



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 3226
2. **NAME** *The Knowle* (1853; 1896-99; 1907-10; 1912-18; 1919-29; 1934-35; 1938-39; 1945-46; 1953; 1956; 1960; 1963; 1966; 1970; 1976; 1981)
3. **LOCATION** Alma Street, Fremantle
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
That portion of Fremantle Lot 1970, being part of Crown Reserve 22292 and being part of the land in Crown Land Record Volume 3102 folio 808 as is defined in Heritage Council of Western Australia survey drawing No.3226 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing & Cruickshank Pty Ltd.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Fremantle
6. **OWNER** Fremantle Hospital Board
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 16/04/1992
Permanent Entry 18/02/2000
 - National Trust Classification: Classified 04/05/1992
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: -----
 - Register of the National Estate: Permanent 30/05/1995
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
The Knowle, a two-storey Victorian Regency building constructed of stuccoed stone with a corrugated iron roof, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:
the place is a principal remnant of the convict system in Western Australia and the Convict Establishment in Fremantle in particular. It has historical importance because of its long association with the Convict Establishment (1850-1888), later Fremantle Prison (1888-1991), which is being considered for World Heritage Listing as part

of a serial listing of Australian Convict Places being prepared by the World Heritage Centre in Paris (a division of UNESCO);

the place is indicative of the social class system in Australia in the mid nineteenth century. *The Knowle* is surviving physical evidence of the difference between the power of Britain, as represented by the Comptroller General, and of her colonies, represented by the Colonial administration;

the place is significant for illustrating the evolution of the convict system in Fremantle and Western Australia. It is a physical demonstration of the power of the Comptroller General as the head of the Prison bureaucracy. It is a demonstration of the power of the British Empire;

the place has strong associations with Captain Henderson, the Comptroller General of Convicts. It is closely associated with Rosenthal and Eales, architects for the first stage of Fremantle Hospital. It is important as a demonstration of the standard of accommodation for the Comptroller General of the Convict Colony and of a house which operated with the use of servants in the mid nineteenth century. It is unique in being the only residence built for a Comptroller General in Western Australia. It retains much historic fabric and is one of only a few examples of work in Western Australia by Rosenthal;

the place is a largely intact example of some of the finest workmanship, in terms of residential architecture, in the colony in the 1850s and part of the significant group of residences built for Convict Establishment Officials. It is the first residence built in Fremantle for a person of Henderson's standing, comparable to the houses of both the Eastern States and England, in terms of size and detail for people of equivalent standing. *The Knowle* was constructed using convict labour from stone quarried by the convicts at the Prison. Its links with Fremantle Prison are important in this respect;

the place demonstrates the principal characteristics of a large scale, by Colonial standards, Victorian Regency house. It has a clear and imposing massing, classical proportions and restrained detail. Many of the building materials are common for the style, such as the draped corrugated iron roof and the stuccoed stonework, while others are found only in the best examples such as its wrought iron balustrades and elegant fenestration; and,

although last used as a private residence in 1867, it remains in use by Fremantle Hospital and remains located within the hospital. It was the first Government Hospital in Fremantle. It has historically been an important part of Fremantle Hospital. The place is highly valued by the local community and the wider community for its associations with the early years of the Fremantle Hospital. While it was not the first health care facility in Fremantle, it is demonstrative of the growing concern for health issues in the community. As part of a regional hospital complex, *The Knowle*

has played an important part in meeting the health requirements of its community.

The toilets, rest rooms, roof sheeting, rainwater goods and the port cochere are of little significance. Intrusive elements include the covered link to the ward blocks (south end of building); the 1976 additions at the east end of the building; the recreation facilities on the first floor; the infill to verandahs on both levels; the enclosed link to 'E' Block; encroaching ground levels, landscaping and reticulation; the covered way to the south and south west; security grilles; air conditioners and redundant servicing; paint which has obstructed the use of windows and doors and their hardware; unnecessary door hardware; paint blocking air vents; granolithic floors (other than in wet areas); concrete bases to verandah posts; paving to verandahs; chain link fence to the west; square concrete paving; concrete spoon drains and kerbing; all suspended ceilings and asbestos cement ceilings; all cornices, vinyl skirting and dados, carpet and vinyl floor coverings, stair nosings, wall paper; all partition work; changes to the firebox and mantles of the fireplaces; flush doors; pelmets, blinds, curtains and curtain rails; pinboards; inappropriate lighting and signage; steel balusters; cabinet work and lockers.