



**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)

- 3.26.2 Providing hospital services
- 6.3 Training people for the workplace

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities
- 309 Technology and technological change
- 402 Education and science
- 604 Innovators

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The 1963 Paraplegic Block, and the associated lawns and courtyard areas, is an example of a well-considered and innovatively designed hospital ward for paraplegics dating from the 1960s. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.2)

The 1938 Administration and Wards Block, with its imposing entrance approached along a box tree lined avenue, provides an attractive contribution to the hospital and is strategically placed at the end of the entrance driveway. (Criterion 1.3)

The Administration and Wards Block, with its well-considered proportions and restrained architectural style, contributes to the aesthetic value of the hospital and grounds. (Criterion 1.3)

The avenue of Queensland Box trees forms a strong vista from the main entrance to the Administration and Wards Block. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

The place is important for its role in the care of paraplegics and quadriplegics in Western Australia from 1953 to the present (2013). The paraplegic unit was officially established in December 1954. (Criterion 2.1)

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

The place is important as the site of Perth's first purpose-built hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases, initially being established in military tents and later being developing with permanent structures including the Administration and Wards Block in 1938. . The hospital functioned in this capacity from 1894 until the 1950s, when the hospital was adapted for use as a rehabilitation hospital. (Criterion 2.1)

The place is important for its role in caring for the victims of the poliomyelitis epidemics in Perth from 1948 to 1956. These epidemics were the catalyst for the hospital changing from an infectious disease hospital to a rehabilitation hospital. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is important for its associations with the pioneering work of Sir George Bedbrook in the field of care for patients suffering from paraplegia and quadriplegia. Sir George Bedbrook was internationally significant for his contribution to sport for disabled people. As a result of his work at Shenton Park, the first Commonwealth paraplegic Games was held in Perth in 1962. (Criterion 2.3)

The Paraplegic Block is an excellent design solution for a hospital caring for paraplegic and quadriplegic patients. This ward, completed in 1963, was the first section of the new rehabilitation hospital, which is today considered to be a world class facility. (Criterion 2.4)

The radial planning of the 1938 Administration and Wards Block reflects the belief in the benefits of fresh air at the time of its construction, and allows natural light and ventilation to a maximum number of rooms. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The Paraplegic Block is a benchmark in the design of modern hospital facilities and is significant as an example of a well designed, utilitarian hospital building from the 1960s. (Criterion 3.1)

The place is of scientific significance representing the role of Western Australia as a world leader in the field of rehabilitation. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place has social significance to all those staff and patients who have been associated with the place over the years of its history. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Administration and Wards Block is a representative example of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style of architecture.

12.3 CONDITION

Generally the buildings are in fair to good condition.

The Paraplegic Block is in good condition. The building, Therapeutic Garden and adjacent grounds are well maintained.

The Administration and Wards Block is in sound condition. Whilst there is some evidence of minor maintenance required to the west elevation, the overall building is well maintained internally and externally.

The avenue of Queensland Box trees is in good condition with evidence of strong canopy growth.

12.4 INTEGRITY

At the time of assessment, the place has a high level of integrity as it is still used for the purpose for which it was designed and constructed.

The Paraplegic Block has a high level of integrity as the building is still used for hospital purposes and specifically for the care and treatment of spinal injuries.

The Administration and Wards Block has a high level of integrity. The original design intent is clearly evident and the place continues to be used for administrative and hospital purposes. Whilst the first floor is unoccupied in 2013, the original intention is intact.

The avenue of Queensland Box trees has a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The place has a high level of authenticity, as modifications since construction have not greatly altered the original design and fabric.

The Paraplegic Block has a high level of authenticity. Whilst there have been some minor alterations the building fabric is substantially intact.

The Administration and Wards Block has a moderate level of authenticity. Several additions and modifications have impacted on the original fabric. Wards 3A and 3B retain a higher level of original fabric and are considered to have a high level of authenticity.

