



**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)

- 8.8 Remembering the fallen
- 8.15 Being homeless

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 501 World Wars & other wars

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Peace Memorial Garden exhibits the aesthetic characteristics of a large rose garden, providing a colourful display, particularly in spring and autumn. The robust timber entry pergola and the stone walling are distinctive features. (Criterion 1.1)

Peace Memorial Rose Garden provides a welcome colourful visual relief in the urban environment on the route from the city to the west, contrasting with the commercial buildings and Inter-War flat developments. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is important as a commemorative rose garden in Western Australia dedicated to those who died in World War Two and to peace, such gardens being an alternative form of memorial to the statues, cenotaphs, and practical memorials that were usually erected to those who had died in earlier wars and conflicts. (Criterion 2.1)

The place is important as the former site of the Salvation Army's Prison Gate Home, which later became the Aged Men's Retreat, established in the inter-war period to provide for homeless and needy men. (Criterion 2.2)

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is one of the first rose gardens laid out in Western Australia to commemorate the fallen in World War Two and the peace. It was intended to be a State memorial, 'a national rose shrine', and commemorates service-people from throughout the State. (Criterion 2.2)

* 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.

Peace Memorial Rose Garden was initiated by Charles Frost, President of the National Rose Society, and the Rose Society has maintained a continuing involvement in the place. The original design of the place was by W. G. Bennett, Architect. J. C. Smith, Mayor of Nedlands (1954-64, 1967-79), donated the timber for the pergola at the main entrance, and is commemorated by the Memorial Rotunda, and, along with his wife, by a memorial plaque on a seat at the place. (Criterion 2.3)

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is important as one of the earliest commemorative rose gardens of its type in Western Australia, of which it is the largest and best known in the State, and the only one which was intended as a State memorial. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Peace Memorial Rose Garden may contain archaeological material relating to the Salvation Army's Prison Gate Home, which may provide some understanding of the physical nature of this type of institution. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is highly valued by the community for social, cultural, spiritual and aesthetic reasons, and as a visible reminder and commemoration of the sacrifice made by those who fought in World War Two and of the peace, as acknowledged in the Municipal Heritage Inventory. The place is also valued for educational reasons by those who have benefited from pruning demonstrations and guidance in rose care conducted at the place. (Criterion 4.1)

Peace Memorial Rose Garden contributes to the community's sense of place as a well-known landmark along Stirling Highway. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is the largest and one of the earliest commemorative rose gardens of its type in Western Australia, and the only one that was intended as a State memorial. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is a representative example of a peace memorial composed predominantly of landscape elements, which, while not uncommon as a memorial constructed following World War Two, was a divergent approach to the war memorials erected after World War One, which were mainly in the form of built structures such as cenotaphs, statues and memorial halls. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

All of the stone features on the site, including the random rubble granite walls, memorial feature and wishing well are in good condition, as are the central brick paved pathways and terrazzo paving. The rose beds, rose plantings and lawns are all regularly maintained and cared for and appear to be in good condition. The trees are generally in fair condition, with some of the large Poplars reaching a stage of over-maturity. The condition of the timber entrance pergola and rotunda is good, following recent conservation works. The overall condition of the place is fair to good.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Though there have been alterations to the place, and additional tree plantings, the original intention of the place remains intact. There are no conflicting uses and the values are sustainable with modest interventions in plantings, plant management, and the control of additional material. The place retains a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The layout of the place was largely modified in the 1970s and 1980s, such that the existing layout only partially adheres to the original design. A number of the original design features, mainly rose beds, were lost as a result, and the addition of new elements, such as the trees and the rotunda, have not been consistent with the original design intent. Rose plantings are replaced on an on-going basis and it is unlikely that many of the original rose plantings are still extant, though further detailed research is required to clarify this issue. The authenticity of the granite walls, memorial and wishing well, the terrazzo paving and the extant fabric of the entrance pergola are all high. Overall, the place retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect, Amy Nancarrow, Curtin University Research Institute for Cultural Heritage Student, and Peter Woodward, Landscape Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is a commemorative rose garden dedicated to those who fell in World War Two and to peace. Architect W.G. Bennett designed the garden, the structures and the building. The first portions of the garden were laid out and planted with roses supplied by the National Rose Society of Western Australia in 1948-52, extended through the 1950s and early 1960s so that the most of the original layout was completed by 1968. The layout was modified in 1976, including construction of the brick paved path from the main entrance to the central feature, and in 1986-87. The stone memorial, terrazzo paving, stone walls, and the brick building were constructed by V. Rossi in 1950-56. The jarrah timber pergola was erected by C. J. Hodgetts in 1956, and the stone wishing well by Nedlands Rotary Club in 1962. Tree plantings were made and the timber rotunda was built in 1986-87.

Portions of the future City of Nedlands were among the land grants made in the 1830s. Swan Location 86 was granted to Thomas Bailey, who sold it to Edward Hamersley in 1839.¹ Swan Location 85, in the area of the junction of present day Birdwood Parade and Waratah Avenue was granted to Adam Armstrong, which he named Dalkeith Farm, after his birthplace in Scotland, hence the origin of the Nedlands suburb of Dalkeith and Dalkeith Road.² In 1847, James Gallop acquired Armstrong's property, most of which continued in the ownership of the Gallop family through into the twentieth century.³ In 1854, Captain (later Colonel) John Bruce purchased Swan Location 86, to be held in trust for his son Edward, hence the family referred to it as 'Ned's Land', the origin of the name Nedlands.⁴ Swan Location 86 remained undeveloped in this period. In the 1880s, after Colonel Bruce's death, Swan Location 86 became part of the Bruce Estates Trust. From 1908, Swan Location 86 was developed as Nedlands Park Estate in which a number of streets were named after the Bruce family, including Bruce Street (originally Dixon Street), Edward Street, Tyrell, Thomas and Stanley streets named after Edward's sons, Webster Street after his wife, Christine nee Webster, and Johannah Street, after Mrs. John Bruce. The latter street was later re-named Vincent Street, after Saint Vincent, a Spanish saint noted for charitable works.⁵

From 1893 to 1932, present day Nedlands was part of the area encompassed by Claremont Road Board, and later the Municipality of Claremont. Sub-divisions in Nedlands took place in the pre World War One period, but there was comparatively little residential development there before 1918. Portion of Swan Location 1227, the future site of *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, was part of the

¹ Williams, A. E. *Nedlands: From Campsite to City* (City of Nedlands, 1984) p. 35, and p. 293. Note : There are some discrepancies in the dates recorded by Williams, as at p. 35 he records the Crown Grant to Bailey on 16 November 1830, and the sale to Hamersley within the month, whereas at p. 293 he records the date of the original grant as January 1839, and the sale as December 1839.

² *ibid*, pp. 13-20.

³ *ibid*, pp. 28-34, and pp. 51-57.

⁴ *ibid*, pp. 35-39 and p. 293

⁵ *ibid*, pp. 38-41 and p. 325.

sub-division of residential lots in the Highlands of Nedlands. After the Salvation Army acquired the site, their Prison Gate Home was established on part of it, to provide care and accommodation for men recently released from prison.⁶ In 1920, 50% of the men in Nedlands were lower-middle class, and 35% working class.⁷ In 1931, Mr. J. C. Smith was elected to represent the South Ward, which became the Dalkeith Ward of the Nedlands Road Board when it was formed in 1932.⁸ By this period, much of the Nedlands Road Board area had been subdivided for residential development. In the inter-war period, for the most part after the Great Depression, many of the streets to the south of Stirling Highway between Broadway and Waroonga Road were developed. The Dalkeith Picture Gardens was established on part of the future site of *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, fronting Stirling Highway, two streets west of Dalkeith Road. The date for the establishment was not identified, however, the picture garden was a very common notion in the early inter-war period. The Salvation Army's Prison Gate Home had become an Aged Men's Retreat.⁹

