



**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)

- 4.3 Developing institutions
- 8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 406 Religion
- 408 Institutions

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE•

Amongst the components of the *Catherine McAuley Centre* are some buildings valued for their aesthetic characteristics. The Old School and St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr) are good examples of the Victorian Rustic Gothic and Federation Queen Anne styles respectively. St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr) contains decorative timberwork, terracotta finials and brick work with render banding. (Criterion 1.1)

The Olive Grove between Benedictine Stables (fmr), Old School and St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr) buildings increases the attractiveness of the setting and helps to link the group of religious and educational buildings of *Catherine McAuley Centre* although there is little cohesiveness between the structures overall. (Criterion 1.3)

The Old School at *Catherine McAuley Centre* is located at the highest point of the place and commands views over surrounding suburbs. This landmark value when approached from the south entrance of the site contributes to the aesthetic qualities of the landscape and provides a focus for the historic group of buildings at the place. (Criterion 1.3)

Remaining components of *Catherine McAuley Centre* form a precinct of structures and landscape elements developed by the Sisters of Mercy for religious and social welfare purposes. (Criterion 1.4)

• 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

The various elements of *Catherine McAuley Centre* illustrate the evolution of the site from an agrarian beginning, with stables and olive groves, to a facility dealing with the needs of urban family life, reflecting the rapid development and changing social environment of Perth and WA since the 1850s. (Criterion 2.1)

The Old School is a remnant of the institutional aspect of the site when children housed at St Vincent's and St Joseph's orphanages were isolated from the general community and educated on site. (Criterion 2.2)

The various elements of *Catherine McAuley Centre* are illustrative of the institutional approach to the care and training of children that prevailed in the late 19th century and into the first six decades of the 20th century. (Criterion 2.2)

When the Kindergarten was opened in 1925, it was one of the first to use the Montessori teaching method in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

The development of St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr) from a residential facility which cared for the children of unwed mothers and deserted wives, to Catherine McAuley Child Care Centre, which assists working parents with the care of their children, is illustrative of changing social attitudes and family needs. (Criterion 2.2)

The Benedictine Stables (fmr) and Olive Trees are a reminder of the olive oil industry conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, and which helped provide funds for the ongoing operation of the orphanage and foundling home. The olive oil manufactured at St Joseph's Orphanage won first prize at several Royal Perth shows and was used as sacramental oils by the archdiocese. (Criterion 2.2)

The Benedictine Stables (fmr) and Olive Trees are associated with the Catholic Benedictine Order who occupied the site from 1852 to 1864, and also with Bishop Serra, under whose authority the site was developed. (Criterion 2.3)

St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr) and Old School are closely associated with the Sisters of Mercy, and the services to children in need they have provided on the site since 1876. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Catherine McAuley Centre has scientific value as archaeological investigation may uncover foundations or remnants of other structures, such as the Benedictine Monastery (1859), St Joseph's Orphanage Chapel (1925), St Maria Goretti's School (1954), the Presbytery and various outbuildings. (Criterion 3.1)

Catherine McAuley Centre may provide, through archaeological investigation, additional information about the Benedictine monastic order in Western Australia, the material conditions of early colonial occupation, and life at the centre over the last 150 years. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The various elements of *Catherine McAuley Centre* are highly valued by the wider community for social, religious and educational associations. They have particular value for the generations of children who were raised in St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr) and St Joseph's Orphanage, who received some of their education and in the Old School and who assisted with the production of olive oil in the former Benedictine Stables. The buildings of St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr)

have ongoing social and educational associations in their operation as a child day-care centre. (Criterion 4.1)

The various elements of *Catherine McAuley Centre* contribute significantly to the community's sense of place. The Benedictine Stables (fmr) and Olive Trees are reminders of the original Benedictine occupation, while the Old School is a reminder of the ongoing religious associations of the site. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

Benedictine Stables (fmr) at *Catherine McAuley Centre* is a rare and good example of the few agrarian buildings from the 1850s still extant in the metropolitan area. (Criterion 5.1)

Benedictine Stables (fmr) is the only building remaining from the early Benedictine occupation of the site, and is symbolic of the relationship between the Benedictine monks and the Sisters of Mercy who arrived in Western Australia from Europe at the same time (1846). (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The Old School is a good example of the Victorian Rustic Gothic style, which was commonly applied to educational buildings in the late 19th century. (Criterion 6.1)

The evolving uses of the site from monastic traditions to the provision of social welfare services at *Catherine McAuley Centre* are representative of the activities and development of the services of the Sisters of Mercy. (Criterion 6.2)

Benedictine Stables (fmr) is representative of the basic construction style practiced in a period of scarcity of materials and technology. The structure is also representative of the monastic tradition and agrarian way of life. (Criterion 6.2)

The Nursery building of St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr) still displays some aspects of design that were considered modern at the time of construction in the well ventilated and mosquito-proof verandah. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Catherine McAuley Centre is generally in good condition. Buildings of St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr), still actively used, were refurbished in the 1990s and have been well maintained since. The Laundry (fmr), St Rochs and St Gerard's are also in current use. Benedictine Stables (fmr), which was in poor condition in the 1980s, has undergone conservation programmes and has been stabilised except for the roof. Some fabric at the Old School is in a severely deteriorated condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Catherine McAuley Centre has moderate to high integrity. Not all the individual elements retain their original function but the place has been used continually by religious orders of the Catholic Church.

Although the original function of Benedictine Stables (fmr) is not readily apparent, together with the Olive Grove these existing components provide evidence of the agrarian function of the place when used by a monastic order. This has been compromised by the awkward setting of Benedictine Stables (fmr) which is now perched on a steep embankment, and removal of some of the olive trees.

Although Benedictine Stables (fmr) and the Old School are no longer used for their original functions, compatible uses could be identified and accommodated. Benedictine Stables (fmr) currently provides a storage facility for *Catherine McAuley Centre*. Whilst this has required no alterations to the fabric, it has detracted from the interpretation of the place.

The location of the Cemetery is not clearly defined but it is a consecrated Catholic Cemetery. The memorial headstone and plaque provide some evidence of the former function of this area of the site.

There have been alterations to the fabric of the buildings of St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr) but as they continue to function in a social welfare capacity they have moderate integrity.

There is little evidence of original functions at the Laundry (fmr) or St Rochs but St Gerard's has retained some integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Catherine McAuley Centre has moderate authenticity. Some of the significant buildings of the complex were demolished in 1979 and evolution of the place through the erection of new structures continues to take place.

Some new fabric has been introduced to Benedictine Stables (fmr) in conservation work to stabilise the place. New roofing material and rainwater goods and a new concrete floor have been installed at the Old School and are clearly identifiable as contemporary fabric. Crosses have been removed from the Cemetery but have been replaced with new material indicating the general location of the burial ground. The Nursery and Kindergarten buildings of St Vincent's Foundling Home (fmr) have been extended and altered and are not highly representative of the original structures.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence is based on research compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by John Taylor, Architect.

The assessment has been updated using information from 'Catherine McAuley Centre, Wembley: conservation plan', prepared by Palassis Architects for MercyCare in July 2009.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Catherine McAuley Centre comprises the former Benedictine Stables (c.1858, 1890s, 1990s); Olive Trees (c.1858); Cemetery (1891-1913); Old School (1893); St Rochs (c.1900); former Laundry (c.1910); the former St Vincent's Foundling Home which includes the Foundling Home (1914, 1918, 1950s, 1994), Kindergarten (1925, 1971, 1994) and Nursery (1928, 1970, 1994); and, St Gerard's Hospital (fmr) (1938).

A number of the early buildings on the site, including the Benedictine Monastery (1859); St Joseph's Orphanage extension (1908); St Joseph's Orphanage Chapel (1925); St Maria Goretti's School (1954), the Presbytery, and various outbuildings including classrooms, hall, timber stables, dairy, and bakery, are not extant.

The site was home to Benedictine monks from 1852 to 1864, prior to their final move to New Norcia. Since 1876, the Sisters of Mercy have controlled the site, except for 1897-1901 when it was under the control of the Christian Brothers. The site has been the home of St Vincent's Orphanage for Boys (1872-1901), St Joseph's Orphanage for Girls (1901-71), St Vincent's Foundling Home (1914-71), St Gerard's Hospital (now known as Davis House) (1938-71) and St Margaret's Hostel (1918-1971). The place was renamed Catherine McAuley Family Centre in 1971, after the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, and currently provides residential aged care, child day-care, and family and youth support services.

Benedictine Monastery 1858-67

The first Spanish Benedictine priests, Joseph Serra and Rosendo Salvado, arrived in Western Australia in 1846, together with 25 missionaries (including six members of the Order of the Sisters of Mercy). Dr Brady, the newly appointed Bishop of Perth, brought the missionaries to Western Australia following a visit to Rome.¹ Serra and Salvado soon established a mission and school for Aboriginal people at New Norcia and in 1848 Serra travelled to Europe, seeking new missionaries to help with the work in Western Australia. He returned with 39 recruits, including 32 Benedictine monks and an Irish Trappist, Dominic Urquhart.²

Serra was appointed Bishop c.1850 after Dr Brady was persuaded to leave Western Australia.³ On behalf of the Perth Diocese, Serra purchased all the lands owned by Dr Brady, including Locations Ag and Ah, comprising 300 acres,

¹ Byrne, Geraldine, *Valiant Women. Letters from the Foundation Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia, 1845-1849*, Polding Press, Melbourne, 1981, p. ix; *Centenary of the Catholic Church in Western Australia, 1846-1946*, Perth, p. 22. Dr Brady had arrived in WA from NSW in 1843. At the time, the Catholic population in Perth numbered 300, in a population of 3,400.

² Waldersee, James, *A Grain of Mustard Seed: The Society for the Propagation of the Faith*, Sydney, 1983, pp. 146-50.

³ Brady was a poor financial manager and had personality conflicts with a number of Catholics in WA, most notably Serra. Following Brady's departure from the colony, Serra was ordained Bishop of Daulia, a defunct See. He could not be ordained Bishop of Perth as Brady refused to resign the Bishopric and it could only be reassigned on resignation or death.

adjoining Herdsmen Lake and Lake Monger. Serra named the area 'New Subiaco', after the original St Benedictine's monastery in Italy.⁴

By this time, Bishop Serra had lost interest in the New Norcia mission and decided to establish a 'mother' monastery at Perth with small monasteries in the country areas. To this end, he established the Benedictine monks beside Herdsman Lake at New Subiaco (in what is now Glendalough), where bush pole and timber chapel and monastery buildings were constructed.⁵ The cleared land was planted with olives, grape vines and fruit trees.⁶

In 1858, following Serra's visit to Europe (1853-55), construction of a permanent Benedictine Monastery at New Subiaco commenced.⁷ The Monastery building, on a site closer to Perth than the existing, temporary Monastery, was completed on June 1859. A number of outbuildings followed.⁸ In a letter dated 25 November 1859, Bishop Serra wrote:

The monastery of New Subiaco is a three-storey building; its stone walls are more than three feet thick. It stands on a most beautiful hill and overlooks two majestic lakes. The distance from the city of Perth is less than three miles, so that when time permits I may retire there from the care of the episcopal office... The community has twelve professed monks and seven novices, some of whom are near the end of their probation.⁹

There was 'a luscious vineyard with sixty thousand vines, and an extensive orchard: olives, oranges, lemons, figs, pears, apples and almonds, etc'. A smaller olive plantation was planned abutting the southern wall of the monastery, with more olive trees in the adjacent garden.¹⁰

The Benedictine Stables, a three-roomed building with timber floors, each with a separate entrance from the outside is believed to be one of the original outbuildings constructed around the Benedictine Monastery.¹¹ An 1864 map of the site describes the outbuilding, numbered '5', as *stalla, paglijo e luogo pel carro*, which has been translated as 'stable, straw stack and place for the cart'.¹² Over the years, there has been some debate as to whether this building was used as a stable, as the doorways are too low for a horse to have passed through. The

4 Dom Eugene Perez, 'Subiaco, WA', c.1960, 4-page typescript, Battye Library PR3422. Dr Brady purchased the land in December 1846 for £95.

