpose, which was increased by £5,000, when more ambitious plans were made with an estimated cost of £38,000.¹⁰⁹ In the Annual Report of the Public Works Department for 1935-36, the Principal Architect, A. E. Clare, reported that designs had been prepared for a new women's hospital on the site of the existing hospital at Subiaco, and that work had commenced on the first stage of the building, which was to be built by the Public Works Department at an estimated cost of £45,000.¹¹⁰ The 'completed scheme' comprised six storeys and a basement, of reinforced concrete construction; the 'necessary' extensions of the quarters; conversion of the existing buildings into antenatal and post-natal clinics; and 'various extensions of subsidiary buildings and services.'¹¹¹ It was designed so that the building could be constructed in sections, as funds became available.¹¹²

In 1937, Matron Walsh travelled overseas again to study the most recent developments in order that they could be incorporated in the new building.¹¹³ Among the noteworthy features incorporated in the new building were a central heating system, air conditioning, sound absorbing ceilings, a reserve auxiliary for electrical lighting and power, controlled lighting, and a public address system for paging doctors.¹¹⁴

In 1938, work was begun on the construction of the first section of the new building, comprising three floors.¹¹⁵ It was carried out by the PWD, with a completion date of March 1939.¹¹⁶ This new wing to the hospital was henceforward to be the main building.¹¹⁷ This altered the previous orientation and layout, as the new entrance to the hospital faced Bagot Road.¹¹⁸

The new building provided 62 beds and cots, including four single wards.¹¹⁹ The ground floor and first floors were intended for postnatal facilities and food supply; with the isolation labour ward and nurseries on the first and second floors; and the top floor designed for labour wards, eclampsics, toxæmias of pregnancy, and an operating theatre.¹²⁰ The second floor was

¹⁰⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 23 March 2001.

¹⁰⁹ Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *op cit.*, p. 31; and *The West Australian* 7 December 1939, p. 4.

¹¹⁰ Annual Report in *Votes and Proceedings* 1937, p. 25; and PWD Contract Book 1936-39, Acc. 1124 AN 7/14 Item 21, p. 183.

¹¹¹ *ibid.* Note: expenditure on these works to 30 June 1937 was £26,027.18.3. (*ibid.*, p. 31.)

¹¹² *ibid.*

¹¹³ Cohen B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., *op. cit.*, p. 31.

¹¹⁴ *ibid.*

¹¹⁵ PWD Annual Report in *Votes and Proceedings* 1938.

¹¹⁶ *ibid.* Note: the cost of the building per the PWD Contract Book 1936-39, was £45,000. (SROWA Acc. 1124 AN 7/14, p. 183.)

¹¹⁷ Cohen B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., *op. cit.*, pp. 31-32.

¹¹⁸ *ibid.*; and PWDWA Plan 28341, 1938.

¹¹⁹ Cohen B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *ibid.*, p. 32.

¹²⁰ *ibid.*

named Munsie Ward after the preceding Health Minister.¹²¹ A bust of the late Dr. Dixie P. Clement, was placed in the entrance hall, in appreciation of his services to the hospital, and also to raising the standard of midwifery in the community.¹²² The sculpture was executed by Edward Kohler, who was responsible also for the distinctive plaque depicting a stork carrying an infant to the new building, which is located above the main entrance.¹²³

Kohler (1890-1964), who was born in Queensland, spent part of his youth in Western Australia, fought in World War One, and then worked for the Imperial War Graves Commission from 1919 to 1928, before commencing studies in sculpture at the Lille Academie des Beaux-Arts.¹²⁴ After completion of his two-year training, he undertook a number of commissions in Europe, before returning to Western Australia in 1932.¹²⁵ After a period of working with Alf Horrocks in Subiaco making models for shops, Kohler was appointed as head sculptor of Ajax Plaster Company.¹²⁶ The company was involved in a large number of building projects in Perth in the 1930s, for which Kohler was responsible for the design and/or modelling, including the Piccadilly Cinema, Emu Brewery, Perth Dental Hospital, Gledden Building, and Karrakatta Crematorium Chapel.¹²⁷ Among Kohler's best-known works as a sculptor, is the memorial to Lieutenant-General Sir J. J. Talbot Hobbs (1940).¹²⁸