In October 1933, a Metropolitan Sewerage Plan shows the future site of *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, being portion of Swan Location 1227, bounded on three sides by Louise Street, named after Louisa Elizabeth Caporn, Stirling Highway and Vincent Street. Fronting Stirling Highway, west from the corner of Louise Street and Stirling Highway, being Lots 1 and 2 on plan 6025, and Lots 78, 76 and 77 on plan 3668, the lots at the corner of Louise Street were vacant, and then to the west was the Dalkeith Picture Gardens, comprising lawns, a stage, and two brick buildings, one immediately north of the stage, probably ticket office etc., and the other at the rear of the lot, presumably housing the projection equipment. To the west again was a brick house at no. 124 Stirling Highway. The remainder of the land fronting the highway was fenced and vacant, except for a timber building in the south-western corner adjacent to the boundary at Vincent Street. Lots 3 to 16 inclusive are shown as occupied by the Salvation Army Aged Men's Retreat. The major buildings shown are the Superintendent's residence of brick construction and a substantial timber building, both fronting Vincent Street. From the latter, a covered way leads to another timber building with a south facing verandah, which is located to the east of the Superintendent's house. There were also two smaller timber buildings with south facing verandahs, a building partly of sand brick and partly of timber, with an east facing verandah, a galvanized iron shed, a well and tank stand, a pig sty, and five other structures, of timber and/or galvanized iron construction, whose functions are not shown.¹⁰

During World War Two, in late 1943, Charles Frost, immediate past President of the National Rose Society of Western Australia, proposed the idea of a memorial rose garden.¹¹ The Society readily agreed and a trust fund for this purpose was

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- 6 Wales, Ramona and Middlemus, Carolyn 'A Land us study: The Peace Memorial Rose Garden, Nedlands, Western Australia', p. 3. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library; and *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1920, p. 50.
 - 7 Bolton, Geoffrey and Gregory, Jenny *Claremont A History* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1999) pp. 144-146.
 - 8 Williams, A. E. op. cit., pp. 159-164.
 - 9 *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1930, p. 126. Note: The Salvation Army operated the Eventide Home for Men at this place through the 1930s and into the World War Two period, and the Eventide Home for Aged Women, which was located at 15 Harvest Road, North Fremantle. (*Wise's Post Office Directory* 1940-41 to 1946.)
 - 10 Metropolitan Sewerage Nedlands Road Board, 22 October 1933. SROWA Cons. 4156 Item 1105. Note: This picture theatre is not mentioned in *Nedlands: From Campsite to City*, nor does Williams record details of when the Salvation Army Aged Men's Retreat opened or closed.
 - 11 Williams, A. E. op. cit.

established in early 1944, and eventually £1,000 was raised.¹² In September 1945, the *West Australian* published a plea from Frost and the Society for the proposed garden, 'a national rose shrine which would commemorate the peace as well as provide a living memorial for each individual man or woman in the State, who made the supreme sacrifice in the war.'¹³ Perth City Council already had in hand a project to establish a civic memorial rose garden at Floreat Park; however, the proposal from the Rose Society was for

something of a more national character, a truly State memorial that the people of the whole State could subscribe to, a national rose shrine which would be outstandingly beautiful, and dignified, and a symbol of culture and refinement.¹⁴

The King's Park Board granted the Society 'an area of up to five acres in a commanding position ... facing one of the main avenues leading into the city.'¹⁵ In 1946-47, the Society considered various garden designs submitted in an open competition sponsored by the *Western Mail*.¹⁶ However, following 'a good deal of opposition' to the above site from those who considered it 'a desecration ... in a park that should be reserved for the preservation of the native flora', an alternative site was sought.¹⁷

Several other possible locations were considered, including the central portion of Winthrop Avenue running from King's Park gates to the University, the National Park in the Darling Range (i.e. present day John Forrest National Park), and the possibility of embodying a memorial cross of roses in the design for the Perth War Cemetery, but these suggestions were not permitted by the relevant managing authorities. Finally the Nedlands Roads Board made available to the Society a site, four acres in area, fronting Stirling Highway between Louise and Vincent Streets. It was 'a commanding position on the main highway between Fremantle and Perth', where the garden would be seen 'by all tourists entering the capital.'¹⁸

The Nedlands Road Board had been in the process of obtaining the site from the Salvation Army since August 1946, and the purchase of the land was eventually completed in January 1948, at a cost of £1000 per acre, a total sum of £3,800²⁰. In March 1948, the Nedlands Road Board and the National Rose Society of W.A. agreed on the site's suitability for the *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, and subsequently both the Executive Council of the Society and a general meeting of its members unanimously agreed that the site would be 'admirable for the purpose'.²¹ While publications from the 1950s indicate that the site had been purchased for the initial purpose of establishing a park and children's playground

12 Williams, A. E. op. cit.

13 *The West Australian* 22 September 1945.

14 *ibid.*

15 Frost, Charles 'Rose Progress in Australia and New Zealand: Western Australia' in *The Australian and New Zealand Rose Annual*, 1946, p. 84.

16 'Roses for Remembrance: Western Australia' in *ibid.*, 1947, p. 68.

17 *ibid.*

18 'Memorial Rose Garden in Perth' in *ibid.*, 1951, pp.61-62.

20 Williams, A. E. op. cit., p. 233; City of Nedlands, Mayor's Report for year ended 30 June 1963, news cutting from *The West Australian* no date; and Presentation brochure, 1 July 1959. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

21 Letter from National Rose Society (WA) to Nedlands Roads Board, 9 March 1948, in Nedlands Roads Board 'Rose Gardens' file, 1948-1956, SROWA Cons 1450 Item 888.

prior to establishing a Civic Centre on the site²², there is no evidence in Nedlands Roads Board Minutes to support this claim²³. The State Government was involved with calls for the site to be used 'for housing purposes or a School' as early as October 1947,²⁴ but it appears that it was not until 1963, when the Nedlands Library Committee recommended to the Council that the *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* was the preferred site for the proposed library, that the City considered building on the site.²⁵

The site had continued to be used by the Salvation Army into the 1940s, including land for the piggeries and for grazing cows, and included scattered fig trees and bush land.²⁷ On 21 January 1948, the transfer of the land to the Nedlands Road Board was registered; being portion of Swan Location 1227 Lots 1-14 inclusive and Lot 16 on plan 6025, and Lots 76, 77 and 78 on plan 3668.²⁹

In February 1948, following the Roads Board's approval of the proposal, plans for the proposed garden were drawn by the Board's architects, W. G. Bennett and Associates. The main entrance was through a large pergola at the centre point of the Stirling Highway frontage, and there were smaller pergolas at each of the four entry points from the outer area of the garden to the inner oval shaped area in which the central feature was located. There were rose beds in each portion of the garden of various shapes and sizes. Proposed tree plantings were shown outside the boundary walls of the garden at the north, east and west, as well as three trees in the north-east and north-west sections of the garden, a single tree in each of the adjoining sections, and that at the south-west, with four trees planted to form a quincunx with the central feature at its heart. There were secondary entrances from Louise and Vincent Streets aligned with the central feature and two further minor entrances from each of these streets to the north and south of the secondary entrances. From each entrance, a path led to the outer ring of the oval shaped area in which the central feature was located.³⁰ The Rose Society and the Roads Board approved the plans which were duly implemented.³¹

Architect W. G. Bennett had been responsible for the design of the McNess Memorial erected in Stirling Gardens in 1941.³²

22 *ibid*

23 A search of council minutes held at the City of Nedlands, between 19 February 1946 and 15 March 1949 (*Minutes Book 19 February 1946 to 16 September 1947*, City of Nedlands, ARCH/33230 and *Minutes Book 16 September 1947 to 15 March 1949*, City of Nedlands, ARCH/30065) did not reveal any discussion of purchasing the site for a civic centre.

24 'Minutes of Nedlands Road Board 21 October 1947' in *Minutes Book*, City of Nedlands Archives, ARCH/30065, p. 25.

25 'Minutes of Meeting of Library Committee 28 February, 1963' in *All Other Committee Minutes Book*, 26/07/1961 – 28/06/1969, City of Nedlands Archives ARCH/33232, p. 14b.