5 Ibid; Map of New Subiaco, 1864, Sisters of Mercy Archives from original held in New Norcia archives. By 1866, the Catholic Church land holdings at Subiaco had been increased to over 600 acres.

6 Ibid.; Perez, op cit.

7 This followed the construction of the Bishop's Palace in Victoria Square, Perth.

8 Cullity, Garrett James, 'From The Subiaco Monasteries to Catherine McAuley Centre: 1843-1972', [199-] self-published, p. 7.

9 Perez, op cit.

10 Ibid.

11 The room at the eastern end, complete with fireplace, has been claimed to be a later addition but may be an alteration to the original structure. This room once had a timber ceiling, decorated with small holes in the shape of a cross, similar to the ceiling in the Old Chapel and at some time, a priest occupied the room. See Campbell, R. McK. & van Bremen, I. H. 'Stables and Chapel - Catherine McAuley Centre: Conservation report', May 1991 & August 1993, p. 3; report by Luigi D'Alessandro for WAHC [198-]; physical inspection; information provided by Sister Anselm Daly and Norm Powers.

12 Map of New Subiaco, 1864, & Dr Killerby's translation of map text, which is a mixture of Spanish and Italian, Sisters of Mercy Archives. This building is supposedly the one referred to today as the Benedictine Stables. There is no certainty that the existing building is the one shown on the 1864 map, but its construction appears to date from the period. Rob McK. Campbell has also pointed out that there are less similarities than expected between the design and construction of the Benedictine Stables and the buildings at New Norcia. There are also doubts as to the accuracy of the map scaling, See Campbell, R. McK. & van Bremen, I. H. 'The Benedictine Building - Catherine McAuley Centre', July 1996, p. 5.

rooms also have timber floors, although these could have been added at a later date, and the doorways could have been altered.¹³

On the 1864 map of *New Subiaco*, item '4' is listed as a burial ground. No records have been located of any burials taking place during the Benedictine occupation of the site.¹⁴

In April 1859, the Vatican separated New Norcia and Perth into two administrations, with Bishop Serra in charge of Perth and Salvado in charge at New Norcia. The monks were given a choice as to whether they lived at New Norcia or in Perth. Following Serra's resignation in 1862, Father Martin Griver was appointed Apostolic Administrator, with Father Matthew Gibney as his Vicar General. Griver and Gibney were responsible for the administration of the Benedictine Monastery at New Subiaco. However, by 1867, all of the monks had transferred to New Norcia and the New Subiaco Monastery was empty.¹⁵

St Vincent's Orphanage for Boys 1872-1901

In the early 1870s, when Perth had one orphanage, a government run institution in Goderich Street referred to as The Home, or the Poor House, Father Gibney requested Governor Hampton that the Catholic children in The Home be housed in Catholic institutions. Governor Hampton assented, promising to continue the public financial support of eight pence per day per child.¹⁶

On 2 February 1872, 12 Catholic boys from The Home moved into the empty Benedictine Monastery. Known as St Vincent's Orphanage for Boys, as the result of work by the St Vincent de Paul Society, the place was the first non-Government orphanage for boys in Western Australia. St Vincent's Orphanage had a lay staff, with Spanish Benedictine, Father Carreras, as Principal.¹⁷ In 1876, Father Carreras and a lay teacher were convicted of aggravated assault as a result of their punishment of a twelve-year-old boy. Public feeling was roused against the Orphanage but abated when the Sisters of Mercy assumed control of the institution. They replaced the existing staff with three Sisters, two female assistants and a maintenance man.¹⁸

Catherine McAuley (1778-1841) had founded the Order of the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin in 1831, for the relief of the poor, sick, underprivileged and the dying. Branch Houses were established throughout the world, and the House established in Western Australia in 1846, by the six Sisters recruited by Dr Brady, was the twenty-seventh. The Sisters established the first Catholic School in Perth at Victoria Square and their work grew from there.¹⁹

13 Physical inspection. The Benedictine Stables is now referred to as the Olive Oil Shed. The room at the eastern end was used for refining and bottling olive oil, while the centre room was used as a store, and the room at the western end for incubating chickens. See 'Olive Oil Industry - St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage' op cit; information provided by Sister Anselm Daly; Cullity, James Garrett, op cit, p. (i).

14 Information provided by Sister Frances Stibi, and the New Norcia Benedictine Community archives.

15 Perez, op cit; Bourke, D. F., *The History of the Catholic Church in Western Australia*, Perth, 1979, p. 108; Spillman, Ken, *Identity Prized: A History of Subiaco*, UWA Press, Nedlands, p. 45. **Note:** Martin Griver was ordained Bishop of Perth in 1871, following the death of Dr Brady.

16 Cullity, op cit, p. 18. Catholic girls from The Home were placed under the care of the Sisters of Mercy at Victoria Square on 24 February 1868. Their institution was known as St Joseph's Orphanage for Girls. The number quickly grew from 11 girls in 1868, to 32 by 1871.

17 Bourke, op cit, pp. 58-59.

18 McLay, Anne, *Women Out of Their Sphere: A History of the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia from 1846*, Vanguard Press, Perth, 1992, pp. 94.

19 Kovesi Killerby, C., *Ursula Frayne: A Biography*, Fremantle, University of Notre Dame, 1996, p. 98.

In February 1877, there were 39 boys at St Vincent's. Father Gibney's 1883 report to the Colonial Secretary stated that as well as schooling, the occupations of the boys included printing the Catholic weekly, *The Record* (which had begun publication in 1874), carpentry, gardening and olive oil manufacturing. During the period in which the property had been vacant the vines and fruit trees had died, but the olive trees had survived.²⁰

The boys worked at producing olive oil from the olives they harvested. The olives were shaken from the trees onto cloths or sacking spread underneath. The trees were climbed to gather the remaining fruit. The former Benedictine Stables were used as an olive oil bottling shed, while the crushing of the olives was carried out in another building to the south.²¹

Known as Early Catholic Cemetery for religious in the 1890's, the Sisters of Mercy established a cemetery on, or near, the site of the burial ground set aside by the Benedictine monks.²² The Cemetery was a rectangular plot, 54 ft x 60 ft (15.25 m x 18.25 m), situated to the left (west) of the Barrett Street entrance to the property.²³ The first burial took place on 21 June 1891, and the last on 20 June 1913. Twenty-one Sisters of Mercy, three nuns of other Orders and six priests are still interred in the Cemetery, but a number of others were exhumed and reburied at Karrakatta when that cemetery opened. Among those moved were Sisters of St John of God. The exhumation and re-burial was arranged by their Order. A priest was exhumed and reburied at Karrakatta in the 1930s, following the death, and subsequent burial at Karrakatta, of a relative who was a member of one of the women's congregations.²⁴

The graves in the Cemetery were generally marked with cast-iron crosses. Other markers and mementoes were often moved by the girls at the Orphanage, sometimes being found elsewhere and replaced. In the 1950s, it was decided to remove all remaining markers, as the sight of the cemetery frightened some of the young girls. The Orders who had members buried in the Cemetery were notified of the removal and many graves were photographed beforehand. Following removal of the grave markers, the Cemetery ground was grassed and a rose bed planted. A monument listing those still buried there was erected at the southern edge of the cemetery in the 1980s. There is no other indication that the site is a burial ground.²⁵

A school building was constructed for St Vincent's Orphanage in 1892. Situated in front of the Monastery, the building commonly called the Old Chapel was opened on 22 January 1893:

The building is a handsome structure in the Gothic style. It is in two wings arranged in the form of a T. The transverse wing is divided by archways into two classrooms, with a small division between, which may be secluded by curtains if required. A large

20 Cullity, op cit, pp. 11-15.

21 Sisters of Mercy Carmel O'Keefe and Rose Jones 'Olive Oil Industry - St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage' [nd], 5 pages, Mercy Archives; Information provided by Sister Anselm Daly; sketch plan of site, 1936, Mercy Archives. The nursing home is now on the site of the other building associated with olive oil production and the olive oil press was moved to New Norcia. Lawrence, Ken, op cit, [p. 5].

22 Map of New Subiaco, 1864.

23 MWSSDD sewerage plan, c. 1950s, and site plan, 1977.

24 List of those interred, Mercy Archives; telephone conversation with Perth Diocese archivist, Sister Frances Stibi.

25 Photograph and notes, Mercy Archives; telephone conversation with Sister Frances Stibi, op cit; information provided by Norm Power who removed the crosses.

archway opens from this small division into the large wing of the building to be used as the schoolroom. From this main wing a door at either side connects with the classrooms, independently of the archway in the centre. The building is well ventilated by large windows of beautiful design, having margin lights of blue divided into small panes by radiating bars. The windows at either gable in the classrooms are of exceptional size and being well proportioned have a fine effect. The front of the building is of dressed ashlar stonework, neatly pointed. The remaining walls are of stone coated with cement, struck out into blocks. The ceiling is open to the roof, which is lined with matchboard and varnished throughout. The walls are plastered in cement to the lower line of the windows; the remainder of the wall, internally, in lime. The rooms are lofty and well ventilated throughout. The main wing is 42 feet long by 21 feet wide, and the transverse wing is 36 long feet (sic) by 21 feet wide. The walls are 16 feet high and the roof is of a steep pitch thus giving a large space internally. Externally the effect is pleasing, and, as a school, it is suitably designed to admit an abundance of light and fresh air. The architect was Signor Stombuco, of Perth, and the builder Mr. David Gray.²⁶

Andrea Giovanni Stombuco was described as architect, builder, sculptor and monumental mason in Melbourne in 1858. He worked as a building contractor in Victoria and Brisbane between 1858 and 1887, and then operated as Stombuco and Son. His work included the first stage of St Peters and Pauls Old Cathedral in Goulburn, NSW (early 1870s), Main Building of All Hallows School, Brisbane (1881-82), and many residences in Brisbane including Palma Rosa (1886-87).²⁷ In 1893 and 1894, the partnership of Stombuco and Moran is recorded as operating in Perth.²⁸ Circa 1891, Stombuco moved to Western Australia to escape the depressed conditions in the eastern states and take advantage of the buoyant economic situation in Perth brought about by the gold boom. His wife and son remained in Brisbane.²⁹ In 1896, A. Stombuco called for tenders for several buildings in Perth, including shops in Murray Street for Joseph Parry and several brick houses for E. J. Moran MLA in Hay Street West.³⁰ He died in Fremantle in 1907 aged 82.³¹

The planning arrangement of the Old School was typical of 1890s schools in Western Australia. A main schoolroom was provided for combined activities with separate smaller classrooms for graded lessons. The Old School was probably not intended to serve both as school and chapel when it was constructed, as there is certainly no mention of the latter function in the report of the opening.³² The school function is consistent with certain aspects of the design, such as the dormer on the north side, and the 'ginger-bread' gables and projecting eaves,

²⁶ *The Record*, 26 January 1893, p. 8. R Erickson, *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829-1888*, Volume II, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1988, p. 1250 lists David Gray (b. 1839), an expirée convict, as a builder and contractor in Perth in 1877.

