



## 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 Urban Institutions
- 6.2 Establishing Schools

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education & science
- 404 Community services & utilities
- 408 Institutions

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*West Leederville Primary School* is a fine example of a Federation Arts and Crafts style school building, with a very fine school hall and well-crafted construction, in a pleasant and leafy landscaped setting. (Criterion 1.1)

*West Leederville Primary School* is set on high ground in the heart of West Leederville and its setting, height and bulk, and complex roofscape give it a landmark quality. (Criterion 1.3)

*West Leederville Primary School* is set in a suburban context that reflects its Federation period origins, with many groups and individual houses and commercial buildings dating from the Federation period and makes a positive visual contribution to this context. (Criterion 1.4)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*West Leederville Primary School* illustrates the use and flexibility of standard Public Works Department designs for schools as practised in

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Western Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, along with the subsequent adaptations to those designs through the twentieth century as educational practices evolved. (Criterion 2.1)

The development of *West Leederville Primary School* in stages to cater to a rapidly increasing school population reflects that of the State, and in particular the suburb of Leederville, through rapid growth in the gold boom period and early twentieth century, and, in the post World War Two period, the influx of migrants from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds. (Criterion 2.2)

The architecture of the main building of *West Leederville Primary School* derives from the standard design of a Class D School, introduced in 1896 under George Temple Poole as Assistant-Engineer-in-Chief and Architect-in-Charge, and implemented under Hillson Beasley and John H. Grainger. (Criterion 2.3)

Wilson Tuckey, Member of the House of Representatives and Robert 'Bob' Hawke, former Prime Minister of Australia are prominent past students of the school, and the latter was Patron of the school for a period. (Criterion 2.3)

The pavilion classroom (1915) was one of the first 16 buildings of its type in the metropolitan area, and is distinguished by its retention on its original site. (Criterion 2.4)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*West Leederville Primary School* is valued by the community for its social and educational associations as the local school for more than 100 years, and for its use by the wider public, in particular various community groups. (Criterion 4.1)

Located on the highest site in Leederville, at the corner of Northwood and Woolwich Streets, *West Leederville Primary School* is a well-known local landmark that contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

The pavilion classroom (1915) at *West Leederville Primary School*, albeit altered from its original form, has rarity value as one of the first pavilion classrooms erected in the metropolitan area. The timber shelter sheds are probably among a relatively small number of the survivors which were built pre 1908. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*West Leederville Primary School* is a fine representative example of a Federation Arts and Crafts style school and provides evidence of the growth and change in the suburb, reflecting the changing demographic of the district, changes in teaching practice, the philosophy of education, and the changes in demographic in primary education. (Criterion 6.1 and 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

*West Leederville Primary School* is well supported by the community who assist with its maintenance and improvement, and the basic state of repair is fair to good. The condition of archaeological sites such as the rifle range is unknown, as areas of the site such as this have undergone redevelopment.

In the course of time, maintenance regimes have obscured original fabric such as internal floorboards and re-roofing has entailed the removal of roof vents over classrooms, though most of the internal evidence of the system remains. The schoolyards that were originally graveled are now grassed or covered with bitumen. There have been numerous phases of tree planting and many of these trees have perished.

Some of the changes that have taken place under the maintenance regime detracted from the overall appearance. For example painting of stucco, carpeting over floors, hardware replacement, installation of gas fireplaces in hearths.

Overall the place is in fair to good condition.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The original intent of *West Leederville Primary School* remains intact. In the main its original intent has been sustained and the range of activities extended to cater for changing needs in education. Room functions within the school have changed, but the intent remains clear. Overall the place retains a high degree of authenticity.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The underlying fabric of *West Leederville Primary School* is authentic. There has been some removal of fabric such as classroom platform floors, replacement of chalkboards, blocking in of fireplaces, modifications to some walls and several ceilings, and floors have been covered with carpet. The underlying fabric of most of the buildings retain a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*West Leederville Primary School* is a brick and iron primary school in the Federation Arts and Crafts style, together with a collection of buildings comprising shelter sheds, pavilion classroom, pre-primary, toilet block, covered area, transportable classroom, kindergarten, covered sand pit, and gardener's store, in an open bitumen paved and grassed setting.

