



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Removed Entry

The Minister for Heritage Directed that this Interim Entry in the State Register not be made permanent on 1 June 2010. Notice of this decision under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 appeared in the Government Gazette on 1 July 2010.

1. **DATA BASE No.** 05174
2. **NAME** *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) (1952)*
OTHER NAME Beverley Child Health Centre
3. **LOCATION** 141 Vincent Street, Beverley
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Lot 57 on Diagram 14008 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1117 Folio 206
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Beverley
6. **OWNER** Beverley Road Board
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 19/08/2008
Removed Entry 1/07/2010
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: -----
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr), a single-storey brick rendered building with a hipped tile roof, showing influences of Inter-War Functionalism architectural style, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is representative of the establishment and subsequent growth of the Infant Health Association of Western Australia, and operated as the main clinic for the Beverley district from 1952 to 2003;

the place is significant for its association with the development of Beverley, with its Inter-War Functionalism style having been adopted to suit the context of Beverley's Art Deco dominated main street; and,

the place is a fine example of a domestic scale building in the Inter-War Functionalism style, one of a group of buildings in this style on Beverley's main street designed by the prominent architectural firm of W.G. Bennett & Associates.

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.26 Providing health services
- 8.5.3 Associating for mutual aid
- 9.1.2 Promoting mothers' and babies' health

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 306 Domestic activities
- 401 Government & politics
- 404 Community services & utilities
- 701 Other - Women

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is a fine example of a domestic scale building in the Inter War Functionalist style. (Criterion 1.1)

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is one of several buildings in the main street of Beverley that provides evidence of the optimism and progressive spirit following the Depression and World War II, and is valued for that aesthetic. (Criterion 1.1)

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is a fine architectural design by W.G. Bennett, in the Inter-War Functionalist style. Its application as a small town infant health centre is innovative for the associations with the style and the modern aspects of the health system at the time. (Criterion 1.2)

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is valued for the pleasing use of materials, scale and proportion of the building, and the setting, that contributes to the heritage ambience and character of the main street of Beverley. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is representative of the establishment and subsequent growth of the Infant Health Association of Western Australia, and operated as the main clinic for the Beverley district from construction in 1952 until closure in 2003. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is associated with the development of the Town and Shire of Beverley and of the provision of public and community services during the Post-War period. (Criterion 2.2)

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is associated with the Nurses who have worked and lived at the place from 1952 to 2003, and with local management committee members, as well as the mothers and children who have attended the clinic over the years. (Criterion 2.3)

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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.

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) was one of a group of Inter-War Art Deco style buildings in Beverley's main street that were designed by the prominent architectural firm of W.G. Bennett & Associates, who were also responsible for the design of a large number of the Infant Health Centres, as well as other public and commercial buildings. (Criterion 2.3)

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is associated with Dr Eleanor M. Stang the medical supervisor for Infant Health Centres from 1929 to 1954. Dr Stang was a strong and committed advocate of pre-natal, infant and maternal health and was largely responsible for the promotion and development of the infant health service in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is highly valued for its role as a health, educational, social and community centre for local women and their children from its construction in 1952 until its closure in 2003. (Criterion 4.1)

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) contributes to the local community's sense of place for its associations and for its aesthetic value in the main street of Beverley. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) has an attached residence, which was uncommon for Infant Health Centres in Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is representative of institutional buildings established in the post World War II period, although the place no longer functions as a community health centre. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is in good condition, although there is evidence of rising damp in the residential section, and falling damp and subsequent damage in the bedroom and waiting room.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The original form of the building is evident, and although no longer used as an Infant Health Centre, it retains a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) retains a degree of the original fabric, and has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman, Historian, and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, in April 2007, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is a single-storey brick render and clay tile building showing characteristics of Inter-War Functionalist style, constructed in 1952 to a design by W.G. Bennett & Associates.