27 Williams, A. E. op. cit., p. 233; City of Nedlands, Mayor's Report for year ended 30 June 1963, news cutting from *The West Australian* no date; and Presentation brochure, 1 July 1959. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

29 Certificate of Title Vol. 1106 Fol. 352.

30 W. G. Bennett & Associates Architects & Town Planners, Nedlands Road Board Proposed Peace Memorial Rose Gardens, February 1948. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

31 Williams, A. E. op. cit.

32 *The West Australian* 1 October 1941, p. 4; and plaque at McNess Memorial. It was relocated to Florence Hummerston Reserve, Perth, when Council House (1962) was built.

In May 1948, W. G. Bennett suggested because a portion of the site for the rose garden was not yet available (i.e. Lot 15), work to be carried out in the first year should include removal of the old picture theatre building, with the bricks from it utilized in construction of the front retaining walls to Stirling Highway and in building the toilets and other amenities if required, preparation of some beds, a skeleton outline of some of the paths, and tree planting. He recommended covering the retaining wall where it was exposed to view with random-picked flat paving stone obtained from the hills area, 'in order that this and other features will harmonise with the rustic treatment of the overhead log pergola.'³³ The pergolas were intended to be of round log timbers, similar to those designed and constructed by Bennett at Araluen. Where possible, the natural ground features of the rose garden site were to be retained as were any existing trees of importance, presumably including a tuart tree shown on an undated sketch of the site. This sketch also shows Bennett's proposal for plantings of Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra*) at the south-west, screening toilet blocks, pump house, tank and store; and large gums such as Blue gums (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) with smaller trees and shrubs in the foreground at the southern boundary of the east side of the site.³⁴ Bennett noted that the minor paths could be simplified and created more economically by use of flat stepping stones.³⁵

In July 1948, the initial planting of 400 rose bushes was undertaken.³⁶

Public donations and funds raised by the Rose Society funded the establishment of *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* with Nedlands Road Board contributing the balance and assuming responsibility for the place's on going maintenance.³⁷

On 22 December 1948, the Salvation Army was registered as the proprietor of portion of Swan Location 1227, being Lot 15 on plan 6025.³⁸ The Salvation Army retained this lot as the Superintendent's residence was located on it.³⁹

In late July 1949, V. Rossi and his men commenced work on the first stage of the stonework including retaining walls, which was completed in November. As a further section of the rose garden had been constructed and planted, Bennett recommended that walling to the balance of the frontage to Vincent Street as far as Lot 15 be completed and also that to Louise Street.⁴⁰ On 24 February, Rossi advised completion of the front paving and steps, and the Louise Street walls 'up to the end'.⁴¹

In May 1950, W. G. Bennett advised the estimated cost of toilet accommodation, using stone similar to the walling, and with a flat concrete roof, to be built by V. Rossi, was £1,175. In September amended plans were forwarded to the Road

33 W. G. Bennett to Secretary, Nedlands Road Board, in Nedlands Roads Board Rose Gardens Maintenance, Historical 1949-1956, City of Nedlands File PERM 062, 4 May 1948.

34 *ibid*; and undated sketch in *ibid*.

35 *ibid*.

36 Williams, A. E. *op. cit.*; and Nedlands Roads Board, in Nedlands Roads Board Rose Gardens Maintenance *op. cit.* Note: *Wise's Post Office Directory 1949* (p. 217) listed Mayo Cycles at 122 Stirling Highway (i.e. the former Picture Gardens), and the Salvation Army Officers' Home at 124 Stirling Highway, although the garden development had commenced in 1948.

37 Williams, A. E. *op. cit.*, p. 234.

38 Certificate of Title Vol. 1115 Fol. 527.

39 Dedication of Peace Memorial Rose Garden, 22 October 1950. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

40 Memo to W. G. Bennett; and Bennett, Blatchford, Allen and Johnson to Secretary Nedlands Road Board, in Nedlands Road Board Rose Gardens Maintenance *op. cit.*, 25 July and 10 November 1949 respectively.

41 V. Rossi to W. G. Bennett in *ibid*, 24 February 1950.

Board, the alteration being the addition of a store, 15ft. x 15ft., for garden equipment, which increased the estimated cost to £1,525.⁴²

In late September, W. G. Bennett advised the Secretary of the Road Board, Mr. Jenkins, that a flat sided flag stone or one sided stone, about 22 ins. X 18ins., was required on which to fix the memorial tablet, and requested he ask for same when at Karagullen.⁴³ This is the only reference located to date as to the source from which the Road Board acquired the stone for the walling. V. Rossi was responsible for the pedestal and paving stonework of the memorial, Cumpston's Engraving Works Pty. Ltd. for the bronze plaque, and Wilson, Gray & Co. Pty Ltd. for the green terrazzo paving in a concrete base at entrance to the place, which were also designed by W. G. Bennett.⁴⁴

On 17 October 1950, the official opening of *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* was announced in the Press. The sub-leader in the *West Australian* commented:

Perth is much richer for the Peace Memorial Rose Garden ... In years to come Nedlands will be known far and wide for its public rose garden, for few persons could fail to be affected by this method of commemorating those who served their country in World War II. What has been done in Nedlands might well serve as an example to other metropolitan local government authorities and to those country bodies with sufficient water.⁴⁵

By this date, one fourth of the total area set aside had been developed, almost 1,000 rose bushes had been planted and were in full bloom, 'a glorious sight.'⁴⁶ To date, it has not been possible to ascertain details of these bushes. Peace is believed to have been among them, and has continued to have a prominent place in the garden, along with 'Chicago Peace' (a later introduction) in the beds in immediate proximity to the central memorial.⁴⁷

Peace, a Hybrid Tea rose, was a recent introduction to Australia. During World War Two, as the threat of war loomed over France, rose growers Meilland and Son feared for the future of their roses. Before normal communications in Europe ceased, they sent off two small consignments of budded 3-35-40, a new rose, which they intended to name Madame A. Meilland, to a rose grower in Italy and another in Germany. They were successfully propagated, and the German rose grower named it 'Gloria Dei', and the Italian grower named it 'Gioia' (Joy).⁴⁸ A third consignment left Europe on the last Clipper to fly from France to America, where the new rose was also successfully propagated. On 29 April 1945, at a Name Giving Ceremony at the Pacific Rose Society's Exhibition at Pasadena, California, it was officially named and dedicated to 'Peace', as the eminent rose growers considered that 'this greatest new rose of our time should be named for the world's greatest desire: PEACE'.⁴⁹ The rose is best known by this name. In the post war period, millions of 'Peace' roses were planted 'the world over', including in rose memorial gardens and cemeteries.⁵⁰ Chicago Peace is a

42 W. G. Bennett and W. G. Bennett and Associates to Secretary, Nedlands Road Board, in *ibid*, 14 April and 12 September 1950 respectively.

43 W. G. Bennett to Secretary, Nedlands Road Board, in *ibid*, 26 September 1950.

44 Accounts etc. from W. G. Bennett and Associates to Secretary, Nedlands Road Board, in *ibid*, 10 November 1950 and 9 July 1951.

45 *The West Australian* 17 October 1950, quoted in 'Memorial Rose Garden in Perth' *op. cit.*, p. 62.

46 *ibid*, 17 October 1950; and 'Memorial Rose Garden in Perth' *ibid*, pp. 61-62.

47 Site visits by Robin Chinnery, 2002-03.

48 Ridge, Antonia *For Love of A Rose: The story of the creation of the famous Peace Rose* (Faber & Faber, London, first ed. 1965, 1972 ed.) pp. 197-199.

49 *ibid.*, and pp. 208-210.

