



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

DRAFT – Register Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 10644
2. **NAME** *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock*
(1922, 1940, c. 1984)
FORMER NAME (or OTHER NAMES) Bruce Rock War Memorial Hospital
3. **LOCATION** Dunstal Street, Bruce Rock
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
That portion of Lot 281 on Deposited Plan 142960 being part of Reserve 17729 and part of the land comprised in Crown Land Title Volume 3010 Folio 987 as shown on HC Curtilage Map P10644-1
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Bruce Rock
6. **CURRENT OWNER**
State of Western Australia
(Management Order to Bruce Rock Hospital Board)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim	14/05/1999
• National Trust Classification:		-----
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	11/09/1997
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
• Aboriginal Sites Register		-----
8. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock, a brick and iron bungalow showing elements of the Inter-War Californian Bungalow style, and

commemorative Rose Garden (1953), has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is a good representative example of the utilitarian war memorials built throughout Western Australia in the inter-war years;

the place is a good example of an adaptation of the Inter-War Californian Bungalow style for a health facility;

the place is representative of rural hospital facilities constructed in the 1920s in rural Western Australia;

the place represents the country philosophy of community self-help being built and operated with funds raised, in large part, by local effort;

the place has been significant to the Bruce Rock community since its construction in 1922, initially as a commemorative hospital for those who served in World War I, and in ongoing years as an important local medical service; and,

the place contains a rare example of a commemorative garden planted in honour of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, an event that was widely celebrated across Western Australia.



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DRAFT – Assessment Documentation

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 10 May 2019.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.8 Remembering the fallen
- 3.26 Providing health services

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 308 Commercial & service industries
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 501 World wars and other wars

11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is associated with those local citizens who fought in World War I and is an example of a utilitarian war memorial designed to be of service to the local community.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock represents the country philosophy of community self-help, being built and operated with funds mainly raised locally.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock represents the establishment of permanent medical facilities in the Bruce Rock district.

The Coronation Garden represents the public memorialisation of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, an event that was widely celebrated across the state.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is associated with local architect W. T. Thorne.

11(b) Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage

The rose garden at *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* is a very rare example of a garden established to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

11(d)¹ Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is representative of domestic scale hospital buildings.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is a good representative example of the utilitarian war memorials built throughout Western Australia in the inter-war years. In rural Western Australia, at least five other Memorial Hospitals were established and largely community funded: Boyup Brook (1923); Dumbleyung (1925); Merredin RSL Ward (1932; addition to existing hospital); Narembeen (1929); and, Northam (1923; demolished c. 1970).

11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock has been significant to the Bruce Rock community since its construction in 1922, initially as a commemoration for those who served in World War I, and in ongoing years as an important local medical service. This is demonstrated by it being established as a community initiative, and largely supported throughout its existence by local fundraising and volunteer support, including from 1977 by the Bruce Rock Memorial House Committee, who established and maintained the aged care facility in the original building.

11(f)² Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is a good example of the Inter-War California Bungalow style.

¹ Please note that HERCON factors with no corresponding value are not listed in this document.

² 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.

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 CONDITION

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock continues to be in good condition due to a regular maintenance program.

12.4 INTEGRITY

This section explains the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

Much of the original 1922 fabric remains, although the removal of some windows and doors, the timber verandah floor, and the replacement of roof material, has reduced the degree of integrity to a moderate level.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

This section explains the extent to which the original intention is evident, and the compatibility of current use.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock continues to be associated with the hospital. Minor internal alterations and additions have taken place over the years, and ensuite facilities have been built along the side verandahs to facilitate the ongoing use of the place. It retains a moderate 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, Architect in 1997, with amendments and/or additions by the Heritage Council and the Department.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is a brick and iron building showing elements of the Inter-War Californian Bungalow style.³ The place was built in 1922, as Bruce Rock War Memorial Hospital. In 1978, the place was converted to an aged care facility known as *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock*.