The avenue of Queensland Box trees lining Victoria Avenue has a high level of authenticity. The avenue of trees still frames the vista to the Administration and Wards Block.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This Documentary Evidence is based upon 'Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital [formerly known as the Victoria Hospital, the Infectious Diseases Hospital and Shenton Park Annexe] Conservation Plan' prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of Royal Perth Hospital) by Heritage and Conservation Professionals (August 1998).

Amendments and/or additions have been carried out by the State Heritage Office and the Register Committee. The physical evidence was compiled by Stephen Carrick Architects in May 2013.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital comprises the Administration and Wards Block and the Paraplegic Block together with the avenue of Queensland Box trees lining the approach to the Administration Block. Other elements on the wider site are discussed below but not included in the curtilage.

The first hospital to operate from the *Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital* site was a facility known as Victoria Hospital, which was established in 1894 as part of Royal Perth Hospital to provide segregated treatment for infectious diseases. Provisions for infectious diseases had existed at Royal Perth Hospital in Perth since 1885, when a smallpox outbreak prompted the creation of an isolation ward at the Murray Street site. However, as the population grew following the discovery of Western Australian gold in the 1880s and 1890s, the lack of basic facilities, overcrowding and poor living conditions triggered an overwhelming outbreak of smallpox, which could not be treated or accommodated at Royal Perth Hospital.

The segregated Victoria Hospital initially comprised a number of military tents, but after a few weeks was expanded to include some corrugated iron buildings. The hospital opened and closed in response to the increase of infectious diseases, and was often closed during the winter months when the spread of fevers was less.

In 1907, Victoria Hospital was formally placed under the Royal Perth Hospital (then known as Perth Public Hospital) Board of Management, and was renamed the Infectious Diseases Hospital. The hospital continued to be well used during the first decades of the twentieth-century, as cases of typhoid fever, tuberculosis, diphtheria, scarlet fever and venereal diseases became more common.

During the 1930s, concerns arose regarding the condition of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and calls were made for the construction of a new hospital. Construction of the new hospital building began in the mid-1930s and was completed by 1938. The brick and tile 'star-shaped' building, which is now known as the Administration and Wards Block, had a central east-west axis with four radiating wards. The radial design allowed for generous natural light and ventilation to each of the wards, and is reflective of the belief at the time of its construction in the benefits of fresh air. An avenue of Queensland Box trees were planted either side of the approach to the entrance of the Administration and Wards Block from Winthrop Avenue, which remains extant today (2013).

As the threat of infectious diseases decreased during the 1940s, due to immunisation programs and improved living conditions, investigation was undertaken into what other treatments the Infectious Disease Hospital could

provide, or be repurposed to provide. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Perth experienced a significant increase in cases of poliomyelitis, which resulted in a large number of severely paralysed patients requiring long periods of treatment and rehabilitation. As a consequence, the School of Physiotherapy was opened at the hospital in 1953, as did a Paraplegic Unit under the direction of Sir George Bedbrook.

George Bedbrook graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1944. Between 1946 and 1950 Bedbrook lectured in anatomy at the University before moving to Britain for three years and gaining experience in orthopaedics. While in Britain, Bedbrook met Sir Ludwig Guttmann, a German-born neurosurgeon who believed in the importance of sport in the rehabilitation of patients. Guttmann was also responsible for founding the Paralympic Games.

Bedbrook returned to Australia in 1953 and was appointed to the Orthopaedic Department of Royal Perth Hospital. Bedbrook was responsible for the management of the Paraplegic Unit, which became officially recognised as part of the Orthopaedic Department in December 1954.

In 1956, in order to reflect that the Shenton Park facility was no longer a hospital for infectious diseases, it was renamed Royal Perth Hospital Annexe.

The Paraplegic Unit enabled patients to gain a maximum degree of personal independence, and combined rehabilitation with sports and physiotherapy. The program was hugely successful, with patients often sufficiently independent to resume jobs and home life within a year. The program was the first of its kind in Australia, and led to the Shenton Park Hospital becoming a leading facility in spinal injury care throughout the world.

