



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)

- 4.3 Developing urban institutions
- 6.2 Establishing schools

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education & science

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE**

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is significant for its aesthetic characteristics, being a substantial building of the Georgian Revival style. The proportions of the facade are finely balanced and, although ornamentation is restrained, considerable attention has been given to the detailing of the building. Interior spaces are also of pleasant proportions, with lofty ceilings, and most classrooms have large windows that provide good natural lighting. (Criterion 1.1)

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is significant for the innovation of its design. The design for this building and two other Infants' Schools, at Fremantle and North Cottesloe, was developed by Hillson Beasley during 1914, and was intended to be a model for future Infants' Schools in Western Australia. (Criterion 1.2)

The south elevation of *1915 Block, Albany Primary School* contributes to the aesthetic qualities of the streetscape of Albany Highway. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is representative of the development of educational facilities in Albany. It was constructed in 1914-15, during which time Albany was expanding as a centre for the developing hinterland. (Criterion 2.1)

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is significant for its association with Chief Architect of the PWD, Hillson Beasley, to whom the original design of the school may be attributed. He was a major architect in the field of design of

* Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

public buildings in Western Australia in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. (Criterion 2.3)

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is significant as it was a model for a new and innovative Infants' School plan developed in 1914. It was one of the first three Western Australian schools built to this plan in 1914-15. The linear plan with a wide verandah that served as outdoor teaching space was developed in keeping with the educational principles of Montessori, and was designed to facilitate the introduction and practice of the new methodology in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

1915 Block, Albany Primary School demonstrates innovation in school building design and construction. The place was used as a model for the new design of Infants' School in Western Australia and was one of three places built to this design in 1914-15. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is valued by the community of Albany for its educational and social associations with the community since its completion in 1915. (Criterion 4.1)

1915 Block, Albany Primary School contributes to the community's sense of place due to many local residents having been educated at the place and the place's relatively prominent location within the city. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is considered to have some rarity as a largely intact example of an open air teaching school type popular in the first half of the twentieth century and is reinforced by it being one of the first three such schools built. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is representative of several educational institutions that were established in the early decades of the 20th Century and which have been used continuously by the Education Department of Western Australia as a primary school. Typically, these schools contain a main classroom block that dates to the establishment of the school on the site, and a collection of secondary buildings of various ages, which were added to meet increased accommodation requirements and as education practices changed. (Criterion 6.2)

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is representative of the type of Infants' School that was developed in 1914 and considered the best model for this type of school until the early 1920s but which was further developed with a reduced verandah until the 1950s. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The place was found to be in a good state of repair, and it would appear that maintenance is carried out regularly. Finishes, both internal and external,

were found to be in fair to good condition. No significant defects of the building fabric were noted.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The place has a high degree of integrity. The intended function of the place, as a primary school, has been maintained and is evidently sustainable. *1915 Block, Albany Primary School*, containing classrooms and an administration area, has retained its central role on the site, and its frontage onto the Albany Highway remains the public face of the school complex.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

1915 Block, Albany Primary School has a high degree of authenticity, particularly when compared to other schools of a similar age.

The original layout of the building and architectural form has largely been preserved, and many of the original fittings are extant.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Don Wallace of Kevin Palassis Architects. Comparative analysis and assessment has been compiled by a team comprising the authors of the documentary and physical evidence and Ian Boersma, also of Kevin Palassis Architects. The documentation has been amended by HCWA staff to focus on the *1915 block*.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Albany Primary School was known as the Albany Infants' School from its completion in 1915 to the 1960s, in which period the first three years of primary education in Western Australia were defined as Infants. There was a general change in nomenclature from Infants to Junior Primary in the 1960s, which was reflected in the changed names of the former Infants' Schools. From the 1960s to 1974, *Albany Primary School* was known as the Albany Junior Primary School. In 1974, Albany Primary School was amalgamated with Albany Junior Primary School in Albany Highway, Albany, and henceforth the combined school has been known as Albany Primary School. In the Documentary Evidence which follows Albany Primary School, located in Albany Highway, Albany, is referred to by the name by which it was known in each historic period, i.e. Albany Infants' School (1915-1960s), Albany Junior Primary (1960s-1974), and Albany Primary School from 1974.¹

Albany Primary School comprises *1915 Block, Albany Primary School*, Special Teaching and Sports Store (former shelter shed and canteen), P&C Teaching Block (Bristol Prefab), Cluster Block, Dental Clinic, Teaching and Resource Centre, and Covered Assembly and Toilet Block.

The first school established in Albany was a small private school, known as a 'dame's school', established by Mrs. Stephan Knight, c. 1840.² Circa 1861, the first Government School at Albany opened in soldiers' quarters, near what is

¹ Note: The former Albany School on Serpentine Road was also once known as Albany Primary School. Here, that school shall be referred to as 'Albany (Primary) School'.

² 'Education in Albany' in *Albany Advertiser* 27 July 1924.

now Lawley Park.³ This was succeeded c. 1871 by a Government subsidised brick building constructed by the local authorities on the site of the present courthouse in Stirling Terrace, which sufficed until the 1890s.⁴

The Elementary Education Act of 1871, placed education in the hands of a Central Board of Education, which was assisted by district boards of education. The Plantagenet District School Board controlled education in Albany and its associated districts to 1909.

In the 1890s, with the Gold Boom in Western Australia, the port of Albany prospered and the town expanded. A new school was needed to cater to the increased population, and in 1894, Albany Town Lots 124 and 125 were purchased for this purpose at a cost of £1,750.⁵ In 1895, the first section of the new school was occupied at Collie Street, and the building was opened officially in 1896, in which year the construction of the Courthouse was commenced on the site of the earlier school in Stirling Terrace.⁶ With the continued increase in population, more school accommodation was required, and a new Infants' School was constructed at Lots 124 and 125 at the York Street side of the site.⁷ It opened at this site in January 1899, with 101 children attending, which increased to 140 in 1900.⁸ In 1902, the house on the lot adjoining the Albany schools, Albany Town Lot 109, was purchased for use as the Headmaster's House at a cost of £1,650.⁹ All of the above buildings have continued in use for educational purposes through the twentieth century.

From 1900, the school population in Albany continued to increase, with a consequent shortage of accommodation at the school. In February 1912, a deputation of the Albany School Board waited on the Minister for Education to discuss 'the necessity for increasing the accommodation available.'¹⁰ The *Albany Advertiser* reported:

New premises were badly wanted for the cooking school, while attention was directed to the need of extending the present school buildings and the school site and grounds. The question of acquiring a new site was one worthy of consideration in order that more up-to-date and commodious premises in keeping with the progress of the town might be provided.¹¹

In 1912, the average attendance at the Infants' School was 150.¹² However, on occasion there were 168 children attending, and the need for increased accommodation well recognised.¹² In June 1913, lack of sufficient accommodation for the junior pupils at the school resulted in children being accommodated for a period at the Mechanics' Institute.¹³ The use of temporary accommodation was common in the period.

As there was not sufficient land for additional buildings at the site in central Albany, a site was sought for the erection of a new Infants' School. In August

³ Hicks, Bonnie 'Albany's Schools' n. d., p. 1. (Copies of this document can be found at Albany Local Studies collection, Battye Library and the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ School Journal Albany Infants' School, 1899-1912, 30 January 1899, and 22 January 1900. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 1.

⁸ Hicks, Bonnie op. cit., p. 1.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ *Albany Advertiser* 12 February 1912, p. 3.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² School Journal Albany Infants' School, 1899-1912. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 1, 1912.

¹³ *Albany Advertiser*, 14 June 1913, p. 3.