Noongar people living in Western Australia in the pre- and early contact period can broadly be described as comprising small family groups moving through the landscape in response to seasonal change, utilising a toolkit of wooden and flaked stone tools and grinding stones, notably of quartz, dolerite and chert. The artistic culture of the Noongar people was expressed in painted and engraved art in a wide variety of forms, relating to a complex spiritual worldview that incorporated a connection to the natural world, and the remembrance or ongoing influence of ancestral and spiritual figures.⁴

The Noongar people living in and around the York and Avon Valley region were known as the Ballardong, and anthropologist Normal Tindale also recorded that this was also the Noongar name for York.⁵ An area of significance to the Ballardong family groups living in the Bruce Rock area is Kokerbin Hill, the third largest monolith in the country.⁶

After the arrival of British settlement in 1829, sandalwood cutters worked in the Bruce Rock district in the 1880s and 1890s. Their tracks criss-crossed the district between the granite outcrops that dotted the area. The rocks acted as water catchments, providing a reliable source of water at a shallow depth with good grass for horse feed. Pastoralists also took up leases in the district around the same time.⁷

The discovery of gold in the Kalgoorlie-Coolgardie area resulted in the Eastern Railway, which had been constructed as far as Northam in 1886, being extended to Southern Cross in 1894, and reaching Kalgoorlie in 1897. The Northam-Kalgoorlie section was known as the Eastern Goldfields Railway. As well as servicing the goldfields, the railway opened up the district for settlers. Branch lines were constructed into the new wheat growing areas to provide better transport for farm produce and supplies.⁸

³ Apperly, et al, op. cit., pp. 144-47.

⁴ Crawford, I M, 'Aboriginal cultures in Western Australia', & Hallam, S, 'The First West Australians', in *A New History of Western Australia*, C T Stannage (ed.), UWA Press, 1981, pp. 16-20, 56-66; Meagher, S & Ride, W D L, 'Use of natural resources by the Aborigines of south-western Australia', & Berndt, R M 'Aborigines of the South-West', in *Aborigines of the West: Their Past and Present*, R M Berndt & C H Berndt, (eds.), UWA Press, 1908, p. 76-77, 81-86

⁵ 'Balardong (WA)', online archives of the South Australian Museum, accessed 19 August 2019, <http://archives.samuseum.sa.gov.au/tindaletribes/balardong.htm>

⁶ Harben, S, Collard, L, *Literature Review for Avon Basin Noongar Heritage and Cultural Significance of Natural Resources*, Recording Traditional Knowledge Project, Avon Catchment Council, 2008, pp. 40, 91

⁷ Ewers, John K., *Bruce Rock: The Story of a District*, Bruce Rock District Road Board, 1959, pp. 10-13.

⁸ Stannage, C. T. (ed) *A New History of Western Australia*, Perth, UWA Press, 1981, p. 250.

In 1913, a townsite, initially known as Nunagin, was surveyed at the T-junction where the York-Quairading railway line met the Narrogin-Merredin line. These two railway branch lines linked the Great Southern and Eastern Goldfields railway lines. Nunagin was immediately confused with Narrogin and Nungarin, and goods and mail were incorrectly delivered. On 17 June 1913, the Surveyor General recommended the lots at Nunagin siding be renamed Bruce Rock townsite.⁹ The name came from one of the granite outcrops in the area, which had probably been named for a sandalwood cutter who worked the district and used the rock as his base camp.¹⁰

The first 31 lots of the Bruce Rock township sold quickly. A further 64 lots were surveyed and offered for sale in October 1913. By then, 600 people already resided in the district and medical and hospital services were needed.¹¹ In 1913, there was a hospital at Southern Cross, and Nurse Sampson's Private Hospital at Kellerberrin, which catered for general hospital cases as well as maternity patients. Some districts were able to attract the services of a Local Medical Officer, but seriously ill patients had to be transported to Perth by train, and there were problems with trying to fit a stretcher in a railway carriage.¹² Merredin requested a hospital and were advised by the Government, which did not have the money to build hospitals in every country centre that wanted one, to 'set to work and provide funds'.¹³

The situation after World War I was little different. Bruce Rock Road Board employed Nurse Glass to administer to the local residents. When she left the district early in 1920, the Road Board advertised for a Medical Officer for the District. Dr Noel Brown was appointed in April 1920, and occupied the house previously used by Nurse Glass. Dr Brown wanted a house set up as a hospital but there was difficulty finding a suitable house to lease. The Road Board was keen to have a hospital, as they were afraid the Doctor would not stay in the district otherwise. There was also concern about whether there would be 'enough business for his remuneration'.¹⁴

