



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

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

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.2 Adapting to diverse environments
- 3.26 Providing health services
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Although *Roebourne Hospital Group* contains a range of aesthetically distinctive buildings, their landmark qualities are obscured by the modern hospital structures added to the site in the 1980s, and the mature tree plantings. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Roebourne Hospital Group was the second purpose-built public hospital to be constructed in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

Roebourne Hospital (1887) was the first Bungalow Hospital to be built in Western Australia. Its design adapted the traditional principles of hospital design of separation and isolation of function, to accommodate the difficult climate of the North West, with a series of detached single-storey verandahed hospital buildings, linked together through covered walkways. (Criterion 2.2 & 2.4)

Roebourne Hospital Group has continuously provided or supported medical care to Western Australia's North West since hospital facilities were first established at site in 1874. (Criterion 2.2)

Roebourne Hospital (1887), Kitchen Block (1899), and Former Quarters (1889) were designed by George Temple-Poole, the Superintendent of Public Works of the Imperial Service in Western Australia between 1885 and 1897 who, while in

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

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

this position, designed more than 200 public buildings throughout the State. His buildings at *Roebourne Hospital Group* are some of the earliest surviving examples of Poole's work. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Roebourne Hospital Group has the potential through the use of archaeological techniques to yield information regarding the location and built fabric of Roebourne's original hospital, which was located on the site from 1874 to 1887, and the Medical Officers' Quarters, Kitchen & Storeroom, which was located on the site from 1885 (demolition date unknown). There is also potential for sub-floor deposits within and around the structures to be uncovered. (Criterion 3.2)

Roebourne Hospital (1887) is a significant benchmark in hospital design in Western Australia, as the first Bungalow Hospital to be built in the State. The design of Roebourne Hospital, which adapted traditional principles of hospital design to the climatic conditions of the North West, was adopted as the standard plan for hospitals throughout the State's North West, including at Southern Cross (1893), Coolgardie (1894), Derby (1896), Cue (1896), Onslow (1896-97), and Marble Bar (1897). (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Roebourne Hospital Group is valued by the community of Roebourne as it has played a significant role in providing health care to the public since a hospital was first constructed on the site in 1874. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Roebourne Hospital (1887) is rare as the first, and one of the few surviving, Bungalow Hospitals in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

Roebourne Hospital Group is rare as the second purpose-built public hospitals to be constructed in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

Roebourne Hospital Group is rare as the earliest hospital to be constructed in the North West region of Western Australia. The hospital served the whole North West of the colony from its establishment in 1874 until the 1890s when other hospitals were built at Derby, Marble Bar and Onslow. (Criterion 5.1)

Roebourne Hospital Group is a rare and excellent example of Poole's earliest design works in Western Australia, few of which survive today (2012). (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The development of *Roebourne Hospital Group* from 1874 is indicative of the boom and bust cycle that the town of Roebourne experienced simultaneously to hospital development. (Criterion 6.2)

Roebourne Hospital Group is an excellent example of innovations in hospital design in the late nineteenth century, and in particular, its adaptation to the environment of the North West of Western Australia. (Criterion 6.2)

Those elements of *Roebourne Hospital Group* designed by George Temple-Poole are good representative examples of Poole's early design works in Western Australia. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

1887 Hospital Building

This building appears to be in a good condition.

Kitchen Block

This building appears to be in a good condition.

Former Quarters

This building appears to be in a fair condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The significant buildings on the site retain a high degree of integrity. Although change has occurred over the years, the original form and intent of the building remains intact.

1887 Hospital Building

This building has a high degree of integrity.

Kitchen Block

This building has a high degree of integrity.

Former Quarters

This building has a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Overall the significance buildings on the site have a high degree of authenticity.

1887 Hospital Building

This building has a high degree of authenticity.

Kitchen Block

This building has a medium to high degree of authenticity.

Former Quarters

This building has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence for this place was compiled in 1992 based upon 'Roebourne Hospital and Kitchen Block' Assessment Exposition by the National Trust of Australia (WA).

The physical evidence was compiled by Carrick + Wills Architects, in 2010.