1913, the Minister for Education announced that the money necessary for the purchase of a new site for a new Infants' School at Albany had been included in the Estimates.¹⁴ It was reported that 'the new site would remove the inconveniences complained of by citizens'; however, the Minister would not divulge the exact location, stating 'I don't want to put another £10,000 on the price of the land.'¹⁵ In September 1913, the Crown resumed the site at Albany Suburban Lots 30 and 31, on the Perth Road, four acres in area, for the purpose of a school site.¹⁶

The choice of site did not meet with universal approval in Albany. Reverend A. W. Bray, Secretary of the Plantagenet School Board, voiced the Board's strong disapproval of the selection of this site rather than the more centrally located site at the corner of Ulster and Perth Roads, which the Minister for Works had agreed was a superior site.¹⁷ He contended that the site was unsuitable for several reasons:

... it lies beneath the level of the crown of the main road, and sinks away in two directions from the frontage, ending at the lower end in swampy ground where the fog hovers in winter. ... the children will have to pass close to a public-house four times a day, going and coming from school. This is in no place deemed a good and proper condition of school attendance.¹⁸

Other Albany residents supported the choice of site. A. Gerdes 'On behalf of several ratepayers' wrote to the *Albany Advertiser* pointing out that with a distance of only two and a half chains between the two sites, both were centrally located, and both were similarly located in relation to the hotel.¹⁹ He mentioned the current use of Lots 30 and 31 for football, 'ideal in their contour and texture for that purpose', and he stated that the selected site was firmer and better drained ground overall than the Ulster Road site.²⁰ The attributes of the selected site at Lots 30 and 31 were noted, for in contrast with the irregular trapezoid shape of the Ulster Road site, it was:

... a rectangle 'eight chains by five chains (about) lending itself admirably to all the purposes of the school - educational, buildings, recreational, drill - and even the small corner of moist ground, exaggerated into a swamp by Mr. Bray, will be a useful adjunct, being admirably adapted for a school garden, the lack of which is felt at the present school.'²¹

The School Board made representations to the Minister for Education and to the Public Works Department, and a public petition was organised also to protest the choice of site; however, these efforts were to no avail.²² On 31 January 1914, the *Albany Advertiser* reported that the site at Albany Suburban Lots 30 and 31 had been 'secured by the Government on the Perth Road' for the erection of the new Albany Infants' School, and levels had been taken for the new building.²³ The West Australian Trustee Co., as executors of the will of the late John McKail, claimed the sum of £1,200 in compensation, whilst the Crown offered only £600 for the site.²⁴ In September 1914, the claim was

¹⁴ Ibid, 27 August 1913, p. 3.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid, 12 September 1914, p. 2.

¹⁷ Ibid, 24 September 1913, p. 4.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid, 27 September 1913, p. 4.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid, 31 January 1914, p. 3.

²⁴ Ibid, 12 September 1914, p. 2.

arbitrated at the Albany Courthouse before Justice Booth, who determined that an increased amount should be paid above that offered by the Crown, which should include also an additional sum in respect of the improvements to the land, and for the compulsory resumption.²⁵ Albany Suburban Lots 30 and 31 were duly transferred to the Crown on 1 September 1915.²⁶

On 22 October 1913, the *Albany Advertiser* reported that the £20,000 set aside in the Estimates for new works by the Minister for Education included 'New school and quarters at Albany (infants and senior)'.²⁷

In January 1914, plans for a new Infants' School at Albany were drawn and signed by Hillson Beasley, Chief Architect, PWD.²⁸

The educational philosophy of Maria Montessori had begun to influence educational ideology and practices in Western Australia from 1912. As the Education Department of Western Australia began to adopt some of Montessori's methodology changes were required in the design of buildings and classroom furniture. The Report of the Education Department for 1913 advised of the new plans drawn for Infants' Schools in the State, and included as the example of the new plan a copy of the ground plan for Albany Infants' School, drawn by Hillson Beasley in April 1914.²⁹

The innovative design was characterised by a 20' wide verandah, preferably sited on the north side of the building, in contrast with earlier Western Australian school designs in which the verandah was generally located on the south. Locating the wide verandah to take advantage of the sunlight in all seasons, with all classrooms opening directly onto it, was in keeping with Montessori's philosophy. One half was designed to provide for open air teaching in all seasons, and the other half was to provide an open and sheltered area for the children to eat lunch. It was intended that this would remove the need for shelter sheds, which had been provided at most new schools for the latter purpose from c. 1908.³⁰ New designs of light weight school chairs and tables were introduced, 'which can easily be moved by the children, so that in fine weather much of the teaching can be carried on in the open air.'³¹

²⁵ Ibid. Note: The amounts awarded are not legible on the copy of the newspaper on microfilm at Battye Library, due to damage to the copy of the newspaper microfilmed.

²⁶ Certificate of Title, Albany Suburban Lots 30 and 31. Vol. 627 Fol. 179. 1 September 1915.

²⁷ *Albany Advertiser* 22 October 1913, p. 3.

²⁸ PWDWA 1779, 17 January 1914.

Biographical Note: Hillson Beasley (b. England, 1855) was educated at Sheffield, and trained as an architect in Dover, before working as an architect in London, Carlisle, and Oxford. In 1883, he immigrated to South Africa, from whence he travelled to Melbourne in 1886, where he opened his own practice. In Melbourne, Beasley gained the diploma of Associate of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, before travelling to Western Australia in 1896, at the height of the Western Australian Gold Boom. He joined the Public Works Department as a draughtsman, and then became Chief Draughtsman on the appointment of John F. Grainger as Chief Architect, whom he succeeded in this position in 1905. (Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (Cyclopaedia Co., Perth, 1912-13) p. 499.)

²⁹ Report of the Education Department for 1913, p. 7 and opposite p. 42, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1914, Vol. 1.

³⁰ Report of the Education Department for 1908, p. 7, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1909, Vol. 1.

³¹ Report of the Education Department for 1914, p. 7, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1915, Vol. 1.

In May 1914, tenders were called for the construction of Albany Infants' School, which is part of the present Administration and Teaching Block.³² The tender of A. Thomson at a cost of £2,073/2/4 was accepted in early July, with completion due by the 30 January 1915, and construction of the place began shortly thereafter.³³

In 1914, 37 new schools were built in Western Australia, including the new Albany Infants' School.³⁴ It was constructed at Albany Suburban Lots 30 and 31 on the Perth Road, now Albany Highway. Constructed of brick, timber, and iron, the place comprised four classrooms, each 26' x 22', with a raised platform on one side, and a fireplace located in one of the corners nearest the windows.³⁵ Each classroom had three windows to Perth Road (now Albany Highway) on one side, and one window on the other side to the verandah, to which each room opened.³⁶ The timber verandah was divided into equal sections, 47' x 20', one part for 'Open Air' use by the children, and the other for 'Teaching' in the open air.³⁷ Twin ramps led from each half of the verandah to the playground.³⁸ Two hat rooms, 19' 6" x 11', of timber weatherboard construction, were located at either end of the verandah, and opened from the verandah through double doors.³⁹ Five wash basins were fitted in each hat room.⁴⁰ The 'Teachers (sic) Room', 15' x 10', was centrally located with two classrooms to either side, and with a store opening into the entry area, which opened to the 'Open Air' section of the verandah.⁴¹ The Teachers (sic) Room had one window towards the road, and a fireplace was located in the corner of the room.⁴² All entry to the school was from the verandah.⁴³ Latrines for the girls and boys were located at some distance from the rear of the school building, with paths leading to each across the playground.⁴⁴

Albany Infants' School was completed in January 1915, and 50 Montessori tables and chairs for Infants' in Room 1, and 25 Standard I Dual desks were transported to the school from Perth for Standard I in Room 4, with 60 Infants' Dual Desks were transferred from the previous site at Albany for Infants classes in Rooms 2 and 3.⁴⁵

On 26 January 1915, the Albany Infants' School Head Teacher, Miss Culley, recorded in the School Journal that school had assembled after the Christmas vacation, and 'The Infant School has been transferred to new building on

³² *Government Gazette* 15 May 1915, p. 2066.

³³ *Government Gazette* 3 July 1915, p. 2515; and Director of Education to Head Teacher, 3 July 1915. Albany Infants' School Correspondence, 1914-15. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1923/1 Item 1.

³⁴ Report of the Education Department for 1914, p. 7, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1915, Vol. 1.

³⁵ Albany Infants (sic) School, Ground Plan, Hillson Beasley, Chief Architect, 27 April 1914.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Albany Infants' School 17 January 1914, signed Hillson Beasley.