Later in 1920, Nurse Haythornthwaite, a maternity nurse, arrived in the district. She set up a private maternity hospital in Bruce Rock.¹⁵ A general hospital was an 'absolute necessity [as] present conditions are not fair to residents nor to the doctor, who is always anxious to save suffering or risk'.¹⁶ Dr Brown resigned after nine months, and Dr Andrew Bean took his place in February 1921.

Bruce Rock Roads Board proposed a World War I memorial in the form of a hospital. Following the end of World War I, some communities made the choice to build *utilitarian* memorials to those it had lost in the war. These memorials were buildings designed to perform a function in service to the local community, as opposed to the purely artistic *monumental* war memorials such as statues, honour rolls and obelisks. The choice between a utilitarian or monumental memorial to the

9 Ewers, op cit, p. 42-45.

10 Ewers, op cit, p. 10.

11 State Hotels Department, File 26/1921, 'Bruce Rock Hotel building', Vol. 1.

12 *Merredin Mercury*, 17 September 1913, p. 2.

13 *Merredin Mercury*, 15 October 1913.

14 *Bruce Rock-Corrigin Post & Narembeen Guardian*, 16 April 1920, p. 2; 23 April 1920, p. 2.

15 *Bruce Rock-Corrigin Post & Narembeen Guardian*, 13 August 1920, p. 2; Wise's Post Office Directory, 1920-1928.

16 *Bruce Rock-Corrigin Post & Narembeen Guardian*, 17 December 1920, p. 2.

dead divided communities at this time, as some felt that utilitarian memorials were living memorials while others feared that such buildings could in time be renamed or demolished.¹⁷ In the case of Bruce Rock, some favoured a stone obelisk, however by 1920 sentiment had turned to a Memorial Hospital.¹⁸ The Board donated £65, and funds were raised by dances, socials, fancy dress balls, flower selling and a farm-to-farm canvas. £1,406 was raised and architect William Thorne donated his £150 fee. Although there was a desire to be self-reliant and not dependent on Government handouts (or under Government control), the Board accepted a State Government donation of £1,500 for the project after the Government had offered a pound for every pound raised by the community.

A 6.3 acre (2.55ha) site was gazetted Reserve 42725 for Hospital & Community Health purposes.¹⁹ The foundation stone for the War Memorial Hospital was laid on 19 August 1922, by former Colonial Secretary W. T. Broun. Construction was carried out by local builder F. T. Deacon. In the 1920s, Deacon also built Bruce Rock and Narembeen Road Board offices and Bruce Rock Masonic Lodge.²⁰

The design of the War Memorial Hospital followed popular thinking on hospital design. Since the 1880s, there had been a move away from the institutional styles of the past and towards hospitals that were 'home-like' in character, 'cottages for cure and convalescence'. The bungalow style of building with verandahs on all sides was a popular design for country hospitals. Medical principles of separation, ventilation and sanitation were applied to hospital design for functional efficiency, such as the separate ablutions block and operating theatre at the War Memorial Hospital.²¹ Ideas of sanitation were also evident in that all internal corners in the place were rounded, so that dirt did not become trapped.²²

The Hospital was opened by the Premier Sir James Mitchell on 18 November 1922, and the place was managed by a Hospital Board made up of local residents and the doctor, and responsible to the Health Department.

[the hospital] has bricks to sil [sic] line and rough cast above. There are seven wards, observation ward, sitting room, matrons room, and maids quarters. It is considered one of the best appointed institutions in the state.²³

The place opened debt free, but it was recognised that it would be difficult to carry on in like manner. Fundraising was a constant occupation for the Hospital Women's Auxiliary. The Co-op store also provided funds for the operation of the place. The Nurses' Quarters were built by Wilfred Baxter, shortly after the Hospital opened. In 1928, The Hospital Board rented Nurse Haythornthwaite's maternity hospital, with

17 J Stephens, G Seal, *Remembering the Wars: Commemoration in Western Australian Communities*, Black Swan Press, 2005, pp. 8, 14; J Stephens, *The importance & care of Western Australian war memorials*, Black Swan Press, 2008, pp. 40-41

18 'The Bruce Rock Soldiers' Memorial', *Bruce Rock Post and Corrigin Guardian*, 28 November 1919, p. 3; 'Hospital Movement', *Bruce Rock Post and Corrigin Guardian*, 1 October 1920, p. 2;

19 *Western Australian Government Gazette*.