50 *ibid*, p. 212. Note: By 1955, an estimated 30 million 'Peace' rose bushes had been planted.

mutation of Peace, discovered by a rose breeder in Chicago in 1962, hence its name.⁵¹

On 22 October 1950, *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* was dedicated by Padre L. R. Jupp, who was introduced by Mr. J. C. Smith, Chairman of the Nedlands Roads Board, who later made an address. Fred Jackson, Honorary Secretary of the National Rose Society of Western Australia, gave a brief history of the garden, and Charles Frost, President of the Society (1939-4), gave the dedication address. Sir James Mitchell, Governor of Western Australia, unveiled the bronze memorial plaque, mounted on a stone obelisk, the central feature of the garden. The plaque was inscribed 'This Rose Memorial Garden is dedicated to the Glorious Memory of all who sacrificed their lives on active service in their Country's Cause.'⁵² Sir James commended the project, and said 'no stone or cement memorial could be as inspiring as a beautiful rose garden.'⁵³ The Nedlands Military Band provided the music. Some 2,000 people and various dignitaries attended the dedication service.⁵⁴

The National Rose Society of Western Australia provided the original roses for *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, and subsequently also co-operated with replacements when they were required.⁵⁵ It was anticipated that when eventually completed the garden would contain 5,000 rose bushes and climbers.⁵⁶

In November 1951, Nedlands Road Board accepted V. Rossi's price for the extension of the stone walling to complete the remainder of the highway frontage and carry around the corner along Vincent Street up to and including the first entrance from Vincent Street, and thence along the street to Lot 15, as per that already completed on Louise Street, which was duly carried out.⁵⁷

In 1952, W. G. Bennett and Associates prepared sketch plans for a fountain to be placed in *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, to be set in the centre of a 12 ft. octagon. It was to be of stone construction 'coloured stone and flat stone from the foothills', to harmonise with the surroundings and the stonework was to be carried out by V. Rossi, who had done the earlier stonework at the place.⁵⁸ So far as is known, this was not implemented and there is no physical evidence of its existence at the place.

The garden as a whole was intended to commemorate all who had fallen in war, rather than including specific memorials to individual servicemen. In 1952, the Roads Board rejected the request of Mrs E.H. Wallis of Victoria Park for a rose bush to be planted in honour of her deceased soldier son-in-law.⁵⁹ In 1953, new beds were laid out at the place.⁶⁰ No details were recorded.

51 *Botanica's Pocket Roses* (Random House, Australia, Millson's Point, NSW, 2000) p. 219.

52 Dedication of Peace Memorial Rose Garden, 22 October 1950, op. cit.

53 'Memorial Rose Garden in Perth' op. cit., pp. 61-62.

54 ibid; and Presentation brochure op. cit. Checks of *The West Australian*, *Sunday Times*, *Western Mail* and *Daily News* for the week of the dedication ceremony found no further information regarding the dedication.

55 Souvenir brochure, City of Nedlands, 3 October 1968. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

56 'Memorial Rose Garden in Perth' op. cit., p. 62.

57 Correspondence between W. G. Bennett and Secretary, Nedlands Rose Board, and V. Rossi, in Nedlands Road Board Rose Gardens Maintenance op. cit, November 1951-January 1952.

58 W. G. Bennett and Associates to Secretary, Nedlands Roads Board, in Nedlands Roads Board Rose Gardens Maintenance op. cit., 4 July 1952.

59 Letter from Roads Board to Mrs E.H. Wallis, 29 February 1952, in Nedlands Roads Board 'Rose Gardens' file, 1948-1956, SROWA Cons 1450 Item 888.

60 Memo from NLA to Nedlands Road Board, in ibid, 1 July 1953.

Peace Memorial Rose Garden became a well known memorial rose garden, the largest of its kind in Western Australia, and a well known landmark on Stirling Highway between Perth and Fremantle. Each year, the Rose Society conducts rose pruning demonstrations at the place and talks on the care of roses.⁶¹ While the RSL maintains that the official State War Memorial in Western Australia is that in Kings Park, *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* has been visited by State, inter-State and international visitors as a State memorial. It has had a long involvement from people beyond the local area, and the commemorations include names from throughout the State.⁶²

Through the early 1950s, the Rose Society pressured the Roads Board to complete the front of the gardens, especially the stone walls and entrance pergola, in anticipation of a Royal visit.⁶³ In June 1955, W. G. Bennett and Associates advised that the timber for the proposed pergola at the main entrance had been cut and awaited adzing. The estimated cost of the structure, including concrete foundations, additional timber, adzing, wrought iron work and labour was £650, and to construct three of the four pergolas proposed at the central feature, £1,800 to £1,950. The fourth pergola proposed in this area could not be built whilst the Salvation Army's residence remained on the site. The estimated cost for completion of the stone walls to Louise Street was £125 and to Vincent Street, to the front of the existing residence and for provision of two entrances, £750. The estimated cost for toilet accommodation and a pump house was £2,200.⁶⁴

In February 1956, W. G. Bennett and Associates were advised that the jarrah timber, donated by Mr. Smith, for the proposed pergola at the main entrance had now come to hand and erection of the pergola could proceed. The pergola at the main entrance to the garden was 'unique', the uprights being 13ins. X 13ins., 'free of heart, adzed Jarrah', procured by Arthur Shepherdson of Adelaide Timber Co., from the forest at Witchcliffe, after more than two years of effort to secure such timber.⁶⁵ C. J. Hodgetts was responsible for adzing of the timber and erection of the pergola.⁶⁶

The house within the gardens at the corner of Vincent Street and Stirling Highway was demolished some time after July 1956, when interested parties were informed that they could purchase windows, doors and other features prior to the demolition. This house appears to have been vacant for a number of years.⁶⁷

In 1956, the local government authority became the Municipality of Nedlands, and Mr. J. C. Smith was elected as the first mayor.⁶⁸

On 1 July 1959, the Municipality of Nedlands was proclaimed a City. A presentation brochure was prepared on the occasion of the proclamation. The cover photograph featured the pergola at the entrance to *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, 'the site of the City's future civic buildings'.⁶⁹ This proposed use of part

61 Williams, A. E. op. cit., p. 234.

62 E-mail from Robin Chinnery to Clare Schulz, 22 October 2003, on HCWA file P13668.

63 Nedlands Roads Board 'Rose Gardens' file, 1948-1956, SROWA Cons 1450 Item 888.

64 Nancy L. Allen, W. G. Bennett and Associates to Secretary, Nedlands Road Board, in Nedlands Roads Board Rose Gardens Maintenance op. cit., 21 June 1955.

65 Presentation brochure op. cit.

66 Correspondence and invoice etc. in Nedlands Road Board Rose Gardens Maintenance op. cit, February-December 1956.

67 Letter from Nedlands Roads Board to Mr A.N.G. Irving of Kojonup, 17 July 1956, in Nedlands Roads Board 'Rose Gardens' file, 1948-1956, SROWA Cons 1450 Item 888.

68 Presentation brochure, 1 July 1959. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

69 Presentation brochure, 1 July 1959. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

of the site was not implemented in the twentieth century, and proved to be a contentious issue when the proposal was revived in the early twenty-first century.

The local government was frequently asked to provide cut roses from *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* for charitable causes, either as decoration or to be sold, and did so on almost all occasions unless there were too many requests simultaneously. Events that were supplied *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* flowers included charity balls, fetes, church events, flower shows and even on one occasion a production of the Scotch College Dramatic Society, who were in need of roses as props.⁷⁰

In 1959, G. A. Hardham of East Malvern, Victoria reported in *The Australian and New Zealand Rose Annual* on a visit to Western Australia in October 1958. 'The most outstanding garden' visited was *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, under the care of C. T. Bogg, where 2,200 roses, all clearly labeled, were planted 'in groups of eight to ten of each variety', principal among them being Comtesse Vandal, Hector Deane, McGredy's Sunset, Mirandy, Elite, Ena Harkness, Phoebe, Spek's Yellow, Charles Gregory, Fantasia, Tassin, First Love, Mrs. Sam McGredy, President Chausse, Virgo, Orange Nassau, Golden Dawn, Picture, Contessa de Sastago, Flaming Sunset, and Grand' mere Jenny.⁷¹

In 1961, the name of the registered owner of the place was amended to the City of Nedlands.⁷²

Nedlands City Council wished to complete the *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* and after some negotiations the Salvation Army to agreed to transfer the remaining lot, Lot 15, portion of Swan Location 1227 to the Council provided other suitable land was made available and compensation paid for their building. The City had indicated its intention of removing the house on the land after it took ownership, which was not to happen until the Salvation Army's new home was completed.⁷³ On 20 September 1961, the lot was transferred to the City of Nedlands.⁷⁴ The acquisition of Lot 15 opened the way for the completion of the garden beds as per W. G. Bennett's plan, as shown in an aerial photograph of 1968 (see below).⁷⁵

In 1962, Nedlands Rotary Club built a wishing well in the north-west corner of the gardens. The plaque acknowledges the Club and, the City Council, and states 'Your gifts will assist those less fortunate and your wishes will return to you a thousandfold.'⁷⁶ Different projects were selected each year for funding assistance. This was one of a number of wishing wells built to raise money for charity in the post World War Two period, including that at King's Park and a later one at Stirling Gardens (1974; removed 1990).⁷⁷

In July 1963, Nedlands Council rejected Mr. Smith's proposal to build a civic centre including a library, rates' office, and public conveniences, storage etc, at the ground floor, and city chambers at the first floor on a portion of the site of

70 Nedlands Roads Board files 'Rose Gardens', 1948-1956, and 'Memorial Rose Garden', 1956-1958, SROWA Cons 1450 Items 643 and 888.