²⁷ Palassis Architects, 'Catherine McAuley Centre, Wembley: conservation plan', prepared for MercyCare, July 2009, p.36.

²⁸ In 1896, the listing is for A. Stombucco, and in 1898 and 1899 the entry appears as Antonio Stombucco.

²⁹ Palassis Architects, 'Catherine McAuley Centre, Wembley: conservation plan', prepared for MercyCare, July 2009, p.36.

³⁰ Kelly, Ian 'Architectural Biography, 1890-1915', prepared as part of thesis presented for the degree of Master of Architecture, University of Western Australia, 1991; Information from the Heritage Commission Index of Architects, and *The West Australian*, 23 & 24 December 1896, quoted in R. McK. Campbell & I. H. van Bremen, 'Stables and Chapel - Catherine McAuley Centre: Conservation report', May 1991 & August 1993, p. 3. **Note:** Newspaper article and *Wise's Post Office Directory* spelt the name Stombuco, while Kelly has it as Stombucco. The latter spelling has been followed as a more authoritative source, although either one could be correct as pronunciation is much the same.

³¹ Palassis Architects, 'Catherine McAuley Centre, Wembley: conservation plan', prepared for MercyCare, July 2009, p.36.

³² *The Record*, 26 January 1893, p. 8.

which added a domestic scale.³³ The chapel situated on the upper floor of the Benedictine Monastery probably continued to be used for some time.³⁴

A brick and tile cottage, known as St Rochs, was possibly built c.1900.³⁵

In November 1897, a group of Christian Brothers arrived in Western Australia from Sydney, and took over management of St Vincent's Orphanage for Boys from the Sisters of Mercy. In September 1901, they moved the boys to new buildings at Clontarf, Waterford.

St Joseph's Orphanage for Girls 1901-1971

On 21 November 1901, St Joseph's Orphanage for Girls was moved from Victoria Square to take up residence in the Monastery, under the care of six Sisters. At that time there were about 79 girls at the Orphanage listed as wards of the State and 12 privately funded by family and charitable donations.³⁶

The girls at St Joseph's continued olive oil production on the site, as an article in *The Record* from December 1902 testifies:

The house [Monastery] stands in an enclosure of several acres, and is surrounded by a grove of olive trees; the olive tree grows here in perfection, in many instances attaining wide-spreading dimensions and affording a deep shade. Its berries are used by the Sisters who manufacture from them the oil that from time immemorial has been their highly valued product.

The trees flower in October, and in May and June the principal part of their crop is ready for picking. Gleanings, however, remain to be treated throughout the winter months. The manufacture is carried on in a building allotted for the purpose; the process seems of interest.

The berries are cast into a machine called a crusher, in which they are reduced to pulp by an iron roller. The Sisters have recently provided a new machine at a cost of £16. The pulp is then removed to a vat - a deep tub whose upright staves... are separated... to permit the oil under heavy pressure to trickle out.... The pressure is obtained by means of great beams lowered or raised by aid of a lever. The oil that comes away first... is called virgin oil. Afterwards, boiling water is used to extract whatever may remain in the pulp... The refuse pulp is good for feeding fowls and pigs.

The Sisters expect that the product of this year's crop... will amount to one hundred gallons. Next year, as the trees have been skilfully pruned, the harvest will probably be greater.³⁷

The oil was used in the church, in the kitchen and even in the care of the girl's hair. A dozen bottles of oil were sent to the Archbishop for use in the Holy Oils distributed during Holy Week. In 1902, sale of olive oil manufactured at the Orphanage netted £2/8/9. In 1921, sales amounted to £140/5/2. The girls of the Orphanage exhibited their oil at the Royal Perth Show each year, where it was often awarded first prize.³⁸

The number of girls at St Joseph's increased rapidly and, in 1908, a two-storey brick extension was constructed at the eastern end of the Monastery. The

33 R. McK. Campbell & I. H. van Bremen, op cit, p. 4.

34 Plan of Monastery, 1864.

35 Information provided by Sister Anselm Daly. The cottage is supposed to have already been in existence on the site when St Joseph's Orphanage occupied the site in 1901.

36 O'Shea, Sister Anna Maria, 'Archival Corner', July 1991, quoting from St Joseph's Girls' Orphanage account book, 1901-1922.

37 *The Record*, 27 December 1902, p. 6.

38 O'Keefe and Jones, op. cit.

extension comprised reception and dining rooms on the ground floor and dormitories on the first floor.³⁹ In 1909, there were 148 girls and eight Sisters at the Orphanage.⁴⁰ It is not known when the Old School began to be used for religious services, but it is likely that the building was called in to service as a chapel as the numbers at St Joseph's grew.⁴¹

The Laundry, a substantial brick and iron building situated at the western end of the administration block, may have been constructed c.1910.⁴² The Laundry employed twelve older girls and two Sisters, and the mothers in St Margaret's Hostel. It met the laundry needs of the Orphanage, the Victoria Square convent and, later, St Anne's Mercy Hospital, Maylands. The Laundry was extended over the years as its workload grew.⁴³

As well as attending school the older girls worked in the Laundry or assisted with the production of olive oil. Girls over fourteen were trained for domestic work. This involved cookery, dressmaking, art, needlework and knitting, caring for poultry, vegetable gardening, soap making, and baking. Some girls, who were considered intellectually capable, undertook secondary study at the Orphanage or at Mercedes College.⁴⁴

St Vincent's Foundling Home 1914-1971

The Sisters of Mercy established the St Vincent's Foundling Home in 1914 to provide accommodation and care for deserted or homeless infants. At this time, unmarried mothers, deserted wives, widows and the sick and unemployed had few options in seeking accommodation and care for their babies and infants. The various orphanages and industrial schools run by religious organisations and the Government catered primarily for children between the ages of 6 and 14. The Sisters of the Church opened a day nursery in 1902 and Parkerville Children's Home, which took in infants, was established the following year. A few years later, the Children's Protection Society established a day nursery and arranged for foster mothers to take in young children in need of residential care.⁴⁵ The State Government also boarded out infants and children under five years with licensed foster mothers⁴⁶ and operated a Receiving Depot, a clearinghouse for destitute children, which also provided nursing care for sick infants.⁴⁷

39 Cullity, op cit, p. 18.

40 Ibid., p. 20

41 An undated plan prepared by architect George Mullen for extensions to the Old Chapel (not undertaken) strongly supports the view that the building was being used for religious services at the time. This is further supported by the statement, at the time of opening of St Joseph's Orphanage Chapel in 1925, that the new chapel was 'to supplant the present small one, built some years ago, when the numbers were only a small percentage of what they are today'. N.B: The original purpose of the Old Chapel as a school appears to have been forgotten or overlooked by this time. See *The Record*, 25 April 1925, p. 14.

42 State Children's Department, annual report 30 June 1910, Votes & Proceedings of Parliament, 1910-1911, Vol. 1, Published Paper, No. 7, p. 10. **Note:** It was not the first laundry on the site. The State Children's Department Annual Report of 1910, states that a 'proposed new Laundry' is planned for St Joseph's Orphanage. No further details regarding the Laundry were found in later reports.

43 McLay, op cit, p. 356; various sources, Mercy Archives; physical inspection.

44 Ibid, pp. 355-56.

45 The Children's Protection Society had been established in 1906 under the patronage of Lady Bedford, wife of the Governor of Western Australia. Dr. Roberta Jull and Bessy Rischbieth were two of the women involved with the Society, which was later responsible for the establishment of child health centres. See Children's Protection Society, Annual Reports, 1906-64.

46 There were 64 children, under the age of six, boarded out in this way in 1910.

47 State Children's Department, Annual Report 30 June 1910, Votes & Proceedings of Parliament, 1910-11, Vol. 1, Published Paper. No. 7.

The St Vincent's Foundling Home was located to the east of the 1908 extension to the Monastery. Archbishop Clune laid the foundation stone on 10 September 1914. The architect for the project was George McMullen, and the builder was F.E. Sedgley.⁴⁸

George McMullen trained as an architect in Victoria and was elected a fellow of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects in 1890.⁴⁹ By 1894, probably in order to escape the depressed economic conditions of the eastern states, Mullen had moved to Western Australia where the Public Works Department (PWD) employed him as a draftsman. Over the next eight years he was employed at various times by the PWD as an assistant architect, first class draftsman, and temporary draftsman, with periods of retrenchment between the appointments. He appears to have been in private practice from about 1902, with several houses in Highgate, Perth and West Perth being attributed to him between 1905 and 1909. In 1910, he was responsible for the additions to the Children's Hospital and, from 1913, lived at Bagot Road, Subiaco.⁵⁰

St Vincent's Foundling Home was opened on 13 December 1914, by the Governor Sir Harry Barron. The opening ceremony was preceded by a procession involving societies from the various parishes including Children of Mary, Catholic Young Men, St Vincent de Paul Society, Hibernians, Foresters, Sacred Heart Sodality, Oblate Fathers and Redemptorists. The building was blessed by Archbishop Clune, who said in his speech that:

Under [the] aegis [of the Catholic Church] a system of charitable institutions had been established... Catholics felt that, however excellent their institutions were, there was still something lacking... That which was lacking was an institution like St Vincent's Foundling Home, where the destitute children from birth to school age might be received, and where infant life might be safeguarded. The work of safeguarding and preserving child life was... doubly valuable at the present time when war was making a drain upon adult life in the battlefields of Europe, and when it was likely that immigration would probably be checked for some years to come.

Housed in a building set upon a healthy site, and equipped according to a most exacting hygienic standard, the children would be under the care of the Sisters of Mercy, whose success in a kindred department was phenomenal.⁵¹

Photographs published at the time of opening show a substantial building, with the east and west wings forming a 'U' shape. The west wing appears to have contained the kitchen, and possibly the dining room, while the east wing contained toilet and bathroom facilities.⁵² A contemporary description stated:

It is a spacious building, well laid out, its several parts very finely proportioned, with every ward and every room equipped according to the most modern ideas. The wards and the infirmary, which open on to large and very well-designed verandahs, are admirably ventilated and roomy. There are special cells for the Sisters in charge of these wards. Nor is the portion of the institution set apart for the nursing staff neglected. Each nurse will have a pretty and neatly furnished room, as well as the general sitting and dining room set apart for the nursing staff.

48 Information from the Foundation Stone, west wall of the Foundling Home.

49 Mullen was recorded as insolvent, together with his brother Joseph, a builder, in 1890.

50 Kelly, op. cit. Mullen was also commissioned to prepare additions to the Old Chapel, but these were not carried out. McMullen, George, drawing 'Additions to Chapel, St Joseph's Orphanage, Subiaco', [n.d.], Sisters of Mercy Archives.

51 *The Record*, 19 December 1914, p. 11.

52 Photographs, *The Record*, 5 Dec 1914, p. 14 & 19 Dec 1914, p. 11; various site plans; floor plans, 1994, Santelli Holbrook P/L.

Beside the various accessories usually attached to such an establishment, a special feature of the new home is its up-to-date electrical fittings. Radiators are installed in almost every apartment, while there is attached to the wards special electrical apparatus by which, in case of urgency or at night, food may be conveniently and speedily heated.