20 'Bruce Rock Memorial Hospital', *Great Southern Leader*, 1 September 1922, p. 5

21 Van Bremen, Ingrid, 'The New Architecture of the Gold Boom in Western Australia', PhD Thesis, UWA, 1990, Vol. 2, p. 329-33.

22 *Merredin Mercury*, 1 February 1923, p. 2.

23 *Merredin Mercury*, 1 February 1923, p. 2.

the Road Board contributing £1 per week toward the rent, until a separate Maternity block was added to the hospital in 1929.²⁴

In 1940, the ablutions block at the back (north side) of the hospital was replaced with a new wing comprising a kitchen, bathrooms and laundry. This wing was attached to the existing verandah on the north side of the hospital building.²⁵ In that year, Dr H. J. Illingworth took over the local practice. Dr Illingworth was soon at loggerheads with the hospital staff and the Hospital Board. Patronage of the hospital and the doctor's practice fell away, with residents seeking medical services in Kellerberrin or Merredin. A reduction in hospital revenue resulted and, in 1941, the Board closed the hospital. A new Board was constituted and the hospital reopened shortly after.²⁶

In 1948-49, further alterations and additions were carried out to the hospital complex. New nurses' quarters were built on the site, north-west of the hospital, and the old nurses' quarters became domestic staff quarters and dining room. A new laundry and ironing room was built and the existing laundry in the north wing was converted to a storeroom. The lattice drying shed was also constructed at this time. The major buildings in the complex were linked by covered walkways.²⁷

In 1953, a large oval garden comprising nine dozen roses was planted at the front (south side) of the place to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.²⁸ Western Australia held widespread celebrations at the coronation of the new queen, and in Bruce Rock a parade was held, culminating in the unveiling of a plaque at the newly-created rose garden.²⁹ In 1959, a new maternity wing was added on the west side of the existing maternity block. Part of the old maternity block was converted into an operating theatre, and the old operating theatre became the outpatients clinic.³⁰ By 1968, further extensions to the new maternity wing had added extra wards and facilities and the original hospital building was no longer required to house patients. The new hospital took over the name of Bruce Rock War Memorial Hospital and the original hospital building became known as *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock*.

The kitchen of *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* continued to be used to provide meals for the hospital and in late 1971 the place was occupied by Sister Hawkins, Sister for Home Nursing for the Aged. It was proposed that when other accommodation was found for Sister Hawkins, *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* could be converted to a Day Centre for the elderly under her direction.³¹ In 1972, five double flats were built in Bruce Rock to house aged residents. However, accommodation for the frail aged was required so that elderly people could remain in the district. *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* was considered a suitable place to

24 Lovell, Avon, op cit, p. 223; Health Dept files, Site plan, 23 September 1929.

25 PWD Plan 29192, 17 January 1940.

26 Lovell, Avon, op cit, p. 225.

27 PWD site plans 23756, 25 July 1947 & 31555, 30 September 1948.

28 Ewers, op cit; Site plan, November 1992.

29 'Australians Have Proud Place in the London Parade', 'What it means to New Australians', 'How the Queen's Coronation Was Commemorated in Perth', *The West Australian*, 3 June 1953 *passim*; 'Coronation Day at Bruce Rock', *Bruce Rock-Corrigin Post*, *Narembeen-Kondinin Guardian*, 11 June 1953, p. 1

30 PWD Plan 36629, 19 January 1958; PWD Site plan 23756, 14 April 1959.

31 Health Dept File, BK-05-06 'Bruce Rock Hospital: site, properties & buildings', 15 Dec 1971.

house a hostel, and the Bruce Rock Memorial House Committee was constituted in 1977, to facilitate the matter.³²