Interest in mother and child health dates from the turn of the 20th century over concerns about high levels of maternal and infant mortality. The Public Health Department attempted to counteract this through the establishment of the Midwives Registration Board and the employment of visiting nurses who could help 'train' mothers in infant health care. Although the Children's Protection Society introduced to Perth a pilot infant health clinic around 1920, it was recognised that a state-wide infant welfare service was needed. As a result of a conference held in 1922 at the instigation of the Children's Protection Society, the Infant Health Association of Western Australia was formed in 1923 to work in conjunction with the Public Health Department. In this year, three clinics with full time nurses began to operate in the Perth area and in 1924 clinics started in Fremantle and Northam.¹

The number of infant health centres grew steadily over subsequent years. The centres received a £100 a year subsidy from the Health Department but relied largely on local government and community fund raising for support. Sub-centres were established as satellites of a centre where an Infant Health nurse was resident. In the 1930s, the service faced a funding crisis and the community felt the government should be providing a larger share of the financial support.²

In 1931, an Infant Health Centre was proposed at Beverley and a meeting was held there, attended by Dr Eleanor Stang, who had succeeded Dr Roberta Jull as Medical Officer of Schools and Medical Supervisor of Infant Health Centres. On that occasion the project did not proceed due to lack of sufficient interest. Some older women who had raised large families without outside assistance did not see the need for such a service, while the financial constraints of the Depression, including a 20% cut in Government subsidy for the Infant Welfare Association, prevented any serious efforts being made in Beverley at that time.³

The Beverley Infant Health Centre committee, under its secretary Mr G. Hickey, Clerk of Courts, and with the assistance of local MLA, J.I. Mann, reinvigorated the project in the latter half of the 1930s and arrangements were made to share a nursing sister half time with Brookton. The Beverley Fire Brigade made a room in the fire station available for the use of the Centre rent free, and the room was furnished largely with the assistance of local residents and organisations.⁴

¹ Holman, D'Arcy, *Report of the Special Consultant on Community and Health Child Services*, Health Department WA, 1991, Vol. 1, p. 85; Health Dept file, Infant Health Work in Western Australia, AN 120/4, Acc 1003, Item 760/1938. Both terms, 'clinic' and 'centre', were used in the names of the various places.

² Holman, D'Arcy, *op cit*, Vol. 1, p. 92.

³ *Beverley Times*, 11 August 1939, p. 5.

⁴ *Beverley Times*, 11 August 1939, p. 5.

On 6 August 1939, 'in the presence of a large assemblage', the Minister for Health, A.H. Panton, officially opened the Beverley room of the Beverley-Brookton Infant Health Centre. Dr Stang, who spoke to those gathered, said she was certain it would not be long before mothers of the district realised the advantages of the Centre. After opening the Beverley centre, the Minister and the official party left to open the Centre room at Brookton. The nursing sister engaged was Sister Alice K. Royce, an experienced triple-certificate nurse and midwife. The Beverley centre was attended from 1.30pm to 4.30pm on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and Brookton had the same hours on Thursdays and Fridays. In between those hours, Sister Royce was available to visit private homes.⁵

The work of the Infant Health Nurse included weighing babies, discussing their progress and any problems with their health and development with the mother, and referring sick babies to a doctor or hospital. The Infant Health Centre was seen as an educational institution for mothers and one of the main aims of the clinic was to help and teach mothers how to provide for the good health of their infant 'hoping to help her to produce a happy, healthy, well-adjusted Australian citizen'.⁶ Wartime stringencies cut deeply into the training of nurses and the financing of Infant Health Centres in the state, but their worth had been proven by 1942, when, after 20 years of operation, statistics showed that the infant mortality rate had been cut by 48% from 64 to 33 per 1,000 live births.⁷

On 1 July 1945, the State Government took over responsibility for Infant Health Centre nurses' salaries and travelling expenses, with the assistance of the Lotteries Commission and local Road Boards, while it remained the responsibility of local committees to provide amenities and transport, significantly reducing the funds they needed to generate locally. There were at that time 31 infant health centres and 72 sub-centres in the state, providing a total of 3,180 consultations a week and serving 90% of infants and their mothers.⁸

Beverley had become the headquarters for the local Infant Health service by 1945, with Brookton, York and Quairading as sub-centres. Between 1945 and 1950 monthly attendances at the Clinic showed a steady increase, from 224 in July 1945 to 365 in August 1950.⁹ The baby-boom mothers availed themselves of the service both at the Centre itself and through home visits by the Centre nurse.

The Beverley Infant Health Centre committee launched a Building Appeal for construction of a dedicated Centre building. They were assisted in their fund raising by the Beverley Country Women's Association and succeeded in collecting £800. The Lotteries Commission promised assistance and the Beverley Road Board undertook to raise a loan of £4,000 for the building.¹⁰

⁵ *Beverley Times*, 11 August 1939, p. 5; *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1939, Medical section, p. 861; Crisp, Dr. R. H., 'The early history of infant health services and training in W.A.', p. 5, Western Australia Child Health Service, records 1931-1984, Battye private archives, MN 1613 ACC 5130/3.