71 Hardham, G. A. 'Roses of Perth' in *The Australian and New Zealand Rose Annual* 1959, p. 88.

72 Certificate of Title Vol. 1106 Fol. 352.

73 Letter from Nedlands Roads Board to Mr K.F. Lorman, 18 November 1960, on Nedlands Roads Board file 'Memorial Rose Garden', 1956-1958, SROWA Cons 1450 Item 643.

74 Certificate of Title Vol. 1115 Fol. 527.

75 Department of Lands and Surveys, Film no. 1114, Run no. 18A, photo no. 5221, 22 October 1968. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

76 Site visit, Robin Chinnery, 27 April 2003.

77 Perth City Council File G/Stirling 181/78.

Peace Memorial Rose Garden. In April 1964, an Electors' meeting was held to consider the proposal, and subsequently Mr. Smith resigned as Mayor of Nedlands, and a referendum was held in conjunction with the annual council elections in May, to consider building on either the site at *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, or on a site at the corner of Stirling Highway and Webster Street, which confirmed the Council's rejection of Mr. Smith's proposal.⁷⁸ The library was duly built on the Webster Street site.

In December 1964, it was reported that playground equipment was to be installed at *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, for which financial assistance was to be sought from the Lotteries Commission.⁷⁹

In 1967, Mr. J. C. Smith stood for election again, and was re-elected as Mayor. He served in this position to 1979, when he resigned due to ill health. He had served in local government for 45 years, dominating civic affairs in Nedlands for much of that period, and was referred to as 'Mr Nedlands', due to his dedication and enthusiasm for advancing the interests of the suburb.⁸⁰

In October 1968, delegates to the 41st Conference of the Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation, held in Perth for the first time, made a visit to *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, where the Mayor, Councillors and staff of the City of Nedlands presented them with a souvenir brochure featuring a cover photograph of the place, showing climbing roses on the pergola at the main entrance, and brief histories of the City of Nedlands and the Rose Garden. The latter noted 'The Garden is well known throughout Australia and attracts many visitors from the Eastern States and Overseas in the spring and autumn months when it is a blaze of colour.'⁸¹

An aerial photograph, taken on 22 October 1968, shows the place at that date had been largely laid out and developed as per the original plan, with the four beds in a circle about the memorial, four pairs of rectangular beds radiating north, south, east and west therefrom, in a more circular form than the oval of the original design, then two outer circles of beds, with three additional pairs of rectangular beds radiating from the outer circle to the north-east, north and north-west. Beds follow the boundaries from the main entrance to the minor entrances, with leaf shaped beds at either side of the centrally placed minor entrances from Louise and Vincent Streets, with two pairs of inward curved beds at the southern side of the gardens. The Rotary Wishing Well (1962) is to the south-west of the main entrance. It appears that the minor entrance nearest the corner of Stirling Highway and Vincent Street had similar paving treatments to that at the main entrance. The former are no longer extant. There were street trees along Louise and Vincent Streets but no trees within the gardens at this date. There is a work shed building located near the southern boundary of the site.⁸²

In May 1976, plans of the place were drawn showing a proposed new layout with proposed brick paving leading from the main entrance to the memorial. The plan shows beds following the boundaries of the site from the main entrance, to the minor entrances and thence two additional beds to the south. At both the east and west of the memorial, two rectangular beds are aligned with it and with the

78 News cuttings from *The West Australian* 11 July 1963, 18 April 1964, and May 1964; and *The Claremont-Nedlands Observer* 15 April 1964. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

79 News cutting, 17 November 1964, no details. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

80 Williams, A. E. op. cit., p. 167. Note: Mr. Smith's 'greatest disappointment was his inability to persuade Council'. (ibid, p. 166.)

81 Souvenir brochure, City of Nedlands, 3 October 1968. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

82 Department of Lands and Surveys, Film no. 1114, Run no. 18A, photo no. 5221, 22 October 1968. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

minor entrances, as per the original plan and the aerial photograph (1968). According to this plan the rose beds that formed the outer circles about the memorial were to be removed, as were the beds at the southern side of the rose gardens, the two pairs of beds placed diagonally from the outer circle at the north-east and the north-west of it, and the east-west rectangular bed at the south of the main entrance, whilst the north-south rectangular beds between the main entrance and the memorial were to be replaced with curved beds.⁸³ The plan was duly implemented, as evidenced by the plan for the proposed reticulation system in October 1979. The latter shows the existing well to the south-east of the memorial and a shed at the south of the gardens' site.⁸⁴

In 1976, Mr. Smith was awarded the O.B.E. in recognition of his public service.⁸⁵ He died in 1984, and subsequently a memorial seat was placed at the north-west corner of the gardens, with a plaque commemorating the long service to the City of Nedlands of John Charles Smith (1904-1984) and his wife, Florence Eveline Smith (1905-1998). He had always acknowledged her assistance, and she was made a Freeman of the City with him in 1979, the first woman in Western Australia to be accorded this honour without having served as a councilor.⁸⁶

In 1985, a concept plan was developed for the place, including additional rose beds, pathways and other garden areas, and construction of a rotunda as a memorial to J. C. Smith, O.B.E. at the south, at an estimated cost of \$10,200.⁸⁷ Most of these works were completed, other than the proposed car parks. At this period, The Rose Society was applying for Government funds for other works at the place; however, Nedlands Council records do not include any details and to date, it has not been possible to obtain any other information about this matter.⁸⁸

In September 1986, a plan of *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* shows existing beds as per the 1979 plan, other than the two beds at the south of the memorial which have been converted to rectangular beds. The plan shows proposed rose beds comprising two east-west rectangular beds at either side of a proposed path southwards from the memorial to a gazebo, with a bed at each of the remaining three sides from the gazebo, i.e. on the east, south and west. An existing climbing frame and existing seat are shown to the south-west and west of the gazebo respectively. Four groups of three trees apiece are shown in the lawn areas to the north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west of the memorial, and two further similar groups to the south-east and south-west of the gazebo. Pine log barriers are shown extending from the minor entrances at the southern end of the gardens at Louise and Vincent Streets to minor entrances adjoining the southern boundary on each side of the site.⁸⁹

The Memorial Rotunda was built as planned and constructed in jarrah timber with a shingle roof. On 15 December 1987, members of Nedlands City Council, and family and friends of Mr. J. C. Smith attended the unveiling of the memorial

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- 83 Peace Memorial Rose Garden Proposed Layout, 23 May 1976. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.
- 84 Peace Memorial Rose Garden Proposed Reticulation System, 15 October 1979. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.
- 85 Williams, A. E. op. cit., p. 274.
- 86 Site visit, Robin Chinnery, April 2003. Note: The Municipal Heritage Inventory states there were two memorial seats, one of which was later stolen. However, the one plaque commemorates both Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and no other records of a second seat have been located to date.
- 87 Minutes Works and Health Committee, in Rose Garden Peace Memorial, City of Nedlands, Perm/048, 1988-1994, 18 April and 19 September 1985.
- 88 *ibid.*
- 89 Peace Memorial Rose Garden, 20 September 1986. Held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

plaque.⁹⁰ The shingle roof has since been replaced by colorbond, but it has not been possible to ascertain the date at which this took place.⁹¹