The Shire of Bruce Rock was keen for the project to go ahead and took on the financial responsibility of remodelling *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* for its new function. The building was ready for occupation by March 1978, and in May had three residents. In 1981, there were 29 people in Home Care and five residents in *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock*.³³

In 1980, *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* was considered to be in a dilapidated condition and \$215,000 was allocated by the State from the Hospital Fund for Special Repairs and Equipment. This covered re-roofing the place, rebuilding the verandahs (the timber verandah floors were replaced with concrete) and exterior painting. A new kitchen also had to be provided for the hospital. The kitchen in *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* was gutted and converted for use as an activity room in 1983. Meals for the residents of *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* were provided by the hospital, which also provided Meals on Wheels for elderly residents in their own homes.³⁴ Ensuite bathrooms were added to the bedrooms at *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* around 1984. These structures protrude onto the verandahs.

Government funding for residents of *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* was difficult to get, either from the State Government or the Commonwealth's Department of Social Security. The latter objected that there was no subsidy payable for hostels located on public hospital sites. Consequently, the Bruce Rock Memorial House Committee leased the land from the Hospital Board. In 1982, the hospital reserve was vested in the Bruce Rock Hospital Board who was then able to lease the land for any period up to 21 years.³⁵ A lease for that period was finalised in 1984.³⁶ Funds are also donated by local organisations such as the Masonic Lodge and the Apex Club.

There are three war memorials listed for Bruce Rock in the Western Australian War Memorials Register in 2008. These are the World War I and World War II honour rolls, located at the Shire Offices listing the names of all locals who served in these wars (181 men for World War I; 271 men and one woman for World War Two), and the Limestone Clock Tower at the corner of Bath and Johnson Streets that lists the names of 55 men killed in action in either World War. *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* is not included in the Memorials Register.³⁷ As the entries in the Memorials Register appear to have been contributed by both local bodies and veterans associations, this omission suggests that the original

32 Health Dept file BK05-08-01, 'Bruce Rock Memorial Hospital: leasing & rental of land', 24 Jun 1977.

33 *ibid.*

34 *ibid.*; PWD Plan Job No. 23/508/4, 6 Nov 1979.

35 Vesting Order, 9 March 1982.

36 Health Dept File BK05-08-01, *op cit*, 26 June 1984.

37 Department of Premier & Cabinet, 'Western Australian War Memorials Register', <http://www.anzac.dpc.wa.gov.au/index.cfm?event=warMemorials> accessed 14 November 2008. The list does include other examples of functional memorials such as halls, swimming pools, library and hospitals. In total it includes 324 war memorials in Western Australia. All Bruce Rock entries have been recorded by 'Bruce Museum'.

memorial purpose of *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* is no longer widely understood.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock continued to function as a frail aged facility for the residents of the Bruce Rock district and was referred to as the Frail Aged Lodge in the Memorial Hospital's annual reports. In 2018, the aged care facility has been closed, and the building is vacant while new uses are considered

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is located in the grounds of the Bruce Rock Hospital in Dunstal Street. The place is located on the east side of the Hospital complex along the Butcher Street side of the property and facing Dunstal Street (south). *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* functions as an independent residential care facility for aged people.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock comprises the original 1922 hospital building and the former operating theatre. It is one of a number of buildings in the hospital complex, and adjoins the 1940 kitchen and bathroom block on the northern side. West of the kitchen block is the c. 1924 former Nurses' Quarters and north is the lattice drying shed. The main hospital is located west of *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock*. A rock wall surrounds a large oval memorial rose garden in front of *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* on the south side, planted in 1959 to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.³⁸

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock, originally a freestanding building, now adjoins the former operating theatre on the east, and the former kitchen and bathroom block on the north. The building is linked to other facilities in the hospital complex by means of a covered walkway which adjoins the western side of the breezeway between *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* and the kitchen block, and is integral within the hospital complex.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock was the original hospital building on the site, with the adjacent one roomed operating theatre, and an ablution block north of the verandah, which was replaced by the kitchen block in 1940. The place has undergone a number of extensions along the east and west side verandahs, and the space under the verandah bounded by the former kitchen block on the north has been enclosed on the east and west ends. All the changes that have taken place are to facilitate the continuous use of the place as a health care facility.