But the department of the building which deserves special attention is the beautifully equipped kitchen which experts have pronounced to be second to none in Australia... It is furnished with a splendid range and coppers, wash-up contrivances, and it is so admirably arranged that hot water may be conveyed therefrom to any portion of the whole building.⁵³

The Foundling Home catered for both boys and girls from birth to six years. Babies were often left on the verandah of the Home, or under the hedge at the Orphanage. It was soon found that some accommodation for expectant mothers was also needed and another wing was added to the Home. Archbishop Clune opened the additions on 17 February 1918.⁵⁴

The additions just completed would afford a greater chance of classification and isolation, if necessary, and would enable a mother's care to be given to the little ones during their infancy. At present nearly 70 children were being cared for by the Sisters...

The new wing consists of a large dormitory for twelve mothers and their infants. There are commodious balconies on either side. The lavatories, etc, are most up-to-date in design, a large dining-room for the mothers and a day nursery for the infants, are most admirable adjuncts.

St Vincent's Foundling Home is growing. Already it is a compact block of buildings and a picturesque object to the eye. The building, as it stands today, has been planned by Mr McMullen and carried out under his supervision. The total cost of the Foundling Home, including the additions, is £12,000.⁵⁵

Special thanks were given to the Ugly Men's Association, and doctors and staff of the Children's Hospital. Donations for the additions were also obtained by two Sisters who travelled throughout the Perth Archdiocese visiting each household.⁵⁶

The 1918 addition to the Foundling Home appears to have been the building, seen on various site plans, which ran east to west behind the 'U' shaped 1914 structure, effectively creating a courtyard between the original wings at the rear of the Home. This addition was removed during the 1994 renovations.⁵⁷

Fundraising for day to day running of the Home was an ongoing requirement as, of the almost 70 children resident at the Home in 1918, only about one third were subsidised by the government. The St Vincent de Paul Society gave regular support, and young readers of *The Record* were encouraged, through Aunt Bessy's Children's Page, to collect contributions for the Orphanage and Foundling Home. Stuart and Eileen Patterson were benefactors to the Foundling Home prior to them funding the Nursery and Kindergarten. Many donations of goods and produce were also made, as were donations of services. Dr E.A. Officer, who attended the Home almost every day free of charge, provided the medical needs of the Foundling Home.⁵⁸

53 *The Record*, 5 Dec 1914, p. 14.

54 McLay, op cit, pp. 355-56.

55 *The Record*, 23 Feb 1918, p. 14.

56 *Ibid.*; McLay, op cit, pp. 355-56.

57 Various site plans; floor plans, 1994, Santelli Holbrook P/L.

58 *The Link*, Vol. 1 No. 2 March, 1993, pp. 1-8; McLay, Anne, op cit, p. 361.

St Rochs was refurbished, with verandahs added to match those of the Foundling Home and possibly a tile roof to replace an original iron roof c.1915.⁵⁹ The name 'St Rochs' may also have been placed on the glass pane above the front door at this time.

When St Vincent's Foundling Home was extended in 1918, the description of what had been done included the addition of an observation cottage. This building has not been identified elsewhere on the site and it possible that St Rochs was the cottage in question, although St Vincent's was described as a 'compact group of buildings' at the time, and St Rochs is some distance from the Foundling Home.⁶⁰ If St Rochs was used as an observation cottage, it may not have served in this capacity for any great length of time.

In November 1923, a month-long bazaar, called 'Orfania', was held to raise funds for St Vincent's Foundling Home and St Joseph's Orphanage. It began with a procession through Perth city streets on 9 November, and continued with stalls and sideshows, football games, a ball, musical performances, log chopping, boxing, dancing, concerts, jumble sale, Christmas tree, and raffles, etc, throughout the four weeks. There was even a weekly newspaper providing a programme of events.⁶¹

By 1925, there were 110 children at St Vincent's Foundling Home.⁶² Further additions were made to cater for the growing numbers. The additions comprised two separate buildings, situated on the eastern side of the Home. They were the Kindergarten (1925) and the Nursery (1928). Stuart and Eileen Patterson funded both buildings. The foundation stone of the Kindergarten reads:

THIS BUILDING
IS A GENEROUS DONATION TO THE HOME
FROM
MR & MRS STUART PATTERSON
JULY 1 1924.

The building plans for the Kindergarten are signed by G.J. Douglas Sanders, while the building application was submitted to Perth City Council by J.W. Sanders.⁶³ From 1910 into the 1920s, a James D. Sanders is listed in *Wise's Post Office Directories* as a contractor, while a James W. Sanders appears in the listing of architects in 1924.⁶⁴ As no tender advertisements were located for the Kindergarten, it possible that J.D. Sanders, the contractor, was also responsible for its construction.

The Kindergarten was opened by Archbishop Clune on 3 May 1925. Total cost of building and equipment was £2,160. The Kindergarten was equipped with the 'apparatus of the Montessori method'.⁶⁵ A teacher was paid for by the

59 This work was done either when the Foundling Home was built in 1914, or when it was extended in 1918. Information provided by Sister Anselm Daly.

60 *The Record*, 23 February 1918, p. 14.

61 McLay, op cit, pp. 356-361.

62 *The Record*, 25 April 1925, p. 14 & 9 May 1925, p. 9; Foundation stone on Kindergarten.

63 Kindergarten floor plans, 'Additions to the Foundling Home Subiaco for the Sisters of Mercy, Victoria Square' 21 July 1924; Perth City building permits, The Building and Engineering Register, 1 Sept 1924, p. 18.

64 *Wise's Post Office Directories*, 1910 - 1924-25.

65 *The Record*, 25 April 1925, p. 14 & 9 May 1925, p. 9; Foundation stone on Kindergarten.

Government, through 'the kindly efforts and gentle pressure' of Harry Mann, Member for Perth.⁶⁶

The Montessori teaching method was initiated in Italy in 1907, by Dr Maria Montessori, and emphasised learning when the individual was ready rather than learning imposed at a set time. The first Montessori class in Western Australia was established at Mayland's Infant School in 1914. The Method did not flourish in the State schools, but resulted in the establishment of the Kindergarten Union of Western Australia, which subsequently established *Meerilinga* as the headquarters for the Montessori World Educational Institute. The Montessori Method was taken up by a number of independent kindergartens and primary schools in the 1920s.⁶⁷

Also opened on 3 May 1925, was St Joseph's Orphanage Chapel (not extant). The growth of the Foundling Home, and increases in the number of girls at the Orphanage, severely taxed the accommodation available for the Sisters as well as the capacity of the existing chapel (Old Chapel). The result was the construction of St Joseph's Orphanage Chapel, a two-storey building with a community room and eight bedrooms on the upper floor, and the chapel below. St Joseph's Orphanage Chapel was also designed by G.J. Douglas Sanders.⁶⁸

The Nursery, also known as the Stuart Patterson Wing, was designed by Cavanagh & Cavanagh, and built by L. Libovich and S. Barker.⁶⁹ The partnership of Cavanagh & Cavanagh consisted of brothers Michael Francis and James Charles, sons of John Cavanagh, a builder and supervisor of public works in South Australia. Michael trained in South Australia and in London (1885-88). By 1891 he was working in private practice in Adelaide. He came to Perth in 1895 to establish a branch office under the management of his younger brother, but remained in Perth himself, becoming an active member of the newly formed WA Institute of Architects. James Cavanagh joined his brother in Perth in 1900.⁷⁰

Michael Cavanagh, and later Cavanagh & Cavanagh, were responsible for numerous buildings for the Catholic Church, including: Christian Brothers' College, Perth (1895); various buildings at Mercedes College, Victoria Square for the Sisters of Mercy; Home for the Aged, and Boys' Industrial School, Glendalough (1897); St John of God Hospital and Convent, Subiaco (1897); Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth (1902); additions to St Mary's Cathedral (1925), and Aquinas College (1938), to name just a few. They also had a thriving general practice in Perth and major country centres.⁷¹

The Nursery, comprising a 45 ft x 25 ft (13.7m x 7.6m) dormitory, 25 ft x 15 ft (7.6m x 4.5m) infirmary, and a bathroom, kitchenette and nurse's room, was designed to accommodate infants less than two years of age.⁷² The building was opened on 29 April 1928 by Archbishop Clune and cost between £4,500 and £5,000. It featured 'ultra modern' concepts in ventilation and fly and mosquito proofing. The construction of the Nursery followed a trip undertaken by the

66 *The Record*, 5 May 1928, p. 13.

67 O'Donnell, Dan, *Montessori Education in Australia and New Zealand*, Fast Books, 1996, pp. 1-5, 44-50.

68 *The Record*, 25 April 1925, p. 14; 9 May 1925, p. 9; Floor plan, Chapel and Dormitories, 24 Feb. 1924.

69 Floor plan 'New dormitory and infirmary block - Foundling Home', 6 Jan 1927; *The Record*, 5 May 1928, p. 13.

70 Kelly, op. cit.

71 *ibid.*

72 Floor plan 'New dormitory and infirmary block - Foundling Home', 6 Jan 1927; *The Record*, 5 May 1928, p. 13.

Pattersons to New Zealand and other Australian cities, during which they inspected orphanages and babies' homes.⁷³

Thomas Stuart Patterson and Bridget Eileen Coake were married in Albany on 27 September 1898. Patterson, a Presbyterian, was born in Sydney in 1866, and Bridget was an Irish Catholic migrant. The Pattersons had one daughter who died young, a factor that may have influenced their generosity towards young children in need of care. As well as owning farming property at Kellerberrin, Stuart Patterson also owned the Kellerberrin Hotel. His wealth is reported to have come from property and other investments. The Pattersons funded a Preventorium in Kellerberrin, staffed by Sisters of St Joseph. This institution offered free places for up to eight weeks for children whose health was at risk.⁷⁴

From 1938, St Rochs Cottage was used as the night duty residence for staff at St Gerard's Hospital, and was occupied by the Sister and lay nurse who were on duty at the time.⁷⁵

The foundation stone for St Gerard's Hospital, a single-storey red brick and tile building, situated immediately east of the Nursery and north of St Rochs, was laid on 17 October 1938 by Archbishop Prendiville.⁷⁶ World War II intervened in its development, however, and it did not take in patients until 1944. The Lotteries Commission provided funds, and Archbishop Prendiville himself paid for a maternity nurse.⁷⁷

It was a natural progression from looking after children of unmarried mothers, to looking after the needs of the mothers themselves. Accommodation after confinement was first provided in the 1918 Foundling Home extension. Later, St Margaret's Hostel was established on the upper floor of the Orphanage kitchen block to accommodate expecting mothers. St Gerard's Hospital facilitated the next step, which was to provide the women with full medical facilities for their confinement to avoid their having to attend a public hospital where staff and other patients were not always sympathetic to their situation. St Gerard's was established the year after the Sisters of Mercy opened St Anne's Nursing Home, Mt Lawley. St Anne's was a general hospital, as well as a maternity hospital and training school for midwives.⁷⁸

St Gerard's could house sixteen mothers and infants and, during its operating life, delivered 845 babies. St Gerard's operated until 1972, when it was considered no longer needed because of other facilities in the community. Care of unmarried mothers was transferred to St Anne's Mercy Hospital (formerly St Anne's Nursing Home), and St Gerard's was refurbished to become one of the first group homes of the Catherine McAuley Family Centre. In 1973, it housed ten children and one Sister.⁷⁹

⁷³ *The Link*, op cit; *The Record*, 5 May 1925, p. 13. New Zealand was a leader in infant and maternal health at the time.