Bedbrook's work at Shenton Park also resulted in the first Commonwealth paraplegic Games being held in Perth in 1962.

Bedbrook continued to pursue excellence in paraplegic care, which, in 1963, resulted in the construction of a purpose-built 40-bed Spinal Injury Department, known in this assessment as Paraplegic Block. The single-storey steel framed brown clay brick building was innovative in its planning principles, and allowed for wards to be located on the periphery of the building to allow for maximum natural light, while concentrating the services to the building's core.

In 1966, the hospital was renamed Royal Perth (Rehabilitation) Hospital. The hospital continues to be known by this name today (2013)

The hospital continued to grow and evolve during the remainder of the twentieth-century, including the addition of a 250-bed nurses home known as Thorburn House (1962), two additional ward blocks (1966), chapel (1968), School of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy (1972), Outpatients/Day Hospital (1983). These places are not included in the curtilage.

In May 2003, a therapeutic garden was opened adjacent to the north of the main building. The garden was created with volunteer labour using donations and fundraising from many Perth businesses, individuals, community groups, and staff of the hospital. The garden also includes a sculpted water feature designed

and built by acclaimed Western Australian artist Robert Juniper, who had been a patient at the hospital.¹

In 2013, *Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital* continues to function for hospital purposes.

The Administration and Wards Block continues to be used for administrative and hospital purposes. Whilst the first floor is unoccupied, in 2013, the original intention is intact

The Paraplegic Block building is still used specifically for the care and treatment of spinal injuries.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Site and context

Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital is located west of the Perth to Fremantle Railway Line and the site is bordered by Selby Street to the east, Lemnos Street to the south and institutional development to the north and west. Shenton College is located on the south side of Lemnos Street and a campus of Curtin University is adjacent to the north. There is residential development to the east of Selby Street.

The main entrance to the site is from Selby Street to the Administration and Wards Block. There are two vehicular access points from Selby Street and two from Lemnos Street. There are numerous buildings on site varying in construction types and styles to suit different hospital uses. The main directory at the entrance to the Hospital records 20 main buildings or groups of buildings that comprise *Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital*.

The topography of the site falls from a high point at the south boundary to a low point at the northern boundary. The majority of the buildings have an east-west orientation. The site has mature planting to the boundary along Selby Street and apart from a section near the corner of Selby Street Lemnos Street also has mature planting. This planting obscures views of the site.

The majority of buildings within the site are linked by covered walkways, named Owen, Muecke, Dawes and Sadka Walk. The site has numerous parking areas, footpaths and informal landscaped areas. The landscape has numerous mature plantings located within open grassed areas.

The buildings and elements on the site that form the basis of this assessment are:

- Avenue of Queensland Box Trees
- Administration and Wards Block (A Block)
- Paraplegic Block – Sir George Bedrock Spinal Unit (G Block) including Therapeutic Gardens

The physical evidence for *Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital* is described under the above headings.

¹ State Heritage Office site visit, 1 December 2005, and commemorative plaques in the garden.

Avenue of Queensland Box Trees

The main pedestrian and vehicular entrance from Selby Street to the central administration is named Victoria Drive. Victoria Drive runs in a westerly direction and leads to some limited car parking and the main entrance to the central administration. The Drive is framed by the canopy of an avenue of mature Queensland Box trees (*Lophostemon confertus*).

The trees are spaced approximately four to five metres apart and are approximately twelve metres in height. The thirteen trees on the south side of Victoria Drive are located one metre from the edge of the road and the eleven trees on the north side are located two metres from the road, adjacent to the concrete footpath.

The trees appear to be in a healthy condition with evidence of strong canopy growth.

Administration and Wards Block (A Block)

The Administration and Wards Block is accessed from Selby Street and is located in the centre of the site. The building has a distinctive radiating plan form with the main axis of the building being east-west and four ward blocks angled at 45 degrees to the main axis. Two of the ward blocks, facing east, are two storeys in height and the remainder of the building is single storey. The building is symmetrically planned and displays exterior characteristics of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style of architecture. There are Art Deco decorative elements at the front entrance and decorative elements are also featured on the first floor façade. The building has simple detailing with a conservative character.

