



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)

- 3.24.2 Providing hospital services
- 4.5 Making towns to serve rural Australia

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The three 1934 hospital buildings, situated in the grounds of the *Narrogin Regional Hospital*, exhibit the aesthetic characteristics of the Inter-War Free Classical style. The gardens at the front of the buildings, in particular the rose garden and the mature palm trees, are typical of the era of the buildings' construction and enhance the aesthetic value of the place. (Criterion 1.1)

The 1962 Administration Block, in particular the north elevation, entry and foyer, exhibit the aesthetic characteristics of the Post-War International Style that was used by the Public Works Department in the late 1950s and early 1960s. (Criterion 1.1)

The buildings and grounds of the *Narrogin Regional Hospital* have aesthetic value as an important landmark that stands on a major road leading from Narrogin to Perth. (Criterion 1.3)

The buildings and grounds of the *Narrogin Regional Hospital*, especially the northern half, contribute to the aesthetic qualities of Williams Road and the surrounding residential area. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Narrogin Regional Hospital demonstrates the evolution of Narrogin from a small country town to a regional centre. The development of technology and the changes in medical practice can be seen in the way the place has evolved from a small single storey building to a large complex of buildings, each with a discrete function, that serves the entire district. (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 has historic value as the site of the first hospital in town, it contains the buildings of the second hospital (1934 hospital buildings) and it has been in continuous use as a medical centre since 1909. (Criterion 2.1)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The community values the place as the site of the first hospital in Narrogin. The site has been used since 1909 as the community's medical centre. (Criterion 4.1)

Public consultation regarding recent plans to upgrade and refurbish the *Narrogin Regional Hospital* indicate that there is considerable community concern about protecting the 1934 hospital buildings that are seen to be important for historic and social reasons. (Criterion 4.1)

Narrogin Regional Hospital contributes to the community's sense of place as an important community facility that has operated on this site since 1909. (Criterion 4.2))

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The three 1934 hospital buildings that form a part of the *Narrogin Regional Hospital* have some rarity value as an uncommon example of a substantial country hospital from the Inter-War period. These buildings are rare as an example of a country hospital in the Inter-War Free Classical style. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The 1962 Administration Block, and in particular its north elevation, foyer, entry and signage, is representative of the Post-War International Style that was used extensively by the Public Works Department of Western Australia for a variety of government buildings in the late 1950s and 1960s. (Criterion 6.1)

Narrogin Regional Hospital is representative of a substantial country hospital that has evolved slowly over the last century and it illustrates the growth and increasing specialisation that has occurred in medical care. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Generally the buildings and grounds of the *Narrogin Regional Hospital* are in good condition. However, the 1934 buildings (Pathology, Allied Health etc.) have some items that are in fair condition and require some basic external maintenance to prevent them becoming dilapidated.

The good condition of the place is due to an ongoing maintenance programme. This programme has also resulted in some minor losses of original fabric and simplification of detail.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The three 1934 Hospital buildings have a moderate degree of integrity. These buildings are no longer used for their original specific hospital use but they have been adapted to suit similar medical uses.

The 1962 and 1971 hospital buildings have high to moderate integrity as they have been reorganised to suit new developments in hospital care and have undergone various minor changes in use. Generally the original intention of the place is intact and most current uses of its component parts are compatible with their original purpose.

The Henry House Nurses' Quarters (1966) and the Director of Nursing's Residence (1971) have a high degree of integrity as they both continue to accommodate their original use. The Nurses' Training Building (circa 1950s) however has low integrity as it is now used as offices and consulting rooms for the Primary Care department of the hospital.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The exterior of the 1934 hospital buildings has a high to moderate degree of authenticity as it is substantially in its original state but the interior has a moderate to low degree of authenticity as it has undergone several refurbishment programmes. However, the 1934 Administration Block (Pathology) appears to be of a higher degree of authenticity than the rear buildings because its interior and exterior have undergone less change and lost less original fabric.

The north façade and the lobby area of the 1962 Administration Block have a high degree of authenticity as they appear to be largely unaltered. However, the interior and rear sections of the 1962 buildings have been altered to suit changing requirements for hospital care and the construction of additional hospital wards and facilities. The 1971 hospital buildings have also been altered to suit changing requirements.

The Henry House Nurses' Quarters (1966) and the Director of Nursing's Flat (1971) are all largely unaltered and have a high degree of authenticity. The Nurses' Training Building (circa 1950s) has undergone some minor changes to internal finishes and auxiliary rooms such as bathrooms to suit it to its new use as offices and consulting rooms for Primary Care.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Prue Griffin, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Gena Binet and Alan Kelsall, Architects of Kelsall Binet Architects.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Narrogin Regional Hospital is a complex of buildings built between 1934 and 1994. The design and construction of the place has been overseen by the Public Works Department of Western Australia, subsequently the Building Management Authority and the Department of Contract and Management Services. *Narrogin Regional Hospital* serves the Town of Narrogin and services a catchment area of approximately 29 000 square kilometres.