At this time it was proposed that part of the site of *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* be utilised for provision of a permanent venue for the recently formed Nedlands Symphony Orchestra, with facilities for indoor and outdoor performances, but this was not implemented.⁹²

In 1989, the Rose Society had intended to plant 108 rose at the place during the winter season. However, because the old bushes had not been removed and the beds prepared, this was deferred to June 1989.⁹³

Through the 1990s, on various occasions, cut roses from the place were supplied on request, for example, to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society for their annual Pioneer Memorial Service, to St. Margaret's Church and to Loreto School Fete.⁹⁴

In 1993, Nedlands Council agreed to a proposal by horticulturist Suzanne Gorman, a Council employee for seven years, to prepare a photographic catalogue of the roses planted at the place. Laminated copies of the catalogue were to be made available for use by the public.⁹⁵ The plan included in the catalogue shows the trees planted to that date, and the catalogue lists the varieties of roses planted in each bed.⁹⁶ Some of these varieties are among those available in the late 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, including Peace, Chicago Peace, McGredy's Sunset, Super Star, Fragrant Cloud, Mr. Lincoln, Violet Carson, Christian Dior, and Daily Mail Scented, whilst others are more recent introductions including Double Delight, Mon Cheri, Satchmo, Gold Bunny, Just Joey and Limelight.

In July 1993, the Finance and Services Committee recommended the sum of \$1,460 be included in the Council's budget for 1993-94 for provision of name-plates for the roses, and this was duly implemented.⁹⁷

In 1998, there were 2,000 rose bushes established in the gardens, representing more than 40 different varieties. Supervised by Gordon Crann, Nedlands Council employees tend the gardens, which are enjoyed by many people who enjoy the park's quiet atmosphere as well as passing motorists who admire the colourful display, and the place is also used sometimes for weddings and other photographic occasions. A continued planting programme for renewal and change as required ensures the gardens receive due maintenance.⁹⁸

The timber supports of the pergola at the main entrance were rotting at the base so the possibility of replacing them was investigated. However, the cost was too high, and it was uncertain whether jarrah timber of similar proportions could be

90 Technical Services Committee Minutes in *ibid*, 21 January 1988.

91 Site visit, Robin Chinnery, April 2003.

92 Nigel Shaw, Architect, to Nedlands City Council, no date, in *ibid*. Note: Proposals for re-development of the site not implemented include a proposed amphitheatre (1972), and aged persons' units. (Plans Peace Memorial Rose Garden Re-development Proposal, 7 July 1972, and Rose Gardens - Home for the Aged, May 1981, held in Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.)

93 George Randell, Vice President, The Rose Society, to Town Clerk, City of Nedlands, in *ibid*, 2 September 1988.

94 Correspondence in *ibid*, 1988-1994.

95 Suzanne Gorman to Neil Leach, CEO, City of Nedlands, in *ibid*, 15 June 1993. Note: A copy of this catalogue is available in the Local History Collection, Nedlands Library.

96 Gorman, Suzanne 'City of Nedlands Peace Memorial Rose Garden', n.d.

97 Finance and Services Committee to Neil Leach, in *ibid*, 2 July 1993.

98 Place No. N27, City of Nedlands Municipal Heritage Inventory, 1998; and site visits, Robin Chinnery, 2002-2003.

obtained. In 1998 it was decided to fit steel stanchions and concrete bases to prolong their life, but it is recognized that some further work will be required in the future.⁹⁹

In 1999, the place was included in the Municipal Heritage Inventory for the City of Nedlands. It was considered to have high aesthetic, historic, social, scientific and rarity significance, and its place as a landmark along Stirling Highway was acknowledged. It was stated that the roses at the place have been utilized as a source of root stock 'for many years and provide an education in rose care for people interested in the pruning displays held annually.'¹⁰⁰

Since the 1950s, the place has been used and appreciated as a garden by those who live in Nedlands and the wider community. In 2000, Nedlands Mayor John Paterson's proposal to build new Council Chambers at the site was met with indignation and dismay.¹⁰¹ The proposal has not been implemented.

An aerial photograph shows the place with the rose beds, the brick paved path from the main entrance to the memorial, the wishing well, Memorial Rotunda, toilet block and work shed, and mature trees.¹⁰²

In 2003, the City of Nedlands embarked on a program to restore and conserve *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, in particular the deteriorating timber structures. Climbing roses were replanted and the pergola and entrances features were restored.¹⁰³

In 2003, the place continues in use for its intended purpose as a peace memorial rose garden.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is a commemorative rose garden that was built to the design of architect W.G. Bennett, over a period of years from 1948 to the early 1960s, and later modified in the 1970s and 1980s, in dedication to those who fell in World War Two and to peace. The main elements comprise the rose beds and plantings (1948-1970s), a random rubble granite memorial, and perimeter walls, terrazzo paving and brick toilet and gardener's store building (1950-56), jarrah construction entrance pergola (1956), Rotary wishing well (1962), pathways (1976-1987), and timber rotunda and tree plantings (1986-87).

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is located in Nedlands, on the crest of an area of land bounded by Stirling Highway to the north, Vincent Street to the west and Louise Street to the east. On its southern boundary it is directly abutted by low scale, single residential development. *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* occupies a position of prominence on Stirling Highway, a key arterial road that links the city centre with the western suburbs of Perth. The bright colours of the rose plantings and the entrance pergola are highly visible to the large volumes of traffic that proceed along Stirling Highway.

Vincent and Louise Streets form part of the rectilinear road grid of Nedlands and are orientated in a north-south direction. Both streets are occupied by low scale, single residential housing that dates predominantly from the Inter-War period, but which also includes some houses of fairly recent construction. The stretch of

⁹⁹ David Kelsall, Heritage Adviser, City of Nedlands, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 28 April 2003.

¹⁰⁰ City of Nedlands Municipal Heritage Inventory, op. cit.

¹⁰¹ *The West Australian* 19 February 2000, p. 46.

¹⁰² Aerial photograph City of Nedlands Memorial Rose Garden, courtesy City of Nedlands, no details.

¹⁰³ E-mail from David Kelsall (City of Nedlands) to Heritage Council, 19 November 2003.

Stirling Highway that surrounds *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* is primarily characterised by ribbon commercial development and Inter-War period flats. On the route west along Mounts Bay Road and Stirling Highway from the city centre, *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* represents the first break in the urban environment, by way of a landscape, after Kings Park, Matilda Bay and the open spaces of the University of Western Australia, some 1.5 kilometres away.

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is situated on the site formerly occupied by the Dalkeith Picture Gardens and the Salvation Army Prison Gate Home and Aged Men's Retreat. During this period of occupation, there was a collection of brick and timber buildings on the site, as well as a number of ancillary structures, including sheds, a well and tank stand and the picture garden stage. None of these structures are extant and no surface evidence of their location remains; however, archaeological evidence of them may remain.

The site of *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* is quadrilateral in shape and roughly four acres (1.6 hectares) in area. It is an open hill top site, with the natural fall of the land in a south-westerly direction. The boundaries of the site are defined by low random rubble granite walls and treated pine logs. The random rubble granite walls serve as retaining walls at the north-western corner of the garden boundaries and continue along the length of the northern (Stirling Highway) site boundary, the north-eastern corner and much of the eastern (Louise Street) boundary, where it becomes a very low wall that serves to mark the outer edge of the garden. Treated pine logs delineate the garden edges along much of the western (Vincent Street) boundary and along a small section of the eastern boundary, at the southern end of the site.

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is laid out according to a simple rectilinear design, with a quincunx bed arrangement around the memorial at its centre, which exhibits a certain degree of symmetry and is quite formal in its approach. The plan is orientated around a central memorial feature, which comprises a bronze plaque mounted on a low plinth on a wide circular base, both of which are constructed from random rubble granite. Rectilinear paths span out from this central feature in all four compass directions, roughly dividing the site into quadrants. The rose beds are formally arranged along these paths and along the site boundaries. The dominant landscape features of the site are the rose beds, the expanses of well-kept lawn, and the collection of young and adolescent trees.