The construction of *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* is typical of the period, with traditional brick bearing walls and roughcast rendering, and timber floor and roof construction with a corrugated iron roof. *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* is a single-storey brick building with a surrounding verandah. The hipped gambrel roof extends over the verandahs at break pitch. The roof is clad with long sheets of colorbond steel sheeting in a custom orb profile. The original face brick has a double header course at dado line, and the

³⁸ This rose garden was confirmed as extant in November 2008. Clare Menck, phone call to Bruce Rock Hospital, 17 November 2008.

wall above is rendered in rough cast. The verandahs are supported by square timber posts, and diagonal timber balustrading has been inserted across the front verandah.

The original simple building layout has been retained. A central corridor leads from the front to the rear (south to north), accessing seven rooms, four on the west side and three on the east side. Each of the seven rooms has hard plaster walls, a plaster ceiling, and timber floor. There is no evidence of the north-west rear room having been the original kitchen. All the rooms originally opened onto the verandahs through French doors and flywire doors. Except for the rooms at the front (south), the former door openings now access the ensuite facilities. Safety handrails have been fitted along one side of all the corridors. All service facilities are connected to the rooms, ducted air-conditioning has been installed, and some rooms also have air-conditioners fitted in the remaining windows. Another corridor leads to the former operating theatre on the eastern side.

Few changes have taken place to the original fabric of the hospital building other than the c. 1984 addition of ensuite bathroom facilities to each of the seven rooms. The ensuites are constructed of face brick and roughcast render to match the original fabric. They have separate flat roofs under the verandah roof. Internally, they are fitted out with ceramic tiles and fittings to comply with health and care requirements. Access from the rooms to each of the ensuites is through the original window openings which were enlarged to accommodate doorways.

The former operating theatre, although originally freestanding, is now connected to *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* by means of enclosed verandah spaces. The building is of the same brick and roughcast construction as *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock*, and has a hipped gambrel roof. It has a considerably higher wall height than the hospital building. The original double hung window has been replaced with casement windows. The place is otherwise intact, and functions as a staff room.

The rear (north) veranda is enclosed each end (west 1940, east c. 1984.) to form a breezeway between *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* and the building on the north edge of the verandah. The walls of the breezeway are formed by the external walls of the two buildings. A window and door is in place on the north-east corner of the hospital accessing that room under the verandah space which is now a sunroom.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is in good condition. The place has undergone extensions and some internal alterations to facilitate the conversion to a residential care facility for aged people, but has retained a moderate degree of integrity and has maintained a continuous association with the hospital. The structure and fabric of the place is mostly intact, and the place has retained a moderate degree of authenticity.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

War Memorials

Many memorials have been erected in Australia following major wars to honour and remember the sacrifice of those who served and are important for their community

associations, as well as the values and sentiments they represent.³⁹ In many communities there was considerable discussion regarding the form that the local war memorial should take. Some argued that war memorials should be monumental in form as sites of honour and solemn remembrance. Others argued that useful buildings like hospitals and halls were more appropriate, particularly in towns that lacked such facilities.

A search of the State Heritage database for places with the keywords 'war memorial' returns 794 entries, 124 of which are entered in the State Register of Heritage Places (RHP). This list includes public monuments, public spaces such as a garden or oval, memorial buildings or infrastructure such as halls, gates, hospitals and community centres, and a number of places where a war memorial has been incorporated as a feature. These public memorials have been erected by the state government, local government or by community groups such as the RSL. These include a range of functional, utilitarian war memorials in honour of those who have fallen.

In the inter-war period many memorial hospitals were built in country areas to commemorate those who fought in World War I and to provide necessary facilities. These hospital buildings were residential in style and, for the most part, their architecture was derived from the earlier Federation Bungalow and Federation Queen Anne styles. These styles continued in use up until the beginning of World War II but the detail and ornament was gradually simplified and reduced.