⁶ Health Dept file, Infant Health Work in Western Australia, Item 760/1938, op. cit; Report of the Public Health Department, 1939 to 1943, pp. 9 & 18, in *Votes and Proceedings*, 1944, Vol. 2.

⁷ Crisp, Dr. R. H., op cit, p. 8.

⁸ Holman, D'Arcy, op cit, Vol. 1, p. 92.

⁹ Health Dept file, Infant Health - summaries of all Centres, SROWA, WAS 268 CONS 1003 Item 1948/1422; *Beverley Times*, 14 November 1952, p. 1.

¹⁰ *Beverley Times*, 8 September 1950, p. 2 & 20 July 1951, p. 1.

Architect W.G. Bennett, the 'architect for Infant Health Clinics', was engaged to design *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)*. He prepared an initial plan in 1941¹¹, and tenders were called in late 1950,¹² with Smith & Cribb awarded the contract. In April 1951, the Road Board acquired title to Lot 57, on the corner of Vincent and Dawson streets as the site for the place.¹³ The foundation stone of *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)* was laid on 12 July 1951 by Dr Stang in the presence of the members of the Beverley Infant Health Centre Committee, including Chairman M.D. Smith and secretary Norman Broun, members of the Road Board and their Chairman D.L. Doncon, Mr C. Smith for the contractors, and a good attendance of interested residents.¹⁴

The design of *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)* in the Inter-War Functionalist style, despite being built post-war, was in sympathy with the other Inter-War Art Deco buildings in Vincent Street that had been designed by W.G. Bennett & Associates, namely the Beverley Town Hall complex (1938) located directly opposite, and the refurbished Hotel Beverley (1938), two doors away.

Work on *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)* was slow, at a time when there was a high demand for materials and labour throughout the State.¹⁵ In January 1952, W.G. Bennett presented the Road Board with a list of alterations and additions to the original plan, which the contractors had been asked to effect. The Board approved the addition of a separate WC for the use of mothers and children, as well as a stainless sink in lieu of the 'timber top draining board sink' that had been originally specified, but other changes totalling £111 10s 0d were not approved. The cost of the building had escalated to £6,389, far above the Committee's original plan to construct a clinic for £2,000. Much of this increase was due to the rapidly rising cost of labour and materials. The Lotteries Commission was providing a percentage of the construction cost amounting to £1,250.¹⁶

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) was ready for occupancy by May 1952, but the official opening did not take place until 8 November that year.¹⁷ The opening was performed by Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver, Minister for Health, and the first female minister in Western Australia, accompanied by Dr Stang. Among the visitors present were: Sisters Hicks, Wibberley and Turton, who had charge of Clinics in the metropolitan area; Mrs Paterson, president of the Quairading Infant Health Committee; Sister Davey of the Northam Clinic; and, Mrs Foreman of the York Committee, together with other members of the committees at those centres. Messrs G. Hickey and F. Thomas, previous secretaries of the Beverley Committee who no longer lived in the district, also attended, as did local MLC N. Baxter. Chairman of the Beverley Road Board, L.W. Doncon, officiated, with chairman of the Infant Health Committee, M.D Smith.¹⁸

11 Copy of plan provided to Office of Heritage by Palassis Architects on 29/09/09

12 *Beverley Times*, 11 January 1952, p. 3.

13 *Beverley Times*, 20 July 1951, p. 1; Certificate of Title, Vol. 1117 Fol. 206, 11 April 1951.

14 *Beverley Times*, 20 July 1951, p. 1. The foundation stone has the date as 21st July, but this is believed to be an error with the numbers transposed.

15 Le Page, J.S.H., *Building a State* (Perth: Water Authority of WA, 1986), pp. 482-83.

16 *Beverley Times*, 11 January 1952, p. 3 & 4 April 1952, p. 1.