⁷⁴ *The Link*, op cit. The Pattersons benevolence did not stop at the West Australian border. In 1925, they purchased a residence in Sydney for the Sisters of St Joseph to use as a home for destitute young children. Stuart died on 25 November 1939, aged 73, but his financial assistance continued after his death. In the mid-1980s, the Preventorium in Kellerberrin was closed and the \$250,000 proceeds from disposal of the property was made available to the administration of *Catherine McAuley Centre*

⁷⁵ Information provided by Sister Anselm Daly.

⁷⁶ Plaque on wall beside front door.

⁷⁷ McLay, p. 364-365.

⁷⁸ Information from Mercy Archives; Bourke, D. F. op cit, p. 261.

⁷⁹ McLay, op cit., p. 364-65; Lawrence, Ken, 'The development of the Catherine McAuley Child Care Centre',

In 1940, St Joseph's Orphanage and St Vincent's Foundling Home housed 264 children, and there were 25 Sisters living and working on site. About half the children were supported by charity and whatever parents could afford, while the other half were wards of the State. Government aid and Lotteries Commission contributions amounted to £4,000 in 1940. Donations and parents contributed another £2,000. Through the 1940s to the mid 1960s, St Joseph's Orphanage was one of the institutions which received migrant children from Britain.⁸⁰

In the 1950s, another extension was made to the Foundling Home in the form of two-storey addition at the northern end of the ablution block. This addition provided accommodation for mothers and their newborn babies.⁸¹

By the mid 1960s, St Vincent's Foundling Home was also acting as a day-care centre for young children on the site. One dormitory was closed, with 30 children between three and five still in residence.⁸²

In the 1970s, with the emphasis moving towards family centred programmes, many of these young children were taken into the new family groups. The child day-care function was extended to off-site pre-schoolers.⁸³

Catherine McAuley Centre 1971-

By the 1970s, social needs and concepts of social welfare were changing. More emphasis was being placed on social welfare for the family unit. The Sisters of Mercy determined to redevelop the Orphanage and Foundling Home institutions and, in late 1971, the centre was renamed Catherine McAuley Centre, after Catherine McAuley (1778-1841), who had founded the Sisters of Mercy order in Dublin in 1831.⁸⁴ In 1989 the site was renamed Catherine McAuley Family Centre.

It was planned to keep the environment of the Centre as close as possible to that of a family in a community setting, and to keep the numbers catered for to 100 children from babies to teenagers. Children were to be sent to local schools instead of being educated on site, and natural brothers and sisters were to be kept together. Short-term crisis care and family support services would also be provided.⁸⁵

To accommodate the changes, the buildings underwent some alterations. In 1970, the Nursery had an extension added on the west side comprising a dining room, food preparation area and extra bathroom facilities. The original kitchen and nurse's room were converted into linen and clothes storerooms. The verandahs were closed in with extensive glazing to form play areas, visitors' waiting room, solarium, and staff room. The work was designed by Oldham, Boas, Ednie-Brown & Partners, and paid for with a \$15,000 State grant.⁸⁶ In 1971, the Kindergarten verandahs were closed in with asbestos and glass and the toilet

teachers' college thesis, 1979, typescript, [p. 15].

80 Ibid., pp. 356-62.

81 Site plan, 1991, Santelli Holdings; information provided by Sister Anselm Daly and Norm Power.

82 Information provided by Catherine McAuley Centre.

83 McLay, p. 365; Lawrence, op. cit., [p. 17].

84 McLay, op cit, pp. 364-65.

85 Ibid.

86 Floor plan, 'Proposed extensions to Nursery Block at Catherine McAuley Centre', Oldham, Boas, Ednie-Brown & Partners, 19 March 1970; Lawrence, op cit, [p. 13].

facilities on the back verandah were upgraded. The work on the Kindergarten was carried out by builder Norm Power.⁸⁷

A family group of twelve children was established in St Margaret's Hostel, on the upper floor of the Orphanage kitchen block. St Gerard's Hospital was remodelled for another group, and the Monastery was divided into a number of 'fairly autonomous' units. The latter included bedrooms, lounge room and bathroom facilities, each housing a group of around twelve children with one adult, either religious or lay, as a parent figure. The Monastery dining room was still used by everyone, but each family group now sat together with their 'parent'.

In October 1977, significant new development in 'out of home care' for difficult to place children who required alternative form of care were opened. Each were staffed by 'cottage parents'. The group houses were spread over the northern section of the property and were accessed off Ruislip Street. Their construction resulted in the removal of most of the remaining olive grove in this area.⁸⁸

Development was restricted to the eighteen acres of the site that had been transferred to the ownership of the Sisters of Mercy around 1910, prior to subdivision of the bulk of the Church's *New Subiaco* landholding.⁸⁹ This meant that some of the existing buildings had to be demolished to make room for the new. Among the first to go was the Presbytery. A resident chaplain had not been needed since the children began attending schools in the community and receiving their religious instruction in the local parishes.⁹⁰

In 1974, following the closure of St Gerard's Hospital, St Rochs was adapted for use as a self-contained flat for the older Orphanage girls, to enable them to learn to live independently. The place accommodated six to eight girls at a time.⁹¹ St Rochs, currently used as administration of MercyCare, was until March 2010 used as a base for the volunteers who worked at *Catherine McAuley Centre* and then subsequently housed Human Resources. The volunteer coordinator had her office there and the building was referred to as Volunteer House.⁹²

In 1979, the Benedictine Monastery, Orphanage Extension, St Joseph's Orphanage Chapel, timber stables⁹³, some of the outbuildings, and part of the Laundry (the westernmost accretions and extension to the north) were demolished.⁹⁴ A new administration block was constructed on the site of the Benedictine Monastery. At the same time, as the family services were being developed, a nursing home and units for the aged were also under construction. These were originally placed under the control of Catholic Homes for the Aged,

87 Floor plan 'Proposed enclosing of verandahs: Catherine McAuley Centre', Health Dept Register entry 3265, 23 April 1971.

88 Notes on Catherine McAuley Centre, 1973, Mercy Archives; Lawrence, Ken, op cit [p. 17]; Labelled site map; McLay Anne, op cit, p. 367.

89 Certificate of Title, Vol. 2160 Fol. 511; Diagram 97224, approved 28 April 1999.

90 Site maps; Lawrence, Ken, op cit, [p. 13].

91 Lawrence, Ken, op cit, [p. 19].

92 Information provided by Catherine McAuley Centre.

93 This stable building was located north of the Monastery. It was a pole and timber structure built at a much later date than the original Benedictine stables. The building was used to house cows for the Orphanage, and was later used by local horse owners, among them a Mr Fleming of Leederville, who owned trotters. Information provided by Sister Anselm Daly and Norm Powers.

94 Lawrence, op cit, [p. 5]. An old mangle used in the Laundry was sent to New Norcia following the closure of the laundry operation in the 1970s

but passed back to Mercy control in 1985. These facilities catered for retired Sisters and members of the general community.⁹⁵

In 1989, some restoration work was carried out to the Old School including fitting clear acrylic panels over the damaged windows to provide some protection and weatherproofing while allowing light into the building. The original iron roof was replaced with steel decking which resulted in the removal of the dormer ventilators, and some of the timber floors were replaced with concrete.⁹⁶

The Old School was renamed the Martin Kelly Centre on 11 July 1989, in recognition of Sister Martin Kelly whose contribution to childcare in Western Australia was significant. Sister Kelly was in charge of the Catherine McAuley Centre site during the changes in the 1970s. She was a member of the Consultative Committee to the State Government on Residential Child Care, and was awarded an MBE for her work at the Catherine McAuley Centre. Sister Martin Kelly died in July 1987, aged 57.⁹⁷

During a reunion of former residents of St Joseph's Orphanage and St Vincent's Foundling Home, a mass was held in the Old School on 10 November 1990.⁹⁸ Over the past years, the Old School has been used as a venue for meetings and more recently as a storage area. Physical inspection of the building revealed it had also been used as the venue for a MercyCare second hand book sale (1994-2004).⁹⁹

Between 1975 and 1988, day care numbers doubled to 104 full-time, 25 part-time, 40 after-school care, 50 vacation care and 16 nursery places.¹⁰⁰ In 1994, St Vincent's Foundling Home buildings were upgraded by Santelli Holbrook Architects. One of the changes made to the Nursery and Kindergarten at this time involved partitioning of the main large room in each building. The work on the Foundling Home involved general upgrading of facilities, and the removal of the 1918 addition. The original 1914 building, and the two-storey 1950s addition remained.¹⁰¹ A wall plaque in the entrance hall of the Foundling Home reads:

Catherine McAuley Family Centre. Restoration and refurbishment of the Child Day Care buildings. In appreciation of the support provided by the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and The Lotteries Commission of Western Australia.

Santelli Holbrook Architects P/L. Project Architect A Santelli. June 1994.¹⁰²

Above the plaque is a painting of the Foundling Home executed by Al Santelli and donated to the Home.

Photographs of the former Benedictine Stables taken in the 1970s and 1980s, show a deteriorating building with a rusting iron roof which, when removed, uncovered the original timber shingles, also in a state of deterioration. In 1991, a conservation report was prepared by Rob McK. Campbell and Ingrid van Bremen.

95 McLay, op cit, p. 367; information provided by Norm Power.

96 Report by Luigi D'Alessandro for WAHC [198-]; photographs, HCWA File 2231; Campbell, R. McK. & van Bremen, I.H. 'Stables and Chapel, Catherine McAuley Centre: Conservation report', May 1991/Aug 1993.

97 Plaque on east wall of main room of Old Chapel; McLay, op cit, pp. 365-368.

98 Notes from Mercy Archives.

99 Information provided by physical inspection, 16 March 2000.

100 McLay, p. 367.

101 Floor plans, Santelli Holbrook Architects, 1991-1994; wall plaque in entrance hall of Foundling Home.

102 Wall plaque in entrance hall of Foundling Home.

The work that resulted halted deterioration of the building, while a later conservation report of 1996 continued the restoration work.¹⁰³

During development of the *Catherine McAuley Centre* site in the 1970s and 1980s, the olive grove on the south side of the Monastery was reduced to the remaining two dozen or so trees.¹⁰⁴ The larger olive groves that existed to the north gradually succumbed to residential subdivision after 1910, but their existence is noted in the name of one street, The Grove, which angles between Ruislip Street and Lake Monger Drive and which may, together with neighbouring St Columbas Street, indicate the orientation of the rows of the original olive plantation. There could also be an olive tree or two still existing in the back yards of this subdivision. There is one Olive Tree at the junction of Gregory Street and The Grove.

Overview of the site in 2000

The building at the Barrett Street entrance was built as the Congregational headquarters of the Perth Sisters of Mercy. Behind this building was Carlow House, which housed the youth centre. E-Block was originally units for Crisis Care but is now reception for Youth Services. The Community Aged Care building was the centre for the carers who provided home based aged care. This building also housed Catherine McAuley Centre's finance department and op shop. St Rochs, previously known as Volunteer House, was the base for the Centre volunteers, which included an office for the volunteer co-ordinator, and is now part of MercyCare's administration. St Gerard's Hospital, now known as Davis House, was a day-care centre for aged dementia sufferers. The three buildings of the former St Vincent's Foundling Home formed the child day-care centre. The Old School was used as a meeting place and store. The former Benedictine Stables were also used as a store. The c.1910 section of the former Laundry made up part of the building used for employment and training services. The 1979 administration building (now demolished) occupied the site of the Benedictine Monastery.