Following the foundation of Perth on 12 August 1829, the townsite of Perth was laid out between Mount Eliza and Heirisson Island, facing the Swan River on the south, and with a chain of swamps and lagoons to the north. From the 1840s, the area of land to the north of the original townsite began to be taken up for farmlets and market gardens when drainage of the wetlands made the fertile swamp land available for agriculture. By the 1870s, the city centre of Perth was consolidated on the grid laid out of Roe's survey, and there were about 800 houses accommodating about 4,600 people.<sup>1</sup> In the 1880s, there was further expansion along the route of the Eastern Railway between Fremantle, Perth and Guildford, which opened in 1881.

After the granting of Responsible Government in Western Australia in 1890, Premier John Forrest's commitment to a loans programme to fund the provision of public utilities had provided the foundation for the expansion of public works. With a rapidly increasing workload, from 1892, George Temple Poole, Assistant-Engineer-in Chief and Architect-in-Charge, introduced standard plans for various public buildings, including schools. His Standard School Plan 'allowed for considerable flexibility in additions', and specified the use of local materials for construction of the individual school.<sup>2</sup>

The Western Australian gold boom resulted in a great increase in population, and there was considerable expansion of residential and commercial building in the areas to the north, east, and west of the city. It was during this period of rapid growth that the suburbs of Subiaco and Leederville developed, the latter taking its name from William Leeder, one of the first European settlers in the area. New schools were opened to meet the need for providing educational facilities for the increasing population, and additions made to established schools. In 1896, a temporary school

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<sup>1</sup> Campbell, Robin McK. in Pitt Morrison, Margaret, and White, John (Eds.) *Western Towns and Buildings* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1979) Morrison, Margaret and White, John (Eds.) *Western Towns and Buildings* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1979) p. 104.

<sup>2</sup> Oldham, Ray and John *George Temple-Poole Architect of the Golden Years 1885-1897* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1980) p. 59, p. 127 and p. 156.

was established in Subiaco, with an initial enrollment of 50 children.<sup>3</sup> In the same year, the first school opened at Leederville.<sup>4</sup>

In May 1897, the newly built Subiaco School, in Bagot Road, was officially opened, with nearly 400 pupils.<sup>5</sup> In the same month, additions were completed at Leederville School, providing two additional classrooms for 100 children, along with hat and cloak lobbies, teachers' room and two verandahs.<sup>6</sup>

In August 1897, a number of residents from north of the railway line, representing about 90 children, submitted a petition requesting establishment of a school at West Leederville.<sup>7</sup> On 28 August, O. P. Staples, Secretary for Education, advised the Minister for Education that as both Leederville and Subiaco schools were full, it was advisable to build a new school on a site which had been acquired recently, located "midway between Subiaco and Leederville", to prevent overcrowding in the existing schools and to avoid the necessity for many children to cross the railway at the level crossing at Subiaco.<sup>8</sup> Previously, the offer to purchase Lots 210-213 had been declined, as this site was considered too small, as it was only one and a half acres in area. The land acquired was on the opposite side of the road, and comprised Lots 41, 42 and 43, having a total area of one acre three roods 39 and eight tenths perches.<sup>9</sup> In December, the Department accepted the offer to purchase the adjoining Lot 40, which would increase the total area to around 2 acres. The transfer of Lot 40 was completed in March 1898, and subsequently the whole school site was designated Reserve 5075, which was the highest site in Leederville.<sup>10</sup>

The plans for the new school at West Leederville, signed by 'Hillson Beasley, In charge of Room', on 27 October and 10 December 1897, and John H. Grainger, Chief Architect, show Standard Drawing Class D. The proposed school comprised a central corridor, opening to a large classroom, with an infants' gallery, connected by a revolving shutter, if required, to another classroom, with movable grading, which together provided accommodation for up to 125 girls and infants. The boys' entry porch opened to the second corridor and thence to their classroom, with movable grading, to accommodate 50. There was a corner fireplace in the

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<sup>3</sup> Spillman, Ken *Identity Prized: A History of Subiaco* (University of Western Australia Press, for the City of Subiaco, Nedlands, 1985) pp. 76-85.