The town of Narrogin was one of many small rural settlements established in the mid to late nineteenth century in Western Australia to service the developing agricultural industries, principally wheat, sheep and dairying. In

1889, the Great Southern Railway was completed from Albany to Beverley through the initiative of Sydney businessman Anthony Hordern and his company, the WA Land Company.¹ The line passed through Narrogin and secured it greater prosperity. The line was privately operated until 1896 when it was sold to the State government for £800,000.²

Narrogin developed in the early part of the twentieth century as the major town in the district because of its role as the rail centre for the district. This was the result of Narrogin being chosen for the location for the branch line to the Collie coalfields in 1908.³ The development of Narrogin was noted in J. S. Battye's description of the town in 1912:

Narrogin was the first town on the Great Southern extension to become a municipality, and since that time has made considerable progress. ...combined with substantial business premises and an increasing number of handsome private residences, (it) give(s) an air of stability and permanence. Since the completion of the railway from Brunswick on the south-western line through Collie to Narrogin the town has grown considerably, and when the line from Narrogin to Merredin already built as far as Wickepin, is completed, it will have practically direct communication with the eastern goldfields. In addition the survey of the Narrogin-Armadale line, which it is anticipated will reduce the distance from Fremantle by 57 miles, has been authorised, so that it is confidently expected that Narrogin will in time become an important railway centre.⁴

As the town developed the demand for a hospital grew. A reserve was created in 1907 for hospital purposes, but it was not until 1909, in response to a cholera scare that a small, two-ward, public hospital was built in Narrogin. Another reserve was created at this time to accommodate future expansion.⁵

Several timber additions were made to the first hospital during the 1910s and 1920s. Diphtheria and influenza epidemics in 1918 and 1919 further demonstrated the inadequacy of the facilities. Patients were accommodated in tents where the present hospital buildings now stand.⁶ In 1925, negotiations between the Town Council, the State Government and the Narrogin Roads Board began to finance a new hospital. Planning for the new hospital began with the preparation of plans by the Public Works Department in 1929.⁷ To enable the project to proceed the funds had to be obtained from the State Government in addition to local fundraising. After lengthy negotiation, legislation entitled the Narrogin Hospital Act, was passed in 1932 to enable the funding of the project.⁸

Construction of the resulting three, single storey, brick and tile structures was undertaken by the Perth firm of Hawkins and Sons.⁹ The Administration Block contained offices and the matron's apartment. The Ward Block contained a 12 bed men's ward, a 10 bed women's ward, a 6 bed children's ward, 8 private rooms, stores, duty room and bathrooms attached to the rear verandah. The Kitchen Block accommodated a kitchen, staff dining, x-ray

¹ O. E. Pustkuchen, *The Way Through, The Story of Narrogin*, Town of Narrogin, 1981, p. 84.

² Maurie White *Mighty Heart Narrogin's Railway Story*, published by author, 1991, p. 14.

³ Maurie White *Mighty Heart Narrogin's Railway Story*, published by author, 1991, p. 22.

⁴ J. S. Battye, *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, 1912, p. 684.

⁵ Reserves 17533 and 10846, Reserve Register, Department of Land Administration.

⁶ Maurie White, 'Hospitals in Narrogin', notes held at Narrogin History House compiled from *Narrogin Observer*, p. 4

⁷ These 1929 plans are held at the Narrogin History House, a facility of the Town of Narrogin. There are three plans dated August 1929, showing plans, elevations and sections

⁸ Narrogin Hospital Annual Report, 1989, p. 5.

⁹ *The Narrogin Observer* 26 May 1934, p. 1.

room, anaesthetics room, sterilizing room and operating theatre.¹⁰ These buildings are currently used for the Pathology, Allied Health and Occupational Therapy. The original timber hospital buildings were converted to staff quarters, an orderly room and for some time pathology. They were demolished in April 1979 and the site has since remained empty.¹¹

The 1934 hospital buildings were constructed while William Hardwick was Chief Architect of the Public Works Department. A number of significant buildings were completed in the period, including country high schools, university buildings and hospitals. New hospital buildings were constructed at Katanning, West Subiaco (Lemnos Hospital), Point Heathcote (Heathcote Hospital) and Kalgoorlie.¹²

On 19 May 1934, an opening ceremony for the hospital was held that has become part of the local folklore. The acting Minister of Health, Mr. Kitson, was asked to open the hospital but during the car trip to Narrogin his car overturned and he was admitted to the hospital as a patient. Earlier in the day a railway accident had caused the admission of three passengers to the hospital. It has been stated in later reports that Mr. Kitson was the first patient at the hospital. The more accurate statement is that he was the first patient in the hospital after the official opening.¹³

Mayor A. P. McCormick stepped in to open the hospital and in *The Narrogin Observer's* report of the ceremony, recorded that the Mayor 'express(ed) the earnest hope that the new institution would be found adequate in every way for the requirements of Narrogin and district for the next 50 years.'¹⁴ However, as a result of post-war population growth, the hospital facilities proved inadequate. Minor additions, repairs and renovations of the main building were undertaken in 1944, 1945 and 1947.¹⁵ Ancillary buildings were constructed on the site; the domestics quarters in 1949¹⁶ and in 1957, the new mortuary.¹⁷

Plans for major additions were drawn under the supervision of Mr. Green of the Public Works Department in 1958 and tenders called in 1959.¹⁸ The successful tenderer was the Perth firm of P. T. Murphy Pty. Ltd.¹⁹ Work began on the major additions to the hospital in November 1959 and the estimated cost was £336,000.²⁰ The project took over two years to finish and on completion the final cost was still stated to be £336,000 with an additional £22,000 for furnishings.²¹ The Administration Block (1962), Ward Block (1962) and Laundry/Workshop Block (1962) were constructed at this time.

An opening ceremony was held on 22 March 1962 with the official duties performed by the Minister for Health, Hon. Ross Hutchinson. The additions provided accommodation for 58 beds; 35 general and 23 maternity. The

¹⁰ Plans of Proposed Hospital Narrogin, 22 August 1929, held by Narrogin History House.