The documentary evidence and comparative information was updated by the State Heritage Office in 2012/13.

Further amendments and/or additions have been carried out by the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Roebourne Hospital Group is a collection of single-storey stone and iron medical buildings, which have consistently provided or supported medical care to the north west of Western Australia since its establishment in 1874.

Western Australia's north-west was left unsettled by colonists until the early 1860s, when the colonial government first undertook exploration of the region. Explorations revealed vast areas of fertile land suitable for grazing, tropical agriculture, and an abundance of fish, game and pearls, which led to the scattered settlement of the area by pastoralists.¹ In early 1865, Governor Hampton despatched a number of officials, including Resident Magistrate R.J. Sholl, a clerk, a surgeon and three policemen, to administer Colonial concerns and provide protection to the settlers in the north west region.²

After abandoning their initial settlement at Camden Harbour after just a few months, Resident Magistrate Sholl and his party sailed south to Tien Tsin Harbour (renamed Cossack in 1871) and set up camp a few kilometres inland on the Harding River at Mount Welcome. A settlement of just a few houses had started to grow at Mount Welcome,³ and Sholl found the area suitable for the establishment his government offices. The location was the natural crossroad between the port and the outlying stations, the Harding River provided a permanent water source, and the local stone was suitable for the construction of buildings.⁴

By the end of 1866, Sholl had firmly established Mount Welcome as the administrative centre of the region. In August 1866, the townsite had been surveyed, and the name of Roebourne was chosen, in honour of the colony's first Surveyor-General, John Septimus Roe, and construction had begun on a number of government buildings including the Survey Office, Post Office and Government Resident's Office.⁵

¹ Gallaher, Patricia E., *Early Days in Roebourne, 1865-1866* (1978), p.1., and Battye, Jas S (ed), *The History of the North West of Australia: Embracing Kimberley, Gascoyne and Murchison Districts* (Jones, 1915), p. 1, 16,17.

² Battye (ed), *The History of the North West of Australia* (1915), p. 22, 28-29.

³ De La Rue, Kathy, *Pearl Shell and Pastures; The Story of Cossack and Roebourne, and their place in the History of the North West, from the earliest exploration to 1910* (Cossack Project Committees, 1979), p. 29.

⁴ Gallaher, *Early Days in Roebourne* (1978), p. 4., and De La Rue, *Pearl Shell and Pastures* (1979), p.37.

⁵ De La Rue, *Pearl Shell and Pastures* (1979), pp. 37-38.

Initially settlers co-existed amicably with the local Aboriginal population, however as settlers became increasingly dependent upon Aboriginal people for pastoral labour and pearling, the nature of this relationship altered.⁶ Exposure to European diseases resulted in high rates of illness and death amongst the local Aboriginal community.⁷ Relations further deteriorated as Aboriginal people were imprisoned, forced to construct roads and infrastructure, and shipped to the Aboriginal Prison on Rottne Island for infringing European laws.⁸

During the late 1860s/early 1870s the boom in Roebourne's pearling industry saw an increase in the local population, which, in turn, created pressure for appropriate medical facilities to be introduced.⁹

Seven years after the township of Roebourne was formally established, the first Resident Medical Officer for the district was appointed and arrived in October 1873.¹⁰ The Medical Officer practiced out of a three-room wooden building which was constructed in 1874 to a design by R.R. Jewell of the Public Works Department. The timber hospital building comprised a medical office, a surgery, and a hospital room, and was sited to the east of Hampton Street, on the site of the current *Roebourne Hospital Group*.¹¹

With no other facilities available, the Resident Medical Officer resided in the three-room building where he used one room as a surgery and the others for a bedroom and a dining room.¹² By early 1879 there was criticism of the facilities at Roebourne, which were considered unsuitable for medical purposes.¹³ Later that same year, plans were made to add another ward to the existing building;¹⁴ however evidence suggests that this work was not carried out.¹⁵

During the mid-1880s, criticism of the hospital continued, with newspapers arguing that the building was 'simply a disgrace to the Colony'¹⁶ and that not