There were five of the original six group homes (1977) remaining on the site. Four were still in use as group housing for wards of the State. The fifth house was occupied as the MercyCare Office and housed the offices of the CEOs of Catherine McAuley Family Centre and St Anne's Mercy Hospital. The sixth house, known as Catherine House, formerly used as a 'dementia' specific aged care facility, had been demolished. Catherine House was previously situated between Ursula House and the former Laundry. Ursula House was also used in the 1990s as a residential facility for aged dementia patients. In 2000, these residents were re-housed in either one of the new wings of the Catherine McAuley nursing home, or in the newly built dementia care unit. Ursula House was refurbished and divided into five units. These units, along with the three remaining buildings, became the Frayne Units and are used to provide housing for retired Sisters.

2001-2010

On 19 March 2002, ownership of the Catherine McAuley Family Centre site was transferred from the Sisters of Mercy, Perth (Amalgamated) Inc. to a Public

103 Campbell, R. McK. & van Bremen, I. H. 'Stables and Chapel - Catherine McAuley Centre: Conservation report, May 1991/August 1993 & 'The Benedictine Building - Catherine McAuley Centre', July 1996; Photographs, HCWA file 2231; Subiaco Post, 22 November 1988, p. 7 & 7 February 1989, p. 3.

104 Information provided by Norm Powers.

Juridical Person (PJP) called MercyCare Ltd.¹⁰⁵ The transfer required approval from the Vatican and was undertaken by the Sisters in recognition that their numbers were diminishing and that, in time, they would no longer be able to undertake the leadership and management of a complex and growing organisation.

The biggest change on the site has been the construction of Mercy Independent Living Units, a Retirement Village on an area north of the former Administration Buildings. This site has 118 units, some in four- and five-storey buildings and others in single- and two-storey buildings, and also includes a two-storey Village Community Centre. The 1979 Administration Buildings were demolished to allow for the new development. Construction began in July 2004 and the first 25 units were occupied in July 2006. The final units were completed in late 2007 and Mercy Village Wembley was officially opened and blessed on 26 March 2008.

The Martin Kelly Centre (Old School) was empty while the Retirement Village works were undertaken. It was close to the building site and, to protect it from possible damage from compaction works, the Centre was underpinned with cement grout to stabilise the soil under the building, at a cost of \$60,000.

The area to the north and northeast of the Martin Kelly Centre was landscaped as a grassed and paved 'Heritage Plaza', overlooking the Retirement Village. Remedial works were undertaken to drain water away from the limestone footings of the Benedictine Stables.

There were a number of olive trees in the area and, according to an arboriculture report only two were viable for replanting. One has been relocated to a point at the centre of a 'Heritage Plaza' and the other to the grove to the east of the Martin Kelly Centre. The remaining olive-tree wood was harvested and was used to make artefacts for the Community Centre and gifts for the Sisters.

The group residential program for youth was closed in 2006. Four of the five 1977 group homes that remained were removed. The fifth, Ursula House, had already been remodelled as units for retired Sisters, as described above.

Overview of the site in 2010

The Sisters of Mercy no longer occupy the buildings on the east side of the entrance to the Catherine McAuley Site, and MercyCare now use these buildings for Administration purposes.

Carlow House is still utilised as homeless youth accommodation for medium term occupancy. The former Laundry now includes MercyCare support staff. It has undergone minor refurbishments since 2000.

St Rochs, previously known as Volunteer House, is no longer used for volunteers and is currently referred to by its original name, St Rochs, and is used to house the MercyCare staff.

The use of Davis House (St Gerard's Hospital) remains unchanged, although some internal improvements have been made, as well as the creation of an external 'sensory' garden.

¹⁰⁵ Information provided by MercyCare Ltd.

The three buildings comprising the St Vincent's Foundling Home are still utilised for Child Day Care, but some of the external playground areas have been changed or been improved as a result of the Retirement Village works. Child day care programmes have been expanded over the decade and some refurbishments were undertaken to allow this to occur.

The Benedictine Stables is used for storage. The Old School remains vacant.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

The *Catherine McAuley Centre* site is located in the suburb of Wembley between Ruislip and Barrett streets to the north and south, and Connolly and Gregory streets to the east and west. The place comprises a number of buildings which provide residential, administrative, medical and educational facilities amongst which is a precinct of structures and landscape elements which include the former Benedictine Stables (c.1858, 1890s, 1990s); Olive Trees (c.1858); Cemetery (1891-1913); Old School (1893, 1989); St Rochs (c.1900, 1914); former Laundry (c.1910, 1970s); former St Vincent's Foundling Home comprising, Foundling Home (1914, 1918, 1950s, 1994), Kindergarten (1925, 1971, 1994), Nursery (1928, 1970, 1994); and St Gerard's Hospital (1938, 1972).

The principal vehicular and public entrance to the site is from Barrett Street. A winding road passes the Cemetery in the southwest corner of the site and leads to the public car park situated near the centre of the site. The former Benedictine Stables and former Laundry are located to the west, while the Old School is to the east. The Foundling Home buildings, St Rochs and former St Gerard's Hospital, now Davidson House, occupy the southeast corner of the site.

Former Benedictine Stables (Olive Oil Shed) (c. 1858, 1890s, 1990s)

The former Benedictine Stables is a single-storey masonry structure with a corrugated galvanised iron roof and gable ends. The rectangular building has an east-west orientation and is located to the south of the laundry. The unsophisticated form and construction techniques of the building exhibit some simple characteristics of the Georgian period but the overall lack of refinement defies a style classification.

The former Benedictine Stables is perched on an embankment with a steeply inclined limestone retaining wall running alongside the south elevation. The ground level falls approximately 3.5 metres to the road and car park below. A rose bed approximately one metre wide has been planted adjacent to the east elevation. To the west is a native garden with the foliage partially obscuring the flying timber shoring, which appears to be stabilising the west end wall. A timber wall plate is evident externally in this wall face beneath regularly spaced, rectangular punctuations suggesting a structure formerly extended west from this wall. A concrete drainage channel, with metal grates adjacent to the door openings, runs around the north, south and west elevations.

Walls are constructed in limestone approximately 500mm thick and are rendered on the north and east elevations only, with a dado line differentiating render compositions at windowsill level. A masonry chimney abutting the eastern end of the building features brick coursing beneath the render at the upper level. Brick corbelling and a semi-circular galvanised cover over the opening have been incorporated into the chimney structure at the top. Windows and doors are of varying timber construction and display little consistency in size or placement. Exposed timber lintels are apparent over the three openings towards the eastern

end of the north elevation. Two window openings are also apparent in the south elevation. The roof, which is clad in corrugated, galvanised iron in short length sheets, features uneven ridge and gutter lines.

Internally, the building comprises three rooms, each entered from the north and each running the full width of the building but without interconnection. An opening formerly existed in the western wall of the central room but was not re-incorporated when this wall was rebuilt in 1995. Its existence and reasons for its omission are documented in the conservation report.¹⁰⁶ Floor level is marginally below the surrounding ground level along the north elevation with the concrete drainage channel preventing water entering the building. Timber floorboards vary in width and are butt jointed, running north-south in the central and west rooms, and east-west in the room at the eastern end of the building. Walls have been lime-washed and feature a quarter round skirting at the junction with the floor. The gable of the western wall in the central room is filled in with weatherboard cladding. Three circular holes have been formed in the west end gable wall allowing light and air to circulate into the interior. The function of the two timber dowels evident in the wall below has not been determined.

There are no ceilings throughout the interior although the eastern room exhibits some evidence of a former ceiling in the marks on the underside of the timber roof trusses. The exposed roof structure is predominantly of timber construction although remedial steel channels have been incorporated into the structure.

Photographs from the 1980s show the building in poor condition. It has subsequently undergone programmes of maintenance following ICOMOS guidelines. Funding provided by the National Estate Grants Programme and Lotteries Commission has assisted in stabilising the building. These works involved the improvement of drainage around the building; the restructuring of the roof, including the removal of timber shingles (although a portion has been retained and is currently stored in the building); reconstruction of an internal wall with new concrete blocks and footings; and, replacement of timber joinery, although a door opening at the western end of the south elevation and the central opening in the internal cross wall were removed and not replaced. The former Benedictine Stables is in stable condition and currently used for storage.

Olive Trees (c. 1858)

About two dozen mature olive trees are located on land between the Benedictine Stables and Foundling Home and concentrated in the area around the Old School. The orderly pattern of their planting is still apparent. Some trees were removed for the construction of the Retirement Village in 2006-07, two of which were relocated within the complex.

Catholic Cemetery (1891-1913)

The Cemetery is located in a garden landscape in the southwest corner of the site, just inside the Barrett Street entrance. There is no physical definition at the site of the square plot of land marked as the cemetery on past site plans of *Catherine McAuley Centre*. There are a number of elements within the garden landscape, including a rose garden; a memorial plot with a headstone and a plaque; a grotto around a statue (remnant of a more elaborate structure removed in the 1970s); and some park seating. A brick paved path cuts diagonally across

¹⁰⁶ Campbell, R. McK. & van Bremen, I. H. 'Stables and Chapel - Catherine McAuley Centre: Conservation report, May 1991/August 1993 & 'The Benedictine Building - Catherine McAuley Centre', July 1996;

the garden landscape passing close to the headstone and plaque, allowing a clear reading of the names commemorated.

The memorial plot is only a few metres wide but is the dominant indication of the cemetery function. It is defined by concrete kerbing and box hedging (*Buxus sempervirens*) and extends to the southern boundary fence. As well as roses, there are also assorted small flowering shrubs around the memorials within the plot. The memorial headstone is constructed in polished stone and consists of three connected tablets standing upright from a horizontal base. The central tablet is taller and narrower than the two side tablets and displays a characteristic Sisters of Mercy cross and an inscription commemorating the priests and sisters who served the church in Western Australia in the period 1846-1913 and who are buried at this site. The two side tablets are set at a slight angle and list the names of sisters of various orders. The base contains the engraved inscription, 'MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE'. A small brass plaque set on a concrete base at ground level, formerly located immediately to the west of the memorial headstone, is no longer evident. The embossed inscription on the plaque commemorated Loreto Sister Anne Keenan whose body rests in the Cemetery.

The memorial headstone exhibits an orange hue typical of staining produced by reticulation.

Old School (now known as the Martin Kelly Centre) (1893, 1989)

The single-storey Old School, located to the north of the car park, is constructed in rendered masonry and has a steeply pitched roof clad with sheet metal. The freestanding building has many attributes of the Victorian Rustic Gothic style including quoining, prominent gables and decorative bargeboards.¹⁰⁷ Located at one of the highest points of the site, the building has landmark value, emphasised by the steep roof and narrow gable ends and gives some focus for the precinct of buildings at the McAuley Centre in the wider suburban setting. Timber crosses at the gable apices and pointed arch window and door openings allude to an ecclesiastical function; however, the decorative barges and dormer window of the north elevation are more domestic in scale and character. A path of red brick laid in a herringbone pattern encircled the building and separated the expanse of lawn to the east and surrounding olive trees. In c. 2000- 2007, the path was replaced with concrete pavers.

The Old School has a T-shaped plan form with the long axis orientated approximately north-south. A porch extends from the south elevation with a gable end reflecting the pitch of the main roof above. A small gable is also located centrally within the north elevation, breaking up the expanse of roof. Walls are limestone with a thick painted render struck out in blocks. The south elevation of the building is painted but not rendered and is of dressed ashlar limestone with pointing. The limestone blocks to the corners of the buildings have been painted in a contrasting colour to the walls and appear as quoins. Floor vents are located within a protruding stone plinth at the base of the walls. Two curved, rendered recesses are located either side of the porch on the south elevation.