⁴⁵ Albany Infants' School Correspondence, 1914-15. Arrangements for Seating Accommodation, Education Department, Perth memorandum to Head Teacher, Albany Infants' School, 5 January 1915. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1923/1 Item 1.

Perth Road.⁴⁶ It catered for children aged five to eight, i.e. Infants and Standard I classes. The average student attendance for the first week was 138, which increased to 143 in the second week, and reached as high as 160.8 in November.⁴⁷

In 1915, teachers at the new Albany Infants' School adapted to the new school plan and teaching practices. Evidently the Head Teacher had expected the school to be equipped with shelter sheds in keeping with previous practices; however, her inquiry to the Department brought the response that

in buildings of the type of the ordinary infants' school it is not intended to provide shelter sheds. It is considered that the verandah space of the school is quite sufficient for the purpose.⁴⁸

Two shelter sheds were transferred to the school after World War Two.⁴⁹

In April 1915, the Head Teacher of Albany Infants' School was advised that there was no intention to close up the Open Air space at the school, and 'If it is too boisterous at any time to use the verandah for teaching purposes the children must be taken inside.'⁵⁰ At an unknown date, canvas blinds were hung at the verandah, which were replaced in the early 1930s.

In April 1915, authority was given to the PWD for the necessary expenditure to provide a small store room under the verandah at Albany Infants' School.⁵¹

On 7 May 1915, Miss Culley wrote to the Acting Inspector General of Forests requesting a supply of trees for the school grounds.⁵² She was advised that such requests should be forwarded through the proper channels in future, and that the Manager of the State Nursery had been instructed to despatch from the Hamel Nursery a selection of trees 'suitable for the locality' as soon as possible.⁵³ In August, the Inspector of schools noted that the grounds were very wet, and that some work was 'urgently needed'.⁵⁴

The Albany (Primary) School, at the corner of Collie and Serpentine Roads, continued to cater from Standards II to VI for children aged nine to 12. In 1918, a secondary school was established at Albany, and accommodated in the building formerly occupied by the Albany Infants' School at the Primary School at York Street, prior to the construction and completion of the purpose built Albany Senior High School in 1925.⁵⁵

Another innovation in school building design in Western Australia in keeping with Montessori's philosophy was the 'Pavilion' type classroom, which was

⁴⁶ School Journal Albany Infants' School 1925 (sic) -51. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, 26 January 1915.

⁴⁷ School Journal Albany Infants' School 1925 (sic) -51. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, 1915.

⁴⁸ Letter from Director of Education to Head Teacher, Albany Infants' School. Albany Infants' School Correspondence, op. cit., 4 February 1915.

⁴⁹ Albany Infants (sic) School Additions Removal and Re-erection of Young's Siding School, PWD WA 32436, 21 August 1950.

⁵⁰ Letter to Head Teacher, Albany Infants' School from Director of Education. Albany Infants' School Correspondence, op. cit., 13 April 1915.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Letter to Head Teacher from Acting Inspector General of Forests. Ibid, 20 May 1915.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Inspector's Book, 1909-21. Albany Infants' School. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1924 Item 2, 12 August 1915.

⁵⁵ Hicks, op. cit., p. 3.

introduced in Western Australia from 1913-4.⁵⁶ These classrooms were of timber weatherboard and iron construction, with sliding canvas shutters on three sides, and the fourth side of timber weatherboard with the blackboard fitted to the interior of this side.⁵⁷ The Report of the Education Department for 1914, stated that 'Work in them is carried on largely under open air conditions, and thorough ventilation can always be secured.'⁵⁸ Having proved satisfactory in 1913-4, with some of the 'Pavilion' classrooms in use 'almost throughout the year' in the Perth metropolitan area, many classrooms of this type were erected in Western Australia from 1915, 'in place of the addition of more permanent buildings.'⁵⁹ Photographs of the exterior and interior of a 'Pavilion' classroom were included in the Report of the Education Department for 1914.⁶⁰ Enthusiasm for 'Pavilion' classrooms waned by the mid-1930s, as many teachers found them uncomfortably cold in winter, and unpleasantly hot in summer, and their use as classrooms declined.⁶¹

The numbers of children attending the Albany Infants' School continued to increase from an average attendance of 163.75 students in 1914, to 182 in 1916, with consequent overcrowding and lack of accommodation for the highest class, organisation at the school was 'difficult'.⁶² In November 1916, the Inspector of Schools recorded that the playground area was 'excellent', and 'well grassed'.⁶³ As in many other schools in Western Australia, the solution to the shortage of accommodation was the construction of a new 'Pavilion' classroom. In November 1918, tenders were called for the construction of a 'Pavilion' classroom at Albany Infants' School., and J. Beetham's tender was accepted at a cost of £274/12.⁶⁴ The site at which it was positioned at Albany Infants' School (*Albany Primary School*) has not been ascertained, and nor has its later fate.

In the post World War One period, the enrolment and attendances at the Albany Infants' School increased further, to 256 on the roll with 233 attending in the first week of the school year in 1922.⁶⁵ Thus there was a need for increased accommodation at the place. In 1922, alterations were made to a 'Pavilion' classroom, which was removed from Northam and re-erected at Albany Infants' School.⁶⁶ The position at which it was located and its later fate have not been ascertained.

In the 1920s and early 1930s, the Governors of Western Australia resumed the practice of spending part of the summer at their marine summer residence,

⁵⁶ Report of the Education Department for 1914, p. 7, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1915, Vol. 1.

⁵⁷ Report of the Education Department for 1914, p. 7, and photograph, opposite p. 50, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1915, Vol. 1.

⁵⁸ Ibid, p. 7.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid, opposite p. 50.

⁶¹ Report of the Education Department for 1937, p. 7, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1938. Note: Many pavilions were later modified for continued educational use.

⁶² Summary of Attendance Returns 1911-16. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1922 Item 2; and Albany Infants' School Correspondence, op. cit.; School Journal Albany Infants' School 1925 (sic) -51. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, 1914-18; and Inspector's Book, op. cit., 13 November 1916.

⁶³ Inspector's Book, ibid.

⁶⁴ *Government Gazette* 15 November 1918, p. 1751; and 3 January 1919, p. 8.

⁶⁵ School Journal Albany Infants' School, op. cit., 1918-22.

⁶⁶ PWD WA 22197, 14 August 1922.

which had been 'The Rocks' at Albany since 1913.⁶⁷ Sometimes visits were made to the local schools. Most notably during his term as Governor, Sir William Campion, Lady Campion, and the Governor's suite visited the Albany Infants' School in 1924, 1925, 1928, and 1930, on each occasion granting the customary day's holiday to the delight of the school children.⁶⁸

There was little change to Albany Infants' School in the period 1925 to 1950, in common with most schools in Western Australia in this period. The observance of Arbor Day had become a part of the school calendar, and on 12 June 1925, an unrecorded number of trees were planted at Albany Infants' School.⁶⁹ The celebration of Centenary Day on 13 September 1929, was also the occasion for each class to prepare a place for a commemorative tree to be planted 'on the first rainy day'.⁷⁰ The species and location(s) of these plantings were not recorded in the School Journal, and it is not known whether any remain extant in 1999.

In 1931, Albany Infants' School held a number of fundraising events, including a concert at the Albany Town Hall in November which raised £33/17/9 after expenses, to raise funds for 'improvements to the verandah, playground, and general funds'.⁷¹ Details of the improvements were not recorded, other than the renewal of the canvas blinds to the verandah.⁷²

On 3 August 1935, a committee of men from the Parents' and Citizens' Association went to the Albany Infants' School and planted 'a row of Peppermint trees to act as a break-wind in winter and shelter for Summer (sic)'.⁷³

A drawing dated 16 September 1936, shows the gravelled playing area at the rear of the school, the girls and boys earth closets, and a sketch of a building 30' 6" X 20' 6" beside the path to the boys earth closets.⁷⁴ It is likely that this was the initial plan and that it was drawn for the re-erection of another classroom at Albany Infants' School, for it corresponds to the dimensions and location of the Torbay classroom transferred to the place from Torbay in 1946.⁷⁵ On 27 November 1936, the Head Teacher at Albany Infants' School recorded 'Renovators doing out the various Class rooms (sic)'; however, no details of the renovation work were recorded.⁷⁶

By 1940, the Albany Infants' School had been enclosed with a picket fence, with gates, the largest of which was referred to as 'The Big Gate'.⁷⁷

In March 1941, the two twin ramps at Albany Infants' School were repaired.⁷⁸

⁶⁷ Note: the place had been acquired and converted for this purpose in 1913-14; however, it was not used as such until the 1920s.