17 *Beverley Times*, 4 April 1952, p. 1 & 14 November, 1952, p. 1

18 *Beverley Times*, 14 November, 1952, p. 1

Replete with every convenience and with excellent living accommodation for the resident Sister the new building, according to Dr Stang and others present, is as up-to-date as any to be found in Australian country areas and its erection is a tribute to the tenacity of purpose and enthusiasm of those who over the years have worked enthusiastically in the interest of the mothers and children of the district and to the co-operation they have received from the Road Board and the Lotteries Commission.¹⁹

The local Girl Guide company provided a Guard of Honour at *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)*, and three of its members, who had been the first babies enrolled at the clinic in 1939, presented posies to Dame Florence, Dr Stang and Mrs J.I. Mann, who was representing her husband, the local MLA. In her speech, Dame Florence noted that there were at that time 284 main Infant Health Centres and sub-centres operating in WA, staffed by 45 trained Infant Health Sisters, and that Beverley was the 39th Centre to have its own clinic building. For the contractors, Mr C. Smith noted that *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)* was the last of their projects in Beverley, which had totalled some £65,000. Following the opening and an inspection of the building, afternoon tea was enjoyed in the Beverley Lesser Hall. The official party had been the guests of the Road Board at a luncheon at the Hotel Beverley prior to the opening ceremony.²⁰

Sister Royce had returned to Beverley and was the first to occupy the new Centre.²¹ The Infant Health Commission paid rent to the Road Board for the quarters at *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)*, which in 1952 was £1 5s 0d a week, and the £30 per year Board contribution to the Infant Health fund was waived.²²

Use of Infant Health Clinics increased during the late 1950s to 1970s, with more children in the 1-2 and 2-5 year age brackets being seen as mothers continued to bring in their children past the infant stage. In 1970, Infant Health Services were linked to the school medical service and referred to as Child Health Services. Infant Health Centres began to be referred to as Child Health Centres although there does not seem to have been any official change of title, with many centres still being called Infant Health Centres. In 1976, Child Health Services combined with Community Health Services to become Community & Child Health Services as it was deemed necessary that there should be a closer working relationship between the Child Health nurse and the local general practitioner.

In the 1980s, there was difficulty filling rural vacancies for nurses, combined with an increasing workload because of a rise of 10% in births from 1980-83. Rather than operate separate Infant Health Centres in isolation, it seemed preferable to provide the service from larger health campuses with modern facilities and shared administration and building costs. Gradually, the various infant health centre buildings were vacated but some, including Beverley's, continued to occupy their own premises for some time. This was more common in rural areas where other health service facilities were not always available in the town. Eventually, in late 2003 or early 2004, the Beverley Child Health service was relocated to Beverley

¹⁹ *Beverley Times*, 14 November, 1952, p. 1

²⁰ *Beverley Times*, 14 November, 1952, p. 1

²¹ *Beverley Times*, 4 April 1952, p. 1 & 14 November, 1952, p. 1

²² *Beverley Times*, 26 September 1952, p. 1.

Hospital and the service ceased to operate from *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)*.²³

A local councillor occupied the residential facility at the place for a time. In answer to a question at an Ordinary Meeting of the Beverley Council on 19 July 2005, a motion was carried 8-0 that *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)* would not be rented out or sold at that time.

In 2007, *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)* is not in use as an infant health centre, while the residential portion is rented out on a casual basis.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr), a 1951 single-storey brick render and clay tiled building, is located on the southeast side of Vincent Street, the main street in Beverley, on the east corner of the Dawson Street intersection that terminates at a 'T' section where the similarly design influenced Beverley Town Hall is located.

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) has two street frontages; the infant health centre on the primary frontage, at 141 Vincent Street, and the residential frontage on Dawson Street.

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr), although constructed in 1951 in the post war period, displays no characteristics of architectural styles of that period, with the predominantly residential scale and aesthetic of the place showing some influences of Inter-war Functionalist style. The influences are evident in the use of asymmetrical massing and the response to the corner location in the three dimensional expression. The plain light toned surfaces, and the parapet elements on the main façade, and the horizontal focus of the window elements, are also evident influences together with the vertical contrast of the front feature element.

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is set back within an expansive grassed setting on the Vincent Street frontage. Immediately adjacent on the northeast side is the aviation museum where an aircraft on display impacts on the streetscape views of the place. Both street entries have concrete paths from the pavement at the front boundary to the entry. The Dawson Street frontage is setback in a more residential obscured street view with remnant hedges on the front boundary and immature scattered shrubs. The rear yard is relatively bare with no outbuildings and a low-level rear fence separating from the vacant adjoining site.

