



**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)

- 3.10.2 Encouraging people into employment
- 3.26 Providing health services
- 5.6 Working in the home
- 7.6.6 Providing services and welfare
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
- 9.1.2 Promoting mothers' and babies' health
- 9.2.1 Being children
- 9.3.2 Bringing up children

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 108 Government policy
- 306 Domestic activities
- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is a good example of a domestic application of Post-War International style architecture, including simple cubiform massing, flat rooflines, deep porches and a contrasting awning over the main entrance. (Criterion 1.1)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury was constructed in 1950-1951 to provide health services in a period when both Bunbury, as a regional centre, and Western Australia more generally experienced rapid population

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

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

growth and subsequent expansion of residential areas, including new suburbs south and east of the earlier centre of Bunbury. (Criterion 2.1)

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury was constructed in a period when infant health services were becoming accepted as a standard requirement for all areas and many new purpose-built infant health clinics were established across the State, expanding the work of the Infant Health Association that had begun in the 1920s. (Criterion 2.2)

Since its construction *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury* has been part of a network of child health centres providing preventative health care that together were a significant public health initiative focussed on educating parents that contributed to reducing infant mortality rates and improving children's quality of life through the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.2)

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury was designed by prominent Western Australia architectural firm William Bennett & Associates, and demonstrates the work of Nancy Allen, one of the earliest and longest-serving female architects in the State, as part of that firm. (Criterion 2.3)

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is associated with the nurses who have worked there who, by nature of their position, are community figures, especially long-serving nurse Rosalind (Rose) Blanche Lewin (OAM). (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

As an important social service site *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*, has the potential to yield information through its very intact original layout, including the use of kitchen and other facilities for practical demonstrations of parenting skills, about the provision of community health services in the mid-twentieth century. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is highly valued by the local community as an important social service site, particularly for first-time, anxious or isolated parents. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is a rare example of a purpose-built infant health centre from the post-World War II decade remaining in use for its original purpose. (Criterion 5.1)

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury was designed with a residential area to allow the infant health nurse to live on site, a practise no longer undertaken, and this area continued to serve as nurse's quarters for around 45 years, an unusually long period. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is an excellent example of a purpose-built infant health clinic, designed to incorporate nurse's quarters. (Criterion 6.1)

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is a good example of the domestic-scale work of William Bennett & Associates and in particular the firm's extensive work in designing infant health centres from the 1930s to the 1950s, and the work of Nancy Allen within the practice. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The place has been well-maintained and is in good condition. There is some cracking to the brickwork and minor deterioration of interior fittings.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury has high integrity. It has functioned continuously since its construction for its intended purpose as an infant health centre. The quarters section is no longer used as a residence but the original residential function remains evident.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury has high authenticity. It has had no significant alterations since its construction.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the conservation plan prepared by Greenward Consulting, Heritage Planning and Policy, and Carmel Given, Historian, in 2015, with amendments and/or additions by the State Heritage Office and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is a single-storey brick community building with flat-pan metal roof, designed in 1950 as an infant health clinic with nurse's quarters, and opened in 1952.

Bunbury developed slowly from the 1840s and from the 1880s became an important port for the South West. By the interwar years it was a major regional centre, and its regional importance has continued to the present.¹

The first infant health centre was established in New South Wales in 1914, and the initiative quickly spread across Australia.²

Up to the 1920s, there were no particular child health or maternal support services in Western Australia. In 1920, the Silver Chain established rooms in Kalgoorlie and in 1921 the Children's Protection Society opened a successful 'pilot' infant health clinic in Perth. Subsequently, the Infant Health Association of Western Australia was formed in 1923. It opened its first three clinics, in association with the Public Health Department, in 1923 (all in Perth), and two more in 1924 (Fremantle and Northam). Nurses were recruited from or trained in the eastern States prior to King Edward Memorial Hospital initiating Infant Health Nurse training in 1927-28. Two years later the network of infant health centres was expanded by adding sub-centres as satellite services of the local infant health nurses. The Public Health Department provided a subsidy to infant health clinics, but most of their funding came from local government and community finances.³