⁶⁸ Ibid, 19 February 1924; 17 March 1925; 28 February 1928; 4 March 1930.

⁶⁹ Ibid, 12 June 1925. Note: Plantings for Arbor Day took place on numerous occasions in the period from 1925; however, few details were recorded. (See also Ibid., 9 July 1937 and School Journal Albany Infants' School, 1925 (sic) - 51. (PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, 8 July 1949.))

⁷⁰ Ibid, 13 September 1929.

⁷¹ Ibid, 1931, and 27 November 1931.

⁷² Ibid, 4 July 1931.

⁷³ School Journal Albany Infants' School, 1925 (sic) -51. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, August 1935.

⁷⁴ Copy of PWD WA 17779, 16 September 1936.

⁷⁵ Albany Infants (sic) School Removal of Classroom from Torbay. Copy of PWD WA 17779 20 August 1946.

⁷⁶ School Journal Albany Infants' School, 1925 (sic) -51. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, 27 November 1936.

⁷⁷ Ibid, 19 March 1940; 13 September 1940; and 11 and 14 September 1945.

The Japanese attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbour in December 1941, and Japan's entry into the conflict of World War Two brought the threat of war to the Australian continent. Further preparations for the possibility of enemy invasion were undertaken in earnest at all levels in 1942, and at Albany Infants' School slit trenches were dug in the playground with the aid of boys from the High School in March 1942.⁷⁹

During the Christmas vacation 1944-45, repairs were carried out at Albany Infants' School, with four of the ventilators re-covered with wire, a new sheet of asbestos fitted in the washroom, and roofing repaired at the boys' latrines.⁸⁰ Other work carried out in 1945 included the gravelling of the 'paths, etc.', and repairs to the boys' lavatory and 'The Big Gate'.⁸¹

From January 1945, Standard II was retained at Albany Infants' School, which increased the enrolment at the school from an average of 150 in 1944, to 210 in 1945.⁸²

Western Australia's school building programme had been halted during the Depression, and its slow revival curtailed when World War Two began in 1939. By conclusion of the war, there was an urgent need for increased school accommodation, and for the renovation of many existing school buildings.

In February 1946, the enrolment at Albany Infants' School was increased further when the small school at Napier River was closed, and a bus began running from King River-Napier to bring children to Albany Infants' School.⁸³ Accommodation at the school was inadequate for the increased numbers. In early May 1946, the District Inspector, Mr. Crabbe, visited the school to investigate the problem and to endeavour to find additional accommodation for an extra class to be formed as relief of overcrowding in Standards I and II.⁸⁴ The problem was further exacerbated in mid June 1946, with the closure of the school at Kalgan River, and the transfer of its seven Infants' students to the Albany Infants' School.⁸⁵ The classes were re-graded, and one Standard II class was transferred to accommodation at the Oddfellows' Hall in Albany.⁸⁶ The use of leased accommodation was to continue for much of the period from 1946, until the opening of additions at the school in 1953.

On 20 August 1946, plans were drawn for the removal of a classroom from Torbay, near Albany, to Albany Infants' School to provide additional accommodation at the latter school.⁸⁷ The plan shows the existing paths at the place from the Perth-Albany Road (now Albany Highway) to the gravelled playing area at the rear of the school building, and to the boys' and girls' latrines at either side of the playground, the proposed location for the classroom from Torbay with a new area of gravelling to the west of it to meet the path and the playground, another building which appears to be of the dimensions of a shelter shed at the north side of the path to the boys' latrines,

⁷⁸ Ibid, 21 March 1941.

⁷⁹ Ibid, 4 March 1942.

⁸⁰ Ibid, 9 February 1945.

⁸¹ Ibid, 16 February, 3, 11 and 14 September 1945.

⁸² Ibid, 1944-5; and 30 January 1945.

⁸³ Ibid, 22 February 1946.

⁸⁴ Ibid, 3 May 1946.

⁸⁵ Ibid, 17 June 1946.

⁸⁶ Ibid, 18 June 1946.

⁸⁷ Albany Infants (sic) School Removal of Classroom from Torbay. Copy of PWD WA 17779, 20 August 1946.

and lightly sketched two similar buildings, each located to the south of the paths to the latrines.⁸⁸

On 23 August 1946, tenders were called for the removal of a classroom from Torbay to be re-erected at Albany Infants' School.⁸⁹ The work was carried out in late 1946 or early 1947 as the 'Pavilion' classroom building is shown in situ at Albany Infants' School on the revised plan of 30 January 1947.⁹⁰ It remained in use at *Albany Primary School* until its removal to the Residency Museum in Albany post 1978.

By late 1946, the enrolment at Albany Infants' School had increased to 240; and when school resumed in the first week of February 1947, 261 children enrolled at the school.⁹¹ There was not adequate accommodation and seating at the school, and one class had to be sent home, where they remained until a new teacher was appointed on supply a week later.⁹² The boys' lavatories had been condemned during the vacation; however, little could be done about the problem until a later date.⁹³ An application was made to the Education Department for extensions to be made to the Albany Infants' School building, and for the erection of a shelter shed, and the District Supervisor made the suggestion that the closed Napier Creek School be utilised for the purpose, but the latter does not appear to have eventuated.⁹⁴ As a short-term temporary measure, the Head Teacher taught her class on the verandah; however, it was considered to be 'most unsatisfactory'.⁹⁵

On 30 January 1947, a plan was drawn for New Shelter Sheds at Albany Infants' School located as per the plan of 20 August 1946, one to the north of the path to the boys' latrines and the other to the south of the path to the girls' latrines.⁹⁶ The exact date of their erection is not known; however, it is certain that the timber weatherboard buildings with concrete floors were erected at a date between the plan for Proposed Future Development drawn in August 1947 and August 1950, as they are shown in situ on an undated plan, c. 1950, and on the plan for the removal and re-erection of the Young's Siding School at Albany Infants' School of August 1950.⁹⁷

In the week ending 21 February 1947, arrangements were made to lease the supper room at the Oddfellows' Hall to accommodate the Standard IIA class, and the class transferred there on 19 February.⁹⁸ The request to transfer and re-erect the lavatories from the old Torbay School at the rear of the Hall for the use of the children was approved.⁹⁹

In February 1947, a deputation of the Head Teacher, the President, and the Vice-President of the Parents' and Citizens' Association waited on the

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ *Government Gazette* 23 August 1946, p. 1041.

⁹⁰ Albany Infants' School New Shelter Sheds PWD WA File no. 1248/35, 30 January 1947

⁹¹ School Journal Albany Infants' School, 1925 (sic) -51, 22 November 1946, and 7 February 1947. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2.

⁹² Ibid, weeks ending 7 and 14 February 1947.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Albany Infants' School New Shelter Sheds PWD WA File no. 1248/35, 30 January 1947.

⁹⁷ Albany Infants (sic) School Plan of Proposed Future Development, 7 August 1947; Site Plan Infant's (sic) School, c. 1950; and Albany Infants (sic) School Additions Removal and Re-erection of Young's Siding School PWD WA 32456, 20 August 1950.

⁹⁸ School Journal Albany Infants' School, 1925 (sic) -51. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, week ending 21 February 1947.

⁹⁹ Ibid, weeks ending 21 February, 7 and 28 March 1947.