On 6 December 1939, the new building was officially opened by the Minister for Health, Mr. Panton, who stated that it was 'part of what was intended to be the best maternity hospital in Australia.'¹²⁹ The brass plaque commemorating the opening was unveiled by Mrs. Beadle, who had served as Secretary of the Advisory Board for 24 years.¹³⁰ The plaque is now housed in the Medical Museum.¹³¹

The total cost of the new building was £71,000, and equipment that cost £2,173.¹³² The Lotteries Commission had allocated additional £15,000 to the amounts promised earlier, and also contributed £1,000 towards the cost of equipment; and the Youth and Motherhood Appeal contributed £15,000; with the balance of funding provided by the Government.¹³³ Thus the major share of the cost was met by the Lotteries Commission and the Appeal. The development of the place throughout the first half of the twentieth century was made possible only through such contributions by the community, and similar contributions continued to play a significant part in the post World War Two period.

The new building was constructed of rich reddish purple coloured bricks to the first floor level for the length of the building, with contrasting cream

121 *ibid*, p. 33.

122 *ibid*, p.32.

123 Robyn Taylor, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 26 March 2001.

124 Robyn Taylor 'An investigation into the nature of modernism and modernity during the 1930s in Perth, Western Australia, through the study of specific buildings and related art and design forms.' Doctor of Philosophy Thesis, University of Western Australia (1993) pp. 280-282.

125 *ibid*, pp. 282-287.

126 *ibid*, pp. 287-288.

127 *ibid*, p. 287-297.

128 *ibid*, p. 290.

129 Cohen B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *op. cit.*, p. 33.

130 *ibid*.

131 Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 23 march 2001.

132 Cohen B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *op. cit.*; and *The West Australian* *op. cit.*

133 *The West Australian* *ibid*.

coloured bricks facing the rest of the building. The entrance 'commands most attention with its rich faience work of yellow tiles surrounded by a border of green and blue with motifs resembling stylised stems and buds of the Egyptian lotus.'¹³⁴ The design for the entrance is believed to have been undertaken by the Wunderlich Company.¹³⁵ The building is considered to be 'a particularly good example of the decorative and structural role of colour in building.'¹³⁶ The use of colour by way of polychrome brickwork and/or terra cotta was a dominant feature of the design of numerous buildings in the mid to late 1930s. It is evident in a number of other major works undertaken by the Public Works Department under the Principal Architect, A. E. Clare, including Perth Technical College, East Perth Girls' School, and the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Subiaco (now part of the Rehabilitation Hospital).¹³⁷

In 1939, following completion of the new building, paving by the new building was carried out by Vincent Paving Coy. at an exact cost of £95.¹³⁸

The former Government Industrial School, was converted to the Antenatal Clinic.¹³⁹ In 1939, the antenatal rooms at the former Industrial School were renovated and modernised.¹⁴⁰

In 1940, plans were drawn for new Nurses' Quarters at the hospital; however, funds for the work were not available at this period.¹⁴¹ In 1943, A. E. Clare produced plans for a new wing at the hospital, incorporating a new kitchen capable of serving a 200-bed hospital; and also plans for a new central laundry at the place, to cater for all the public hospitals in Perth.¹⁴² The Lotteries Commission was holding £5,000 to £6,000 towards the estimated cost of £140,000 for the new wing; and a deputation was made to the Premier to request the building be expedited.¹⁴³ With wartime restrictions on building materials in effect, building was deferred, and the central laundry never eventuated.

In 1946, plans were drawn for Nurses' Quarters at the hospital.¹⁴⁴ The new building was not built until the early 1950s built to drawings completed under Len Walters signature as the Principal Architect of the PWD, however, he must have been acting in the position at the time since Clare did not retire until 1960. In the meantime, additions were made to the existing quarters, comprising additional bedrooms, amenities, and a lecture room.¹⁴⁵

Matron Walsh travelled to the Eastern States to study advances in hospital construction for the proposed new hospital building.¹⁴⁶

In 1949, following the re-location of the Antenatal Clinic, the former Industrial School was converted for use by the radiology service, which opened on 22

¹³⁴ Robyn Taylor op. cit., p. 314.

¹³⁵ *ibid*, p. 315. Note: there is no mention of the distinctive entrance in the account of the opening in *The West Australian*, and the only information Taylor could obtain re the design was from Kohler's widow, Eileen Kohler.

¹³⁶ Robyn Taylor *ibid*, p. 314.