¹¹ Maurie White, 'Hospitals in Narrogin', notes held at Narrogin History House compiled from *The Narrogin Observer*, p. 7.

¹² Le Page, J.S.H., *Building a State*, The Water Authority of Western Australia, 1986, p. 458.

¹³ *The Narrogin Observer* 26 May 1934, p. 1 and Narrogin Hospital Annual Report, 1989, p. 5.

¹⁴ *The Narrogin Observer* 26 May 1934, p. 1

¹⁵ Government Gazette, 1944, p. 57; 1945, pp. 156,658; 1947 p. 2204.

¹⁶ Government Gazette, 1949, pp. 989,1260, 1992, 2397; 1950, pp. 38, 207, 492.

¹⁷ Government Gazette, 1957, p. 60, 3518.

¹⁸ Government Gazette, 1959, pp. 1157, 1430.

¹⁹ *The Narrogin Observer*, 10 September 1959, p. 1.

²⁰ *The Narrogin Observer*, 5 November 1959, p.1.

²¹ *The Narrogin Observer*, 29 March 1962, p. 1.

additions were described by the Minister as 'the first phase of the development of hospital facilities in Narrogin'.²² An enthusiastic report by the *Narrogin Observer* described the building and appointments as 'magnificent' and 'all were amazed at the advances made in medical facilities and will agree that it was no idle boast by the Minister that there is no more modern hospital in Australia than that in Narrogin'.²³

Local bricks were used in the construction of the additions and clay roof tiles came from Perth manufacturer, Bristle. The contribution of the local Women's Auxiliary to the hospital was acknowledged. This fund raising group donated £2000 to the hospital for the purchase of equipment and items for patient comfort.²⁴

The next phase of improvements to the hospital followed. In 1962, the toilets were converted and in 1963 further repairs and renovations were put out to tender.²⁵ A pathology department and later a blood bank were opened within the Administrative Block of the 1934 hospital.

Architects, Hobbs Winning and Leighton were commissioned in 1963 to design a new kitchen and stores block but pressure on beds, particularly in the children's ward, made it necessary to plan for extra ward accommodation. In 1965, following a report to the Commissioner for Public Health, the commission was extended to include a master plan for future development of the *Narrogin Regional Hospital*.²⁶

One of the first projects completed as a part of the master plan was the three storey staff quarters block. The new quarters replaced the earlier building known as Mackie's Flats and the accommodation in the original timber 1909 hospital.²⁷ Mackie's Flats were located on the north-eastern corner of the site but they have since been demolished for the construction of the Director of Nursing's Residence (1971). The official opening took place on 1 July 1966 and was performed by the Hon. G. C. Mackinnon, the Minister for Health. Construction was carried out by G. A. Esslemont and Son for a cost of \$200 000. The building was designed to accommodate 42 staff in single rooms and 'the furnishings ... could be described as bordering on the lavish'.²⁸ The design featured built-in furniture and allowed for expansion to the east for a further 60 bedrooms. The building was named Henry House in honour of Sylvia Henry, who was Matron of the hospital from 1946 until 1964.²⁹

In 1966, excavations were commenced for a new ward, kitchen and dining room blocks. The construction was completed in 1971 by the builders Trident Building Company Pty. Ltd. for \$826 574. Local bricks and chocolate blend, Swiss pattern roof tiles were used in the construction. The new extensions consisted of two blocks; one with wards, utility rooms, stores, morgue and service area. This was later named the Slavin Wing in honour of Dr. Michael Slavin, a long serving Narrogin doctor. A name plate was unveiled by Dr. Slavin in 1988. The second block consisted mainly of the food stores, kitchen, dining room, toilets, and offices. It was planned that sufficient space was

²² *The Narrogin Observer*, 29 March 1962, p. 1.

²³ *ibid.*

²⁴ *The Narrogin Observer*, 22 March 1962, p. 5.

²⁵ Government Gazette, 1962, pp. 1768, 1815, 1899, 2227, 2288, 2380; 1963, 2436, 2637, 2732, 2778.

²⁶ *The Narrogin Observer*, 21 January 1971, p. 1.

²⁷ *The Narrogin Observer*, 27 June 1963, p. 1. Note that Mackie's Flats and the original timber buildings are no longer extant.

²⁸ *The Narrogin Observer*, 7 July 1966, p. 1.

²⁹ *ibid.*

available on the site for future ward blocks and a geriatric unit.³⁰ The Minister for Health, Hon. J. C. MacKinnon opened the new additions on 13 January 1971.³¹

During the 1980s the future of the *Narrogin Regional Hospital* was questioned by many in the community, prompting a report by Architects Silver Thomas Hanley in 1991. These investigations found that the hospital was 60% too large for its requirements. Whilst not all the recommendations were undertaken; the general ward which had closed in 1985, was reopened and the patient accommodation was concentrated in this ward and the maternity ward (these wards are located in the 1962 Ward Block). The more distant Slavin Wing (1971) was converted to laboratories, staff facilities and staff development.³²

As the 1990s progressed several upgradings and developments have taken place. A new undercover ambulance bay was built in 1990.³³ In 1994, the general ward in the 1962 Ward Block had extensions costing \$1.25 million. Opened by Health Minister Peter Foss, the extension included seven new single rooms a 2-bed room in the acute area, four-bed paediatric section and a new play area for children.³⁴ In 1995 alterations were carried out in the Permanent Care Unit that had been located in the 1934 Ward Block. Then further alterations were carried out in 1996 in the Maternity wing in the 1962 Ward Block. In 1997, after controversy and deliberation, the Permanent Care Unit closed and the 1934 Ward Block became Allied Health.³⁵

Redevelopment continues as the needs of the community and technology change. Plans for the future of the *Narrogin Regional Hospital* are being considered. At the recent agricultural show held in Narrogin, plans were placed on public display to show the future plans for the site. It was noted by Health Department staff that a common public response was the resistance to the plan to demolish the 1934 building, currently housing the Blood Bank and Pathology. The reasons given were the age of the building and its role in the history of the town.³⁶ *Narrogin Regional Hospital* continues to operate as a hospital.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Narrogin Regional Hospital is located on Williams Road, the main road leading from the centre of Narrogin to Williams on the Albany Highway.