Minister for Education requesting extensions be made to the Albany Infants' School.¹⁰⁰ Subsequently, the Minister and the Director of Education inspected the school on 6 May 1947.¹⁰¹ The school was instructed to transfer one of the Standard II classes to the Senior School on a temporary basis, whilst awaiting the construction and completion of additions to the Albany Infants' School, and Standard IIa was transferred accordingly when school resumed after the May vacation.¹⁰²

On 22 July 1947, five poplar trees were planted at Albany Infants' School for Arbor Day, one for each class; however, the location of each tree was not recorded.¹⁰³ Seven poplar cuttings were planted 'at the bottom of the playground' on 12 August 1947.¹⁰⁴

On 7 August 1947, plans were drawn for a proposed plan of future development at Albany Infants' School, comprising the addition of five classrooms, cloakroom and passage to an entry porch on one wing at right angles to the existing building, and an addition of the same dimensions at the other end, comprising a classroom, passage to an entry porch, a room for the head teacher, a cloakroom, and a hall, 88' x 40'.¹⁰⁵ All classrooms were to open to verandahs, and the open air teaching space was to be enlarged by the removal of the hat rooms at either end of the existing verandah.¹⁰⁶

On 15 August 1947, the installation of electric lighting was commenced at Albany Infants' School.¹⁰⁷

Parents of children attending Albany Infants' School requested the construction of a path through the school grounds to Moir Street; and in early November 1947, the District Inspector, Mr. Crabbe, visited the place to investigate the conditions for making such a path.¹⁰⁸

Whilst planning for the post World War Two period had begun in the mid 1940s, implementation was delayed until war time restrictions on building were lifted in the early 1950s. Thereafter an extensive school building programme was commenced in Western Australia, with the assistance of increased Commonwealth funds available to the states for various purposes, including school buildings.¹⁰⁹ In the meantime, in many places shortages of accommodation were alleviated temporarily by leasing accommodation such as halls and private residences, and by the re-location of disused buildings.¹¹⁰

More bush schools in the Albany district at Elleker, Young's Siding, were closed and the Infants students transferred to the Albany Infants' School.¹¹¹ The Albany Schools' populations were further increased with the Australia wide post World War Two baby boom, a considerable intake of immigrants including refugees, and the expansion of the town as the economy of the

¹⁰⁰ Ibid, week ending 21 February 1947.

¹⁰¹ Ibid, week ending 9 May 1947.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid, week ending 25 July 1947.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid, week ending 15 August 1947.

¹⁰⁵ Albany Infants (sic) School Plan of Proposed Future Development, 7 August 1947.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ School Journal Albany Infants' School 1925 (sic) - 51. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, week ending 15 August 1947.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid, week ending 7 November 1947.

¹⁰⁹ Report of the Education Department for 1945, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1946.

¹¹⁰ Gregory, Jenny and Smith, Lisa, op. cit., p. 38.

¹¹¹ Hicks, Bonnie op. cit., p. 3.

State began to recover from the War, and in particular with the establishment of whaling and seafood factories in the Albany area. In February 1949, further increases in Albany Infants' School enrolments required two additional classes, and again the school resorted to leasing additional accommodation in Albany to accommodate a class, with a Standard II class transferring into the Methodist Centennial Hall.¹¹² The Director of Education, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the District Inspector visited the school on 8 June 1949, to review the problem of lack of adequate accommodation at the place.¹¹³

Oslo lunches, comprising freshly prepared salads with bread, for the children to purchase were introduced in many Western Australian schools in the post World War Two period. At Albany Infants' School an Oslo Lunch Committee was formed in April 1950, in association with the pre-existing Mothers' Club, as work on the conversion of part of the eastern shelter shed for use as a lunch kitchen neared completion.¹¹⁴ However, the Oslo kitchen did not commence operation until 21 May 1951.¹¹⁵

On 21 August 1950, plans were drawn for the removal and re-erection at Albany Infants' School of the Young's Siding School, to be located immediately to the south of the shelter shed in line with the eastern end of the school building.¹¹⁶ The location was changed per an undated plan c. 1950, to a position north-west of the shelter shed, which was being converted to incorporate a 'soup kitchen' for Oslo lunches. Tenders were called in late 1950 and early 1951; however, it appears that transfer of this building was not effected after the implementation of the plans to erect two "Bristol" prefabricated classrooms in 1951.¹¹⁷

Plans for Alterations and Additions to the Albany Infants' School and for Additions and New Latrines at Albany Infants' School were drawn in October and November 1950, and for New "Bristol" Pre-Fabricated Classrooms at Albany Infants' School in October 1950.¹¹⁸

Western Australia's school building programme had been unable to keep pace with the growth in population consequent to the post-war 'Baby Boom' and increased immigration, despite erecting classrooms at an average rate of 40 to 60 per year in the years immediately following the World War Two.¹¹⁹ Alternative methods of construction were sought, with the introduction of pre-fabricated units: Bristols (c. 1950-8), Monocrete (c. 1950-8), and Jennings

¹¹² School Journal Albany Infants' School, 1925 (sic) -51. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, 10 February 1949.

¹¹³ Ibid, 8 June 1949.

¹¹⁴ Ibid, 1950.

¹¹⁵ School Journal Albany Infants' School, 3 May 1951 to 23 December 1955. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 3, 21 May 1951.

¹¹⁶ PWD 32456, Albany Infants' School Removal and Re-erection of Young's Siding School, 21 August 1950.

¹¹⁷ *Government Gazette* 1 September 1950, p. 2046; 13 October 1950, p. 2338; 17 November 1950, p. 2579; and January 1951, p. 23.

¹¹⁸ Albany Infants (sic) School Additions and New Latrines PWD WA 3262010, October 1950.

¹¹⁹ Report of the Education Department for 1953, p. 6, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1954.

(1953-5).¹²⁰ From 1950 to 1953, Bristol Classrooms were the most common form of school building construction employed in Western Australia.¹²¹

In January 1951, when school resumed after the summer vacation, further increases in the enrolment at Albany Infants' School resulted in the transfer of some classes to alternative accommodation: Standard IIa to the Senior School, Standard IIb to the Methodist Hall, whilst Standard IIc was accommodated in one of the hat rooms.¹²² On 2 February 1951, the pre-fabricated "Bristol" Pre-Fabricated Classrooms were delivered to Albany Infants' School.¹²³ However, erection of the buildings was delayed until after the arrival of the contractors on 22 May 1951.¹²⁴ On 13 August 1951, the Head Teacher was informed that the 'Pre-fabricated building' was ready for use.¹²⁵ The building has continued in use at the place since that date, and is currently in use as the P&C Teaching Block (Bristol Prefab).

On 14 August 1951, classes at Albany Infants' School were re-organised into eight classes, ranging in size from 46 to 49, when 59 children returned from the Senior School, with the Infants' classes transferred to occupy the new 'Pre-fab' building, and the two Standard II classes accommodated at the Methodist Hall.¹²⁶ On 14 September, the 'Pre-fab' was shown to the Mothers' Club, and open for public inspection, followed by afternoon tea.¹²⁷ The building has been in continuous in use at the place since 1951.

In 1952, many of the 198 classrooms constructed were the pre-fabricated Bristol units, intended to provide satisfactory accommodation in the crisis situation as enrolments were being swelled by some 5,000 additional students per annum. The continued use of these alternatives were indicated when the Acting Premier said at the opening of the new wing at Albany Infants' School on 26 June 1953, 'Some reduction in the standard of building classrooms would be necessary to meet the requirements of the rapidly increasing population'.¹²⁸ The number of pre-fabricated classrooms being erected continued to increase throughout the 1950s. A considerable number of the units remain in use throughout the State in the late 1990s.

In 1951, a Gardening Committee was formed at Albany Infants' School, who submitted a plan and estimates for the beautification of the grounds of the school to the District Inspector, Mr. Cook, in December 1951.¹²⁹

Tenders were called for Additions to Albany Infants' School in February and March 1951.¹³⁰ It had been hoped to have the Additions to Albany Infants' School completed and open for use in 1952; however, the work was delayed.

¹²⁰ Report of the Education Department for 1952, p. 6, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1953.

¹²¹ Report of the Education Department for 1953, p. 6, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1954.

¹²² School Journal Albany Infants' School, 1925 (sic) -51 PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, 30 January 1951.

¹²³ Ibid, 2 February 1951.

¹²⁴ School Journal Albany Infants' School, 3 May 1951 to 23 December 1955. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 3, 22 May 1951.