The single storey building is a brick rendered structure. It presents an asymmetrical low domestic scale frontage to Vincent Street, with a dominant vertical rectangular feature complemented by a flanking parapet wall connected by a quarter circle arch, and a flat roofed horizontal verandah on the other side. The secondary street frontage is symmetrical to the setback, with a central recessed entry flanked by a room each side, although the window formations each side of centre are in sets of two and three. The hipped roof is clad with Marseilles clay tiles and features three simple rendered chimneys and the rendered parapet elements on the north frontage. The front verandah has a flat roof clad with high profile steel sheeting. It is underlined with battened and painted Masonite sheets. The main hipped roof covers the rear verandah at break pitch skillion. The original colonial profile gutters and rectangular downpipes are in

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Information provided by Beverley Health Services, Beverley Hospital.

place. The eaves are lined. There is a brick spoon drain along the north east side next to the concrete path adjacent to the Hardiflex boundary fence.

The walls are smooth face painted render with a single row of face bricks at windowsill height and framing the parapet elements and the rendered verandah baluster. The commemorative opening plaque forms part of a vertical element within the vertical rectangular front feature. Immediately in front of the feature element is a low concrete kerb forming a square, and replicated on the opposite side of the entry path.

The main entrance facing Vincent Street is located off the verandah that has been enclosed above the dado baluster. The entry is a configuration of three, with a set of doors left and centre and a matching fixed panel on the right, all in the same configuration with a series of six horizontal panes. There are flywire doors with battens corresponding with the horizontal framings. The residential central entry is within a recessed portico. It comprises a central door flanked by fixed sidelights, all in the same configuration with a series of six horizontal panes, as per the main front entry. The windows throughout are double hung sashes with clear glazing. There are two horizontal panes per sash, and the windows are in sets of two or three. The front verandah is enclosed above the dado with timber framed fixed glazing at the front and metal-framed louvres on the southwest side. The rear verandah enclosure has an asbestos dado and louvres above. The floors of the entries and rear verandah are concrete.

The floor plan is unchanged from the original layout. The Vincent Street front doors of the Infant Health Centre open off the verandah into an expansive waiting room. On the left is a similar sized consulting room. Both rooms open into a storeroom that occupies the vertical front feature. At the rear of the consulting room is a small treatment room that connects through to the kitchen of the residence, but this entryway is blocked. The residential entry opens into a small foyer with the living room on the left and bedroom on the right. The bedroom also opens onto the rear verandah (now an enclosed sleepout). The entry leads into a corridor with the kitchen ahead and the bathroom on the right. From the rear door of the kitchen, the rear verandah opens onto the laundry with the toilet at the rear of the laundry.

The original interior fabric is intact for the most part. The interior floors throughout are timber boards covered by carpet. The walls are a hard plaster finish. The ceilings throughout are plasterboard with simple geometric patterned cornices, except the waiting and consulting rooms that have more ornate floral decorative cornices. The ceiling air vents throughout are simple vents at right angles at the corners of the ceilings. The original suspended light fittings also remain insitu in all the residential rooms, as well as distinctive wall mounted lights centred above the window in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry and the health centre store room. The original Bakelite switches are in place throughout. The original splayed skirtings and plain architraves are in place, as are the original doors throughout. The doors are jarrah veneer, although some have been painted.

The kitchen cupboard fitout is likely original. There is a double door pantry, an expansive row of cupboards along the back wall, a wall cupboard between the fireplace and the wall, and the tiled fireplace alcove and recessed mantle shelf. There is a jarrah cupboard in the consulting room. On the door is a brass measure with inches measurements. There are shelves in the front storeroom, some original, and full height original built-in cupboards in the bedroom and the

adjacent corridor. The fireplaces in the waiting and consulting rooms are the same, detailed in face brickwork with a simple jarrah mantle and herringbone pattern at the back of the fire opening. The fireplace in the living room is also face brick in a more decorative design, and there are jarrah cupboards with glass fronts flanking the fireplace. There is brick 'copper' in the laundry.

Overall the place is in good condition. There is evidence of rising damp, particularly in the residential section, and similarly in the residential section there is ceiling damage. The external timber elements are weathered. Internally, the place is in good condition due to continuous use.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is representative of the work of William G Bennett, one of the most successful Perth architects from the 1930s to 1950s. His firm undertook commissions for Roads Board Halls, Country Shire Offices, Masonic Temples, and a number of community based service buildings such as the Infant Health Centres at Nedlands and Manjimup, and Police and Citizens clubs. In addition the practice designed schools, churches and a number of residences. Bennett designed Scarborough Hotel, Majestic Hotel, Applecross and Ocean Beach Hotel, Cottesloe, the Plaza Theatre and Arcade in Hay Street, and the Regal Cinema in Subiaco.²⁴

Bennett's style derives from a use of elements characteristic of the Inter-War Functionalist, Inter-War Art Deco and the Inter-War Stripped Classical styles. He integrated these styles with elements of more conservative planning and building construction. Bennett's buildings rarely conceal roofs behind parapets, instead roofs were usually standard construction hipped and the use of flat or parapeted roofs was limited to balconies and entrances. His buildings often display a design emphasis focused on the facade and main reception room.