Lancet shaped timber windows with label moulds above and blue and clear glass panels are spaced regularly around the building. The windows have pivoting lower sashes beneath fixed fanlights. Similar pointed arched openings are evident

¹⁰⁷ 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., pp. 90-93.

above the two external doors – one located in the east wall of the porch and the other in the north elevation. Round louvred vents are located in the south elevation above the porch roof and on the north elevation in the small gable.

Internal spaces comprise the porch at the southern end of the building, opening onto the large central hall. At the northern end of the hall is a large lancet shaped archway infilled with painted timber panelling. Either side are timber doors in similar but smaller lancet archways which lead to the transverse 'T' wing running east-west behind. This wing comprises three spaces partially divided by masonry walls. The central space has a raised floor. A storeroom cubicle with plasterboard stud partitioning occupies the northeast corner of the building.

Exposed timber scissor trusses support the roof structure and raked ceiling lined with Oregon timber T&G boards. Small circular ventilation holes in the shape of a cross have been punched into the ceiling. Walls are plastered and painted with blocks struck out. There are no cornices but skirtings are evident throughout the interior; these are jarrah in the transverse wing but fibreboard in the main wing.

There is little evidence of major alterations to the form of the Old School. The roof once featured a series of small gable ventilators and short length corrugated iron sheets. The roof material and guttering have been replaced with galvanised iron sheeting and the dormer ventilators omitted. Protective acrylic panels have been placed over the coloured glass windows. The floors of the porch, main space and the storeroom cubicle have been replaced with concrete, which makes the metal vents visible at the base of the external walls superfluous as these would originally have provided sub-floor ventilation for the timber floor. The building is generally in good condition although there are some cracks around the windows and evidence of deteriorating render finishes externally and internally. Timber mullions and glazing are in a severely deteriorated condition.

St Rochs (c. 1900, 1914)

St Rochs is a single-storey brick building with a tiled, pyramidal roof over the plan form. The roof pitch decreases over the verandah area which wraps around the north and west elevations. A verandah enclosure has been created along the south elevation with a full height lattice screen wall forming the external wall at the verandah edge. Timber posts at the verandah edge are paired at the corners and entrance bay and feature similar detailing in the brackets and panel fretwork spanning between the posts to that found on the Foundling Home. In other respects, St Rochs is less elaborate than the Foundling Home and is loosely representative of the Federation Bungalow style.¹⁰⁸ A metal clad lock-up garage with a roller door is located close to the building at the end of the concrete paved driveway adjacent to the south elevation.

Walls are constructed in face brick in a non-typical bond pattern where every fourth course contains alternating headers and stretchers. Render bands are evident at windowsill level and also above the highlights of door openings. French windows are spaced regularly around the north and west elevations providing multiple access points onto the verandah. The principal entry to the building is located centrally in the west elevation with 'St Rochs' etched into the highlight over the front door. The timber front door has a boarded lower section and wide mullions dividing bevelled glass panels arranged in an elliptical shape above. It opens onto a central passage with a rounded arch opening mid-way along its

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 144-147.

length. Moulded plasterwork around the arch and joinery of the skirtings and architraves in the interior spaces is moderately elaborate and indicative of fabric of the Federation era. Back-to-back fireplaces and cupboards are covered to form internal dividing walls, although no chimneys are evident externally.

St Rochs, previously known as Volunteer House, is no longer used for volunteers and is currently referred to by its former name, St Rochs, and is used to house the MercyCare staff (2010).

The Former Laundry (now known as Baggot House) (c. 1910, 1970s)

The former Laundry is a single-storey brick structure separated from the former Benedictine Stables to the south by a bitumenised driveway. Alterations and extensions to the building partially disguise the original form of the place. Materials and construction detailing are typical of the Federation period but the expression is utilitarian and institutional and exhibits few characteristics that define a particular style.

The building has a U-shaped plan form with a timber-framed, hipped roof. The eaves are open and contemporary profile metal sheeting has been used to clad the roof. Two small gablets are visible in the east elevation and a terracotta chimney pot is located in the southwest corner of the roof. The extensions to the building consist of a long wing extending north-south on the western side and some smaller structures and entrance portico on the east. These areas have skillion roofs.

Walls have been constructed in stretcher bond face brickwork with a protruding plinth. Brickwork coursing of the plinth consists of alternating rows of stretchers and headers, (English bond brickwork). The timber-framed casement windows have been divided into small panes and feature inclined, bullnose brick sills. A rendered band extends above window head height to the underside of the eaves and is continuous around the principal elevations. A panel of brickwork housing an old 'Metters' furnace protrudes from the north elevation. Additions to the building are identifiable from the original structure exhibiting less interest in construction detailing. The new stretcher bond brickwork has a more uniform quality than the earlier fabric and aluminium framed window and doors openings have been installed.

Alterations to the internal planning have been made to accommodate the current function but elements of the original structure are still evident. Some of the round-headed archways have been filled in and new concrete floors and suspended ceilings have been installed. Some joinery and hardware is typical of the era of original construction as is the brickwork of the external walls which features an internal face laid in colonial bond and a projecting header course forming the windowsills. An office reception area has been created in what may have been a former verandah on the east side of the building. New brickwork spans between two rounded brick piers, providing evidence of a former portico.

The west wing accommodates an equipment and machinery store and is accessed through a vehicle entry beyond the north elevation. Smaller office spaces located in the southwest corner of the building are also accessed externally with concrete ramps and stairs rising above ground level as the site falls away to the west.

The building currently accommodates office and workshop functions and has been maintained in good condition.

Former St Vincent's Foundling Home (Catherine McAuley Day-Care Centre)

Located to the east of the Old School (1893, 1989) is a group of buildings forming the MercyCare Child Care Centre. Among these buildings are the Foundling Home, Kindergarten and Nursery. The Foundling Home is the westernmost building in the group. The Kindergarten is located immediately to the east and is connected to the former building by a covered link. The Nursery is located to the south of the Kindergarten. The areas between the buildings are landscaped with concrete and brick paving and areas of lawn defined along the edges with low planting. Outdoor play areas feature some tensile shade structures and are enclosed with metal fencing. The group of buildings is at a lower level than the Old School, which is located at the highest point of the site of *Catherine McAuley Centre*.

Foundling Home (1914, 1918, 1950s, 1994)

The Foundling Home is a predominantly single-storey red brick building with a clay tiled roof. The complex roof over the U-shaped plan form comprises a mix of hipped and gabled forms and feature gablets. Terracotta finials, including a central cross, have been placed at some of the apices and face brick chimneys that widen at the top, punctuate the roof forms. The roof pitch is lower over the verandah around the outer edge of the building. The Foundling Home is representative of the Federation Queen Anne style displaying some complexity in the decorative elements of the roof and timberwork.¹⁰⁹

A verandah wraps around the south (front) elevation of the building but has been enclosed at the southeast corner and along the east elevation. The concrete verandah floor is approximately at ground level adjacent to the car park along the western edge but the fall in the site reveals a base of coursed, squared rubble limestone beneath floor level on the east side of the building. The principal entrance to the place is located centrally in the south elevation and is defined by gables in the verandah roof and main roof form above. Both these gables exhibit a half-timber effect in the infill. In addition, a plaque reading 'St Vincent's Foundling Home' is evident beneath the main gable. The verandah timberwork is moderately elaborate with curved brackets and carved panels fixed to the square timber posts supporting the roof. The close spacing of the exposed rafter ends, apparent beneath the ogee profile gutter, establishes a frieze which with the contrasting colours of the paintwork accentuates the decorative effect. A metal balustrade spanning between the posts has been introduced. The square panels of the valance, between the grouped posts at the corners, appear to have a carved timber 'S' imposed over a hollow 'M'. This refers to SIHS (Greek meaning Jesus Christ Son of God & Saviour) and HIS (Latin meaning Jesus saviour of men). Walls of the building have been constructed in red, colonial bond face brickwork with a contrasting cream mortar. Bands of cream render are evident at windowsill and head height and also in the outer gablets in the roof above. Vertical strips in the brickwork of these gablet infills allow ventilation to the roof space. The infill of the west gable is supported on a frieze of brick corbels. Other brickwork bonds are apparent around the building providing evidence of different periods of construction. A Foundation Plaque laid on 10 September 1914 identifying the architect and contractor is located on the south face of the extruding west gable of the building.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid., pp. 132-135.

Windows and doors are principally of timber construction. Many of the openings exhibit an unusual form of 'Lifting Window' with sliding glazed upper sashes and a three panelled timber sash below.¹¹⁰ Large windows prominent in the south and west elevations are composed of narrow panes in timber frames between masonry mullions and exhibit rendered quoining. Sliding aluminium windows are located in area where the verandah has been enclosed.

Internally, the entry hall of the Foundling Home divides the front office spaces and leads to a central corridor that doglegs at the western end and leads to the rear verandah across the north elevation and outdoor play area beyond. The principal day care spaces are essentially large rooms with high ceilings which have been fitted out with facilities such as cupboards, pin-up boards and sinks. Features such as the timber skirtings, plaster mouldings around archways and cast-iron wall vents are typical of the Federation period. The timber floor has been covered with carpet or vinyl and internal walls have been painted and plastered. The north verandah partially encloses the courtyard play area and provides access to the east and west wings. A door in the lattice screen at the east end of the verandah leads to the ramp and link to the neighbouring Kindergarten building. A sanitary block is situated in the east wing. At the northern end the fall in ground level has allowed further accommodation to be provided underneath.

The Foundling Home has evolved through several different periods of construction although not all of the additions are still extant. Comparison with an early photograph of the building shows that ridge capping tiles were a further decorative feature of the building although these are no longer evident.¹¹¹ The building is mostly in good condition having been refurbished in 1994. Reticulation staining is particularly apparent on the east elevation, which also features deteriorating brickwork and mortar.

Kindergarten (1925, 1971, 1994)

The Kindergarten is a single-storey, rectangular brick building with a clay-tiled roof. The building has a north-south orientation and is linked to the Foundling Home by a covered walkway at the northern end of the building. The Kindergarten is sympathetic in style and scale to the Foundling Home but exhibits less exuberance and decorative detailing and is mildly representative of the Federation Bungalow style that extended into the Interwar period.¹¹²

The hipped roof has gablets to the north and south. Timber louvred ventilators are evident in the gable infills and a terracotta cross is located at the apex of the southern gable. Decorative ridge capping tiles are another skyline feature but the cross at the north gable is missing. A brick chimney rises above the northeast corner of the building. A wide verandah once encircled the inner core of the building but has been infilled around the north and east elevations. A subtle decrease in roof pitch is visible over the verandah area. Metal railings and gates, similar to those on the Foundling home span the square timber posts at the outer edge of the verandah. Comparison with an early photograph shows that the

110 A construction detail of a similar window is located on the working drawing for the 'New Dormitory and Infirmary Block - Foundling Home', 6 January 1927, produced by Cavanagh and Cavanagh Architects.

111 Photograph of St Vincent's Foundling Home, *The Record*, 19 December 1914, p.11.

112 Apperly, et al, op cit, pp. 144-147.

balustrade was once timber and there were curved timber brackets, similar to those on the Foundling Home, beneath the verandah eaves.¹¹³

The site falls away to the north and east so that the coursed, squared rubble limestone plinth at the base of building is most visible along the east elevation. Concrete ramps are located centrally in the north, east and south elevations providing access to verandah level.

