



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)

- 7.5.9 Providing services and welfare
- 8.5.3.2 Founding Australian religious institutions

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 408 Social and civic activities - institutions

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The precinct of *Parkerville Children's Home & Cemetery* exhibits the aesthetic of the philosophy of care related to the association with the natural environment, and 'cottage' layout of separate dwellings. From any direction, the precinct has a backdrop of the natural bush of the hills location. (Criterion 1.1)

The chapel of St Michael and All Angels, with the 1958 nave, 1923 chancel and stained glass windows, is a landmark and contributes to the aesthetic values of the cultural environment within which it is located. (Criterion 1.3)

Worthington Hall is a good example of the aesthetic of functional 1940s architecture and is a landmark within the cultural environment. (Criterion 1.3)

The precinct forms a significant cultural environment, which was established and has been continuously developed since 1903. The aesthetic character of the surrounding bush with glimpses of places between the natural and introduced plantings is a characteristic highly valued by Parkerville Children's Home Inc., the caring agency which fosters that environment. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

The place is exceptional in representing and demonstrating the development of the philosophy and function of a care facility for needy children in Western Australia since 1903. The Sisters of the Community of the Church were the first in Western Australia to live and promote the philosophies of the

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

educational and developmental benefits of the natural and nurturing environment. Kingsley Fairbridge consulted with Sister Kate at Parkerville Children's Home before establishing the Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra, and the philosophies that influenced the establishment and management of the Parkerville Children's Home are also evident in Sister Kates' Children's Home (Manguri), in 1934 (Criterion 2.1)

Each place in the precinct demonstrates an aesthetic of its type and day and provides an architectural history of the development of the place. (Criterion 2.2)

The place contributes to the understanding and development of a care facility which began with the Sisters of the Community of the Church, under the auspices of the Anglican Church in 1903. Parkerville Children's Home was the first care facility in Western Australia to break from institutionalisation of orphans and needy children, and introduce the 'cottage' system of care with female carers. They were the only facility to care for babies under the age of eighteen months, boys and girls, and sibling groups. Cultural and lifestyle changes took place when the Sisters left in 1950, and Jack Wales, the new Superintendent appointed in 1952, introduced a more regimented life style and introduced 'partner' carers. In the 1970s, the Sisters' nurturing philosophies were reintroduced. Parkerville Children's Home has operated and developed continuously since 1903, throughout many changes to social welfare philosophies and continues to be at the forefront of care services in the provision of innovative policies and services. The evolution of Parkerville Children's Home is significant in the development of care facilities in Western Australia since 1903. (Criterion 2.2)

The place has many significant associations with people who were significant within the development of the state. Sister Kate, Sister Jane and the other Sisters of the Community of the Church are of considerable importance, including the sisters' 'friend', Phoebe Ruth Lefroy. The invaluable assistance of philanthropist Walter Padbury, Western Australia's first millionaire, was critical to the initial establishing years of development at Parkerville Children's Home. Other associations of import are Mrs Everingham of Guildford, the Theatrical Employees Association, J. H. Worthington, the Sisters of Advent in Brisbane, the Anglican Church leaders in Perth since 1903, Charles Harper, George Turner, Thomas Wardle, Harold Boan and many others. The cottage parents who nurtured the children and the many hundreds of people who have had associations with the place since 1903, are of considerable significance. Those former children of Parkerville are significant in the history of the state as living testimony to the success of the philosophies and care of the Sisters of the Community of the Church. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

As a pioneer care institution since 1903, the place contributes to an understanding of the attitudes and care of 'needy' children and their families in Western Australia. (Criterion 3.1)

The site of St Nicholas Cottage has the potential to yield, through archaeological excavation, further information about the initial years of the establishment of Parkerville Children's Home. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place has become the principal location for the care of children in the Perth Diocese. (Criterion 4.1)