There are numerous additions to each ward block and, for ease of reference, each of the wings is located and described according to its orientation and, where appropriate, by its relevant ward number.

The major sections of the building are:

Administration – Single storey

North-East Wing – Two storey Ground (Ward 2) and First Floor (Ward 3A)

North-West Wing - Single storey Ground Floor (Ward 2)

South-East Wing - Two storey Ground (Ward 1) and First Floor (Ward 3B)

South-West Wing - Single storey Ground Floor (Ward 1)

West Wing - Single storey

External

The Administration and Wards Block has masonry walls and a terracotta tile, hip roof. The east elevation is the main façade of the building. Views to the other elevations are obscured by mature trees and vegetation, covered walkways, ramps, stairs and additions to the main building.

The single storey administration building is rendered and painted with brick sills. The windows are timber double hung. The main entrance automatic aluminium sliding doors are framed by Art Deco decorative detailing.

Generally, the Wards Block ground floor is face red brick with the first floor rendered and painted cream. The ground floor brickwork is stretcher bond with soldier course detailing to the junction of the face brick and render. Soldier course detailing is also used to the windows and to the brick façade panel to the first floor. The walls have a stepped base of three brick courses. There are

terracotta walls vents and rectangular galvanised painted downpipes. Additions to the various wings or grounds have created recreational spaces for patients and staff as well as a number of service areas, such as plant rooms.

Administration – Single storey

The administration section is the main entry to the building and is the central access to the other wings of the building. Adjacent to the main entrance is a flat roof, steel framed covered entrance for patient drop off. The administration has a wide central corridor with reception, waiting area, offices and utility rooms located on either side of the corridor. At the end of the corridor is access to a lift, stairs to the first floor, kitchen and entrances to the ground floor wards to the north and south wings.

The floor construction to the front of the building is carpet tiles on timber and to the west are carpet tiles on a concrete slab. The walls and ceilings are painted plaster. There are simple profile timber skirtings and architraves. Internal doors are generally timber panel hollow core and are either sliding or swing. Double timber doors with eight panes per door are located to entrance hallway of the ward blocks. The timber windows have single glass pane sashes. There is decorative plasterwork from the Inter War period to the ceilings to the reception and waiting rooms. There is also decorative plasterwork to some of the openings and masonry columns. The lighting is fluorescent tube, ceiling mounted.

A plaque to the waiting area records:

THIS PLAQUE WAS ERECTED BY
THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF
ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL
IN APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES OF
THE FRIENDS OF ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL
ON THE
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR FOUNDING
ON 14TH OCTOBER 1984.

A masonry stair with a circular handrail and steel flat bar detailing below the handrail is located to the east of reception.

There have been a number of modifications to this area including a new alignment of the front doors, increased opening to the waiting room wall, enclosure of the link between the administration and wards block and minor changes to doors and other openings. Generally, the form and the architectural details of this section of the building are still evident. This section is in good condition.

Wards Block

The Wards Block is divided into three separate wards. These are:

Ward 1 – Ground floor south-east wing and south-west wing. This ward was occupied at the time of inspection in May 2013.

Ward 2 – Ground floor north-east wing and north-west wing. This ward was occupied at the time of inspection in May 2013.

Ward 3 – First floor wards 3A (south-east wing) and 3B (north-east wing). These wards were not occupied at the time of inspection in May 2013.

Ward 1 – Ground floor south-east wing and south-west wing

Ward 1 is accessed to the south of the central hallway from the administration building. The reception to the ward is located at the intersection of both wings. Both wings have a central passage with rooms located to either side. Both wings of Ward 1 have single storey additions that have altered the exterior form of the wings. The east elevation of the south-east wing addresses the main entry and this elevation has no additions. The additions are accessed from the existing passage ways and provide space for more beds, offices, storage, WCs, showers and utility rooms.