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- 6 Withnell Taylor, Nancy E., *A Saga of the North West, Yeera-Muk-A-Doo: The First Settlement of North West Australia told through the Withnell & Nancoc Families 1861-1890* (Hesperian Press, 1987), p. 79, 81, 114-115.
- 7 O'Brian Planning Consultants, *Shire of Roebourne Municipal Heritage Inventory* (Shire of Roebourne, 1996), p. 2.
- 8 Ibid., p. 101, 150.
- 9 Ibid., pp. 114-119.
- 10 'Medical Officer for Roebourne', *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 8 October 1873, p. 3.
- 11 SRO Records, Consignment No. 6931, Item No 23/504/0 bk 3, PWD Office, 'Sketch of Wooden Building for Hospital Surgery for Roebourne, November 1874', and SRO Records, Item No. 6931, Item No 23/504/0 bk 3, 'Roebourne Hospital Plan of Site, 31.8.1887'.
- 12 SRO Records, Item No. 2497/1884, Robert John Snoll, Roebourne Government Resident, 'Letter to the Colonial Secretary regarding the site for the proposed hospital at Roebourne, 18.4.1884', enclosed within SRO Records, Consignment No. 527, item No 1884/2039 J. A. O'Mecham, 'Medical Officer Roebourne – re Hospital and Medical Officer Quarters, undated'.
- 13 'The North District Constituency', *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 8 January 1879, p. 3.
- 14 SRO Records, Consignment No. 6931, Item No 23/504/0 bk 3, 'Additional Ward to the hospital at Roebourne, 11.9.1879.
- 15 No information can be found regarding the tender or construction of the 1879 addition. When complaints regarding the condition of the hospital continued during the first years of the 1880s, it is noted that the small building remained occupied by the medical officer and his family and had, in fact, been the residence of successive medical officers. This suggests that the building had not been expanded as planned. 'News in Brief', *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 5 March 1884. p. 5., and 'Occasional Notes', *The West Australian*, 8 March 1884, p. 3.
- 16 'The Roebourne Hospital', *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 21 May 1884

enough was being done to support the hospital which served the whole of the North West territory.¹⁷

Finally, in early 1885, plans were made to construct a new Medical Officer's Quarters¹⁸ at Roebourne.¹⁹ The Public Works Department accepted tenders in March 1885, a site was chosen to the west of the existing hospital building, and construction was completed by 1886.²⁰

Little is known about the Medical Officer's Quarters apart from where it was located on the *Roebourne Hospital Group* site.²¹ The plan of the building, construction materials, and date of removal from the site is unknown.

In mid-1886 the Director of Public Works was made aware that a hospital building was still required in the district, and that the gaoler had, since March 1885, been attending to the sick in the Gaol in the absence of any other public building.²² The Director acknowledged that a small cottage hospital was much needed at Roebourne and estimated its cost at £2,800, which was allocated for the following year.²³

In January 1887, the Public Works Department accepted the tender of R & A Bunning for the erection of a hospital at Roebourne,²⁴ which was built to a design by George Temple-Poole.

George Temple-Poole arrived in Western Australia from England in 1885, after completing his studies in architecture, civil engineering and mechanical engineering there, and was appointed the Superintendent of Public Works of the Imperial Service in Western Australia. While in this position, Poole designed more than 200 buildings throughout the State, including a number at Roebourne, which are some of the earliest surviving examples of his work.²⁵

The domestically-scaled new hospital building included two large wards, each 31 feet by 24 feet, as well as a ward for women, a one-bed maternity ward, and two beds for children.²⁶ The single-storey building was constructed from local stone with pointing of cement mortar, and was carefully designed in response to the climate of the North West region. The roof was high and hipped, with a separate lower skillion roof supported by cast iron columns which were able to withstanding termite attacks and extreme weather such as cyclones. The wide

17 'Legislative Council: Monday, September 8th', *The West Australian*, 11 September 1884, p. 3.

18 This building is also known as the Medical Officer's Quarters, Kitchen, Storeroom and Closet.

19 'Government Gazette: Tenders Accepted', *The West Australian*, 20 March 1885, p. 3.