The hospital is sited in a largely residential area approximately two kilometres west of the town centre. The surrounding area contains a considerable proportion of houses that date from the early Twentieth Century as well as the Narrogin Primary School that contains a classroom block and staff quarters from this period.

³⁰ *The Narrogin Observer*, 21 January 1971, p. 1.

³¹ *ibid.*

³² Maurie White, 'Hospitals in Narrogin', notes held at Narrogin History House compiled from *Narrogin Observer*, p. 8.

³³ Maurie White, 'Hospitals in Narrogin', notes held at Narrogin History House compiled from *Narrogin Observer*.

³⁴ Media Statement from the Minister for Health, Peter Foss, 4 November 1994.

³⁵ Maurie White, 'Hospitals in Narrogin', notes held at Narrogin History House compiled from *Narrogin Observer*.

³⁶ Conversation between Prue Griffin and Sue Jones, Health Department Narrogin, 7 February 2000.

The site of the *Narrogin Regional Hospital* is a large, roughly 'L' shaped block that is bounded by Williams Road, Scott Street, Furnival Street, Floreat Street, Falcon Street and Johnson Street. There are eleven major buildings scattered across this site and several small outbuildings. On the northern half of the site gardens, trees and lawns separate the buildings giving this part of the site a parkland quality, however, a large portion of the south of the site is gravel with no planting.

The eastern half of the site contains the bulk of the hospital buildings, all of which date from post 1962. Generally these single storey buildings are lineal blocks whose long axis runs east-west. These blocks are arranged parallel to each other with long covered walkways linking them and gardens and lawns in the spaces between. In the north-west corner of the site, facing Williams Road, is the 1962 Administration Block. In front of this block is the main entry to the hospital site, the public carpark and a substantial rose garden. Progressing south across the site from the 1962 Administration Block is the 1962 Ward Block, the Slavin Wing (1971), the Kitchen Block (1971) and the staff carpark. The staff carpark is entered from Furnival Street on the south. To the east of these buildings is the Laundry/Workshop Block (1962). The long axis of this building is orientated north-south and it is entered from Floreat Road on the east. There is a large area of gravel in the south-west corner of the site.

In the centre of the site are the 1934 hospital buildings. This group is made up of three lineal buildings whose long axis run east-west. These buildings are positioned parallel to each other and are linked by walkways. The building nearest Williams road, the 1934 Administration Block (now Pathology), is approached by a formal semi-circular driveway bordering a formal rose garden. To the south of this block is the 1934 Ward Block (now Allied Health) and behind this is the 1934 Kitchen (now Occupational Therapy).

To the east of the 1934 hospital buildings is the site of the 1909 hospital. This site is covered with loose gravel and in places there are remnants of concrete footings. Mature gums stand on the edges of the site.

To the east of this empty site is the former Nurses Training School (circa 1950s). This single storey, residential style building addresses Williams Road and now houses Primary Care.

To the south of this building is the three-storey nurses' quarters, Henry House (1966) and in the far north-eastern corner is the single storey Director of Nursing's Residence (1977).

Generally the buildings are in good to fair condition but they all, and in particular the 1934 Administration Block, require some basic maintenance to their exteriors to prevent further deterioration. There is some minor cracking in masonry walls but none appears to be structural. The ridges and hip tiles to the roofs are loose in places and require re-grouting and there is considerable lichen growth on the roof tiles. There is some evidence of rising damp where paint is peeling off the brick plinth and this may be due to the large areas of bitumen and other paving surfaces that almost completely surround the building. Some timberwork, especially fascia boards, need to be repaired and generally trims and mouldings need to be re-fixed where they have come loose. Some external painted surfaces are in poor condition, especially roof timbers and eaves linings.

1934 HOSPITAL BUILDINGS

This group is made up of three buildings the 1934 Administration Block (Pathology), the 1934 Ward Block (Allied Health) and the 1934 Kitchen Block (Occupational Therapy). These three buildings are each designed in a slightly different manner with the level of planning and detail developed to suit the degree of social importance attached to each building's function. The building nearest to Williams Road, the 1934 Administration Block, has been designed in the *Inter-War Free Classical* style (c. 1915-1940). The 1934 Ward Block is designed in a simplified version of the *Inter-War Free Classical* style. At the rear of this group is the 1934 Kitchen Block, a utilitarian, timber framed weatherboard building that has not been designed in a special style but is rather a product of typical building techniques and practices of the time.

These three buildings are all linear in plan with an east-west long axis. The buildings are positioned parallel to each other and are linked together by covered walkways. These walkways have since been enclosed into corridors and new rooms have been added beside the walkways.