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Department of Public Works for the Year 1897-98 in *Votes and Proceedings* Vol. 2, 1898, p. 97.

<sup>5</sup> Spillman, Ken op. cit.

<sup>6</sup> Report of the Department of Public Works for the Year 1897-98 in *Votes and Proceedings* Vol. 2, 1898, p. 97.

<sup>7</sup> Petition requesting school at West Leederville in West Leederville School Buildings and Works, Acc. 1653 Item 2688/07, 25 August 1897; and Report of the Education Department for the Year 1897 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1898, p. 28.

<sup>8</sup> O. P. Staples, Secretary for Education to Minister of Education, 28 August 1898, quoted in Gill, Barbara *West Leederville Primary School 1898-1998 Remembering The Days*, Parents and Citizens Association 1988, p. 8.

<sup>9</sup> Correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works op. cit., May 1897-March 1898; and Gill, Barbara *West Leederville Primary School 1898-1998 ...* p. 8.

<sup>10</sup> Correspondence in *ibid*, December 1897-May 1898.

two classrooms. The respective hat rooms and lavatories opened from the main corridor. The adjacent teacher's room, with a verandah to the rear, opened from a separate entry porch. The directions of the elevations were revised from the Standard Plan to suit the site.<sup>11</sup>

In March 1898, a site plan shows the proposed school building, playground etc., with a new post and wire fence.<sup>12</sup> The plans for the school were duly approved. However, the teachers' room, including the porch and verandah, was omitted to reduce costs.<sup>13</sup> Tenders were called, and the contract was awarded to Carter & O'Daille at a cost of £1,352 18s 6d, with completion due on 14 October 1898.<sup>14</sup> However, subsequently Lake & Gurr were contracted to build the place at a cost of £1292 13s 11d, with completion set for 7 November 1898.<sup>15</sup> The new school had concrete foundations, and was of brick construction with an iron roof. There was a water supply of 1,600 gallons from two tanks.<sup>16</sup>

On Tuesday, 1 November 1898, the Minister for Education and Colonial Secretary, George Randell, MLC officially opened West Leederville School. The opening was attended by the Mayor of Leederville, John Veryard, the Rev. W. H. Peters, Chairman of the West Perth District Board of Education, who had been responsible for organisation of the function, 'with a committee of ladies as the Department advised that it could bear no expense.'<sup>17</sup>

It was reported that the position of the new school was "eminently well calculated to meet the demands of such a populous centre."<sup>18</sup> The buildings were described as follows:

The main schoolroom is divided in the centre by shutters which when down enable one half to be used for the infants. In addition it is provided with classrooms, a lavatory and other conveniences, while both lighting and ventilation appear to be all that can be desired. The furnishing of the building is excellent and includes provision for carrying on kindergarten work amongst the infants. The building though complete in itself is designed for future expansion and as occasion justified it additional provision for 50 children at a time can be made.<sup>19</sup>

The first head teacher was James Sadler, 'a gentleman of considerable experience in teaching', who had previously taught at Albany.<sup>20</sup> It was intended that a female teacher be appointed at once to assist in teaching at the school.<sup>21</sup>

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11 West Leederville School Standard Drawing Class D, PWDWA 6135/5; and Report of the Department of Public Works for the Year 1897-98 op. cit., p. 101.

12 Site Plan West Leederville School, PWDWA 6135/5, 17 March 1898.

13 Memo. to PWD in West Leederville School Buildings and Works op. cit., 14 February 1898.

14 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 9.

15 Return of Contracts in Report of the Department of Public Works for the Year 1897-98 op. cit., p. 189.

16 Report of the Department of Public Works for the Year 1897-98 op. cit., p. 101.

17 *West Australian* 2 November 1898.

