



HERITAGE
COUNCIL
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 02438
2. **NAME** *King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women* (1897, 1916, 1922, 1932, 1939, 1953, 1962, 1963, 1967, 1979, 1992 and 2001)
FORMER NAMES The Industrial School for Girls
Government Industrial School
3. **LOCATION** Cnr Barker Road & Railway Parade, Subiaco
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Perth Suburban Lots 229 and 230, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1199 Folio 535.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Subiaco
6. **OWNER** King Edward Memorial and Princess Margaret Hospitals Board of Management
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	16/04/1992
	Permanent Entry	20/12/2002
• National Trust Classification:		11/05/1981
• Town Planning Scheme:		---
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	28/02/1995
• Register of the National Estate:		18/04/1989
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, a large complex of hospital and hospital related buildings built over an extensive period since 1897, and rendered in a diverse range of architectural styles that reflect the time span over which the place was constructed, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is the State's first public maternity hospital, and since 1916 has been developed to provide for the health-care needs of women and neonates, and also developed as a major teaching hospital. The place has the highest significance in the evolution of medical care for women and neonates in Western Australia;

the place's growth and development since 1916 are of historic importance to the history of gynaecology, obstetrics, and other aspects of women's health in Western Australia and Australia;

the place is highly valued by the community of the State, for social and cultural reasons, for the inestimable and highly significant role it has played in the development of health services for women and infants in Western Australia;

the place is significant for the role that women of the State, and their various organisations, played in the establishment and development of the place. Fundraising by the Women's Service Guild and similar bodies, and the contribution of the Lotteries Commission played a crucial role in this respect;

the place's history and development involved a considerable number of prominent people including Dr. Dixie P. Clement, the first honorary obstetrician; Mrs. Jean Beadle and Mrs. Edith Cowan, who were involved with the place from its inception, and who served on the Advisory Board; Matron Agnes Walsh and Sister Mary Carson; Robert Haddon, who designed The Government Industrial School; A. E. Clare, Principal Architect, who was responsible for most of the major buildings at the site in the inter-war period and Len Walters, who was responsible for most of the major buildings in the 1950s; and Edward Kohler, sculptor;

the southern section of A Block, in the Interwar Functionalist style, is a particularly fine example of the style, with a finely decorated and detailed entrance foyer featuring sculpture by Edward Kohler;

Harvey House (Block H), designed in the Federation Free style, Carson House (D Block), designed in the Interwar Bungalow style, and Agnes Walsh House (Q Block), designed in the Post War International style are very fine examples of architecture in their respective styles;

the combined impact of Harvey House (Block H) A block, and Agnes Walsh House (Q Block), together with the dominant feature that is created by B Block, mature trees, and the more important landscape settings, makes a significant visual impact on its surrounding environment and has a landmark quality;

the Centenary Ward (C Block) commemorated the centenary of Western Australia in 1929. Dedicated to the pioneer women of the State, it is the earliest such memorial dedicated to women in the State;

Agnes Walsh House (Q Block) designed by the Public Works Department received a Royal Australian Institute of Architects bronze medal for architecture; and,

Harvey House (H Block) the former Government Industrial School (1897) is significant as the only Government purpose built industrial school and for the extravagance of its design at a time when the need for economy was being emphasised.

Car parking generally is intrusive. Buildings such as B Block E Block, F block, J Block, O Block, P Block have been assessed as being of having low significance. L and M Blocks are comparatively recent and their cultural heritage value should be assessed at some future time.