¹³⁷ *ibid*, pp. 315-316.

¹³⁸ PWD Contract Book 1936-39, op. cit., p. 350.

¹³⁹ Cohen B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., op. cit., pp. 31-32.

¹⁴⁰ Cohen. B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *ibid*, p. 34.

¹⁴¹ *ibid*, p. 35.

¹⁴² *ibid*.

¹⁴³ *ibid*.

¹⁴⁴ PWDWA Plan 31109, 1946.

¹⁴⁵ Cohen B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., op. cit., p. 40.

¹⁴⁶ Cohen B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., op. cit., p. 37.

September 1952.¹⁴⁷ At a later date, the former Government Industrial School was renamed Harvey House, in honour of the hospital's first Matron, Miss Eleanor Harvey.¹⁴⁸

In January 1950, the Principal Architect, A. E. Clare was advised that the decision had been made to enlarge the hospital 'to a total of 200 beds, plus 26 beds for antenatal cases.'¹⁴⁹ However, the proposal was deferred whilst work proceeded on building the new nurses' quarters, although the preliminary sketches were approved and subsequently modified in the early 1950s, to provide 236 beds, at an estimated cost of £750,000.¹⁵⁰

In 1952, the Physiotherapy Department was established at the hospital, to provide daily ante and postnatal classes, and treatments for both in-patients and outpatients and infants.¹⁵¹ The post-war period, through to the end of the twentieth century, was characterised by the development of additional services at the hospital.

On 15 January 1953, the Minister for Health, the Hon. Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver, officially opened the new nurses' quarters which were named the Agnes Walsh Nurses' Home in honour of Matron Walsh.¹⁵² A plaque at the entrance commemorates the opening.¹⁵³ Dame Florence claimed the quarters were 'the most modern in Australia'.¹⁵⁴ The building comprised accommodation for 106 nurses, each with her own room; and 'all possible amenities'.¹⁵⁵ The cost of the building was £185,000, with an additional £20,000 for furnishings; with the Lotteries Commission donating £53,000 towards the cost.¹⁵⁶ The building was awarded the Architectural Medal in 1955, which has been mounted on a wall of the building at the ground.¹⁵⁷

A sewerage drawing shows the new nurses' quarters to the west of the main building, the earlier nurses' quarters to the north, and the various earlier buildings at the site, including the Centenary building, the former Industrial School, and various workshops and other outbuildings, before the new wings were built in the early 1960s and late 1970s.¹⁵⁸

The commencement of building was again deferred, due to financial restrictions.¹⁵⁹ With the pending retirement of Matron Walsh and Sister Carson in 1954, the administration of the hospital was changed, the first Medical Superintendent appointed on 11 October 1953, W. G. Spencer was appointed Manager, and a Hospital Board was established, which met for the first time on 14 September 1954.¹⁶⁰ The new Board recognised the need for 'an enormous programme of up-grading', and a Building Committee was

¹⁴⁷ *ibid*, pp. 39-40.

¹⁴⁸ *Subiaco Post* 12 March 1991, p. 17.

¹⁴⁹ A. E. Clare to the Under Secretary, quoted in Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., *op. cit.*

¹⁵⁰ *ibid*.

¹⁵¹ *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women 1916-1991 Celebrating 75 Years of Service to the Western Australian Community* (King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, Subiaco, 1991) p. 10.

¹⁵² Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *ibid*, pp. 40-42.

¹⁵³ *ibid*, p. 92.

¹⁵⁴ *ibid*, p. 42.

¹⁵⁵ *ibid*.

¹⁵⁶ *ibid*.

¹⁵⁷ Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 23 March 2001.

¹⁵⁸ Metropolitan Sewerage Municipality of Subiaco SROWA Cons. 4156 Item 183.

¹⁵⁹ Cohen, B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L. *op. cit.*

¹⁶⁰ *ibid*, p. 43.

constituted, meeting for the first time on 2 January 1955.¹⁶¹ With the establishment of the Medical School in Western Australia in the 1950s, the training role of the hospital was expanded to include medical students as well as the continuance of midwifery training.