The concrete floors are vinyl covered and the masonry walls have a painted plaster finish. There are some introduced lightweight partition walls. The suspended ceilings have mineral fibre acoustic tiles and modern plaster cornices have a simple profile. Timber framed internal windows and timber sliding doors, consistent with other wards, are still evident. The reception area has been modified and expanded.

Whilst there have been considerable modifications including removal of earlier building details, the earlier form of the wards is still evident. These wards are in good condition.

Ward 2 – Ground floor north-east wing and north-west wing

Ward 2 is accessed to the north of the central hallway from the administration building. The reception to the ward is located at the intersection of both wings. Both wings have a central passage with rooms located to either side. Generally, utility rooms and wet areas are located close to reception and the beds are located in rooms further along the central passages. The verandah to the north-east wing, whilst enclosed, retains its Inter-War form and materials. The verandah is used for storage purposes.

The floors are vinyl covered with the vinyl upturned up the walls. Masonry walls are plastered and painted and ceilings are plaster with simple decoration. Lighting is fluorescent tube. Architraves and cornices are timber with a simple profile. The majority of doors to the rooms are timber sliding with an overhead track covered by a pelmet. The doors have a glass infill panel to the top section of the door.

The North-East Wing has a verandah accessed at the eastern end of the wing. The verandah is brick paved and has ramp access to the ground level.

Ward 3 – First floor wards 3A (south-east wing) and 3B (north-east wing)

Ward 3 is accessed from the stairs or lift from the ground floor located in the hallway of the administration building. Ward 3A is located to the south of the first floor hallway and Ward 3B is located to the north. The wards are used as training spaces, seminar room and some offices. There are no patients accommodated on the first floor. Both wards are designed with a central passage and rooms to either side. The wards are mirror image with some minor differences. Both wards have enclosed verandahs to the west elevations with Ward 3A accessing the veranda via a ward room and 3B accessing the verandah via a passage way. Both wards have open timber verandahs to the end elevations that lead to fire exits in the form of a timber ramp to the north and steel stairs to the south.

Ward 3A has vinyl on a concrete floor and plaster finish to the walls. The plaster has a smooth finish and corners to the walls are rounded. There is a painted steel handrail along the length of the passage way. The main rooms have wide swing doors with glass top panels. Hardware to the doors is not consistent with other building details. There are timber framed fixed glass internal windows to the rooms. The timber architraves have a simple bullnose profile and some have been altered to aluminium. There are timber name plates still evident to some rooms. The plaster ceilings have a stepped profile. A feature of the ward is the timber joinery details. There is a curved timber reception bench, timber shelving and French timber doors to the verandahs. The form of the ward is still clearly evident with building details, fixtures and fittings still extant. The ward is well maintained and in good condition.

Ward 3B has similar details as 3A. There are some minor alterations expressed in the building fabric. This is evidenced in the passage where a previous recessed space has been infilled and the change of detail to the ceiling and cornice reflect the alteration. The French timber doors to the verandah have four glass panels, some with obscure glass. Ward 3B's form is still evident and it is in good condition.

West Wing - Single storey

The west wing is used for offices and is accessed externally from the central administration. One section, the kitchen, is accessed internally. There is an addition to the western end housing a plant room. The remainder of the wing retains its overall form, but has been modified internally.

The office spaces have a carpet floor finish on a concrete slab. Some of the walls are masonry with a painted plaster finish. Full height aluminium framed partitioning with highlight glazing divides the offices. Most of the ceilings are lined with acoustic mineral fibre panels. One of the offices retains plaster detailing to the ceilings and cornice and also has a timber floor. The windows are timber double hung and the lighting throughout is fluorescent tube.

The kitchen is a rectangular single space located near Ward 2. Apart from the external walls and timber windows, there is little evidence of former uses. The floor is concrete with a vinyl covering. Vinyl also extends up the walls and there are stainless steel benches throughout.

The west wing retains some building details, mainly evident in its external form and it is in good condition.