The place is highly valued by generations of many hundreds of former Parkerville children and their families for:

the interaction and social development promoted in the Sisters' philosophy and practice of care, together with the social events and outings that took place at the home which further reinforced the bonds;

the Christian philosophies which were integral within the nurturing process. The chapel commemorates Sister Kate, Sister Jane and the 'original' boys who were killed in World War One, and is a place where many people have celebrated special events or worshipped;

the lifestyle philosophy was an education through the environment, interaction, nurturing and spiritual guiding. The school was run at Parkerville Children's Home from 1907, and one of the first kindergartens in Western Australia began there in 1912. Parkerville children from the 'Village' also attended the purpose built school from 1916 until the 1950s, so the place was a focus for generations of the Parkerville community; and

the philosophy of nurturing and lifestyle, which took children from a distinct class situation and placed them at 'equal' status in the world, touched generations of people in Western Australia affected by the caring and nurturing philosophy, not only past Parkerville children and carers, but generations of philanthropists, fund raisers and supporters. (Criterion 4.1)

The place is valued by the broader community of the State as it represents a philosophy of care in the community that continues to be relevant. The state government has recognised and supported Parkerville Children's Home continually since 1903. (Criterion 4.1)

As the focus of spiritual life at Parkerville Children's Home, the Chapel of St Michael and All Angels has been and continues to be a place of worship, commemoration and celebration. (Criterion 4.1)

The Cemetery is significant to those children who have been associated with the Parkerville Children's Home and, in particular, as a memorial to those children who died while at the home. (Criterion 4.1)

Although in recent times use of the place has diminished, the waterfall is of significance due to its use as a picnic and recreation venue dating from the establishment of at Parkerville Children's Home in 1903. (Criterion 4.1)

The place is especially significant to the former Parkerville children who continue to be associated with Parkerville Children's Home. It represents memories and associations for the Parkerville Children's Home children and others for whom it played an important role in their lives. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Parkerville Children's Home set a precedent in the care of non-institutionalised orphaned and needy babies and children in Western Australia. It represents the development of care philosophies over years of change, and is of exceptional interest to the state. (Criterion 5.2)

Parkerville Children's Home represents a distinctive way of life which has sustained changes but continues to function and develop since 1903. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The precinct demonstrates the characteristics of the 'cottage' system of child care which has evolved on the site since 1903. (Criterion 6.1)

The precinct demonstrates the development of the place and in so doing presents a range of characteristics associated with the caring philosophy and practice of a way of life in a functioning childcare facility, and the evolutionary changes that have taken place since 1903. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The present condition of the buildings which comprise the precinct ranges from fair to very good. Maintenance has been generally constant, but undertaken on an irregular basis, and some buildings seem to have been overlooked. There are some elements on various buildings around the precinct which, through lack of regular programmed maintenance and exposure to the elements, require urgent attention.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The original intention of the precinct and the buildings within it is clear despite the consideration that most of the buildings no longer function as originally intended. The place in its entirety retains a high degree of integrity due to continued use and development associated with the original function.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The buildings which remain on the precinct are considerably intact with no substantial or irreversible interventions occurring to the original fabric. Additions and changes have taken place to most of the buildings as they have adjusted to the continued development of the functions of the places. Those changes, for the most part, form an integral part of the overall evolution of the precinct. The place has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, 'Parkerville Children's Home Conservation Plan' prepared for Parkerville Children's Home Inc in April 1999 and funded under the 1997/98 Heritage Grants Program by the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, 'Parkerville Children's Home Conservation Plan' prepared for Parkerville Children's Home Inc in April 1999 and funded under the 1997/98 Heritage Grants Program by the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, 'Parkerville Children's Home Conservation Plan' prepared for Parkerville Children's Home Inc in April 1999 and funded under the 1997/98 Heritage Grants Program by the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a Comparative Analysis refer to Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, 'Parkerville Children's Home Conservation Plan' prepared for Parkerville Children's Home Inc in April 1999 and funded under the 1997/98 Heritage Grants Program by the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

13.4 REFERENCES

Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant, 'Parkerville Children's Home Conservation Plan' prepared for Parkerville Children's Home Inc in April 1999 and funded under the 1997/98 Heritage Grants Program by the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