In the late 1950s, extensive works were carried out. Among the first projects was removal of a large portion of the old laundry to make way for a new boiler house, and subsequently, the removal of the remainder of the laundry to make way for the new workshops.¹⁶² Since July 1956, all laundry has been carried out outside, by contractors.¹⁶³

In June 1957, *Kensington* maternity hospital was purchased and taken over by the hospital, providing 24 additional beds for gynaecology patients.¹⁶⁴ In the same year, additions were made to the hospital's laboratories, a second lift was installed and the original lift modernised in the main building.¹⁶⁵ The Medical Superintendent's building, which had been previously located on the west side of the hospital, was dismantled and re-located to a site in Hensman Road, in preparation for the building of the additions to the hospital.¹⁶⁶

In 1961-62, the new building was built, completing the north and west wings of the hospital, providing an additional 84 beds, including 44 for gynaecology; and other additions including a sterilising department, teaching facilities, a new kitchen, staff dining room, and administrative offices.¹⁶⁷ On 15 February 1962, the Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner, officially opened the additions which is commemorated by a plaque.¹⁶⁸ This section of the hospital came into complete operation on 1 July 1962.¹⁶⁹

Other works carried out in the early 1960s included the establishment of a Dental Clinic (1961), the conversion of part of the Centenary Ward to a pharmacy, cytology, and histology laboratories (early 1960s), and the opening of a Cancer Screening Clinic (1962).¹⁷⁰ In 1963, the King Edward Memorial Hospital Emergency Centre was recognised as an emergency centre.¹⁷¹ On 20 May 1963, a new building (Block 'O' on the site plan 2000) in Hensman Road was opened as the outpatient clinic.¹⁷² This allowed additional space in the former Government Industrial School building for the x-ray department, which was completed in September 1964.¹⁷³

In 1966-67, a new laboratory building was erected in Hensman Road.¹⁷⁴ In 2001, the place accommodates the Department of Pathology.¹⁷⁵ It is thought that the building that accommodates the Engineering Maintenance Department, or Physical Resources Department as it is now called, may have been erected around the same period.¹⁷⁶

161 *ibid*, p. 93.

162 *ibid*, pp. 93-94.

163 *ibid*, p. 94.

164 *ibid*.

165 *ibid*.

166 *ibid*.

167 *ibid*, pp. 94-95.

168 *ibid*, p. 95.

169 *ibid*.

170 *ibid*, pp. 80-89.

171 *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women 1916-1991 ... op. cit.*, p. 2.

172 Cohen B. C. and Hutchinson, R. L., *op. cit.*, p. 96.

173 *ibid*, p. 97.

174 *ibid*.

175 Site plan, 2000; and site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 23 March 2001.

176 Eric Bull, Chief Engineer, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 23 March

In the subsequent period, a number of new buildings and services have been added to the hospital, including 'B' Block (1979).¹⁷⁷ These developments have recognised the changing needs of women in the late twentieth century.

In November 1985, a house in Barker Road, which had been purchased by the hospital, was converted to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre, which was re-located from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.¹⁷⁸ Western Australia was the first State to establish such a centre.¹⁷⁹ It expanded rapidly through the late 1980s, and additional accommodation was opened in Loretto Street in March 1991.¹⁸⁰

Circa 1985, the Adolescent Health Clinic was established to provide care for pregnant teenagers; and subsequently, a Menopause Clinic, accommodated in the Centenary Building.¹⁸¹

In March 1988, the Western Australian Medical Museum was opened in the former Industrial School, re-named Harvey House in honour of the hospital's first matron.¹⁸²

In the early 1990s, a Memorial Rose Garden was established, by Railway Road, with much of the landscape work including paths, fencing, and the erection of a gazebo carried out by voluntary members of the Subiaco North Rotary Club.¹⁸³

In 1992, a Family Birth Centre was built at the south-west of the site, to provide 'a more natural environment', where women with low-risk pregnancies could receive all aspects of care through their pregnancy, delivery, and post-natal care.¹⁸⁴ A plaque in the foyer commemorates the opening of the building by the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon. Dr. Carmen Lawrence, M. L. A., and records that the building 'was made possible by a grant from the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia.'¹⁸⁵

On 26 October 1994, the Centre for Women's Health was opened at King Edward Memorial Hospital, by the Federal Minister for Human Services and Health, the Hon. Dr. Carmen Lawrence, as commemorated by a plaque in the entry foyer to the main building.¹⁸⁶ Thereafter, the place has been known as the Centre for Women's Health, 'to acknowledge the non-hospital services located on the site.'