20 SRO Records, Consignment No. 6931, Item No 23/504/0 bk 3, 'Roebourne Hospital: Plan of Site, 31.8.1887', and, 'Roebourne Letter', *The West Australian*, 7 January 1886, p. 3.

21 SRO Records, Consignment No. 6931, Item No 23/504/0 bk 3, 'Roebourne Hospital: Plan of Site, 31.8.1887'.

22 SRO Records, Consignment No. 527, Item No. 1886/3247, 'Gaoler Roebourne – Lack of Hospital, 15.7.1886-8.9.1886'.

23 Idem.

24 'General News', *The Inquirer & Commercial News*, 19 January 1887, p. 3

25 Oldham, Ray., and John., *George Temple-Poole: Architect of the Golden Years 1885-1897*, (1980), p. 2, 6, 7.

26 Oldham, *George Temple-Poole: Architect of the Golden Years 1885-1897*, (1980), p.15.

verandahs provided ample shade while also allowing for the circulation and ventilation of air.²⁷

The Roebourne Hospital building was completed in June 1887 in a ceremony attended by over 200 people. The ceremony combined the laying of the last stone of the hospital with the opening of the Cossack to Roebourne tramway, and the laying of the foundation stone for the Post and Telegraph Offices.²⁸ In the same year, the original timber hospital building was destroyed in a cyclone, and the remains cleared away.²⁹

The proclamation of the Pilbara Goldfields in October 1888 stimulated the development of Roebourne and created extra pressure on its hospital. To cope with the influx of population, construction began in 1889 on two additional medical buildings, a new hospital Kitchen and a building for Staff Quarters. Both these buildings were also designed by George Temple-Poole.

The new Kitchen building was completed by mid- to late-1890 to the north east of the 1887 Hospital building, and was connected to the Hospital building through a linked pavilion system. This system served a number of purposes, which included: the allowance for greater ventilation, which was particularly important in the climate; the separation of the different functions within the facility as a whole; and the provision of shaded passageways between the structures. The pavilion system was designed with future expansion in mind, allowing for another wing similar to that of the 1887 Hospital to be added in the future.³⁰ This linked bungalow pavilion system was the first of its type and was considered a great success. The Roebourne Bungalow Hospital set a precedent for the construction of medical facilities in the remote North West.³¹

The three room building for Staff Quarters was constructed to the east of the kitchen building. The single storey building was constructed from local stone, laid in courses (unlike the 1887 hospital and 1890 kitchen buildings) and had stone quoining to the corners.

No records have been located indicating whether Aboriginal people received treatment at Roebourne Hospital. While some sources note that from the 1860s it was within the Resident Magistrate's powers to provide medical treatment to Aboriginal people, and he could send Aboriginal people to the local hospital for treatment (which would usually take place in the yard or verandah),³² no evidence

²⁷ Van Bremen. Ingrid H., *The New Architecture of the Gold Boom in Western Australia Government Buildings under the direction of G. T. Poole, 1885-1897*, (University of Western Australia, 1990), p. 310.

²⁸ 'The Queen's Jubilee: Government Gazette Extraordinary', *The West Australian*, 20 June 1887, p. 3., and 'Country Jubilee Rejoices: Roebourne, June 22', *Western Mail*, 25 June 1887, p. 21.

²⁹ 'Roebourne District Hospital 1887-1987: A Century of Service to the People of the North West', by Health Department of Western Australia (1987)., and SRO Records, Consignment No. 6931, Item No 23/504/0 bk 3, 'Roebourne Hospital: Plan of Site, 31.8.1887'.

³⁰ SRO Records, Consignment No. 6931, Item No 23/504/0 bk 3, 'Roebourne Hospital' Proposed Kitchen, signed George Temple-Poole, 2.5.1889.'

³¹ Van Bremen. *The New Architecture of the Gold Boom in Western Australia Government Buildings under the direction of G. T. Poole, 1885-1897*, (1990), p. 302-303.