Memorial hospitals from the inter-war period are particularly vulnerable to change because of the changing nature of medical care and the rationalisation of government facilities in country areas. This may have led to some of these buildings no longer being used as medical facilities. The extent to which these buildings are intact and have retained their integrity is difficult to ascertain. It is possible that other rural memorial hospitals may have been demolished or forgotten when hospital facilities were refurbished.⁴⁰

Largely funded by public subscription, examples of these health facilities include

- P1573 Merredin District Hospital, including the RSL Ward – the first phase was constructed from the relocated timber and iron hospital from Bulong in 1920, a maternity ward was subsequently added in 1932 after the RSL raised substantial funds towards construction and was opened on Anzac day that year. Determined not to warrant assessment for the Register on 11/12/2015
- Dumbleyung District Hospital (1925) – commissioned after the arrival in 1923 of the area's first doctor, and dedicated as a memorial to the Dumbleyung fallen. The place shows elements of Bungalow style, and has brick and asbestos walls with a hipped corrugated iron roof.
- Boyup Brook and District Soldiers Memorial Hospital (1923, 1963) – originally a timber-framed bungalow, extensively remodelled in 1963 as a brick and iron building. The hospital has low cultural heritage value, but the memorial plaques are of high significance.

³⁹ Richards, Oline, 'War Memorials in Western Australia', Perth, 1996, p. 1.

⁴⁰ Richards, op. cit.

- RSL Memorial Ward for Children, Merredin District Hospital (1932) _ one of a dozen or so single-storey buildings on the site constructed over an extended period since the 1920s.
- Narembeen Memorial Hospital (1929) was constructed to meet local needs since the local patients were travelling to *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* to consult a doctor.
- Dwellingup Hospital (1923, destroyed 1961) followed a casualty post which was established there in 1914. The Dwellingup District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Committee, enabled a two-ward hospital to be constructed for £1,400. Dwellingup Nursing Post was built around the same time.
- *Wickepin Nursing Post* (1926) is a competently designed and built example of a small country hospital built by the Public Works in the inter-war period. Built on a residential scale, the building exhibits the influences of the earlier Federation Bungalow and Federation Queen Anne style styles.
- Corrigin District Hospital (1924), Nannup Hospital (1925), Kondinin Hospital (1925) and Katanning Hospital (1926, now demolished) were also funded largely by public subscription but are not memorials.

Three other memorial health facilities are no longer extant: Upper Blackwood Soldier's Memorial Hospital (Kulikup War Memorial Hospital) (1920), of which only the relocated Mortuary remains, Kellerberrin Memorial Hospital (1920s, demolished), and Northam Memorial Hospital (1923, demolished).

Other utilitarian war memorials include:

- P1426 *Kulin Town Hall* (RHP): established in 1928, this Inter-War Free Classical style hall has functioned as a war memorial for the local community.
- P2101 *Burt Memorial Hall* (RHP): established in 1918, this Inter-War Gothic hall was built by Septimus Burt in honour of two of his sons who died in World War I
- P2509 *Midland Town Hall* (RHP): established in 1906, this substantial hall and buildings incorporated a clock turret in 1923 as a war memorial.
- P3344 *Anzac Cottage* (RHP): established in 1916, this Federation Queen Anne style cottage is the first war memorial built in Australia to commemorate the role of Australian troops in World War I.
- P3832 *Memorial Hall* (RHP): established in 1921, this Inter-War Functionalist style building was also known as the Soldier's Memorial Hall.
- P8094 *ANZAC Cottage, Claremont* (RHP): established in 1917, this Federation Bungalow style cottage was erected as a practical memorial to ANZAC soldiers to house a war widow.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is a good representative of a memorial hospital constructed in the inter-war period.

Rose Gardens

Roses are commonly used to commemorate the dead, featuring in Gardens of Remembrance at churches and burial sites. P00612 Karrakatta Cemetery, includes

the largest memorial garden in the State, established from 1937 in association with the crematorium.⁴¹

Following World War II, the National Rose Society of Australia actively promoted the establishment of rose gardens as war memorials, and as a result numerous memorial rose gardens were established, both large and small. The largest and best known is P13668 *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*, Nedlands (RHP), established from 1948.⁴²

A search of the State Heritage database for places with the keyword 'memorial garden' returns 221 entries, 51 of which are entered in the RHP. This list includes war memorials, community gardens and religious buildings. These places commemorate the deaths of significant individuals, as well as the remembrance of significant events.