In 2000, a single storey Ante-Natal Gynaecology Creche was built in Hensman Road.¹⁸⁷

In 2001, the place continues in use as an hospital and facility providing services to women. It has had, and continues to have, a unique significance to the community of Western Australia.

The place is included in the City of Subiaco Municipal Inventory; classified by the National Trust; entered on the Interim Register of Heritage Places, and

2001.

¹⁷⁷ Site plan, 2000; *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women 1916-1991* op. cit., p. 1; and Eric Bull, Chief Engineer, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 22 March 2001.

¹⁷⁸ *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women 1916-1991* ibid, p. 12.

¹⁷⁹ ibid.

¹⁸⁰ ibid.

¹⁸¹ *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women 1916-1991* ibid, pp. 11-12.

¹⁸² ibid, p. 16.

¹⁸³ *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women 1916-1991* ... ibid, p. 10.

¹⁸⁴ ibid, p. 16; site plan op. cit.; and Eric Bull, op. cit.

¹⁸⁵ Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 23 March 2001.

¹⁸⁶ ibid.

¹⁸⁷ Eric Bull, op. cit.

the Register of the National Estate.

The former Government Industrial School, Harvey House, continues in use as the Medical Museum. As noted above, some of the commemorative plaques from other buildings are now located at the Museum. Another plaque at the entry to the place acknowledges the role of the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia Inc. 'in initiating action in 1909 resulting in the establishment' of the hospital in 1916.¹⁸⁸ However, it is not known whether this is the original location of this plaque, which was erected in 1975. Similarly, with regard to another plaque located at the Museum, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the hospital.¹⁸⁹

The former Nurses' Quarters, Carson House (1922), accommodates the Women and Infants' Research Foundation, and Agnes Walsh House (1953) is also used to accommodate offices etc., as the practice of nurses living on site has ceased. The Centenary Building accommodates a number of clinics and services.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is a large complex of hospital and hospital related buildings built over an extensive period since 1897, and rendered in a diverse range of architectural styles that reflect the time span over which the various buildings were constructed.

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is located to the west of the Subiaco town centre and south of the Perth to Fremantle railway. It is set on sloping terrain that falls from Bagot Road in the south to Barker Road to the north, while maintaining a very gentle fall from Hensman Road in the east to Railway Road to the west.

The buildings are generally arranged along the east west axis that was established by the construction of Harvey House (Government Industrial School 1897), the exception being the northern extension of A Block (1962). There is no unified setting as such, and the spaces around the buildings are characterised by the north south axis of the closed section of Hensman Road, nine carparks scattered around the site, individual settings associated with particular buildings, and residual spaces between the buildings constructed at various times in the development of the place. Several settings stand out from the general context and those of particular interest are the areas associated with Harvey House (H Block) in Barker Road, the general setting of A Block, and that associated with Agnes Walsh House (Q Block). Other settings that are of some interest include the area associated with Carson House (D Block) and the curiously secluded Memorial Garden near Harvey House in Barker Road. The remainder of the settings are unremarkable and many are simply screens of native shrubs, such as grevillea, that are designed to reduce the visual impact of parking and services.

H Block-Harvey House 1897-The former Government Industrial School

Harvey House (H Block) is located on the north-west corner of the site, off Barker Road, and is set in lawns, with a 'u' shaped driveway providing access to the building from Barker Road. The landscape comprises lawns, shrub planting, and a small collection of mature palms. The building is a long low limestone building with a painted corrugated iron roof in the Federation Free

¹⁸⁸ Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 23 March 2001.

¹⁸⁹ *ibid.*

style¹⁹⁰, with a strong vertical emphasis at the centre of the building. It is designed in an ABCBA rhythm with the centre bay as the most visually prominent. This bay comprises a set of broad approach steps, a balustraded landing, heavily arched doors framed by three quarter circle buttresses that rise though pediment level to terminate with miniature belvederes with metal covered cupola roofs. These tall elements sit either side of a heavily proportioned undecorated pediment which is topped with an exaggerated acroteria. This assembly is flanked by panel walls punctuated with pairs of tall vertically proportioned windows and the walls are topped with blind balustrades. The two B wall planes are simply rendered with a pitched roof, smooth random coursed limestone walls, and vertically proportioned windows at regular intervals. Most of the windows are replacement sashes in original openings, however the three tier fenestration pattern has been maintained. The terminating C bays are similar to the B bays, but are thrust forward of the B bays and have gable roofs to complete the composition.