¹²⁵ Ibid, 13 August 1951.

¹²⁶ Ibid, 14 August 1951.

¹²⁷ Ibid, 14 September 1951.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ School Journal Albany Infants' School, 3 May 1951 to 23 December 1955. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 3, 1951.

¹³⁰ *Government Gazette* 2 February 1951, p. 208; and 9 March 1951, p. 526.

In the Christmas vacation 1951-2, the hat room at the end of the verandah was demolished to enable the new wing to be added to the building.¹³¹

On the return to school in 1952, due to the continued shortage of accommodation at Albany Infants' School, only children who would be aged six prior to 31 August 1952 were admitted to the school, with those excluded to be admitted as soon as the new rooms were completed; and the Methodist Hall was required for accommodation as in 1951.¹³² Some classes were accommodated also at St. John's Hall, pending the completion of the new building at Albany Infants' School.¹³³ Building commenced on the Additions at Albany Infants' School in 1952; however, the work was not completed until 1953.

In March 1952, plans were drawn for the Albany Infants' School Additions, showing the detail of the porch.¹³⁴ It is likely that this work was implemented as part of the Additions to the place carried out in 1952-3.

In 1953, as in 1952, only children who would turn six prior to 31 August were enrolled at Albany Infants' School, with the intention that those excluded would be admitted as soon as the new rooms were completed.¹³⁵ With 131 new children enrolled in Infants, and a total school enrolment of 463, the school again had a continuing acute shortage of accommodation which necessitated the continuance of the use of alternative accommodation for some classes until the completion of the new building.¹³⁶

The Additions to Albany Infants' School were completed in May 1953, and on 25 May, the school was able to take up occupation of the new building.¹³⁷ The students who had been accommodated at the Methodist Hall returned to the Albany Infants' School, and the 40 children excluded at the beginning of the school year were enrolled and commenced at the school, which took the school enrolment to 514.¹³⁸

On 24 June 1953, a Parents' day was held at which the new wing of the Albany Infants' School was opened by the Acting Premier, Mr. J. T. Tonkin, in the presence of 'a large crowd', which included the Director of Education, Dr. T. L. Robertson, Messrs. F. R. H. Lavery, MLC, S. Heal, MLA, and L. L. Hill MLA, the Mayor of Albany, Mr. John Norman and Mrs. Norman, other local dignitaries, the headmistress, Miss McLellan, teachers, parents, and students.¹³⁹ Mr. Tonkin's address referred to the problems of overcrowding and insufficient classroom accommodation which Albany had faced, which had necessitated the use of temporary alternative accommodation in halls, in common with many other towns in the State where students were accommodated in 'public halls and other places'.¹⁴⁰ However, '... Albany had

¹³¹ School Journal Albany Infants' School 3 May 1951 to 23 December 1955. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 3, 4 February 1952.

¹³² Ibid, 4 February 1952.

¹³³ Ibid, 11 March 1952 to December 1952.

¹³⁴ PWD 17779 Albany Infants' School Detail of Porch, 29 March 1952.

¹³⁵ School Journal Albany Infants' School, 3 May 1951 to 23 December 1955. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 3, 2 February 1953.

¹³⁶ Ibid, 2 February 1953.

¹³⁷ Ibid, 25 May 1953.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ *Albany Advertiser* 26 June 1953, p. 1.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

not suffered in silence and its needs had been met with the very fine additions which he was privileged to open.¹⁴¹

In 1954, new schools were opened at Mt. Lockyer and Mt. Many Peaks, easing some of the pressure on accommodation at Albany Infants' School where enrolments were reduced to 360 at the commencement of the school year, rising to 'just above' 400 by late April, so that accommodation at the Methodist Hall was not required in 1954.¹⁴²

In late July, members of the Parents' and Citizens' Association erected playground equipment purchased by the Association at the school.¹⁴³ A jungle gym was added in June 1955.¹⁴⁴

In June 1955, a 'central' library was opened at Albany Infants' School for the use of the children in Standard II.¹⁴⁵

The number of students enrolled at Albany Infants' School continued to increase. In 1958, accommodation was again insufficient, and some classrooms at the recently completed Spencer Park Primary School in Albany had to be utilised.¹⁴⁶ In 1959, Spencer Park opened as a separate school, and the Albany Primary Schools once again faced a shortage of classroom accommodation. In 1962, the opening of John Calvin School, a private school operated by the Free Reformed Church, eased some of the pressure on the government (or State schools).

In 1964, a public meeting was held to discuss the future of the Albany (Primary) School and Albany Junior Primary School, as the Infants' School was renamed in the 1960s.¹⁴⁷ The number of students at both schools had dropped in the early 1960s, as many families with young children moved from the central area of Albany to the suburbs. It was proposed that the two schools should be amalgamated; however, implementation of the proposal was delayed for ten years.

In 1967, the Director General of Education, the Assistant Principal Architect, and the Assistant Under Secretary of the Public Works Department visited the United Kingdom to investigate recent developments in school architecture.¹⁴⁸ School building design requirements were reviewed in the light of evolving educational principles and practices which involved more flexible classroom organisation as the size of instructional groups was variable 'from one to hundreds according to the subject in hand and the instructional technique involved.'¹⁴⁹ The 'modern' school should provide 'learning areas which can be rapidly arranged and re-arranged as needs change.'¹⁵⁰

'Cluster' planning was developed, in which the school building was divided into small teaching blocks, comprised of two classrooms with common toilets and cloak areas, in contrast to the previous plan of linear development with

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² School Journal Albany Infants' School, 3 May 1951 to 23 December 1955. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 3, 8 February, and 26 April 1954.

¹⁴³ Ibid, 26 July 1954.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid, 16 June 1955.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid, 15 June 1955.

¹⁴⁶ Hicks, Bonnie op. cit., p. 4.

¹⁴⁷ Hicks, Bonnie op. cit., p. 4.

¹⁴⁸ Gregory, Jenny and Smith, Lisa, op. cit., p. 49.

¹⁴⁹ Report of the Education Department for 1969, p. 8, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1970.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

school rooms opening onto a verandah, which had predominated since its introduction in 1914-5.

In 1967, Belmay Primary School was constructed as the first 'Cluster' school in Western Australia.¹⁵¹ The basic 'Cluster' design was enlarged and modified in 1968, and further modified in 1969, with the development of a modification of the English Falconer system, reflecting feedback from teachers at the existing Western Australian 'Cluster' schools, and also modified for conditions in this State and local materials.¹⁵² The interior design was characterised by the incorporation of folding 'concertina' walls to enable areas to be opened and closed as required. Classroom furniture was also re-designed, with the re-introduction of more readily movable furniture, including trapezoidal desks which could be arranged in groups, and movable boards to increase the flexibility of classroom use in accord with the more recent educational principles.¹⁵³ By late 1970, 50 'Cluster' schools had been constructed.¹⁵⁴ At existing schools, 'Cluster' classrooms were utilised often for additions in the 1970s.

In 1970, the opening of the Yakamia School eased some of the pressure on the Albany Junior Primary School.

In September 1973, Hobbs Winning Leighton & Partners drew plans for a Cluster of 4 classrooms at Albany Junior Primary School.¹⁵⁵ In May 1974, construction commenced on the new block of 'Cluster' classrooms at Albany Junior Primary School.¹⁵⁶

On 29 November 1974, portions of Albany Suburban Lot 29, being Lots 10 and 11 on Diagram 16166, 1262 and 2512 square metres in area respectively, and adjoining the reserve of Albany Junior Primary School at Lot 30, were transferred from Daisy Edith Smith to the Crown and re-vested as a school site.¹⁵⁷

On completion of the new 'Cluster' classrooms in late 1974, Albany Primary School in Serpentine Road and Collie Street was closed; and by December 1974, its five classes were accommodated at the site in Albany Highway.¹⁵⁸ With the amalgamation in 1974, Albany Junior Primary School became once more a part of *Albany Primary School*, and the place has been known as *Albany Primary School* since that date. The Education Resources Centre was re-located from the Bristol Prefabs at Mt. Lockyer Primary School to the more central position afforded by the vacated Primary School buildings and former Headmaster's House in Serpentine Road and Collie Street, Albany.¹⁵⁹

In March 1975, Hobbs Winning Leighton & Partners drew plans for Additional two Classrooms at *Albany Primary School*.¹⁶⁰ Tenders were called

¹⁵¹ Gregory, Jenny and Smith, Lisa, op. cit., p. 49.