The infant health movement began in Australia in the late nineteenth century out of alarm at high infant mortality rates. Great improvements were made in reducing the rate of infant deaths through improved public health conditions, especially sanitation and food standards. By the interwar years, the focus of improving infant health turned from public measures to domestic matters and educating mothers became a priority. In this context, infant health centres began to be developed.⁴

An infant health clinic was opened in rented premises in Stirling Street Bunbury in December 1927, the thirteenth to be established in the State and the third in a

1 Greenward Consulting, Heritage Planning and Policy, & Carmel Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, 2 Prosser Street, South Bunbury*, City of Bunbury, March 2015, pp.9-11

2 Karen O'Connor, *Our Babies: the State's Best Asset: A History of 75 years of Baby Health Services in New South Wales*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 1989, foreword (np)

3 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, pp.11-12

4 Heather Sheard, 'Victoria's baby health centres: a history 1917-1950: how did a statewide system of Baby Health Centres grow from the efforts of a small group of concerned women in 1917?', Masters Thesis, University of Melbourne, 2005, pp.18-33

country centre. Ten years later, the first purpose-built clinic in the town opened, a four-room building adjacent to the Council chambers.⁵

In the mid-1930s, four 'model infant health centres' were established in the metropolitan area, and the long-serving Medical Officer of Schools and Infant Health, Dr Eleanor Stang, worked hard to ensure infant health remained in the public eye. By 1945, there were 31 infant health centres and 72 sub-centres across the state, at which point the State Government took on responsibility for salaries and clinic expenses, with local authorities and community groups tasked with building and maintaining clinic premises. Mobile infant health clinics were introduced the following year, and it was estimated that 90% of children in the State were seen at an infant health clinic during their infancy. From 1947, the service expanded from infants to toddlers, and in the 1950s to preschool children. The rapid increase in population in the 1940s and 1950s saw the number of infant health clinics increase markedly, particularly in outer metropolitan or country areas.⁶

Infant health nurses weighed babies, discussed children's health and development, and taught 'mothercraft'. Nurses, exclusively single women, were qualified in nursing, midwifery and a specialist infant health qualification.⁷ Infant health centres were a preventative health initiative, aimed at keeping children healthy, and as such sick children were referred to a doctor or hospital.⁸ They have been identified as 'one of the most significant public health initiatives in [the twentieth] century', playing an important role in reducing infant mortality and improving quality of life for children and parents.⁹

By 1948, there were 38 infant health centres and 177 sub-centres across the State, and South Bunbury was established as a sub-centre in that year. The sub-centre does not appear to have had a permanent building to operate from.¹⁰ Bunbury was rapidly growing in the post-war period. It had the largest amount of government housing built in any non-metropolitan area in the post-war decade, which included the establishment of the government housing suburb of Carey Park southeast of central Bunbury in the 1950s.¹¹

In 1950, William Bennett's firm Bennett, Blatchford, Allen and Johnson Architects (later William G. Bennett & Associates) designed *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury* for the corner of Prosser and Spencer Streets, South Bunbury, as a clinic building combined with nurse's quarters. Original plans were somewhat reduced in size and detail to meet budget constraints, and the building

5 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, pp.14-15

Note: The 1937 Infant Health Clinic was converted for Council use in 1964 and demolished in 2004.