Following the 1953 coronation, the federal government initiated a wide-reaching fundraising campaign, with recommendations to appeal committees in every locality, 'to commemorate fittingly the coronation of our young Queen'. The Queen had requested that any such moneys raised be put towards mothers and children, and the money was to be forwarded to central collections in each State.⁴³ It is likely that most local communities wishing to commemorate the coronation supported this appeal rather than erecting their own memorials.

A search of the State Heritage database for places commemorating Queen Elizabeth's coronation return the following results:

- P3084 *Hamel Nursery* (RHP) may have been known for a time as "Coronation Arboretum"
- P11368 Coronation Park – site of (MHI): a public park in Kondinin was established in 1953 as "Coronation Square" until it was later redeveloped.
- P13048 Manjimup War Memorial (MHI): established in 1953 as "Coronation Park", later used as a war memorial.
- P14402 Randall Park Gun Memorial (MHI): established in Denmark, this place is currently known as "Gun Park", it has also been known as "Coronation Park", which may be related to either King George VI or Queen Elizabeth II
- P15441 Lawley Park & Lawley Park Tennis Courts (MHI): includes the "Peace Rose Garden" established in 1953 in honour of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

It is possible that other small local gardens exist that have similarly not been recorded. It is known that various streets around Western Australia have been named Coronation Street in honour of either King George VI or Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth II Gardens in Salisbury, UK, established to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, opened in the early 1960s on land purchased from 1953 onwards for the purpose. It includes a rose garden, but is primarily used

⁴¹ Draft heritage assessment for P00612 Karrakatta Cemetery, on HCWA file P00612.

⁴² Register documentation for P13668 *Peace Memorial Rose Garden*.

⁴³ Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Gift Fund, Western Australia, 'Details of organization of district committees – recommendations and suggestions which may prove useful to committees', 1953.

as a grassed parkland, and is a large area not comparable with the rose garden at *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock*.⁴⁴

The rose garden at *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* is an example of the many small to moderate size commemorative rose gardens established in the State, and the only known example in Australia of a garden planted to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Inter-War California Bungalow

A search of the State Heritage database for places constructed in the Inter-War California Bungalow style returns 771 entries, 27 of which are entered in the RHP. This list includes residences, religious buildings, educational buildings, government buildings and commercial buildings. It is known that many more examples of this style exist that are not included in the database. The Inter-War California Bungalow style is therefore widespread in Western Australia.

Eighteen of the 771 entries relate to the provision of health related services. Those most comparable to *Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock* as health service facilities, as opposed to residences, are:

- P2749 *Wongan Hills Hospital (fmr)* (RHP): established in 1930, this complex of former hospital buildings includes the Inter-War California Bungalow main structure.
- P3289 *Heathcote Hospital* (RHP): established in 1929, this place incorporates an example of Inter-War California Bungalow style building.
- P5299 *Lady Champion Hostel (fmr)* (RHP): established in 1926, this place comprises a single storey brick and tile building built in the Inter-War California Bungalow style.
- P9173 *Kensington Private Maternity Hospital (fmr)* (RHP): established in 1922, this place incorporates an Inter-War California Bungalow style purpose built main maternity hospital building.
- P15426 *Narrogin Regional Hospital* (RHP): established in 1934, this complex of hospital buildings are a rare example of country hospital buildings in the Inter-War California Bungalow style.
- P13689 *Tresillian Community Centre, Nedlands* (MHI) – developed as a private hospital, initially maternity, by two sisters, it moved to its current location in 1930, and was bought by the State in 1954.
- P9179 *Avro Hospital, Subiaco* (MHI) – built c.1925 as the private hospital *Hamel House*, it later operated as *Kiama Hospital* (c.1930s). It was a maternity hospital a period, and was later bought by the State.

Memorial House and Coronation Rose Garden, Bruce Rock is a good example of the Inter-War California Bungalow style, as applied to a health facility.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

⁴⁴ <http://www.salisbury.gov.uk/qegardens-plan.pdf> accessed 17 Nov 2008.