The existing layout of the gardens only partially adheres to the design that was proposed for the place in 1948, largely the result of modifications to the layout in 1976. A number of the original design features, including some of the rose beds, are no longer extant, and others, such as the pergolas within the area surrounding the central memorial feature, were never implemented. Due to the extent of modifications that have been carried out, the place generally only retains a moderate degree of authenticity with respect to its original design intent.

All of the rose beds within the gardens are heavily mulched and feature a regimented style of rose planting. Plantings facing on to Stirling Highway are grouped in blocks of colour to make a strong visual statement, while other beds are mixed colours and have a less emphatic visual impact.

The rose plantings are continually being replaced. There is a dominance of Hybrid Tea Roses. The rose varieties include Joyfulness, Lady Rose, Camara, Paradise, Vol De Nuit, First Federal Gold, Flamingo, Esmerelda, Peter Benjamin, Evelyn Fison, Satchmo, Julischka, Helmut Schmidt, Double Delight, Iceberg, Rita Jackson, Super Star, Bettina, Fragrant Cloud, Pascali, Mr Lincoln, Peace, Chicago Peace, Oklahoma, Maria Callas, Baronne Edmond de Rothschild, Mon Cheri, Pristine, Limelight, Just Joey, Touch of Class, Harmonie, Queen Elizabeth,

Violet Carson, Dr A. J. Verhage, Fragrant Cloud, Charles de Gaulle, Sylvia, Kentucky Derby, McGredy's Ivory, Model of Perfection, Rusticana, Peter Frankenfield, White Masterpiece, Christian Dior, Gold Bunny, Diamond Jubilee, Floradora, Goldilocks, Red Gold and China Doll. Generally, the rose beds and plantings appear to be in a well maintained condition. Many of the rose plantings have ground mounted name plates that assist with identification.

Mature tree plantings on the site include Italian Poplars (*Populus deltoides*), and White Poplars (*Populus alba*). Young and adolescent plantings include Pride of Brazil (*Tipuana tipu*), Chinese Elm (*Ulmus Parvifolia*), Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), Powton Tree (*Paulownia fortunei*), Rowan Tree (*Sorbus S. aucuparia*), Kurrajong, (*Brachychiton populneus*), London Plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*), Claret Ash (*Fraxinus oxycarpa*), Weeping Birch (*Betula pendula*), Olives (*Olea europaea*), Chinese Tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*), Poinciana (*Delonix regia*), African Tulip Tree (*Spathodea campanulata*), Maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), False Acacia (*Robinia psuedoacacia*) and Golden Robinia (*Robinia frisia*). The trees are generally in fair condition, with some of the large Poplars reaching a stage of over-maturity.

The main entry to *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* is on Stirling Highway and it is the most formal of the entries. It features a robust jarrah timber pergola, which sits above street level, a random rubble granite retaining wall and steps, and a series of rose beds at both street and garden level. At street level there is a long, narrow terrazzo inset in the concrete paving, which spans the length of the pergola, and reads, 'PEACE MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN'. The main entry is surrounded by an expanse of 2'x2'x1.5" (61cm x 61cm x 3.8cm) concrete slab pavers and lawn, which form part of the Stirling Highway road reserve. Also situated in this section of the road reserve is a bus shelter.

The length of the Stirling Highway boundary of the site is densely planted, at both street level and garden level, with rose bushes of different colours, which creates a strong visual impact. The rose beds along Stirling Highway and around the main entry have granite edges or flush concrete kerb edges, which is a more formal approach to the noticeable absence of any edging to the beds inside the gardens. This informal approach to the edging of rose beds gives rise to significant maintenance issues – namely the on-going need to maintain a crisp grass edge to stop the lateral spread of the grass growth throughout the beds.

The entrance pergola is a rustic structure comprising three open bays formed by four pairs of 13" x 13" (33cm x 33cm) adzed jarrah posts, set in rose beds constructed from random rubble granite retaining walls with semi-circular ends. In each of the three bays is a set of granite steps leading from the street level up to the gardens. Following extensive rotting of the lower ends of the posts and consequent twisting of the frames, galvanised steel plate stirrups have been inserted under the posts and bedded into concrete footings as replacement for the rotting timber. The decorative forged iron straps have been retained.

A layer of adzed purlins is supported by the adzed beams spanning between pairs of posts, with spaced battens over completing the pergola frame. Engraved timber signs suspended in each of the three bays proclaim 'ROSE GARDEN' each side and 'PEACE MEMORIAL' in the central bay. The lettering is painted a gold shade and the remainder of the structure is mission brown.

The tops of some of the posts have been capped with lead sheet to prevent the ingress of rainwater into the timber end grain. Rot in many of the timber joints has been repaired from time to time as the joints open with shrinkage of the jarrah. For the same reason, infilling structure between the pairs of posts had been removed many years ago. In 2003, the City of Nedlands embarked on further

general timber conservation and specific restoration of the missing infilling. Adzed jarrah framework has been provided between the posts as a frame for climbing roses recently planted to replace bush roses. Thus the form and intent of the original fabric has been restored.

In addition to the main entry, pedestrian access to *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* is also provided via three points of entry along Louise Street and one along Vincent Street. All four entries were part of the original design. The central Louise Street entry was originally designated as a 'secondary entrance' to the gardens and the other three were designated as 'minor entrances'. All of these entries are formed by a break in the perimeter walling. Originally, there was intended to be another centrally placed secondary entrance along Vincent Street; however, because the granite walling around this entrance was never completed and a row of pine log retainers have been installed to discourage pedestrian access, this entrance does not fulfil its intended function. Additionally, there was intended to be a fourth minor entrance along Vincent Street, but this was never implemented.

The central Louise Street entry comprises a wide area of lawn that leads into the site, as well as a recently constructed sign, which informs the visitor of the place name and facilities. Elongated lozenge-shaped granite edged rose beds flank this entry. The ellipse-shaped rose beds are mirrored on the Vincent Street boundary, at the location of the other intended secondary entrance. The two minor entries off Louise Street are the least formal of the entries. There is little left of the grass paths that lead into the garden from these points, seemingly the result of the adjoining rose beds having expanded in size from mulching practices over the years. Vehicular access is also provided off Louise Street at the southern end of the site. A steel boom is in place to prevent the entry of unauthorised vehicles. The only pedestrian entrance on Vincent Street is also formed by a break in the perimeter wall and it features a set of random rubble granite steps, flanked by rose beds with granite edges.

Not far from the Vincent Street entry, in the north-western quadrant of the gardens, is the Rotary wishing well (1962), made from coursed granite, with a rendered interior lining and a decorative wrought iron top. The well is set on a paved base of Toodyay stone. A small bronze plaque on the edge of the well informs that its purpose is to raise money for charity. Like all of the stone constructed features on the site, the wishing well is in good condition.

Outside the perimeter walls of *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* there are grassed verges along Vincent and Louise Streets, as well as a concrete slab footpath along Vincent Street. At the intersection of Vincent Street and Stirling Highway the material of the footpath changes to red brick paving. Both street verges are lined with Queensland Box (*Lephostemon confertus*) street trees, which have been pruned back severely along the western verge due to the overhead power lines.

The southern boundary of the place is delineated by a series of residential fencing styles, including brick and palisade, asbestos super-six and rendered brick. Along this site boundary there is a cream and chocolate coloured brick toilet building and gardener's store, with breeze block ventilators and a flat roof. The building appears to be well maintained. A garden bed runs along the length of this boundary and around the building. The plantings in this garden bed are of a different theme to the rest of the site and include Umbrella trees (*Shefflera actinophylla*), Liquidamber (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Frangipani (*Plumeria alba*), Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*), Orchid tree (*Bauhinia spp*), Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*), Hibiscus (*Hibiscus spp*), Shasta Daisy

(*Chrysanthemum x superbum*), Tea plants (*Camellia sasanqua*), Cape Jasmine (*Gardenia augusta*) and Blue Vitex (*Vitex trifoliata purpurea*).

The rotunda, which was constructed in 1987 to commemorate the work of John Charles Smith, has an open hexagonal plan and is constructed from treated pine with bolt connections and a colorbond roof cladding. A treated pine bench seat and rail is fixed to the vertical posts, which are showing signs of rotting. Beneath the rotunda, a bronze memorial plaque has been fixed to the paving. Despite bronze being a durable and hard wearing material, all of the bronze plaques on the site are showing signs of surface aging.