Paraplegic Block – Sir George Bedrock Spinal Unit (G Block) including Therapeutic Gardens

Site

The Paraplegic Block is located in the north-west section of the site and is accessed by a covered walkway (Dawes Walk) from the Administration and Wards Block. Vehicle access is from Lemnos Street to the south with car parking adjacent to the building to the east. The rectangular, single storey building is orientated east-west with a flat grassed area to the south. The grassed area is bounded by a stone retaining wall that forms the northern edge of E block. There is flat steel roofed, steel framed small covered area to the south accessed from the covered walkway. The area to the north is an open informal grass area that slopes down towards the Hospital's northern boundary.

At the north eastern end of the building is a formal landscaped garden that has rendered masonry retaining walls and piers with open steel fencing. The landscaped area is accessed from the covered way on the north and directly from the Patient Dining Room in G Block. The irregular shaped hexagon is brick paved with low limestone block walls and a rounded edge capping stone that forms a flat surface for seating. The limestone walls form raised planting beds. The central planter has a mature eucalypt tree and a small pond with a bronze sculpture featuring dolphins. There are steel posts located at various points that form the base for a shade sail structure. At the eastern end of the space is a covered area with a mosaic tile feature wall. A plaque at the eastern end of the landscape area reads:

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL
SHENTON PARK CAMPUS
THERAPEUTIC GARDEN

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IS GIVEN TO THE GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS
AND ORGANISATIONS WHO DONATED TIME, MONEY AND SERVICES.

Major contributors to the Therapeutic Garden are listed on the plaque.

External

The Paraplegic Block has a steel frame with brown stretcher bond brickwork infill panels. Steel door and window frame panels are full height and are divided into four horizontal proportioned sections, forming a distinctive design element. The building has a horizontal profile with the façade divided into bays and the steel structure expressed. The building displays some characteristics of the Late Twentieth-Century Stripped Classical style of architecture.

The steel roof 'I' beams extend past the building line to form a covered walkway on both the north and south sides of the building. The painted beams connect to steel columns at the edge of the concrete walkway. The beams and columns form a colonnade to both elevations. The walkway is lined with compressed fibre cement sheeting. The walkway is enclosed at the eastern end from the main hospital walkway (Dawes Walk) to the main entrance to G Block. The low pitched steel roof has steel fascia panels with hidden gutters. Large scaled rainwater heads feed into 200mm diameter circular downpipes. There are two timber doors with wired glass to top and bottom panels to the south elevation.

At the western end of the building there is a concrete ramp leading to a covered loading bay. A section of the west elevation has a steel grille screening a services store and there are steel vertical louvers to the northern end of the west elevation screening west facing windows. The east elevation is adjacent to the main covered walkway and features two gardens located either side of a face brick plant room. A section of the brickwork to the main entry on the south elevation has been painted a cream colour and there are some replacement window panels to sections of all the elevations. Under the lining to the south and north covered walkways, there are steel tie rods running from the edge of the walkway steel frame to the inside of the face brickwork. There is evidence that these rods are a later addition to the building.

There are two plaques located near the main entry. One plaque states:

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL
PARAPLEGIC BLOCK WAS OPENED
BY
HON. ROSS HUTCHINSON D.F.C. M.L.A.
MINISTER FOR HEALTH
23 NOVEMBER 1963

ARCHITECTS
F.G.B. HAWKINS AND DESMOND SANDS

BUILDER
WATSON CONSTRUCTION PTY. LTD.

The other plaque records the naming of the Spinal Unit in honour of Sir George Bedbrook, a consultant in spinal injury to the Hospital from 1954 to 1987. The plaque is dated 3 August, 1987.

Internal

The internal plan consists of two full length corridors that form a north, central and south line of rooms. There are two cross corridors that link the main passage ways. The main entrance is at the south-east of the building, with other entrances at the eastern end and the south-west end of the building. The entry at the south-west end is still extant but has been adapted to an office use.