The plan form is cellular, but many of the cells have been interlinked. The building has been adapted on many occasions and the finishes reflect many changes. There are few lath and plaster ceilings and ceiling vents, with the present finishes including plasterboard, and acoustic tiles also. Most doors are replacements, and almost all windows have been converted to awnings. Floor finishes include terrazzo, carpet on concrete, and vinyl.

The place is generally in fair condition.

D Block-Carson House 1922-Former Nurses' Quarters.

Carson House (D Block) is located on the northern side of the site, off Railway Road, and is set in lawns, with informal landscaping. The landscape comprises well-kept lawns, and tree plantings, including Eucalypts, a Liquidambar and an Oak. Some of the trees are in poor condition. It is a two-storey building with a clay tiled roof that makes use of elements of the Inter War Bungalow style¹⁹¹, with deep verandahs and 'shingled' balustrades. Designed as nurses' quarters, the elevations have a simple rhythm of paired timber columns to the verandahs, with the deep belled out shaped shingle clad balustrades to the perimeter verandah being strong features. The roof is low pitched and tiled, with a low gable over the central bay denoting the formal building entry. The timber verandah floor has been replaced at ground floor with concrete, and the column bases set on steel brackets in concrete pads.

The lower walls are constructed of face brickwork and the upper walls are finished with roughcast render. The long wall planes are punctuated with pairs of glazed doors, with hopper lights over them. Most of the hoppers have been removed and replaced with window mounted air conditioning units.

The plan form comprises a central entrance and lobby with a plain timber construction stair. A central corridor runs east west from the stair, but re-planning of various parts of the building has obscured this notion. The building has been adapted from nurses' quarters to consulting and administration rooms. Many of the spaces have been left, while others have been altered to achieve the new uses. The floors are timber, which are polished in some locations and covered with carpets and vinyl in other locations. The walls are plastered and painted, and ceilings mainly plasterboard.

¹⁹⁰ Apperly, Richard et al., op. cit. pp. 136-139.

¹⁹¹ Ibid pp 206-209.

The place is generally in good condition.

C Block-Centenary House 1932

Centenary House (C Block) is located on the eastern side of the site off Hensman Road, and is cramped between the northern wing of A Block, B and P Blocks to the north and number 5 Carpark, all later developments. The landscape comprises lawns, and tree plantings, dense shrubbery to the east, and brick paving to the north with some shrub planting. It is a single storey building with a clay tiled roof, and it makes use of elements of the Inter-War Bungalow style,¹⁹² with deep verandahs, most of which have been filled in to provide additional accommodation. The northern verandah remains in its original state with timber floors, a regular rhythm of posts and a St. Andrews cross pattern balustrade. Designed as a gynaecological and intermediate ward, the original elevations that are exposed to view have pressed State Brickworks plinths, with smooth rendered walls above. There is a regular rhythm of timber-framed windows and doors. The eastern and northern verandahs have been filled in with a variety of materials to form additional rooms. The roof is low pitched and tiled. The brickwork to the northern verandah is in very poor condition.

The plan form comprises a central entrance and lobby with irregular corridors running to the east and west of it. There appear to have been many modifications made to the plan to accommodate its current uses which include anaesthetic, diabetic, family planning, menopause, medical and paediatric clinics. Walls are generally plastered brick with framed partition walls to some of the later adaptations. Several walls appear to have been removed for the current plan. Ceilings are suspended mineral fibre tiles and plasterboard throughout. Floors are covered mainly with carpet and are generally concrete. The fitout is modern throughout.

The place is generally in fair condition.

A Block East-Ward Block 1939

Ward Block (A Block-east) is located on the southern side of the site off Bagot Road. The road reserve is lined with box trees that partly obscure the building from view. There is a low brick fence along the pavement edge, and this is designed as an integral part of the building's landscape setting. The landscape comprises lawns and bed planting along the length of the building, together with two planter boxes that flank the front entry.

The building is a three-storey structure with a flat roof designed in Inter-War Functionalist style.¹⁹³ The centre of the whole building composition, which includes the 1963 addition to the western portion, is the visual focus of the building. There are long planes of the ward accommodation each side of the entry, and these terminate with a bay that is thrust slightly forward of the main wall plane.