6 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, pp.12-13

7 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, p.13

8 Heather Sheard, 'Victoria's baby health centres: a history 1917-1950', 2005, p.46

9 Karen O'Connor, *Our Babies: the State's Best Asset*, 1989, preface (np)

10 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, p.16

11 Menck, Clare, 'Preliminary Analysis of Government Housing in Western Australia', prepared for the State Heritage Office, March 2015, spreadsheet entries for Bunbury and Carey Park.

was constructed by Bunbury firm G. Hough and Sons with Lotteries Commission funding assistance.¹²

William Bennett had been the honorary architect to the Infant Health Association for many years and his firm designed many Infant Health Clinics across the State. However, the final plans for *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury* were witnessed by architect Nancy Allen, a partner in Bennett's firm, suggesting she was significantly involved in the design of the place. The foundation stone was laid in November 1950 and the building officially opened in February 1952.¹³

The new building was named for Lady Clara Mitchell, a member of the founding Bunbury settler family the Spencers. She was born in Bunbury in 1864 and died in 1949. She married another Bunbury local, James (later Sir James) Mitchell, who entered politics in 1905, and went on to be State Premier (1919-1924, 1930-1933) and Lieutenant Governor (1948-1951). A notable public figure, Lady Mitchell was keenly involved in community organisations, president of the WA Red Cross Society and patron of many philanthropic groups. She was particularly active in advocating for and supporting services for women.¹⁴

As Bunbury continued to expand south, a dental clinic designed by Marshall Clifton was built in 1959 opposite *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*, providing a complimentary building and creating a small community health precinct.¹⁵

One long-serving infant health nurse at *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury* was Rosalind (Rose) Blanche Lewin (OAM). Blanche was a local resident, from Picton. She completed her nurses' training at Royal Perth Hospital from 1928 to 1931. After serving as an army nurse during World War II, Blanche worked at the *Manjimup Infant Health Clinic (fmr)* (P11375 on the State Register of Heritage Places) in the early 1950s before transferring to *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*. She was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1978 for services to the community, and died in 1995, aged 87.¹⁶

By the 1970s and 1980s, infant health nursing had moved its emphasis from the physical practicalities of infant care to giving more attention to emotional and behavioural issues. Where in the 1940s and 1950s, keeping children alive was still a prime aim of the system, by the latter part of the century infant mortality rates were so low that it could safely be assumed that most children would survive.¹⁷ It has been argued that infant health centres were an important contributing factor in reducing infant mortality and bringing about this shift.¹⁸ Child

12 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, pp.16-19

13 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, pp.16-19

14 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, pp.16&

15 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, p.20

16 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, p.28

17 Karen O'Connor, *Our Babies: the State's Best Asset*, 1989, preface (np)

18 Heather Sheard, 'Victoria's baby health centres: a history 1917-1950', 2005, p.5

and family health nurses continue to the present to be considered an integral part of health care for Australian families.¹⁹

Infant Health Clinics peaked in attendance and services through the 1950s and early 1960s. Infant Health and School Medical Services amalgamated in 1970 into Child Health Services, and further amalgamated in 1976 to form Community and Child Health Services, a branch of the Public Health Department. From the 1980s, many infant health centres closed, particularly in rural areas where it was difficult to fill staff vacancies, and services were centralised into larger health campuses. However, isolated clinics where other health services were not available continued for much longer.²⁰

In 1973, Bunbury City Plaza Shopping Centre was constructed to the north of *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*. In the 1990s, portions of the health centre's site were converted for carparking for the shopping centre, especially the former rear yard.²¹

In 1995, the infant health nurse acquired her own accommodation away from *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*. The previous tenant had reportedly been constantly harassed by members of the public, and Council determined the nurse's quarters were no longer appropriate as a residence. The nurses' quarters were adapted in 1997 for use as offices, meeting rooms and staff facilities for allied health services. Despite this, the original floor plan remains largely unchanged. Windows have been replaced and asbestos roof sheeting removed, and metal lettering along the porch roof reading 'Lady Mitchell Memorial Infant Health Centre' has also been removed.²²

By 2014, the Child Health Department operated 310 Child Health Centres across Western Australia.²³

In 2015, *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury* continues to operate as a child health clinic.

-
- 19 Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council, 'National Framework for Universal Child and Family Health Services', Department of Health and Aging, July 2011, pp.4-10
- 20 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, p.13
- 21 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, p.23
- 22 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, pp.22-23
- 23 Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, p.13

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE²⁴

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is a single-storey brick community building with flat-pan metal roof, designed in Post-War International style in 1950 as an infant health clinic with nurse's quarters, and opened in 1952.