A 900mm high chain link and pipe rail fence bounds the site and a semi-circular bitumen drive leads from Williams Road to the steps of the 1934 Administration Block (Pathology). There is evidence to suggest that this driveway was originally gravel with a laterite rock edge. The entrances are marked with decorative red brick pillars that have gate hinges but no gates. The semi-circle marked by the driveway has been planted with a mixed selection of roses. Mature date palms are on either side of the 1934 Administration Block and set in the surrounding Buffalo grass lawns there is a collection of mature Cotton Palms, Camphor Laurels, Japanese Pepper Trees and other exotic species. Generally gravel paths surround the buildings but the more heavily utilised paths have been bitumenised.

1934 Administration Block (Pathology)

The 1934 Administration Block is an almost rectangular block with its long axis orientated east-west setting the building not quite parallel to Williams Road. Five brick steps lead up to the front verandah but the rear verandah is at ground level as the land has a gentle fall from the rear of the site towards Williams Road.

This building has a face brick plinth and rendered brick walls, the plinth has been painted. The walls have terracotta grid pattern vents set at high and low level. A rendered string set just above window head height runs around the north, east and west elevations of the building but is discontinued at the corners of the south elevation.

The hipped, 25 degree (approx.) pitch roof is clad with red coloured, Marseilles pattern terracotta roof tiles. The eaves are lined with fibro cement sheets with timber cover battens and the gutters are ovolo profile painted p.g.i. gutters with a scotia mould under. This building has several rendered brick chimneys with a facework soldier course cap, several painted pressed tin vents and a centrally located lantern vent. The lantern vent is a four-sided framed structure that is clad with fibro cement sheeting and has a timber vent on each face. The pitched, red terracotta, plain tile roof is surmounted by a terracotta finial and the eaves and gutters are detailed to match the main roof of the building.

The north façade of this building contains the formal entry to this complex and exhibits the greatest degree of modulation and detail. Projecting wings at both ends of the façade flank a verandah with a central entry bay. The

projecting wings and bay have rendered quoining. 5 brick steps with a face brick balustrade lead up to the entry bay. The entry bay has a rectangular, rendered masonry pier at each corner with two free-standing rendered ionic columns flanking the steps. The verandah has rendered masonry piers attached to the end walls and the central bay and a rendered masonry balustrade with decorative slots and capping. The floor of the verandah is concrete and the soffit is lined with fibro cement sheeting with timber battens to match the eaves of the roof. Unlike elsewhere in the building the walls on the verandah have a dado of face brickwork to window sill height with rendered wall above. The face brick dado has been painted. On the verandah beam above the steps is painted the sign 'BLOOD BANK & PATHOLOGY'.³⁷

Generally the windows in this building are 6 pane double hung sash windows but there is one 1 pane double hung sash at the rear of the building and some 1 pane, short glazed timber windows in bathroom areas. Some windows have 2 panel timber flywires or aluminium blinds and some have air conditioning units fitted into the window sashes. Window sills are angled face bricks. The front door is a pair of 8 pane, 1 panel French doors with 4 panel flywire doors. There are two 6 pane, 1 panel timber doors opening onto the front verandah.

The rear verandah of this building has been enclosed with a stud framed wall. This wall has a dado clad with fibro cement sheet with a horizontal band of timber framed fixed and hopper windows above. A door leading into the enclosed verandah, a flush plywood door with a small glazed viewing panel, is now the main entry to this building. A small plastic sign stating 'PATHOLOGY' is fixed above this door.

An open walkway leads from this rear door to the verandah of the adjacent 1934 Ward Block (Allied Health). On the east side of the walkway is a small building that houses a waiting room and toilets. The walkway and small building appear to be a later addition that is contemporaneous with the enclosure to the rear verandah. This addition has a flat roof with a fibro cement sheet clad fascia. The walls are face red brick and the timber windows, like those on the rear verandah, are composed of horizontal format fixed panes and hopper sashes with a fibro cement sheet clad spandrel panel under. The underside of the walkway roof is lined with vermiculite, the floor is concrete and the posts are square timber sections.

Internal layout and details

The front door to the 1934 Administration Block opens off the north verandah and leads into the entry hall that is separated from the adjacent reception area by a dwarf wall and counter. The entry hall leads onto the enclosed back verandah that now functions as an internal corridor. To the west of the entry hall are the laboratories and specimen collecting rooms of the Pathology Department and to the east the rooms that were, until recently, used by the Blood Bank. A waiting room, a brick addition, opens off the enclosed back verandah. Adjacent to this addition is a covered walkway that leads to the 1934 Ward Block.

The internal fittings, fixtures and finishes in this building are standard throughout and reflect the current requirements for allied health buildings. A typical room has plastered brick walls, a terrazzo floor with a terrazzo cove skirting and a plasterboard ceiling with a cove cornice. Cast plaster wall vents to external walls have been retained as have most internal timber panel doors

³⁷ This sign is out of date as there is no longer a Blood Bank in this building.

and windows. Doors in areas of high usage however have been replaced with flush panel doors. External windows have plain painted timber pelmets and curtains. Most rooms are lit with suspended fluorescent tubes and air-conditioning units are mounted in windows or more recently on walls. Built-in cupboards, hospital furniture and equipment and sanitary ware are all of fairly recent origin.

The enclosed rear verandah has plastered brick walls, a vinyl tile floor with a painted timber bullnose skirting and a plasterboard ceiling with a timber rectangular section cornice. Most doors are flush panel doors and the external window/wall has a fibro cement sheet spandrel below the timber framed windows.

Subsequent alterations

The following alterations were recorded during the site investigation of these buildings. These works are not described in the documentary evidence and the date at which they were carried out is not known.