Apart from *Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)*, Bennett is also responsible for two additional buildings on Vincent Street, both of which have a visual connection with the Health Centre, and which appear to have been designed in a style sympathetic to Bennett's earlier work in Beverley:

00154 *Beverley Town Hall* (1938) a single-storey brick, render and corrugated iron building, comprises offices, main hall, lesser hall and former picture garden, with a double-storey bio box, constructed in 1938 in Inter-war Functionalist style. Designed by W.G. Bennett

00162 *Hotel Beverley* (1885, 1938) a two-storey face brick building, originally constructed in 1885 in the Federation Filigree style and enlarged in the 1890s. It was substantially remodelled in 1938 in the Inter-War Art Deco style, when the frontages and some interior fittings were modernized. On a prominent corner location, it has expansive street frontages that have been rendered. It is rectangular in form with an elongated west wing forming a central courtyard at the rear. The steeply pitched hipped roofs are mostly concealed by the parapet. Both periods of development are visible throughout. Remodelled by W.G. Bennett.

Two other buildings in Beverley are also from a similar era to the Health Centre:

²⁴ Geneve, Y., 'William G Bennett (1896-1977)', *Art Deco Society of WA Newsletter* 5.4 (July/August 1992), pp. 10-11.

05571 *CWA Hall* (1936) has walls of red clay brick, a corrugated iron roof, main and side doors, double french doors made of oregon, a verandah on one side, and a porch on the front of the building. The predominant features of the place include the face brickwork, the gable ended main and porch roof, the rendered plinth, and the vent (at the main gable apex). The style is that of other halls of the era, and typically Western Australian.

14438 *Beverley Fire Station* (1948) was designed by Ken Duncan and comprises a simple single-storey brick, tile and render Appliance Room and Quarters and showing some influence of Inter-War Stripped Classical style.

There are 26 places on the Heritage Council database associated with infant health care. Of these, two have been entered into the State Register, although only one was purposely designed: 11375 *Manjimup Infant Health Centre (fmr)* (1946), designed by Nancy Allen of W.G. Bennett & Associates, and which also included living accommodation for the nurse who worked there.

In the 1940s, Dr Eleanor Stang, Medical Supervisor of Infant Health, produced guidelines for infant health centres. These stated that each centre should provide a waiting room, consulting room, test feeding cubicles, pre-natal room (if required), demonstration kitchen, staff room, mother's lavatory, and a sheltered area for prams. For country towns, the centre should also include living quarters for the nurse, which were to be furnished and comprise a bedroom, living room, bathroom and kitchen, washhouse, woodshed and garage.²⁵

Health Department files show that the following infant health centres are known to have had furnished quarters: Geraldton, Katanning, Narrogin, and Manjimup. In addition, a 1955 report, 'Infant Health Work in Western Australia', states that Government assistance had been given to the construction of 12 country centres with quarters and 13 country centres without quarters.²⁶

As noted above, other infant health centres designed by W.G. Bennett & Associates are in Nedlands and Manjimup:

11375 *Manjimup Infant Health Centre (fmr)* (1946), a residential scale, single storey brick and tile community building with a prominent semi-circular masonry portico to the front façade built in the Inter-War Stripped Classical style. It operated as the main clinic for the Manjimup district from until closure in 2000.

13644 *Child Health Clinic, Nedlands* (1937), located in a parkland setting on the edge of a golf course and playing fields. The building is a brick and tile domestic style clinic in the Inter-War Mediterranean style.

Other infant health centres designed by Bennett & Associates in the 1950s include those at Wagin and Pinjarra, for which tenders were called in 1951.²⁷ No images of these two have been located and they were not located on the Heritage Council database.

Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr) is representative of infant health centres in Western Australia, and a good example of a domestic scale building by W.G. Bennett & Associates.

²⁵ 'Standards for Child Health Centres in Metropolitan and Country Districts' (n.d. [1940s]), copy held at Manjimup Child Health Centre.

²⁶ 'Infant Health Work in Western Australia' (September 1955)

²⁷ HCWA database and assessment documentation; *Building & Construction*, 18 May & 7 July 1951.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