A central pathway links the rotunda with the central memorial feature and the main entry. This pathway is paved with solid red bricks and forms a wide circular area around the central memorial feature. It affords a vista through the centre of the site, from the rotunda in the south to the entrance pergola in the north. There are pole-mounted lights with polycarbonate shades along this central pathway, which appear to have been installed in the late 1980s when the pathways were completed. Two shorter paths, which are partly brick paved and partly lawn, lead out from the central memorial feature in an east-west direction. All of the paths are flanked by rose beds.

Other site features include a bore in the south-eastern quadrant of the gardens and a children's playground in the south-western quadrant, consisting of play equipment on a white sand play area bordered by a low limestone wall.

Street furniture includes a collection of timber and steel bench seats of various ages and designs. The bench seat in the north-western quadrant of the garden is a memorial seat, and carries a brass plaque commemorating John Charles Smith, and his wife Florence Eveline Smith. There is a collection of refuse containers and drink fountains in the lawn areas, as well as a scattering of signs around the site, stating that the picking of roses is prohibited. The signs are various in design, but all have been made and installed in recent times.

Peace Memorial Rose Garden is generally a serene landscape that affords a sense of stillness and peace to its visitors. It is unusual in that the typical nature of a Rose Garden is that of an enclosed, restful garden offering a sense of intimacy, enclosure and quiet reflection. *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* is an exposed garden lacking in intimacy and its open nature allows Stirling Highway to remain a strong presence. The brightly coloured rose bushes, in a range of hues, provide a contrasting vibrancy to the place. The absence of varied rose forms, such as ground covers and climbers, and the inconsistent use of nomenclature signage limits the extent to which the place serves as a showcase and educational tool for rose gardening.

The collection of trees adds height to what is otherwise a flat landscape. The 1948 proposed plan for the place indicates that trees were part of the original design intent; however, the informal pattern of tree planting that has taken place does not follow that which was originally intended. The tree planting appears somewhat haphazard in both design intent and species selection, and little consideration seems to have been given to the provision of shaded or sheltered amenity on what is an exposed hill top with clear evidence of wind burn within the tree canopy. A number of the tree species selected are proving to be maintenance problems, particularly with relation to wide ranging suckering root systems. The Italian Poplars (*Populus deltoides*) and White Poplars (*Populus alba*) in particular are suckering in this manner and the False Acacia (*Robinia psuedoacacia*) and Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) are renowned species for the same habit.

Peace Memorial Rose Garden still serves its original purpose as a memorial for those who lost their lives in World War Two, and as such its integrity is high.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

In Australia, following World War One, Avenues of Honour became popular as living war memorials. By the end of World War Two, the popularity of this form of memorial had declined, and the National Rose Society of Australia was actively promoting the establishment of rose memorial gardens.¹⁰⁴ So far as is known, no detailed inventory of war memorial rose gardens in Australia and New Zealand has been compiled to date. It has also not been possible to identify whether other memorials were dedicated specifically as peace memorials rather than war memorials.

Peace Memorial Rose Garden was initiated by the National Rose Society of Western Australia and intended from the outset as a State memorial, 'a national rose shrine', whilst other memorial rose gardens were intended as local memorials. Others appear to have originated from initiatives within the local community including the local RSL and/or the local government authority. When it was not possible to site the proposed rose memorial garden in King's Park, the National Rose Society of Western Australia sought a site that would be within ready access to the public at large, in a prominent location, and where the local government authority would take on responsibility for the maintenance of the place. The site in Stirling Highway, Nedlands, met these criteria. The initial and continued involvement of the Rose Society distinguishes *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* from some other such memorial rose gardens.

As well as *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, a number of other memorial rose gardens commemorating the fallen in either World War Two and/or other wars, are listed in Oline Richards 'Inventory of War Memorial in Western Australia'¹⁰⁵ including the RSL Memorial Gardens or Nurses' Memorial (1935), Proudlove Parade, Albany; and post World War Two, Kalgoorlie Memorial Rose Garden, in the grounds of Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, which replaced an earlier memorial tree planting at the corner of Maritana and Picadilly Streets, Katanning RSL Memorial Rose Garden, and East Fremantle Memorial Rose Garden, Preston Point Road. All are small gardens, associated with the local RSL and/or the local government authority.¹⁰⁶ In 1945, a circular letter from the National Rose Society of W. A. to local government authorities through out the South-West commending the establishment of memorial rose garden 'instead of erecting monuments in bronze or stone' had achieved an encouraging response.¹⁰⁷ Small Memorial Rose Gardens were established at Kondinin and Corrigin by 1959, and elsewhere in 'the country, where possible they have their Memorial Rose Gardens all well kept.'¹⁰⁸ Further research is necessary to ascertain details of such gardens. In addition to those Richards recorded, there are two memorial rose gardens in the Town of Cambridge, both in Cambridge Street, one by the war memorial at Leederville, and the other in Floreat, both of which are smaller than *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*. They were established in the post World War Two period, when the sites were administered by the City of Perth. To date,

¹⁰⁴ Aitken, Richard & Looker, Michael (Eds.) *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* (Oxford University Press, South Melbourne, 2002) p. 151 and p. 431

¹⁰⁵ Richards, Oline 'Inventory of War Memorials in Western Australia' April 1996.

¹⁰⁶ *ibid*, p. 16, p. 51, p. 66, p. 69 and p. 81.

¹⁰⁷ Frost, Charles 'Rose Progress in Australia and New Zealand: Western Australia' in *The Australian and New Zealand Rose Annual*, 1946, p. 84.

¹⁰⁸ Hardham, G. A. *op. cit.*, p. 90.

little documentation has been found relating to them, and there are no memorials or commemorative plaques at either garden. At Perth War Cemetery, as in the Rose Garden Memorial to Fallen Servicemen in Christchurch, New Zealand, the graves were marked by headstones, and beds of roses were planted in manicured lawns.¹⁰⁹

Memorials erected following World War One 'had more symbolic complexity' than those commemorating World War Two.¹¹⁰ Many of the post World War One memorials took a popular obelisk form, derived from classical memorial traditions.¹¹¹ There were also a number of commemorative tree plantings at various places, including King's Park and Balingup, and numerous memorial halls. Whilst the post World War Two memorials were 'simpler in form, plain monoliths or feature walls reflecting a modern aesthetic and the symbolic references were more fundamental', other forms of memorial included not only halls but also swimming pools and other community facilities.¹¹² The commemorative rose garden was another form, of which *Peace Memorial Rose Garden* is the largest and best known, and was the only one intended as a State memorial and a national rose shrine.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

City of Nedlands Peace Memorial Rose Gardens, held at Local History Collection, Nedlands Library

Nedlands Roads Board Rose Gardens Maintenance, Historical 1949-1956, City of Nedlands File PERM 062

Rose Garden Peace Memorial, City of Nedlands, Perm/048, 1988-1994

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research of any records held by the Rose Society may reveal additional information about the place, including modifications to the lay out of the garden, and details of plantings at various periods.

The records listed above were the only ones located by the City of Nedlands. In addition to the plans mentioned in the Documentary Evidence, the Local History Collection holds original plans for the fountain, which was not implemented.

Further more detailed; research might establish the extent of original rose varieties surviving at the place.

Anecdotal evidence from long-time residents of the area, as told to officers of the City of Nedlands, suggests that there was never a picture garden on the site. Further research may clarify this discrepancy with written records.

While there have been indications that the site of the *Peace Memorial Rose Gardens* was initially purchased for the establishment of a new civic centre, no evidence has been found to sustain this claim prior to 1959. Although a search of the City of Nedlands Council minutes from February 1946 to March 1949 has not yielded any information to support this claim, further information may be found in the minutes of either the Peace Memorial Rose Garden Committee or the Central Ward Committee.

¹⁰⁹ Aitken, Richard & Looker, Michael (Eds.) op. cit., p. 470.

¹¹⁰ *ibid*, p. 4.

¹¹¹ *ibid*.

¹¹² *ibid*.