³² Sagger, Sherry., *Aboriginal Health and Society: The Traditional and Contemporary Aboriginal Struggle for Better Health* (Allen & Unwin, 1991), p.123.

has been found to support this practice at Roebourne. Segregated treatment was considered preferable to the refusal of treatment altogether.³³

The expansion of Roebourne continued through the 1890s and into the 1900s while the region's mining, pastoral and pearling industries were thriving. However, following the closure of the port at Cossack and the decline of the Pilbara Goldfields, the population began to decrease and development halted. This period of stagnation continued through the first half of the twentieth century, and was further exacerbated by World War One, the Great Depression, and World War Two.³⁴

The segregation of Aboriginal patients from the non-Aboriginal population became more formalised during the 1930s, and public hospitals started to provide separate 'native wards'.³⁵ In c.1951 a Nissen Hut was erected at *Roebourne Hospital Group*³⁶ and was used as a native isolation ward until the c.1960s, when it was removed from site.³⁷

In the 1960s, following the repeal of iron ore mining restrictions by the Federal Government, massive mining investment resulted in the growth of the townships of Dampier, Wickham and Karratha.³⁸ In 1975, the offices of the Shire of Roebourne were relocated from Roebourne to Karratha, where a new hospital was also established. This was adopted as one of the Pilbara's two main hospitals, which resulted in the downgrading of *Roebourne Hospital Group* to a regional, albeit still practicing, medical outpost.

Despite the general decline of Roebourne, during the early 1980s the hospital site was redeveloped and a new ward constructed using transportable buildings from the old Dampier Hospital.³⁹ The new facilities were opened in March 1984 by the Minister of Health.⁴⁰

In January 1994, *Roebourne Hospital Group* (then named 'Roebourne Hospital & Kitchen') was entered on to the State Register of Heritage Places on an interim basis. 'Roebourne Hospital/Kitchen' and was added to the Shire of Roebourne's Municipal Heritage Inventory in 1996.

In 2010 an updated physical assessment of the *Roebourne Hospital Group* was undertaken. A number of the original structures remain on site, the majority of which are no longer used for their original intended purpose but still form part of a medical complex. The 1887 Roebourne Hospital building and the Former Quarters are both used for storage, while the Kitchen Block still retains its original use.

In 2012/13, *Roebourne Hospital Group* continues to support medical care to the local community of Roebourne.

33 Sagger, *Aboriginal Health and Society* (1991), p.123.

34 O'Brian Planning Consultants, *Shire of Roebourne Municipal Heritage Inventory* (1996), p10, 15.

35 Sagger, *Aboriginal Health and Society* (1991), p.124.

36 'North-West Medical Facilities Criticised' *Northern Times*, 19 July 1951, p. 8.

37 The exact date for the removal of the Nissen Hut is unknown. The last record of it being on site is: 'Roebourne Hospital Repairs and Renovations – Block Plan, Drawing No. 1', dated 14.11.1963.

38 O'Brian Planning Consultants, *Shire of Roebourne Municipal Heritage Inventory* (1996), p15.

39 'Place No 41: Roebourne Hospital/Kitchen' in Shire of Roebourne, *Shire of Roebourne Municipal Heritage Inventory*, (1996).

40 Plaque in reception of Roebourne Hospital.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Roebourne Hospital Group is a group of single storey buildings located at 51 Hampton Street, Roebourne.

Named in 1866 after WA's first Surveyor, General John Septimus Roe. Roebourne is a town of 1,150 people and is located 39 kilometres east of Karratha on the banks of the Harding River.

Roebourne Hospital Group is located on the eastern side of Hampton Street. Hampton Street also contains the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Roebourne Primary School & Quarters (fmr), and Mount Welcome House. *Roebourne Hospital Group* is also located near to other stone buildings in the town, including the gaol, courthouse and police buildings.

The facilities at *Roebourne Hospital Group* includes coronary care, emergency, home and community care, library, maternity, nursing home, occupational therapy, outpatients, paediatrics, pathology, pharmacy, physiotherapy, radiology and speech therapy.