18 *ibid.*

19 *ibid.*

20 *ibid.*

21 *ibid.*

In November 1898, the majority of the 91 children enrolled at the school had been born outside Western Australia, most in Eastern Australia, reflecting the State's influx of population during the gold boom period and the recent origins of much of the local population.<sup>22</sup>

In December 1899, application was made to acquire the adjoining lot, Lot 44 of Perth Location AE, one half acre in area, at a cost of £150, for the future erection of an Infants' School.<sup>23</sup>

Termites proved a persistent problem at the school over a number of years from 1899, when door frames to one classroom and the uprights in the boys' cloakroom had to be replaced. In the pre World War One period, a deal floor was destroyed and required replacement (1907), and another floor was also damaged (1908), as well as an extensive area of floor bearers evidencing attack. Pesticide was applied, but was not altogether effective and the problem continued.<sup>24</sup>

The number of pupils enrolled at West Leederville increased rapidly. By spring 1901, the school had become overcrowded, with children being refused admission<sup>25</sup>, setting the pattern for the next 40 years. In November 1901, plans were drawn for the first additions to the school, comprising a new classroom to accommodate 50 children.<sup>26</sup> Tenders were called in late 1901, and the contract was awarded to G. Fraser in December, at a cost of £320 10s 3d.<sup>27</sup> In mid January 1902, it was requested that the teachers' room and verandah be added to the school, as per the 1897 plan, along with an additional hat room, whilst the contract was in progress.<sup>28</sup> Hillson Beasley approved this, and the work was duly implemented, as shown per the July 1902 plan of the school.<sup>29</sup>

In 1902, the number of students enrolled at the school continued to increase. By late April, when Head Teacher Frank O'Leary drew attention to the need for additional accommodation, there were 300 children were on the roll, with an average daily attendance of 260, whilst the existing classrooms were intended to accommodate a total of 225 children.<sup>30</sup>

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22 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 8 and p. 11.

23 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 12.

24 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 16; and Buildings Reports in West Leederville School Buildings and Works SROWA Acc. 1653 Item 1552/08.

25 Memo. in West Leederville School Buildings and Works *ibid*, 2 September 1901.

26 Memo. in *ibid*, 15 November 1901.

27 West Leederville School Additions No. 1, PWDWA 8536, 1901; and *Government Gazette* 6 December 1901, p. 4908.

28 Memos. in West Leederville School Buildings and Works op. cit., December 1901-January 1902.

29 West Leederville School Additions No. 2, PWDWA 8889, signed Hillson Beasley, 1 July 1902. Note: Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 15, stated the Head Teacher's room, the hat room (later the office), the courtyard, and the external shelter on the south-east corner were added to the school in 1910.

30 Frank O'Leary, Head Teacher, to Inspector General of Education, in West Leederville School Buildings and Works op. cit., 28 April 1902.

In May 1902, W. Fairweather was awarded the contract to build quarters for the Head Teacher at West Leederville School at a cost of £520 0s. 4d.<sup>31</sup> The quarters, built as per Standard Plan Drawing Class C, were constructed in brick with an iron roof.<sup>32</sup>

In May 1902, a sketch plan for proposed additions was prepared.<sup>33</sup> The plan for Additions No. 2, signed on 1 July 1902, shows proposed additions comprising two new classrooms, each with a corner fireplace and movable grading, extension of the corridor to a new boys' entrance, a third corridor, and new boys' hat room and lavatory. There are four water tanks shown on this plan.<sup>34</sup> Tenders were called and the contract was awarded to W. C. Rose at a cost of £667 7s 10d in mid December, who completed the work on 17 February 1903.<sup>35</sup>

In August 1903, further additions were requested as enrollment numbers continued to increase, and there was need of a school hall. The application was refused, as it was considered the proposed Thomas Street School would relieve the situation.<sup>36</sup>

In May 1904, tenders were called for Out Offices and repairs to the school at West Leederville. Thomas Jewell was awarded the contract at a cost of £133 in late June 1904, with completion in July.<sup>37</sup> In the same year, the quarters were up-graded to provide accommodation for a servant, at the request of the Head Teacher. Further additions to the quarters were approved in August 1905, comprising a room, 16 ft. x 12ft., with a fireplace, at an estimated cost of £105, and an additional £15 for a lobby.<sup>38</sup>