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is located at 2 Prosser Street, South Bunbury, on the northeast corner of the intersection with Spencer Street. The structure is sited towards the middle of the block in an urban landscape of commercial buildings along Spencer Street and single storey residential houses on the connecting streets. To the west, north and northeast are carparking areas associated with Bunbury City Plaza Shopping Centre, which extends between Spencer Street and Forrest Avenue.

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is sited within a large domestic-style lawn area, with several mature trees and the original curved entrance path, and a small enclosed rear yard. The setting contributes to the building's domestic appearance, in keeping with the place's use, with the mature trees largely hiding the building from the street.

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is a single-storey red face-brick building, with contrasting face brick and cream-coloured concrete or rendered finishes, and a raked flat-pan metal roof. The southwest (front) elevation features wide boxed eaves to the main roof line with a projecting rendered cap and a boxed porch set, lower than the main building, with a slightly projecting flat concrete slab roof. The waiting room, at the southern end, projects slightly and has a raised flat parapet over it. The main entrance ramp is framed by concrete walls and has an upward-curving concrete roof. Windows are a mixture of modern aluminium-framed and earlier timber-framed with three rectangular sashes, with only one or two rectangular sashes featured in the windows to the rear. The rear of the building is plain face brick. The roof can be seen from the rear, presented as a single unbroken plane sloping to the rear of the block.

Elements that demonstrate the Post-War International style are: simple cubiform massing, simple forms, flat rooflines, deep porches and a contrasting awning over the main entrance. These elements are adapted to a domestic scale.

Internally, the structure features a waiting room, play room, consulting room and change room (original Clinic area); as well as a kitchen, meeting room (former lounge), bathroom, laundry, toilet and office (former single bedroom) (original Nurse's Quarters). Detailing is simple, with timber skirtings and architraves and original moulded cornices. In the main reception rooms a timber picture rail wraps the walls, which are smooth-rendered above the picture rail and painted face brick below. Original brick fireplaces and built-in shelves or cupboards remain in the consulting room and former lounge, and original built-in cupboards remain in the kitchen. Most original light fittings, door hardware and timber window frames remain, even where aluminium windows have been fitted.

²⁴ This section summarises the physical evidence presented Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015. For more detail, refer to the conservation plan.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION²⁵

Infant Health Centres

Infant health centres began in 1923, probably in rented premises. The first 'model' infant health centre opened in Stirling Street, Perth in 1934. This appears to no longer be extant. It was designed by William Bennett of the firm Eales, Cohen & Bennett, using plans drawn up by Dr Eleanor Stang, Medical Supervisor of Infant Health Centres in WA. Bennet went on to design many infant health centres over the next 25 years (see 'William Bennett', below). Several hundred infant health centres operated across the State through the twentieth century, but not all had purpose-built facilities.

Information about 54 infant health centres known to have been constructed between 1945 and 1955 is presented in the 2015 Conservation Plan for *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*. Most of these were brick. At least a quarter of the centres remain extant, but the only two other places of this period are confirmed to be still in use as in infant health centre:

- P01926 Infant Health Centre, Carlisle (1950), a small, utilitarian building with face brick walls and a hipped tile roof. However, this building is intended to cease use as an infant health centre when a new multipurpose community building, currently in advanced planning stages, is constructed at Lathlain.²⁶
- P08232 Infant Health Centre, Corrigin (1950). This was also a Bennett-designed building that includes quarters. It is described as a red face-brick single-storey building with hipped orange-coloured tile roof. The three-room frontage is balanced by a central recessed entry off a verandah with a portico projecting towards the street. The portico has a flat roof, supported by three slender concrete columns on each side.

One infant health centre is on the Register:

- P11375 *Manjimup Infant Health Centre (fmr)*, a 1946 brick building with hipped tile roof, together with garage, designed by Nancy Allen and used as an infant health centre from 1946 to 2000. The place originally included nurse's quarters.