Only the brick walls of the southwest corner of the building, and rear toilet block, are still apparent. Elsewhere, external walls of the verandah infill are constructed in fibre cement and glazed panels. The stretcher bond brickwork has been painted red and features contrasting render bands painted cream at windowsill and head height levels. Brick pilasters in the external walls have rounded corners. Window and door openings are located between the pilasters. The timber framed French doors opening onto the verandah have a solid lower panel and fixed highlight. The casement windows are similar but do not extend to floor level.

Internally, the main space forming the core of the building was divided by a central stud wall spanning the width of the building in the upgrade to the Day Care Facility in 1993-94. A central door provides access between the two spaces. Single leaf brick partitions located along the north elevation accommodate the toilet facilities. Fittings have been updated but the structure appears in the same position as shown on the original drawings of 1925. Additional accommodation for sleeping rooms, offices, laundry and storage facilities are located in the partitioned infill spaces of the verandah.

There are few notable internal features. Timber floors have been covered with carpet or vinyl and walls have been plastered and painted. Decorative mouldings are apparent at skirting and dado level. Pin-up boards, picture rails and new acoustic ceilings were fitted in the 1994 upgrade to the building.

The building is in good condition but bears evidence of staining from reticulation, particularly on the north and east elevations.

Nursery (1928, 1970, 1994)

The Nursery is a single-storey brick building with a clay-tiled roof. Like the Kindergarten, the Nursery is sympathetic in style and scale to the Foundling Home but exhibits less exuberance and decorative detailing and is mildly representative of the Federation Bungalow style that extended into the Inter-War period.¹¹⁴ The former St Gerard's Hospital (now known as Davis House), a single storey brick building is adjacent to the Nursery. A concrete driveway and an unenclosed, flat roof carport between the two buildings are contiguous to the southeast corner of the Nursery.

The Nursery has an L-shaped plan form with a west wing having been added to the original rectangle form in 1970. The roof is hipped and has a subtle decrease in roof pitch towards the outer edges. The ridge of the roof over the west wing is lower than the main roof. Gablets in the north, south and west elevations have timber louvre infills and scrolled finials. A variety of metal stacks punctuate the roof planes. Two brick chimneys with rendered mouldings at the top are visible from the east side of the building. Only the northernmost chimney features a terracotta chimney pot. Two large condensing units are also apparent above the

113 Photograph of 'The New Kindergarten', *The Record*, 25 April, 1914, p.14.

114 Apperly, et al, op cit, pp. 144-147.

roof from this side. Exposed rafter ends evident beneath the ogee profile gutter have a minor decorative effect, although a bargeboard obscures the ends along the west elevation. Original drawings show further decorative treatment in timber valances under the verandah roof.¹¹⁵ It has not been possible to establish through documentary or physical evidence whether these ever existed.

A partially enclosed verandah encircles the brick core of the building. The east elevation is entirely enclosed. The louvred wall, considered an ultra-modern feature of the building when constructed, and valued for its ventilation and mosquito proofing qualities, is still in existence. Elsewhere fibre cement and aluminium framed glazing form the outer walls. Metal railings and gates, similar to those on the Foundling Home and Kindergarten form a balustrade between the square timber posts along the outer edge of the verandah. Ramps are located on the north, east and south elevations with the fall in ground level exposing the coursed, squared rubble limestone plinth beneath the outer edge of the building, along the east elevation.

The stretcher bond brickwork has been painted red and features a contrasting render band painted cream. Brick pilasters spaced regularly around the brick walls of the core accommodation have rounded corners. Openings between the pilasters once incorporated an unusual triple sash 'lifting window'.¹¹⁶ Some of these have been replaced with more standard fixtures as recently as the upgrade to the facility in 1993-94. Aluminium framed sliding and fixed windows are evident in areas where the verandah has been infilled such as the 'Solarium' at the northeast corner of the building.

The west wing which was added to the building in 1970 is constructed in face stretcher bond brickwork. Construction detailing clearly identifies this wing from the original fabric with proportions of openings and construction materials having little sympathy with the original.

The internal planning of the Nursery bears little relation to the original building which initially comprised a large dormitory at the north end and smaller infirmary at the south end, divided by a service and storage area towards the middle. Enclosed ventilated and mosquito-proofed accommodation was provided along the east and west verandahs. Work to the building in 1970 retained a sense of the original planning with alterations concentrated in the wing extending to the west. New stud wall partitioning introduced in 1993-94 has effectively divided up the central spaces and incorporated new fittings and finishings throughout. Carpet and vinyl floor coverings have been laid on the timber floors of the early portion of the building. Floors in the west wing and along the west verandah are concrete with internal finishes of carpet and ceramic tile. Walls have been plastered and painted and feature many pin-up boards. New acoustic tile ceilings were installed in 1993-94 and two blocked up fireplaces remain in the central main play areas.

The building is in good condition but bears some evidence of staining from reticulation on the east elevation.

St Gerard's Hospital (now known as Davis House) (1938, 1972)

St Gerard's Hospital is a single-storey brick building with a hipped tiled roof. The building is sympathetic in scale and fabric to the Nursery to the west and St

115 Floor plan, 'New dormitory and infirmary block - Foundling Home', 6 January 1927.

116 Ibid.

Rochs to the south, but is outwardly austere in character and displays few features characteristic of a style definition. A flat topped rectangular tower with two levels and a galvanised flue at the top, located at the southwest corner of the building, is a strong element in the overall expression. An electric hot water system is currently housed at ground level in the tower but the original function of the tower is not readily apparent. The tower is entered externally through a door in the east elevation and access to the upper level is by ladder only. There are timber-framed windows at each of the two levels in the south elevation.

A flat roof carport supported on slender circular metal posts extends from the southwest corner of the building almost to the neighbouring Nursery and provides shelter for one car bay and to the main entry. Other flat roof areas extend beyond the perimeter of the building around the north and east elevations. These roofs abut the walls beneath the closed eaves of the main roof form. The red brick walls of the building are laid in stretcher bond and feature sloping sills to the window openings which have been fitted with aluminium framed windows and security screens. The 1938 foundation stone is located in the wall by the entry door in the west elevation. Concrete ramps and metal railings are located at the main entry and centrally in the north elevation giving access to the back garden separated from the outdoor play area of the Nursery by wire fencing.

Internal planning of St Gerard's hospital, now called Davis House, has been adapted to provide day-care accommodation for aged dementia patients. Room functions include kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms and lounge areas. A small internal space was formerly a chapel but no longer displays any characteristics of its religious function. Internal features of note include the concave skirting in the corridors and terrazzo floors in the bathroom.

Like other buildings in the complex, St Gerard's exhibits external staining from reticulation. Mortar in the tower brickwork is deteriorating but the building is otherwise in good condition.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The former Benedictine Stables is the only building remaining from the early Benedictine occupation of the site. It is a relatively rare and good example, in the metropolitan area, of a rural structure dating from the 1850s. Another example is the brick stable at P02494 *Spring Park*, Henley Brook dating from mid 1850s (RHP). Inner Perth also boasts some remaining stables such as P08723 *Stables (fmr)*, 17 *Lindsay Street* constructed in 1913 and P03299 *Aston Clinic Stables*, West Perth constructed in the 1900s (both RHP). Most stables that remain are associated with commercial premises such as: P02481 *Rose and Crown Hotel*, Guilford; P02465 *Johnson's Complex*, Johnson Street, Guildford (RHP); P09484 *Perry's Paddock, Cottage & Stables*, Ocean Reef Road, Woodvale (RHP); and P02498 *Houghton Homestead*, Middle Swan (RHP).

The Old School is a late example of Victorian Rustic Gothic style, also known as *cottage orné* when applied to a residence. In July 2010, the State Heritage Office database identified 24 examples of the style, 11 of which relate to religious places. Examples of this style on the Register include: P00894 *Fremantle Grammar School (fmr)* (1885), P01142 *Dominican Convent (fmr)*, Greenough (1898); P01234 *Dongara Uniting Church* (1884), P02284 *St Werburgh's Chapel and Cemetery*, Mt Barker (1874), and P03213 *Holy Trinity Church, Hall & Rectory*, York (1856 & 1875).

As a former non-government school, the Old School is one of a number constructed in the 1890s when the population of the State was undergoing rapid growth, although it was specifically constructed as a school for the boys at St Vincent's Orphanage, and not for use by the general community.

The Foundling Home building of St Vincent's Foundling Home was constructed in Federation Queen Anne style. Federation Queen Anne was a popular architectural style in the 1890s and early 1900s, for domestic buildings constructed on large suburban lots, and buildings having a residential function, such as hotels and institutions. Examples of single and double-storey residences in the style on the State Register can be found in the middle-class suburbs that developed during this period such as Mt Lawley, and in homesteads such as P03417 *Telyarup*, Gnowangerup, and P03542 *Lynwood Homestead*, Middle Swan. Hotels such P09201 *Success Hill Lodge* (formerly Lockridge Hotel) were also constructed in Federation Queen Anne style and were usually two-storey buildings. Another example of an institutional building in the style is P04579 *Castledare Boys Home (fmr)*, Wilson. The Kindergarten and Nursery of St Vincent's Foundling Home were constructed in Federation Bungalow style, although both were constructed in the 1920s. This was probably a deliberate attempt to provide some cohesiveness to the group, an effort which was relatively successful.

In terms of function, St Vincent's Foundling Home appears to have been the only institution of its type in Perth catering for infants and children under the age of five. Although P08546 *Parkerville Children's Home & Cemetery* (1903, RHP) was originally established for this purpose, it had become largely an orphanage for children over five by 1910. Other government and non-government orphanages and industrial schools also catered only for school-age children.

Institutions dealing with younger children were P00598 *Wanslea*, Cottesloe (1905, RHP), which cared for children of the members of the Industrial Order of Odd Fellows; P00596 *Lady Lawley Cottage*, Cottesloe (1903, RHP), a convalescent home for children from the goldfields; P11885 Kellerberrin Preventorium (1929), established by Stuart and Eileen Patterson; and, P15731 *Walcott Centre*, Mt Lawley (Government Receiving Depot) (1921, RHP). These institutions tended to provide only a short-term residential function while younger children in need of permanent residential care were actually accommodated at St Vincent's Foundling Home or with foster mothers.

St Joseph's Orphanage and St Vincent's Foundling Home together made up the largest Catholic care institution in the State. The boys from St Vincent's were sent to P02401 *Clontarf* (1901, RHP) when they turned six, and from Clontarf many of them went on to P01672 *Christian Brothers' Agricultural School Group*, Tardun (Tardun Farm School) (1936, RHP) and P03101 *Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon* (Bindoon Boys' Town) (1937, RHP). Castledare (see above) was another Catholic institution for boys serving much the same function as Clontarf. The boys' institutions were individually not as large in terms of number of residents largely because there were more of them.

In the 1940s, at the peak of the operation of children's residential institutions, there were over twenty such places in Western Australia for children of European descent and a further 26 catering for Aboriginals, both adults and children.

For additional comparative information, refer to 'Catherine McAuley Centre, Wembley: conservation plan', prepared by Palassis Architects for MercyCare in July 2009.

13.4 REFERENCES

Campbell, R. McK. & van Bremen, I.H. 'Stables and Chapel - Catherine McAuley Centre: Conservation Report, May 1991/August 1993 and 'The Benedictine Building – Catherine McAuley Centre, Conservation Report, July 1996.

Palassis Architects, 'Catherine McAuley Centre, Wembley: conservation plan', prepared for MercyCare, July 2009.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Archaeological investigations may uncover foundations, remnants of earlier structures, or other cultural material, and could aid in clarifying any additional functions of the stables.