The *Roebourne Hospital Group* site contains the following elements:

- 1887 Hospital Building
- Kitchen Block
- Former Quarters
- Former Laundry Block
- Main Hospital Block A
- Outpatients Block B
- Garage
- Metal Storage Shed
- Sewer Pump & Transformer

1887 Hospital Building

The 1887 Hospital Building is a single-storey randomly laid local stone building with pointing of cement mortar. The roof is hipped and clad with corrugated metal sheeting with no gutters or downpipes. The building has verandahs around all sides under a separate corrugated metal roof supported by round metal posts with decorative cast iron heads and bases. The windows are generally timber framed double hung sashes with timber shutters.

Internally the 1887 Hospital building has plastered and painted walls, with timber or concrete floors beneath the carpet or linoleum to the floors. In 2009 the building is used for staff, training and physiotherapy, as well as providing storage rooms.

This building appears to be in a good condition, has a high degree of authenticity and a high degree of integrity. The 1887 Hospital building has considerable significance.

Kitchen Block (1889)

The Kitchen appears to have been used for this purpose since its construction in 1889. It is a single storey randomly laid local stone building with pointing of cement mortar. The roof is hipped and clad with corrugated metal sheeting. Originally a rectangular shaped building with verandahs to all sides, the building now has the verandahs to the north and east infilled and two further rooms added to the southern elevation. The verandahs are under a separate roof supported by round steel posts. The windows are generally sets of three timber framed casements.

Internally the kitchen building is tiled to walls and floors in the food preparation areas. Elsewhere the walls are plastered and painted. The original randomly laid local stone wall is clearly evident internally in the later added verandah infill rooms.

Despite the later additions and verandah infills, the original building is clearly readable beneath.

This building appears to be in a good condition, has a medium to high degree of authenticity and a high degree of integrity. The Kitchen building has considerable significance.

Former Quarters (1889)

The Former Quarters is a single storey local stone building with a hipped corrugated iron roof with no gutters and downpipes. The stonework is laid in courses (unlike the 1887 hospital and kitchen buildings) and has stone quoining to the corners. The quarters building is a simple three room building with verandahs to the west and east elevations. The verandah to the east is particularly wide and supported by square timber posts, whilst the verandah to the west is supported by round iron posts with decorative cast iron heads and bases.

Internally the Former Quarters has a raked timber board lined ceiling and plastered and painted walls.

This building appears to be in a fair condition, has a high degree of authenticity and a high degree of integrity. The Former Quarters has considerable significance.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Colonial Hospitals & Bungalow Hospitals

Hospital building in Colonial Western Australia was heavily influenced by the increasingly popular approach in nineteenth century Europe for improved conditions of healthcare based on the principles of isolation and separation, ventilation, supervision and sunlight. These principles were translated into the design of colonial hospitals by the separation and isolation of function, and the linking of these areas through covered walkways. Additions to the Colonial Hospital in Perth (P4289 *Royal Perth Hospital Precinct*) in 1885 and 1894, and construction of the Geraldton Hospital (entered on to the State Register as

P1048 *Bill Sewell Community Recreation Complex*) in 1887, adopted these principles.⁴¹

When hospitals were introduced to Western Australia's North West in the late nineteenth century, the established design principles had to adapt to accommodate the difficulties of the climate of the area (tropical cyclones, heavy rainfall and intense heat), which led to the adoption of Bungalow Hospitals, whereby separate single-storey verandahed hospital buildings were linked together by a covered walkway. The first of this type of hospital to be built was Roebourne Hospital in 1887.⁴²

The original PWD plans for Roebourne's Bungalow Hospital show that it was designed with climatic conditions in mind, with each of the proposed buildings connected together by a series of covered walkways.⁴³ This design not only separated the functions of each building, but the walkways and verandahs provided ventilation and ample shade from the sun or rain.

The 1885-86 and 1889 Quarters were freestanding and not connected to the hospital buildings by covered walkways, possibly because it would have been considered inappropriate, and unhealthy, to house staff in such closely linked proximity to patients.