The opening of the Thomas Street School, in September 1904, did not relieve pressure on enrollment numbers at West Leederville as expected.<sup>39</sup> In early October, sketch plans were prepared for an additional classroom, and approval was granted that month. In January 1905, W. T. Deeble was awarded the contract at a cost of £295 6s 10d, with completion due on 11 April.<sup>40</sup> The work was completed ahead of schedule on 11 March.<sup>41</sup> The

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31 *Government Gazette* 11 April 1902 (call for tenders) and 23 May 1902 (acceptance).

32 Teacher's Quarters West Leederville School PWDWA 9010, 1904.

33 Sketch plan proposed additions in West Leederville School Buildings and Works op. cit., 25 May 1902.

34 West Leederville School Additions No. 2, PWDWA 8889, signed Hillson Beasley, 1 July 1902.

35 *Government Gazette* 19 December 1901; and memos in West Leederville School Buildings and Works op. cit., December 1902-February 1903.

36 Correspondence and memos in West Leederville School Buildings and Works *ibid*, August-December 1903.

37 Contract in *ibid*, 22 June 1904; and *Government Gazette* 27 May and 24 June 1904.

38 Memos. in West Leederville School Buildings and Works *ibid*, July-August 1905; and Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 12.

39 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 14.

40 *Government Gazette* 13 January 1905, p. 90.

41 Memo. from Inspecting Officer in West Leederville School Buildings and Works op. cit., 13 March 1905.



number of students continued to grow, and 384 students were enrolled at the school in 1905.<sup>42</sup>

From 1906 to 1948, under teacher Ethel Crossley, singing was 'one of the school's strongest points', the choir was recognised 'the best in the metropolitan area', as she set a standard 'throughout the State.'<sup>43</sup> The West Leederville School Choir performed the hymns for the radio broadcast for the memorial service for the late King George V in 1936. The school's choral work was maintained through the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, including work with ABC programs (1965) and participated in various concerts and other events. In the late twentieth century, West Leederville Primary School benefited also from the wider introduction of instrumental music programs in State schools.<sup>44</sup>

In June 1907, it was recommended that the school be fenced with a closed picket fence to exclude trespassers.<sup>45</sup> A photograph (1907) shows the school, with several mature trees in proximity to the building, and the newly built open picket fence around the school with two entry gates from the street.<sup>46</sup> Subsequent requests to provide an additional entry gate from Russell or Glen Streets were not approved as either may have allowed the school grounds to be utilised as a public thoroughfare.<sup>47</sup>

In January 1908, a site plan shows the school fronting Monger Street (now Northwood Street), with the boys' shelter shed located near the boundary to Woolich (sic) Street, a dividing fence between the boys' and girls' areas of the playgrounds, with the girls' shelter shed located adjacent to it, the boys' and girls' earth closets located either side of it, near the rear boundary to the site. There is another, un-named building, in between the main building and the aforementioned girls' shelter shed.<sup>48</sup> In the late twentieth century, this shed continued in use, serving as the gardener's store, until it was destroyed by fire in 1995.<sup>49</sup> In 1908, plans were drawn for West Leederville School Additions No. 4.<sup>50</sup>

It was decided that all schools with an average attendance over 350 should be provided with a hall, and consequently halls were added to several large schools in 1910. A new type of hall was being introduced, which was considered 'a great improvement upon that formerly adopted being much lighter and far better ventilated.'<sup>51</sup> In 1910, 437 children were enrolled at West Leederville, and the average daily attendance was 352, which qualified

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<sup>42</sup> Staff & Attendance Returns in Report of the Education Department No. 15 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1906, p. 15.

<sup>43</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 21.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid, pp. 21-22.

<sup>45</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 16.

<sup>46</sup> Photograph 'The West Leederville State School, 1907' in Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 18.

<sup>47</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 18.

<sup>48</sup> Site Plan West Leederville School in West Leederville School Buildings and Works op. cit., 15 January 1908.