¹⁵² Ibid, pp. 49-50.

¹⁵³ Report of the Education Department for 1969, p. 4, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1970.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid, p. 50.

¹⁵⁵ Hobbs Winning Leighton & Partners Albany Junior Primary School – Cluster of 4, 12 September 1973.

¹⁵⁶ Hicks, Bonnie op. cit., p. 4.

¹⁵⁷ Certificates of Title portions of Albany Suburban Lot 29, Lot 10 and Lot 11 on Diagram 16166. Vol. 1192 Fol. 262. 29 November 1974.

¹⁵⁸ Hicks, Bonnie op. cit., p. 4.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ Hobbs Winning Leighton & Partners Albany Primary School Additional Two Classrooms, 12 and 13 March 1975.

for Two Classrooms and Groundworks at *Albany Primary School* in November 1975, and the work was implemented in 1975-6.¹⁶¹

On 7 August 1975, portion Albany Suburban Lot 28, 2056 square metres in area, adjoining Lots 10 and 11 acquired in 1974, was transferred to the Crown, further increasing the area of the site of *Albany Primary School*.¹⁶²

At Western Australian primary schools, with the exception of libraries, the provision of ancillary facilities developed at a later period in general than at secondary schools, for which the Education Department had begun to develop such facilities from the mid to late 1960s, following wide criticism of education in the Press in 1965. Ancillary facilities including purpose built library resource centres, assembly areas, and canteens, have been developed progressively at primary schools in the latter part of the twentieth century.

On 25 June 1976, Albany Suburban Lots 30 and 31, were revested and removed from the Transfer of Land Act Vol 627 Fol. 179, and Albany Lot 1274, the site of *Albany Primary School*, including the portions of sub lots 21-31 in Diagram 81827 was gazetted Reserve 34020, and reserved for school purposes.

In June 1976, plans were drawn for a School Dental Therapy Centre at *Albany Primary School*.¹⁶³ Concerns for the physical well being of children had led to the introduction of medical inspections of school students in Western Australia in 1906, at schools at James Street, Perth, Fremantle Central, Kalgoorlie Central, Bunbury, and Albany.¹⁶⁴ Discontinued during World War One, they were re-introduced in the inter-war period, and have continued to be a regular part of the education system. The visits of a Dental Officer to Albany Infants' School were recorded from the early 1930s.¹⁶⁵ However, it was not until March 1973, that regular dental inspections in all Australian schools were introduced as an initiative of the Whitlam Government, with the first dental therapy centres established in converted classrooms.¹⁶⁶ The first purpose built Dental Therapy centres was constructed at Kewdale Primary School, and others followed in the mid to late 1970s, including that constructed at *Albany Primary School* in 1976-7.¹⁶⁷

In August 1977, Hobbs Winning Leighton & Partners drew plans for 3 Classrooms, Administration and Resource Centre Additions and Upgrading at *Albany Primary School*.¹⁶⁸ In October 1977, tenders were called for the work, and that of P. & L. Cooper at \$221,980 was accepted.¹⁶⁹ The work was carried out in 1977-8.

¹⁶¹ *Government Gazette* 14 November 1975, p. 4204.

¹⁶² Certificate of Title Albany Suburban portion of Lot 28, part of Lot 16 on Diagram 36471. Vol. 276 Fol. 194A. 7 August 1975.

¹⁶³ PWD Architectural Division Job 6/786/3 Albany Central Primary School Dental Therapy Centre, June 1976.

¹⁶⁴ Gregory, Jenny and Smith, Lisa, op. cit., p. 23.

¹⁶⁵ School Journal Albany Infants' School 1925 (sic) -51. PROWA AN 45/Alb Acc. 1925 Item 2, 1930-40.

¹⁶⁶ Peter Neesham, Perth Dental Hospital and Community Dental Services, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 2 August 1999.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ Hobbs Winning Leighton & Partners Albany Primary School 3 Classrooms, Administration and Resource Centre Additions and Upgrading, August 1977.

¹⁶⁹ *Government Gazette* 7 October 1977, p. 3620; and 11 November 1977, p. 4242.

In December 1981, plans were drawn for New Oval Earthworks at *Albany Primary School*.¹⁷⁰

Albany Primary School has been included in the Municipal Inventory of the Town of Albany, compiled by Les Johnston.

In January 1995, Hobbs Smith and Holmes drew plans for Covered Assembly and Canteen at *Albany Primary School*.¹⁷¹ The work was implemented in 1995.

In 1999, while the place continues in use as a primary school, the Education Department is considering options for a new Albany Primary School.¹⁷²

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Setting

The place is set within inner urban Albany on Albany Highway. It is surrounded by commercial and residential buildings.

Forecourt Garden

Below the level of the footpath along Albany Highway is a lawned garden and a screen planting of small trees and native shrubs. It runs the length of *1915 Block, Albany Primary School* and extends to the south eastern boundary with Coles. At its north western end is a small carpark with pedestrian access to *1915 Block, Albany Primary School*. This forecourt garden shows few signs of active use and considerably conceals views of the school buildings from the road.

1915 Block, Albany Primary School

This building contains physical evidence of an early core and subsequent development carried out in a derivative style and planning so as to retain much of the prominence of the earlier design.

The early core is constructed of mottled brown brick masonry with a beige Colorbond roof. The design has some elements of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style executed in a simple manner. The symmetrical façade fronting Albany Highway includes three bays – the two on either end have three windows and the central bay is smaller and has only one. The two spaces between bays are a similar size to those on the ends and also have three windows each.

The bays are expressed through several techniques. These include a masonry plinth; sinking of bricks at corners to effect quoining; a plain rendered fascia above eaves height of recessed bays; simple and chunky modillions supporting the eaves; and, adjustments to the simple hipped basis of roof form – a hip over the smaller central bay and a half gabled hip on each of the two outer bays.

Planning of the early core comprises a central store with four large classrooms (two on each side of the store), all of which open onto a wide and large timber verandah that is now enclosed.

¹⁷⁰ PWD Architectural Division Job 6/736/6 Albany Primary School New Oval Earthworks, 3 December 1981.

¹⁷¹ Hobbs Smith and Holmes Albany Primary School Covered Assembly and Canteen, 10 January 1995.

¹⁷² Correspondence, Department of Contract and Management Services to Palassis Architects, 24 August 1999.

Internally, much of the early core remains. The wide verandah has no partitions but scarring of the fabric indicates the loss of at least the cloakroom at the eastern end. The eastern weatherboard wall and ceiling of the verandah are lined with sheeting in a 1200mm square grid the joins of which are concealed behind a 40mm half round. Ceilings in the classrooms are flush plaster and these as well as those of the verandah include the early ceiling vents.

Classrooms contain original blackboards on three walls. The south wall includes three windows to ceiling height. The windows include three sashes. The top sash is a three pane fixed light. The two sashes below are six pane double hung windows. The blackboards on the dividing walls closest to the doors are at a slightly higher level and against this wall the scarring of the now removed teaching podium is apparent. The level of all interior spaces within the building are now the same. Fireplaces are in each of these five original masonry rooms and mantelpieces remain. Panelled doors, the early timber balustrade and other joinery remain with little alteration. Aluminium sliding windows have been used to infill the verandah.

An unused bell is mounted on the outside on the central verandah post of the early core. The bell's casting mark is '1855' above and, below, 'B' and 'O' set either side of a broadarrow. Its provenance is unknown.

Other Buildings and Elements

While the other buildings and elements that comprise Albany Primary School are not included in the curtilage, a brief description is included here for information.