The central entry is an imposing feature of the building, which rises above the height of the remainder of the building and thrusts forward in plan. The walls of the ground floor elevation of the building are constructed in a dark red brick, while the upper floors are constructed of a soft pink brick, separated from the lower brickwork with a green and black concrete tile that runs the full length of the elevation. At the entrance, the red brick is drawn up around the first two floors of the building and a bright green faience architrave emphasises the two-storey entry detail, which is further highlighted

¹⁹² Ibid pp 206-209.

¹⁹³ Ibid pp 184-187.

by the use of a gloss cream tiled spandrel between ground and first floors. The windows and doors in this section are steel-framed and much more elaborate than those used in the flanking wings. At parapet level, the entry element rises above the flanking parapets, and makes use of a variety of decorative devices, including engaged piers, a masonry canopy and stylised acroteria.

The plan comprises a central entrance and lobby with lifts that are very much in keeping with the style of the entry. There are corridors running to the north to link with the 1962 extension to the north and east-west corridors to service the wards and ancillary facilities. The main staircase is offset from the lobby and has terrazzo treads and risers, a solid lower balustrade, and wreathed timber handrail. Floors are covered mainly with carpet and are concrete construction. There is terrazzo on the floors of staircases and in some wet areas. The ceilings to the main entry and lift lobby step in a ziggurat motif that is consistent with the architecture of the entrance. In most other areas there are acoustic tile ceilings. Walls are plastered throughout and internal doors are generally flush types. There have been a number of upgrades to the block, and some alterations for new functions and practices.

The place is generally in fair condition.

Q Block – Agnes Walsh House-Former Nurses’ Quarters.

Agnes Walsh House (Q Block) is located on the southern side of the site off Bagot Road to the west of the main entrance block A Block. The road reserve is lined with box trees and the building itself is set well back from the road. The landscape comprises lawns, specimen tree plantings and bed planting. The trees include Oaks, Liquidambar, and Cypress trees. The landscaping is spare and designed to provide a generous forecourt setting for the building.

The building has a lower ground floor, ground floor and four upper floors with a flat roof and is designed in the Post War International style¹⁹⁴ and in its landscape setting, reflects Scandinavian and North American architecture of the same period. The site is contoured, so that the lower ground floor is not visible from the south, and the grassed plane between the Bagot Road boundary and the building is perfectly flat.

The building is conceived in two parts with the major part being the residential accommodation rising in a tall rectangular slab of pink brickwork which is articulated only with the lift and stair tower and the regular punctuation of square aluminium framed windows. The ratio of window to wall is quite small, so that the pattern is like a simple plane of brickwork with the regular pattern of small windows arranged in a grid on the face of this plane. Counterpoint in the plan form is provided by the amenities which extend out from the wall plane of the main block in a southerly direction towards the road, making use of an amoebic shape. This section makes use of brickwork, steel windows, and long thin sinuous architectural lines. Where the two building elements meet, the main entrance is inconspicuously located and accented only by a modest flat roofed canopy, reflecting the relative lower order of importance of the place in comparison with the main ward block.

The plan comprises a central entrance and lobby with lifts. There are long narrow corridors running to the east and west to service the former quarters on both sides of the corridor. There is main staircase on the south side of the building, with terrazzo treads and risers, and a wreathed metal

¹⁹⁴ Ibid pp 214-217.

balustrade. The concrete floors are covered mainly with carpet and vinyl. The ceilings are generally plasterboard. Walls are plastered throughout and internal doors are generally flush types. There have been a number of changes since the quarters were adapted for alternative use, but the bones of the original concept, both externally and internally, remain intact. The building houses a number of support organisations, medical students, and a small number of specialist departments.

The place is generally in good condition.

A Block west and north-Ward Block 1962

These extensions completed much of the work that had been planned in the 1939 construction phase, completing the western wing of the Bagot Road frontage and extending the ward block to the north from the central entrance and service spine.

The western extension follows the pattern set by the initial work on the eastern end of A Block, using the same materials, modules and finishes. From Bagot Road, there is nothing to distinguish the two blocks. However, the western wall of the western wing and the east and west walls of the northern wing make use of a different architectural language, with long windows and precast spandrel panels making up the main wall planes. These long horizontals are visually anchored by the solid vertical buttressing service towers. The windows are continuous, with coupled mullions linking each of the vertical format windows. Vertical accents are provided by staircases and service elements. Sun shading is provided by deep horizontal shade panels.