<sup>49</sup> Geoff Spence, school gardener, conversation with Robin Chinnery, 30 October 2003.

<sup>50</sup> West Leederville School Additions No. 4, PWDWA 11173, 1908.

<sup>51</sup> Report of the Education Department for the Year 1910 in *Votes and Proceedings* Vol. 1, 1911-12, p. 6.

it for a hall. In January 1910, £1,100 was set aside for this purpose.<sup>52</sup> In March, the plan shows seven existing classrooms, as the largest of the original rooms is shown as two classrooms, the proposed new hall, 51 ft. 4 ins. x 35 ft., with arched openings from the corridors. There was to be an open yard between the new hall and the teacher's room, with a new covered way from the verandah to the hall. The shelter adjacent to the first classroom was to be re-located to make way for the hall, as per the plan, and new windows fitted to the walls between the two adjoining classrooms and the new hall. A new hat room and new corridor were included in these works. The plans also showed the location of future hat rooms and other future additions.<sup>53</sup> In April, tenders were called, and the contract was awarded to N. F. Pedersen at a cost of £1,173 11s 6d on 3 June 1910, with completion set for 30 August 1910.<sup>54</sup> The works were completed on 24 September 1910, at a cost of £1,160 10s 6d.<sup>55</sup> The hall was officially opened on 5 October 1910.<sup>56</sup>

The school population continued to increase. Further additions were requested as one class was being taught in the hall in early 1911.<sup>57</sup> By 1912, Leederville had grown to around 1,400 homes, of which around 80% were owner-occupied.<sup>58</sup> With the continuing increase in population, additional accommodation was sorely needed at the school. In January 1912, sketch plans for additions were drawn, which were approved in February. In May 1912, tenders were called for building a further classroom, opening from the 1910 corridor, in the location shown as future additions on the 1910 plan. The contract was awarded to W. H. Pearman at a cost of £322 4s 4d for completion on 6 August 1912, and the work duly implemented.<sup>59</sup>

In September 1912, as the enrollment continued to increase, sketch plans were drawn for another classroom to be added to the school.<sup>60</sup> The final plans, dated November 1912, show a new classroom to open from the hall, and adjacent to that recently completed.<sup>61</sup> In December 1912, tenders were

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<sup>52</sup> Inspector General to Minister for Education, in Buildings Reports in West Leederville School Buildings and Works SROWA Acc. 1653 Item 1552/08, 15 January 1910.

<sup>53</sup> West Leederville School Addtns. No. 5, PWDWA 14949, March 1910.

<sup>54</sup> *Government Gazette* 22 April and 3 June 1910; and memos. in West Leederville School Buildings and Works op. cit., 1910.

<sup>55</sup> Report of the Department of Public Works for the Year 1910-11 in *Votes and Proceedings* 1911-12, Vol. 1, p. 36.

<sup>56</sup> Correspondence and memos. in *ibid*, September-October 1910; and *West Australian* 8 October 1910.

<sup>57</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 15.

<sup>58</sup> Battye, J. S. *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia* (The Cyclopaedia Company, Perth, 1912-13) Vol. 1, p. 554.

<sup>59</sup> Memos. and correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works SROWA Acc. 1653 Item 4129/14, January-August 1912; and *Government Gazette* 15 March and 10 May 1912.

<sup>60</sup> Memos. and correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works *ibid.*, August-September 1912.

<sup>61</sup> PWDWA 7919/12 in *ibid*, 22 November 1912.

called for the work. In January 1913, W. Fairweather was awarded the contract at a cost of £486 4s 6d, which was completed on 26 March 1913.<sup>62</sup>

By June 1914, 560 children were enrolled at West Leederville, and the Head Teacher advised that another classroom was required. He renewed his request in November, noting that the hall had been in use for classes throughout the year. In early December, he was advised that allowance had been made in the Estimates for the erection of a pavilion classroom at the school.<sup>63</sup>