The Bungalow Hospital design was adopted at other North West hospitals, including those at Derby (1896), Marble Bar (1897) and Onslow (included within P3444 *Old Onslow Townsite*) (1896-97). Outside of the North West region, Bungalow Hospitals were also constructed at Southern Cross (1893), Coolgardie (P572 Coolgardie Hospital (fmr)) (1894) and Cue (P3616 Old Cue Hospital) (1896).⁴⁴

Of these six Bungalow Hospitals, only three are entered into the State Heritage Office database. These are:

- Onslow Hospital (1896-97), entered on to the State Register as part of P3444 *Old Onslow Townsite* – hospital structure now ruinous.
- P572 Coolgardie Hospital (fmr) (1894) – extant, currently functioning as Coolgardie Health Centre. Condition unknown, although presumed good.
- P3616 Old Cue Hospital (1896) – comprising several stone buildings, all of which are now ruins.

Further research has not revealed any information regarding the Bungalow Hospitals at Derby (1896), Marble Bar (1897), and Southern Cross (1893). It is unknown if these buildings are extant.

Excluding P572 Coolgardie Hospital (1894), which is presumably in good condition as it is currently being used as a health centre, those Bungalow

⁴¹ Van Bremen. *The New Architecture of the Gold Boom in Western Australia Government Buildings under the direction of G. T. Poole, 1885-1897*, (1990), p. 302-307.

⁴² Ibid., p. 309.

⁴³ PWD plans for Roebourne Hospital show a proposed second, mirrored, hospital wing to the north of the 1887 hospital building, which would be linked together by verandahed walkways with an administration and quarters block in the centre. SRO Records, Consignment No. 6931, Item No 23/504/0 bk 3, 'Roebourne Hospital: Plan of Site, 31.8.1887'.

⁴⁴ Van Bremen. *The New Architecture of the Gold Boom in Western Australia Government Buildings under the direction of G. T. Poole, 1885-1897*, (1990), 310-314.

Hospitals identified as contemporary to Roebourne Hospital are either in a ruinous state, or there is inadequate information to determine whether they are extant. On the basis of the available evidence, Roebourne Hospital is not only the earliest, but also one of the few surviving Bungalow Hospitals in Western Australia.

Government Hospitals

Hospitals constructed in Western Australia can be separated into two categories: government hospitals and private (non-government) hospitals. As *Roebourne Hospital Group* was constructed by the government, it will be compared to other purpose-built government hospitals.

The 296 Hospitals, former Hospitals and sites of Hospitals included in the State Heritage Office database few are purpose-built government hospitals which predate the construction of the original (1874) hospital at *Roebourne Hospital Group*. Of those examples which do predate *Roebourne Hospital Group*, the majority are hospitals constructed to provide healthcare for prisoners. Examples of this group include:

- P1915 *Lynton Convict Hiring Depot (Ruins)* in Yallabatharra, Northampton – constructed between 1853 and 1856 (and closed in 1856), a hospital building was amongst some of the buildings constructed.
- P1048 *Bill Sewell Community Recreation Complex* in Geraldton – originally a convict depot, a surgery was first introduced to the site in 1862, extended into a small hospital in 1864 (demolished in 1897), A purpose-built hospital building was constructed in 1887.
- P5701 Convict Depot & Commissariat (fmr) – site, in Bunbury – constructed from 1851 to 1853, the place included a hospital building.
- P5322 Convict Hospital Site, Busselton - Constructed from 1869, now demolished. Site is occupied by commercial premises.
- P521 The Lodge (Native Prison/Hospital (fmr)) on Rottnest Island – constructed in 1864. Entered on to the State Register as part of P516 *Thompson Bay Settlement*, Rottnest Island.

It is likely there are other prisoner hospitals, extant or otherwise, comparable to the above, which have not been included in local Municipal Inventories and therefore have not been entered into State Heritage Office database.

Other than the hospitals for the imprisoned, early government constructed hospitals provided healthcare to the public.

The State Heritage Office database only identifies one public hospitals which predate *Roebourne Hospital Group*. This is:

- Colonial Hospital (N Block) of P4289 *Royal Perth Hospital Precinct*, which was constructed in 1855 as Western Australia's first public hospital.