The rear verandah has been enclosed and a new covered link has been constructed between the 1934 Administration Block and the 1934 Ward Block. A brick and tile waiting room has been constructed adjacent to the enclosed rear verandah and to the east of new walkway. Due to the similarity in construction and materials, it is likely that these additions were carried out at the same time.

Air-conditioning units have been inserted into windows and fanlights throughout the building and internal finishes have been standardised. Generally new floor coverings and plasterboard ceilings with cove cornices have been installed throughout and some panelled timber internal doors have been replaced with new flush panel doors.

1934 Ward Block (Allied Health)

The 1934 Ward Block is a long lineal building with a slightly projecting central wing and a verandah that runs the full length of the northern side of the building. An open walkway links this building to the 1934 Administration Block and a closed walkway links it to the 1934 Kitchen Block to the south. A second covered walkway links the rear of the 1934 Ward Block with the 1962/71 section of the hospital.

The open area between the 1934 Administration Block and the 1934 Ward Block has been paved with bitumen but the open area between the 1934 Ward Block and the 1934 Kitchen Block has been planted with gardens.

The walls of the 1934 Ward Block have a face brick dado to window sill height with rendered brickwork above and terracotta grid pattern vents set at high and low level. The face brick dado has been painted. Like the 1934 Administration Block, the 1934 Ward Block has a hipped, 25 degree (approx.) pitch roof clad with red, Marseilles pattern terracotta roof tiles and the same eaves and gutter detail.

Generally, the windows are 1 pane double hung timber sashes with a fanlight, however, there are a few aluminium sliding sash toilet windows. Most doors are 3 pane, 1 panel French doors with a 1 pane aluminium flywire screen and a fanlight set above in a separate opening, however, the main entry doors are half glazed flush panel doors.

It would appear that originally a verandah encircled this building but later alterations and additions have enclosed the southern verandah and a section of the western verandah. The remainder of the unenclosed verandahs have a

flat metal deck roof with no soffit lining, ovolo plain galvanised iron gutters with a scotia mould under, square section timber posts and a concrete floor with a face brick verandah wall. Pipe rail handrails have been added on the east elevation where the ground levels fall away from the building.

A large addition has been made to the south-east corner of the building. The roof, wall and verandah construction of this addition matches the original building but the eaves are lined with plain fibro cement sheeting without battens, the vent bricks are smaller and the doors and windows are all aluminium framed. Also set behind the pitched tile roof is a section of flat metal deck roof. The former verandah has been completely enveloped by this addition.

Elsewhere on the south elevation the verandah roof is still visible as are the fanlights in the wall above. However a series of small additions along the south edge of the verandah obscure the verandah posts.

A small cream brick addition has been constructed next to the covered link that leads to the 1962 hospital buildings. The construction of the link and this addition both match that of the 1962 hospital buildings suggesting that they date from the same era. This addition is a rectangular cream brick building with a pitched terracotta tile roof, lined eaves, ovolo gutter and horizontal proportioned format timber windows with tiled sills. The link has been enclosed with a framed, fibro cement sheet clad dado with aluminium strip windows above. To the west of this cream brick addition is another addition, a framed construction building with a fibro cement sheet clad dado with aluminium strip windows above and a flat metal deck roof.

The south-eastern corner of the verandah has a remnant of an earlier verandah enclosure. The stud framed wall is clad with a weatherboard dado with fibro cement sheeting above. It has aluminium sliding windows and a ledged and braced T&G board door.

Internal layout and details

There are two major entries to the 1934 Ward Block, both located in the enclosed verandah at the rear of the building, the first adjoins the walkway that leads to the 1962/71 hospital buildings and the second is on the south-west corner of the building near the public carpark. The original entry was located in the centre of the north elevation of the building but the hall has since been converted to an Assisted WC

The enclosed rear verandah serves as the major corridor through the building and provides access to most rooms. The former external rear wall of the 1926 building has been plastered but most of the original door and window openings have been retained. The 1 pane double hung sash timber windows have been retained but some original timber doors have been replaced with flush panel doors. At the western end of the building the verandah posts and beam are still extant. The floor of the corridor has been carpeted and it has 90mm high timber bullnose skirting boards. The ceiling has been lined with fibro cement sheet panels with a scotia mould cornice and fluorescent tube fittings are fixed to the underside. Protective timber rails line the sides of the corridor and there are areas of wall tiling around hand basins.

To the north of the enclosed verandah is the original section of the building. This section is made up of a slightly wider central bay containing small one-bed rooms, offices and bathrooms and two flanking wings containing the four and two bed wards. The wards are entered from the rear corridor but the rooms of the central bay are arranged around an internal corridor.

Typically these rooms have plastered brick walls with a dado of sheet vinyl, timber bullnose skirting boards, carpeted concrete floors and plasterboard ceilings with cove cornices.

To the south of the enclosed verandah are several later additions. At the eastern end of the building there is a large red brick and tile addition that accommodates a Day Room and a collection of bathrooms, WCs and stores. Near the western end of the building is a cream coloured brick and tile addition that accommodates bathrooms and a store, and a framed extension to the corridor that houses the reception desk and some offices. The interiors of these rooms are similar to those elsewhere in the building.

Subsequent alterations

The following alterations were recorded during the site investigation of these buildings. These works are not described in the documentary evidence and the date at which they were carried out is not known.

The rear (south) verandah has been enclosed with fibro cement sheet panelling and aluminium sliding windows and the verandah to the south-west corner of building has been enclosed with a weatherboard dado with fibro cement sheeting above. The verandah roof has been replaced with a flat steel framed structure with steel posts.