The pavilion type classroom was a recent innovation in school building design in Western Australia, in keeping with Montessori's education philosophy, introduced in 1913-14. Pavilion classrooms were of timber weatherboard and iron construction, with sliding canvas shutters on three sides and the fourth side of timber weatherboard with the blackboard fitted to the interior of this side. From 1915, many were erected to provide much needed accommodation in overcrowded schools 'in place of the addition of more permanent buildings.'<sup>64</sup>

In February 1915, the pavilion classroom was erected at West Leederville School, close by the main building. It was one of 16 pavilion classrooms erected and/or in the course of erection in the metropolitan area in March 1915, including two at Bayswater.<sup>65</sup> In subsequent years, it was not uncommon for pavilion classrooms to be re-located from their original site, sometimes on more than one occasion. The canvas shutters were generally 'replaced with a combination of awning windows and fixed panels clad with timber boarding or asbestos cement sheeting'.<sup>66</sup>

Student numbers at West Leederville continued to increase. In spring 1915, there were 592 children accommodated in the 10 classrooms, and another room was urgently needed. Provision was made in the Estimates for another pavilion room at the school. However, in 1916, when introduction of new regulations in regard to the admission of infants resulted in a drop in the number of new admissions in the lower school, the new pavilion was held over.<sup>67</sup>

In the World War One period, problems with drainage at this school and the lack of deep sewerage to this and other schools were of concern. In July 1918, sewerage works were proposed for the school at West Leederville. In

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<sup>62</sup> *Government Gazette* 13 December 1912 and 17 January 1913;and Memos. and correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works *ibid.*, December 1912-March 1913.

<sup>63</sup> Memos. and correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works *ibid.*, June-December 1914.

<sup>64</sup> Report of the Education Department for 1914, in *Votes and Proceedings* 1915, Vol. 1, p. 7.

<sup>65</sup> Memos. and correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works *ibid.*, February-March 1915.

<sup>66</sup> Kelsall Binet Architects in association with Kris Bizzaca 'A Pictorial Guide to Standard Terminology for Government School Buildings 1880-1945' Education Department Heritage Inventory, September 2001, Type 10, p. 5.

<sup>67</sup> Memos. and correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works *ibid.*, October 1915-March 1916. Note: Student numbers remained around 590 through 1915-18. (*ibid.*, 1915-18.)

February 1919, tenders were called, and T. W. Singleton was awarded the contract at a cost of £913 19s 5d on 21 March 1919.<sup>68</sup>

A Sewerage Plan shows the place in the post World War One period, with the graveled school ground, and the rifle range near the eastern boundary.<sup>69</sup> Graveled grounds were standard practice in suburban schools, and drill for boys and girls was conducted on there as part of the curriculum. Rifle ranges had been erected in school grounds since the first decade of the twentieth century at schools where junior cadet units were included. The pavilion classroom (1915) is located near the main building. There is a small timber building near its south-west corner, and the girls' shelter to the south-east of the pavilion, then east again to the closets, whilst the timber boys' shelter is shown near the boundary to Woolwich Street, all as per the 1908 plan.<sup>70</sup>

After World War One, an Honour Board was mounted in the hall commemorating the service in the war of those associated with the school.<sup>71</sup>

In September 1922, plans were drawn by AP (name not found) for the addition of a classroom to West Leederville School, to open from the hall.<sup>72</sup> This plan shows the layout grouped around the central hall, with the earlier shelter as re-located in 1910, at the south-east corner of the building. In August 1923, tenders were called and final plans were drawn.<sup>73</sup> The contract was awarded to W. H. Pearman (who had built the classroom completed in August 1912) at a cost of £418 19s 4d for completion on 8 November.<sup>74</sup>

In the early World War Two period, again there was insufficient classroom accommodation for the number of students enrolled at West Leederville. The main hall and a cloak room were utilised as classrooms, and a local Church hall was hired for one class. In early July 1941, estimates were obtained for the cost of removing a pavilion classroom from Bayswater School to West Leederville, and for the necessary repairs and renovations.<sup>75</sup> On 31 July 1941, plans were drawn for additions to the school comprising a pavilion classroom to be re-located from Bayswater School. The block plan shows two alternative locations for the pavilion to the south-east of main school building. The earlier pavilion classroom is shown in its original

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<sup>68</sup> Memos. and correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works, SROWA Acc. 1653 Item 1513/17, February-September 1919; and *Government Gazette* 7 February and 28 March 1919.