Layout

There are six one-storey buildings, in addition to *1915 Block, Albany Primary School*, interspersed with four distinguishable landscape elements. Most buildings are set around a bitumen court at the south of the site – *1915 Block, Albany Primary School*, is the most substantial of these buildings. Other buildings around the courtyard include the Dental Clinic and the Teaching and Resource Centre together facing the north west and south west boundaries of the court. The northern half of the site includes two playgrounds separated from one another by a Cluster Block all with frontage to Moir Street.

A narrow forecourt sets the school buildings back from Albany Highway running most of the length of this boundary. A Bristol Prefab Classroom, (P & C Teaching), a covered assembly and a toilet block are set on the other edges of the bitumen court loosely facing the north east and south east boundaries of that space. The remaining part of the land at the north east and fronting Moir Street is made up of two grassed playgrounds separated by the Teaching Cluster block.

To the north of the Cluster Block is an adventure playgrounds, with equipment of both tubular steel and CCA logs. Two cricket practice pitches are located against the McDonald's boundary. North of the pitches is a level grassed area. Another grass playground is located to the east.

Dental Clinic

The Dental Clinic is a small dark brown brick building with pitched asbestos 'super six' clad roof built on a concrete slab. Internally there are two rooms both with raked ceilings. The largest is the waiting room and surgery with vinyl flooring, plastered walls and two dentist chairs. Off the waiting room is

a small carpeted office with face brick walls. Windows are aluminium and beneath those on the northern wall is external infill panelling of Hardiplank.

Teaching & Resource Centre

This building runs north from the carpark at the western end of the site. It has a low pitched beige colorbond hipped roof over the whole of the structure. Constructed of red brick on a concrete slab it comprises three classrooms in line off a wide enclosed verandah terminating in the Resource Centre (library). The Resource Centre is a large roughly square room as wide as the combined width of classroom and enclosed verandah. The verandah is framed with aluminium with infill panels of fibre cement sheet and glazing. Windows in the classrooms are timber framed and single hung in a similar style to that of those types in the Administration & Teaching Block.

Covered Assembly & Toilet Block

This is a large red brick building with large openings on two sides kept secure by rollerdoors. Red brick with a pitched roof in green colorbond with alsynite/cladding in part. Gables are cream colorbond.

Special Teaching & Sports Store (former Canteen)

This building is made up of at least two weatherboard structures joined together to form an L-shaped plan. The southern room is a weatherboard shelter shed on a concrete slab whose open side has been enclosed with fibre cement sheet cladding to form a secure storage shed. The other rooms of the structure have a timber substructure and have been partitioned to form a canteen kitchen and servery but are now used as a computer lab.

P&C Teaching Block (Bristol Prefab)

This is a two classroom Bristol Prefab with original fittings including windows, doors and sunshades intact. The small central room beyond the entrance hall/cloak room has been opened out to one of the classrooms. There is evidence of some water damage in the internal linings.

Cluster Block

The Cluster Block is a typical six room/'learning area' cluster block that has been extended by adding a further fully enclosed classroom by fully enclosing the paved play area between the classroom block and the toilet block and by the addition of a steel verandah along the eastern side of the building.

It is constructed on a steel frame with red brick masonry part walls to the height of clerestory windows and external cladding of aluminium framed glazed and fibre cement sheet panels. The enclosed paved play area has been secured through the installation of metal roller doors on the wide openings.

Internally, the vinyl concertina doors have been kept in place and the space in front of them used for permanent display and cabinets for storage. Some of these partitions have been replaced with stud walls. The internal openings to classrooms have been infilled with stud walls and doors. Skylit 'quiet areas' at the back of the 'learning areas' include evidence of a variety of uses from storage to story telling. Each of these 'quiet areas' adjoins a lockable store. The original trapezoidal student desks and stackable plastic and tubular steel chairs remain. Teacher's desks vary in type and age but most include lockable drawers.

Internal finishes are utilitarian and serviceable including acoustic ceiling tiles and buff-painted calsil bricks. There are four floor finishes ranging from

carpet in the 'learning areas' and central 'withdrawal area' to vinyl in the cloakroom/'activity area' to ceramic tiles in the toilets and to concrete in the enclosed play area. The path that surrounds the whole plan of the building is paved in 400mm square concrete slabs. From this path, there is individual access through a door to each 'learning area'.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION ¹⁷³

1915 Block, Albany Primary School is an example of the type of schools that were designed and built by the Public Works Department of Western Australia from 1914 through to the early 1920s. The characteristics of this type of school are a linear arrangement of classrooms (parallel to the principal road which the school addresses), and incorporating a narrow teachers' room in a central position), masonry construction (utilising local materials) and a wide timber verandah on the side facing away from the road (preferably the north side). Doorways to the classrooms opened onto this verandah. Future expansion was considered in the design, the intention being to create wings at right angles to the original building, from either end. With larger schools this created a central quadrangle area.

Following the substantial building programme implemented in 1914, 35 new schools were opened in Western Australia in 1915, including Albany Infants' School, which had an enrolment of 176 students.¹⁷⁴ Albany Infants' School (1914) was one of the first three schools built to the 1914 plan for the new Infants' School, the other Infants' Schools built in the same year being at North Cottesloe (1914), with 135 students enrolled, and Fremantle (1914), the largest of the three schools built to the new plan, with 292 students enrolled.¹⁷⁵ Construction of new schools slowed somewhat in 1915, the first year of the First World War, when 26 new schools were constructed, and five single-roomed schools were enlarged.¹⁷⁶ Of these, Eden Hill (1915), Maylands (1915), Collie (1915), and Palmyra (1915) Infants' Schools were built to the 1914 plan for new Infants' Schools, which had proved 'most satisfactory' at Albany, North Cottesloe, and Fremantle.¹⁷⁷

Schools built prior to 1914 were typically what is known as the Central Hall design, where the classrooms are arranged around a large hall that served as a common teaching and play area. Albany (Primary) School on Serpentine Road, the first part of which was built in 1895, was one of the first schools of this type to be built in the state. The first school of this design was probably North Fremantle (1894), and others include East Perth (1895), Cottesloe (first part 1896, but the central hall was not created until 1910) and Subiaco (1897).

The architecture of schools built in the 1890s displayed obvious influences from the Arts and Crafts movement, most obvious from the steeply pitched roofs which were massed to reflect the articulation of the plan, half timbered gables, tall double hung sash windows (grouped in threes), elegant chimneys, and asymmetrical elevations. Flamboyant design was a hallmark of George

¹⁷³ Comparative information is based on Heritage & Conservation Professionals in association with Kelsall & Binet Architects' survey for EDWA, CAMS Heritage Database and Gregory and Smith's Thematic History of Public Education in Western Australia, op. cit. It has not involved inspection of all of the schools mentioned.

¹⁷⁴ Reports of the Education Department, 1914, p. 7; and Ibid, 1915, p. 15 and p. 18, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1915, and 1916-17.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid, 1914, p. 7; and 1915, p. 19, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1915, and 1916-17.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid, 1915, p. 6, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Western Australia* 1916-17.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid.

Temple Poole who was the Chief Architect of the PWD during this time, and to some degree this continued under the design leadership of John Henry Grainger which spanned from 1897 to 1905. Under the leadership of Hillson Beasley, between 1905 and 1917, architecture of the PWD was more restrained. *1915 Block, Albany Primary School* is typical of the modest architecture of this period, where elegance was achieved through carefully considered proportions and attention to detail, but with minimal use of ornament.¹⁷⁸

From the 1920s the concept of using wide verandahs as open air teaching spaces was phased out. Verandahs after this time were narrower and served principally as sheltered circulation corridors.

13. 4 REFERENCES

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research may determine the locations of earlier buildings at *Albany Primary School*, in particular any buildings and improvements at the site at the time of its transfer to the Crown in 1915, and the 'Pavilion' classrooms erected at the place in 1918 and 1922. Further research may also determine the history of the Special Teaching and Sports Store.

The landscape of the place and its development remains another area for further research. The Documentary Evidence indicates progressive development of the grounds from the early use of the site as a football ground prior to construction of the school in 1914-5 to the end of the twentieth century. Some of the earlier plantings recorded in that evidence may be extant, and similarly some evidence of the gardens established in the different periods of development may remain extant at the site.