A second infant health centre was entered into the Register on an interim basis in 2008 but the Minister directed that the entry not be made permanent:

- P05174 *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)*, a 1952 rendered brick building with hipped tile roof, designed by W.G. Bennett & Associates, featuring a distinctive vertical block and curved parapet to the front elevation. The place originally included nurse's quarters and functioned as an infant health centre from 1952 to 2003. The building remains extant.

Infant Health Centres at Tambellup (P04557, 1956) and Rockingham (P00119, 1956) have had heritage assessments completed and been determined by the

²⁵ The comparative information is based on that provided in Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, pp. 56-73.

²⁶ <http://lathlainprecinct.com.au/zone/community-building-zone> and <http://www.victoriapark.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/140731%20FAQ%20-%20Lathlain%20Precinct%20Community%20Building%20-%20FINAL.pdf> accessed 11 June 2015

Register Committee to be Below Threshold for entry into the Register. One infant health centre is in the assessment program:

- P13644 Child Health Clinic, Nedlands (1937), a brick building of domestic style with gable roof and a small gabled entry porch, which remains in use as a child health clinic. Although noted in the SHO database as constructed in 1937, it is possible this is one of the original four 'model' infant health centres constructed in 1934, one of which was built in Nedlands. The building is located within P18540 Melvista Park, for which the Register Committee considered a nomination in 2011 and deferred a decision. Melvista Park includes golf club, bridge club and the Registered P03964 *Nedlands Tennis Club*.

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is a good example of a purpose-built infant health centre from the post-World War II decade, a period of rapid growth in these centres across the State, and is a rare example of an infant health centre from this period that remains in use for its original purpose.

Infant Health Centres with Nurse's Quarters

It appears that up to half the country infant health centres up to the mid-1950s were constructed with nurse's quarters. The Infant Health Association's standards for accommodation in the 1940s specified a furnished facility comprising bedroom, living room, bathroom, kitchen, laundry, woodshed and garage. Of the twelve other known examples of mid-twentieth century infant health centres with nurse's quarters, five are confirmed to be extant but with other uses, one is confirmed to have been demolished, four are no longer in use as child health centres and their status not been determined, and two remain in use for their original purpose. These two are:

- P14395 Child Health Centre, Katanning (1938). Designed by C. Gordon Clifton, this is a domestic-scale face brick building with hip and gable tiled roof and a small side pane hung with casement windows.
- P08232 Infant Health Centre, Corrigin (1950) (described above)

The residential portions of both these places have been adapted for other uses. It is not known when they ceased to be used as nurse's quarters. However, the residential use of *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury* into the mid-1990s was probably unusual, as this was no longer standard practice and the quarters would not have been suitable for the many infant health nurses by this time, who had partners and children of their own.

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is an excellent example of the provision of nurse's quarters within an infant health clinic, a practise no longer undertaken, and continued to serve for this purpose for around 45 years, an unusually long period.

William Bennett

Bennett was a prominent and prolific Western Australian architect from the 1930s through the 1960s. His firm designed many civic and community buildings, as well as churches, schools and residences. Bennett's style characteristically used elements of Inter-War Functionalist, Inter-War Art Deco and Inter-War Stripped

Classical styles, combined with more conservative standard planning and construction. His buildings generally had hipped roofs not hidden by parapets. Design attention was focussed on building facades and main reception rooms.²⁷

William Bennett was 'Honorary Architect' for the Infant Health Association from 1934 until c.1958, during which time his firm designed over 40 infant health centres, the majority in the 1950s. Some are known to have been designed by Bennett himself, and some by his staff, particularly during the war years when Bennett served in the armed forces.

In 1954, Bennett's firm produced a standard plan for infant health centres, which appears to be an evolution of the plan used for *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*. Records indicate the firm designed at least 22 infant health centres in 1954-1958, which are likely to have used this plan and be very similar to *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*. It is also likely that the ten infant health centres the firm designed between 1950 and 1953 were also similar, as the 1950 and 1954 plans are very similar.