Several additions have been constructed at the rear of the building including a large red brick addition on the south-eastern corner of the building, a cream brick and clay tile roof addition on the south side of rear verandah, a flat metal roofed and a steel framed enclosed walkway to south side of rear verandah.

Internally there has been little change to the original building fabric except for the division of original women's, men's and children's wards into smaller four and two bed wards and the standardisation of finishes. Generally new floor coverings and plasterboard ceilings with cove cornices have been installed throughout and some panelled timber internal doors have been replaced with new flush panel doors. A dado sheet vinyl has been installed in the patient rooms and wards and air-conditioning units inserted into windows and fanlights.

1934 Kitchen Block (Occupational Therapy)

This simple utilitarian building is located at the rear of this complex. It has an irregularly shaped rectilinear plan with a hipped terracotta tile roof with a broken back verandah to the northern side. The eaves of the roof are lined on the rake with spaced timber battens while the underside of the verandah is unlined. The eaves have painted, p.g.i. Sheerline profile gutters with a scotia moulding, and round p.g.i. downpipes. The walls have a dado of face brickwork to window sill height with render above. The face brickwork has been painted. The verandah has a concrete floor and timber verandah posts with pipe rail balustrades. A timber moulding has been fixed to the wall under the verandah rafters. Generally the windows are 1 pane double hung sashes with brick sills and 2 panel timber flywire screen except for the timber framed fixed glass louvre toilet windows.

On the south-west corner of the building a small verandah has been enclosed with cream coloured brick and aluminium sliding windows.

A timber-framed addition has been constructed to the east side of the building. The roof of this addition is a continuation of that to the original building, it has matching pitch, form, tile cladding and eaves and gutter treatments. The walls are clad with fibro cement sheeting with cover battens

and, unusually, two 50mm half round timber mouldings are run horizontally around the building to divide it into three equal sections. The timber stumps supporting the building are clad with timber battens. The addition has a verandah to the south side. This verandah matches that to the original section except that it doesn't have the moulding on the wall under the rafters and it has a timber T&G board floor. This addition has 1 pane double hung sashes windows with a 2 panel timber flywire screen and framed T&G doors. There are air-conditioning units fixed to the wall below the windows on the south side of the building.

Internal layout and details

We were unable to obtain access to this building but by looking through open windows it would appear that the internal finishes of the 1934 Kitchen Block are similar to the standard palette used elsewhere in the hospital. The walls are generally of painted, plastered brickwork, the ceilings are a fibro cement sheeting with battens and the floors are clad with vinyl tiles. Suspended fluorescent tubes light the rooms.

The rear (south) verandah has been enclosed with fibro cement sheet panelling and aluminium sliding windows and the verandah to the south-west corner of building has been enclosed with a weatherboard dado with fibro cement sheeting above. The verandah roof has been replaced with a flat steel framed structure with steel posts.

Several additions have been constructed at the rear of the building including a large red brick addition on the south-eastern corner of the building, a cream brick and clay tile roof addition on the south side of rear verandah, a flat metal roofed and a steel framed enclosed walkway to south side of rear verandah.

Internally there has been little change to the original building fabric except for the division of original women's, men's and children's wards into smaller four and two bed wards and the standardisation of finishes. Generally new floor coverings and plasterboard ceilings with cove cornices have been installed throughout and some panelled timber internal doors have been replaced with new flush panel doors. A dado sheet vinyl has been installed in the patient rooms and wards and air-conditioning units inserted into windows and fanlights.

Subsequent alterations

The following alterations were recorded during the site investigation of these buildings. These works are not described in the documentary evidence and the date at which they were carried out is not known.

The major changes to this building are the construction of the timber-framed addition to the eastern side of building and the enclosure of southern verandah. Generally, air-conditioning units have been fixed to external walls and internal finishes have been standardised.

FORMER NURSES' TRAINING BUILDING, Circa 1950s (PRIMARY CARE)

The former Nurses' Training Building is a single storey, suburban scale, brick and tile, post World War Two building that exhibits elements influenced by the Prairie Style, a domestic architectural style developed by the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Buildings designed in this style emphasise the horizontal lines of the building and contrast this against a solid vertical element such as a chimney or tower.

The low hipped roof of the former Nurses' Training Building, the horizontal transoms of the windows and glazed doors and the rails of the verandah balustrade emphasise the horizontal in direct contrast to the massive masonry chimney by the front door and the masonry verandah piers. This building also exhibits other 'modern' stylistic elements including a corner window and a porthole window, both are located near the front door.

The walls of the building have a textured render dado with smooth render above, there is a face brickwork dado to the wall sheltered by the verandah, to the upper half of the chimney and around the rear door. The roof is hipped with a broken back verandah roof and it is clad with autumn blend, terracotta, Marseilles pattern tiles and it has Sheerline profile gutters with a scotia mould under. There are French doors opening onto the front verandah. The front verandah has a T&G board floor and no soffit lining.

The interior of this building is fairly simple, it has plastered brickwork walls, a 90mm high bullnose skirting board and a carpeted timber floor. Generally, there are plasterboard ceilings with cove cornices except for two rooms that have stepped cast plaster cornices. The fireplaces have a face brickwork surround with a timber mantle piece but the fireboxes have been blocked up. The wet areas, bathrooms, WCs and kitchenettes have all been refitted recently.

Apart from the loss of some original internal finishes, the former Nurses' Training Building appears to be largely intact.