Other early hospitals include:

- P2734 Williams District Hospital (1882) – Demolished.
- P69 Albany Cottage Hospital (1887) (entered onto the State Register as *Vancouver Arts Centre Group*)

- P7081 Katanning Hospital (fmr) (1892)
- P2563 Newcastle Hospital (fmr) (1894)

Based on the above analysis, *Roebourne Hospital Group* was the second public hospital to be constructed in Western Australia.

Regional Hospitals

As well as being only the second public hospitals to be constructed in Western Australia, *Roebourne Hospital Group* is one of the earliest surviving regional hospitals.

During the early colonial period, the lack of sizeable populations outside of Perth meant that there was minimal demand for hospitals beyond the Colonial Hospital in Perth. However, as the population of the colony started to spread through the State, medical facilities were established in regional areas to attend to the growing pockets of population.⁴⁵ Some of the earliest hospitals to be opened outside of Perth were temporary hospitals, and are recorded as being erected as early as 1830 in Augusta and 1838 in Albany.⁴⁶

As previously discussed, hospitals were also located at the regional centres of Northampton (1853-1856), Geraldton (1862, 1887), Bunbury (1851), Busselton (1859), however, excluding Geraldton's 1887 hospital, none of these regional hospitals remain extant.

Hospitals in the North West

The above provides further evidence that *Roebourne Hospital Group* was the earliest hospital to be constructed in the North West region of Western Australia. The hospital at Roebourne served the whole north west of the colony from its establishment in 1874 until the 1890s when other hospitals were built at Derby, Marble Bar and Onslow.

George Temple-Poole

George Temple-Poole's association with *Roebourne Hospital Group* is also notable. During Poole's employment with the Public Works Department (WA) from 1885 to 1897, he was responsible for the design of more than 200 buildings throughout the State. Of these, 83 are included on the State Heritage Office database, of which 64 are entered on to the State Register of Heritage Places.

Poole's first major building project after his appointment as Superintendent of Public Works was undertaken in the State's north in Roebourne. At Roebourne, Poole's distinctive government architecture dominates the townscape, giving it a unique identity. In addition to *Roebourne Hospital Group*, he was responsible for the design of these elements of P2319 *Roebourne Police Station, Gaol & Court House Precinct*.

- Roebourne Gaol (1886)
- Roebourne Court House (1886)
- Cell Block (1887)

⁴⁵ Hansford-Miller, Frank., *A History of Medicine in Western Australia 1829-1970, Volume Two: Hospital Services in Early Colonial Western Australia* (Abcado Publishers, 1997), p. 122-123.

⁴⁶ Ibid, p. 122-124.

- Kitchen Day Room (1887)
- Police Constables Quarters (1887)
- Roebourne Police Station (1896)
- Small Cell Blocks (1896)
- Octagonal Native Prison (1896)
- Lockup (1896)
- Warder's Quarters (1896)
- Gaoler's Quarters (1896)
- Stone Stables (1896)

as well as:

- Roebourne Post Office, Telegraph Station and Quarters (one building) (1887). Entered on the State Register as P2334 *Roebourne Post Office*.
- P2341 *Roebourne Primary School & Quarters (fmr)* (1891)

Also during the mid to late 1880s, Poole was responsible for the design of almost thirty other government buildings throughout the State. However, none of these buildings were constructed as part of such an intensive program as was seen in Roebourne during the 1880s.⁴⁷

Poole's building program at Roebourne was not only one of his most substantial and concentrated, but as a significant amount of it was part of his first major project in Western Australia and includes some of his earliest surviving work, the collection at Roebourne, including *Roebourne Hospital Group*, is an excellent surviving example of Poole's earliest work in Western Australia.⁴⁸

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research may reveal additional information regarding the 1885-86 Medical Officer's Quarters, Kitchen, Storeroom and Closet, particularly its plan, construction materials, and date of removal from site.

⁴⁷ 'Appendix K', in Oldham, *George Temple-Poole: Architect of the Golden Years 1885-1897*, (1980), p.198-200.

⁴⁸ *ibid.*