The SHO database lists 22 places associated with William Bennett, of which four are on the Register:

- P00154 *Beverley Town Hall*
- P01828 *Nedlands Park Masonic Hall*
- P06185 *Beaucott Building, Mount Lawley*
- P14788 *National Australia Bank, Northam*

All four are Inter-War buildings in Functionalist or Art Deco style.

One infant health clinic designed by Bennett is in the HCWA assessment program:

- P13644 *Child Health Clinic, Nedlands (1937)*

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is a good example of the domestic-scale work of William Bennett & Associates and in particular the firm's extensive work in designing infant health centres from the 1930s to the 1950s.

Nancy Allen

Nancy Allen was one of two women registered as architects in 1932, the only women registered since Margaret Pitt Morrison, the first female architect in the State, entered the profession in 1924, and one of only six women architects registered in Western Australia prior to the 1950s. Allen joined William Bennett within the first year of his independent architectural practice, both having previously been with Eales & Cohen, and her 'detailed work' is claimed to have 'anchored' Bennett's successful practice, particularly the firm's 'domestic' buildings. From 1949, Allen was a partner in the firm. She outlived the other partners and continued the work of the practice until her retirement in 1981.²⁸

²⁷ Greenward Consulting & Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre*, 2015, pp.24-26

²⁸ John J. Taylor, 'Nancy Lorne Allen (1908-1993)', *Western Australian Architect Biographies*, <http://www.architecture.com.au/docs/default-source/wa-notable-buildings/allen-nancy-lorne.pdf?sfvrsn=0> accessed 11 June 2015

P11375 *Manjimup Infant Health Centre (fmr)* (1946) is thus far the only infant health clinic specifically identified as having been designed by Nancy Allen while working for Bennet's firm. The plans were drawn while Bennett was away on military service but are still marked as William Bennett.²⁹ It is likely that, if this was the standard practice of the firm, other infant health centres with 'William Bennett' plans were in fact designed by Nancy Allen.

Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury is a good example of the work of Nancy Allen within the firm of William Bennett & Associates.

Post-War International style

The SHO database lists 81 places noted as Post-War International style, twenty of which are entered in the State Register. These 81 places include government buildings, commercial buildings, schools, community buildings, religious buildings and residential buildings. From this group, nine places are Post-War International buildings with a health-related use, including four places entered in the State Register. The following places were found to be the most comparable to *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*:

- P1035 *Hillcrest* (RHP): a complex of health buildings constructed between 1901-1979, which includes a two storey brick and asbestos former maternity hospital in the Post-War International style. The place is representative of the changing patterns of maternity care throughout the twentieth century.
- P2050 *Perth Chest Clinic* (RHP): a pair of buildings constructed in 1902 and 1956 respectively, the latter of which is a single storey brick, render and iron roofed building in the Post-War International style. The place is associated with the treatment of tuberculosis and with Dr Linley Henzell & Olive Anstey, who innovated new methods of treatment. An archival record for the 1956 building was prepared in 2013 and the building was subsequently demolished.
- P15426 *Narrogin Regional Hospital* (RHP): a complex of health buildings established between 1934 and 1971, includes the Administration block (1962), which is representative of the Post-War International style. The place is representative of a substantial country hospital and illustrates the development of medical care in the twentieth century.

Perth Chest Clinic's 1956 wing was very similar to *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury*, but is no longer extant. The two extant places noted above are much more substantial examples of the style. *Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, Bunbury* is a representative example of Post-War International style applied on a domestic scale.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Greenward Consulting, Heritage Planning and Policy, & Carmel Given, *Conservation Management Plan for the Lady Mitchell Memorial Child Health Centre, 2 Prosser Street, South Bunbury*, City of Bunbury, March 2015

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

²⁹ SHO Register documentation, P11375 *Manjimup Infant Health Centre (fmr)*, December 2001