This building is in good condition largely as a result of the renovations undertaken in 1997.

1962 HOSPITAL BUILDINGS

This complex of three hospital buildings includes the 1962 Administration Block, the 1962 Ward Block and the 1962 Laundry/Workshop Block. These buildings all exhibit a Post War International Style that characterises the work of the Public Works Department in the Post War period between 1950-60.³⁸ These buildings do not exhibit the major characteristics of any of the styles described in *Identifying Australian Architecture*.

The 1962 hospital buildings are single storey, lineal blocks with gable roofs clad in terracotta tiles. The walls have a dado of cream bricks to window sill height and render above. Around the main entry to the 1962 Administration Block, there are piers clad in mosaic tiles. Typically the buildings have 1 pane double hung sash timber windows and flush panel doors. A verandah runs the full length of the front façade. The verandah roof is flat and it is set below the highlight windows on the north wall of the building. It has a tiled concrete floor, steel verandah posts and balustrade and the soffit is lined with fibro cement sheeting. A feature of the entry to the building is the large format sign that spans an entire bay of the verandah. This sign states "NARROGIN REGIONAL HOSPITAL" in large white sans serif text, in a font typical of its era, and it is set on a black background in a white frame. A smaller matching sign set on the verandah roof states "ADMINISTRATION". This type of signage is typical of Public Works Department buildings of the late 1950s-1960s period.

One of the more interesting features of this building is the interior of the main entry lobby. This area exhibits some of the characteristics of post-war interior design including the extensive use of clear finished blonde wood joinery,

³⁸ This building was completed in 1962 but the plans were drawn up in 1958.

built-in cupboards and telephone booths, mosaic tile faced columns and glazed partition walls with large format glass swing doors with copper details. The concrete floor is clad with multi-coloured vinyl tiles and the ceilings have acoustic panels. The signage in the foyer matches the font and layout of that used outside the main entry.

The other buildings completed as a part of the 1962 campaign of works include the 1962 Ward Block and the 1962 Laundry/Workshop Block. The 1962 Ward Block is located approximately 15m to the south of the 1962 Administration Block and the two buildings are connected by enclosed covered links. The space between the two buildings is landscaped to form a garden courtyard. The 1962 Ward Block building is similar in plan to the 1962 Administration Block. It is a linear building with an almost central corridor with generally smaller rooms distributed on the north side and larger wards on the south side. The building is of similar construction to the administration block but it has no special architectural features. It has a hipped tiled roof and walls that are part face brickwork and part rendered. Also the same palette of materials has been used internally.

The 1962 Laundry/Workshop Block is located to the east of the 1962 Ward Block and the Slavin Wing (1972). The building is rectangular in plan with the long axis running in a north/south direction. The laundry block is similar in form and construction to the 1962 ward block.

1971 HOSPITAL BUILDINGS

The Slavin Wing (1971) is located approximately 40m to the south of the 1962 Ward Block. The Slavin Wing is rectangular in plan and approximately half the length of the 1962 Ward Block. It has a north south corridor/covered walk axis that connects the entrance of the administration block to the centrally located reception area of the 1962 Ward Block. This continues through to the Slavin Wing and terminates at the reception/waiting area for that block. The area between the eastern half of the Slavin Wing and the 1962 Ward Block is landscaped to form an enclosed garden.

The Slavin wing is planned with a covered walkway running for the length of the north side. Internally it has two corridors running in an east/west direction, both serving wards that are placed on the north and south sides of the building. The two corridors are separated by the internal core of the utility rooms that run the length of the building. The Slavin wing is constructed with a tiled gable roof and face brickwork external walls.

The eastern end of the Slavin Wing abuts the covered walkway that leads southward to the kitchen that is located on the southern boundary of the site. This walkway also provides access to the 1962 Laundry/Workshop Block. The 1971 Kitchen Block is almost square in plan and is similar in form and construction to the 1971 Slavin Wing.

HENRY HOUSE

Henry House, the Nurses Quarters are located towards the east side of the site near the intersection of Falcon and Johnson Streets. The building has two wings which give it a roughly 'L' shaped plan. The dominant wing, which runs in an east/west direction, is three storeys high and houses the nurses' bedrooms. This flat-roofed wing is composed as a simple rectangular block, with modulation achieved by alternating panels of face brickwork with panels of glazed curtain wall or window/wall units. The shorter single-storey wing runs in a north/south direction and houses the large recreation room.

DIRECTOR OF NURSING'S RESIDENCE

This simple, single storey brick and tile cottage is typical of buildings constructed by the State Housing Commission in the 1970s. The building has three bedrooms, a lounge/dining room, kitchen, bathroom and W.C.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Like the Albany and Geraldton regional hospitals, the *Narrogin Regional Hospital* illustrates the evolution and incremental development of hospital complexes in regional areas of Western Australia. These hospital complexes have buildings that are from many different eras and these have been modified and refurbished to suit fluctuations in local population as well as changing medical technologies and patient care techniques.

Research carried out for this assessment has been unable to uncover any examples of similar country hospital buildings of the Inter-War period. As part of this research, discussions were held with David Cronin, the Senior Asset Advisor for the Health Department of Western Australia. He commented that to his knowledge, the only similar buildings can be found at Merredin Hospital but we have as of yet been unable to confirm if, following recent major refurbishment of the place, these buildings still exist in a reasonably authentic condition. The place does exhibit some similarities with Hillview T.B. Sanitorium in Victoria Park (1912) and the wards at Lemnos Hospital (1926).

13.4 REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