The plan form and interior material and finishes follow those developed for the 1939 building, but the detailing is much more in the Post War Functionalist style, stripped of most of its decorative qualities.

The place is generally in fair condition.

O Block-Outpatients Building former (1963)

The former Outpatients building (O Block) is located to the east of Hensman Road. The road reserve is lined with box trees that partly obscure the building from view, and it is further obscured by the shrubbery that has been encouraged to grow in the beds surrounding the building.

There is a low brick fence along the pavement edge, and this is designed as an integral part of the buildings landscape setting. The landscape comprises lawns and dense shrub planting around the building.

The building is a single-storey structure constructed in brickwork with a low-pitched gable roof. There is no equivalent style in the standard references.

A rendered curved entry and open lace breeze block wall facing the street are the outstanding features of this otherwise utilitarian building, and these elements contrast with the plain stretcher bond brickwork of the bulk of the building. In recent years, part of the building has been used as a creche, and this function was removed in 2001, when the new creche (M Block) was completed.

The place is generally in fair condition.

E Block-Physical Resources (c1967)

The Physical Resources Building (E Block) is located to the east of Hensman Road. Dense planting obscures much of the building.

It is a strictly rectilinear design of concrete and aluminium windows without

decorative devices. It could best be described as a Late Twentieth Century International style building.¹⁹⁵ It has a flat roof, and is a building of repeated bays, extending from east to west, and achieves no great architectural merit.

The place is generally in fair condition.

P Block-Pathology (c1967)

Pathology (P Block) is located to the west of Hensman Road, presenting a blank face brickwork wall to the street.

Like E Block it is a strictly rectilinear design that uses a window wall to the north and south with blank walls to the east and west. It has a flat roof and is a building of repeated bays, extending from east to west and also achieves no great architectural merit.

The place is generally in fair condition.

B Block Extensions (1979)

This is the largest single building on site and is physically surrounded by previous developments. It provides ward accommodation and uses an architectural language that has similarities with the 1962 extensions to A Block. The bulk of the building is constructed in brickwork, with concrete spandrel panels on the sections of façade where wards are located. The panels are visually contained by the service, lift and stair elements that are constructed of face brickwork. The planning is axial with long corridors providing access to wards, rooms and treatment areas. The pattern of brick colour variation is marked, but otherwise the building appears to be in fair condition.

L Block-Family Birth Centre (1992)

This building is set in a landscape comprised of lawns, a driveway, and shrub planting. It is a single-storey brick and tile building that employs the language of domestic architecture. It is built of brick with aluminium windows, and clay tiled roof.

M Block-Creche (2001)

This building is the last to be completed. It is a small building located on the western end of A Block. It is built of brick with a flat roof. It uses some of the same motifs as A Block, with curved walls, curved windows and polychromatic windows. It is a very small building that barely impacts on the site as a whole.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The churches ran most industrial schools and Government industrial schools were often located in previously built structures. The Government Industrial School in Subiaco was a purpose built school and was a flamboyant architectural statement in a time when economy in such matters was the norm. The Government had already built a reform school on Rottnest Island but this was not for necessitous children, but for offenders. It was modest by comparison with the industrial school and is now incorporated into the Rottnest Lodge.

Haddon was a prominent architect who was in the State for a short time. He was a good delineator and not a great deal has been attributed to him. Haddon was also an academic and an author of at least one book on

¹⁹⁵ Ibid pp 232-235.

architecture.

Style set by A.E. Clare with A Block spawned a generation of hospital design including elements of Royal Perth Hospital, Geraldton, Northam and Bunbury Regional Hospitals, all in the process or due to be replaced.

Other maternity hospitals in the State such as Fremantle (Woodside Hospital), and Geraldton (Residency Hospital) were also started in historic buildings designed for other purposes, Woodside was W. D. Moore's house and Geraldton was the Resident's Houses.

13.4 REFERENCES

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National Trust Australia (W. A.) Assessment

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research may provide details relating to design and works at the place.

Future work undertaken may provide the opportunity for archaeological investigation, which may provide additional information.

The reason for the closure of The Government Industrial School or its possible transfer were not revealed during this research and could be further investigated.