The central rooms are service spaces with WCs, showers, stores, offices and nursing stations. The north and south line of rooms contain the ward beds, seminar room, patient dining and recreational room.

The corridors are wide to allow easy access as well as some equipment storage. The floor is vinyl on a concrete slab to most rooms. The vinyl turns up to form a skirting to the walls. There are carpet squares to the seminar room and the waiting area adjacent to the main entry. Walls are painted rendered masonry or lightweight partition and the suspended ceiling is an acoustic mineral fibre tile. Large timber sliding doors to the wards are on an overhead track system with steel pelmets. The doors have wired glass to the top panel. There are terrazzo lintels to some openings and terrazzo partitions to showers.

In May 2013 the Paraplegic Block is in operational use as part of the Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital and is in good physical condition.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Infectious Diseases Hospitals

Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital is important as the site of Perth's first purpose-built hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases;

There are 82 hospitals recorded in the State Heritage Office database. Of these 82, excluding *Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital*, there is only one place with a recorded use as a hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases, which is Royal Perth Hospital.

P4289 *Royal Perth Hospital Precinct*, Perth (1855+) – provisions for infectious diseases existed at Royal Perth Hospital from 1885 in the form of simple timber structure which functioned as a segregated infectious diseases ward. Infectious diseases continued to be treated at Royal Perth

Hospital until the establishment of the Shenton Park Infectious Diseases Hospital in 1894.

Facilities for the treatment of infectious diseases are also known to have existed in the regions, particularly in the Goldfields during the 1890s, where there were an abundance of infectious cases and people were less likely to be moved over a long distance for care. These 'fever wards' were usually simple structures or tents.²

Other places in Western Australia associated with the segregation and treatment of infectious diseases are the Quarantine Stations, of which there are nine recorded in the State Heritage Office database.

Of these nine, two are entered in the State Register; they are P84 Quarantup Complex, Vancouver Peninsula, Albany (1874+) and P499 Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point (1886+). The stations at Albany and Woodman Point were two of four Quarantine Stations declared during the colonial period (the other two being at Augusta and Carnac Island) in order to facilities for the control of contagious and infectious diseases into Western Australia through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.³

Although infectious diseases have been prominent in Western Australia throughout its history, the above suggests that few purpose-built hospitals were constructed for the control and treatment of infectious diseases.

Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital is therefore significant as the site of Perth's first purpose-built infectious diseases hospital.

Rehabilitation Hospitals

The establishment of a paraplegic rehabilitation unit at *Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital* in 1954 was the first facility of its kind in Australia.

A search of the State Heritage Office database produces no results for places which provide rehabilitation and care facilities.

Places known to have provided rehabilitation care in Western Australia include:

P4289 *Royal Perth Hospital Precinct*, Perth (1855+) – a rehabilitation wing, also known as the 'Soldier Ward' but now known as Block C, was constructed between 1920 and 1923. Rehabilitation services ceased at Royal Perth Hospital in the 1950s when they were transferred to Shenton Park facility.

It is likely that places comparable to *Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital* do exist, however have not been included on heritage lists such as Municipal Inventories and have therefore not been entered in to the State Heritage Office database.

² Snow, D. *The Progress of Public Health in Western Australia* (Perth: 1986), p.81, cited in Martyr, Philippa, *West of Subiaco: A History of the Shenton Park Campus, 1893-1993* (Widowed Isis Internet Publishing: 1998), p.1, sourced from http://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa_b2774088_001. Accessed on 13.6.2013.

³ Heritage Council of Western Australia, State Register of Heritage Places Assessment Documentation, P499 *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* (2006), p.5.

Despite the likelihood of there being other rehabilitation treatment facilities in Western Australia, as the first of its kind to be established in Australia, *Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital* is significant.

13. 4 REFERENCES

'Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital [formerly known as the Victoria Hospital, the Infectious Diseases Hospital and Shenton Park Annexe] Conservation Plan' prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services on behalf of Royal Perth Hospital) by Heritage and Conservation Professionals (August 1998).

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