<sup>69</sup> Metropolitan Sewerage Leederville, SROWA Cons. 4156 Item 166, n.d.

<sup>70</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>71</sup> Gill, Barbara *op. cit.*, p. 27.

<sup>72</sup> West Leederville School Additions (1922) PWDWA 2869/22, SROWA Acc.1653 Item 2550/21, 23 September 1922.

<sup>73</sup> West Leederville School Additions No. 8, PWDWA 22718, 2 August 1923.

<sup>74</sup> Memos. and correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works, SROWA Acc. 1653 Item 2550/21, September 1922-August 1923.

<sup>75</sup> Memos. and correspondence in West Leederville School Buildings and Works, SROWA Acc. 1653 Item 1211/39, July-August 1941.

location, in close proximity to the main building.<sup>76</sup> In late 1941, plans were drawn of the pavilion classroom, which was to be removed from Bayswater School and re-erected at West Leederville School, showing the details of the building, including fixed asbestos sheeting and glass sliding windows, and the elevations of the building on its new site.<sup>77</sup> On 7 November, tenders were called, and the work was duly implemented.<sup>78</sup> Further research would be necessary to ascertain whether this was one of the two original pavilion classrooms erected at Bayswater by mid March 1915.

During World War Two, the place was made an Air Raid Precaution (A.R.P.) Depot, in association with which two gateways were fitted in the northern boundary fence. Slit trenches were dug in the north-eastern corner of the school grounds, and air raid practices carried out, as occurred as at other metropolitan schools.<sup>79</sup>

In 1945, the stage was added to the hall.<sup>80</sup> In that year, overcrowding at the school reached serious proportions, when 717 children were enrolled in 14 classes.<sup>81</sup> In the 1950s, the building of new schools at Wembley and Floreat, eased the problem, although initially Wembley was an Infants School, catering for children to Standard 3, who then transferred to complete their primary education at West Leederville.<sup>82</sup>

In 1953, an open air theatre was erected in the school grounds. It was 'surrounded by lawns and garden', with paving slab paths around tables and seats.<sup>83</sup> It was described as a 'delightful facility' and 'an excellent feature' of the school, but termite damage led to disrepair, and it was removed in 1978.<sup>84</sup>

In 1957, a Memorial Library was instituted at the school, with donations of books from the West Leederville-Wembley-Floreat Sub-Branch of the Returned Services League (R.S.L.) commemorating deceased servicemen. The central library was established, taking the place of individual class libraries in 1960.<sup>85</sup>

In 1958, a new shelter shed of brick construction with a corrugated iron roof was built at the school.<sup>86</sup> In September 1960, plans were drawn for the removal of the existing pavilion classroom from the bitumen playground area and its re-erection. Other features shown on the plan include two

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76 West Leederville School Additions - Removal of Pavilion Class Room from Bayswater, File PW 704/41, SROWA Acc. 1653 Item 1211/39, 31 July 1941.

77 West Leederville School Re-erection of Pavilion Classroom removed from Bayswater School, PWDWA 29508, 3 November 1941.

78 *Government Gazette* 7 November 1941.

79 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 29.

80 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 16.

81 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 13.

82 *ibid*, pp. 21-22.

83 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 23.

84 *ibid*.

85 Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 23.

86 New Shelter Shed West Leederville School, PWDWA 1549-14, File 1794/57, 7 March 1958.

basketball courts, play area, garden, and the two shelter sheds near the boundary.<sup>87</sup>

In September 1961 and March 1962, plans were drawn for a proposed new toilet block of brick construction at the school, which were duly implemented.<sup>88</sup>

In the early 1970s, when immigration to Western Australia surged again, the school experienced an influx of migrant children, many of them from non-English speaking backgrounds. In 1971, a special migrant teacher was appointed to cater for their needs. The school developed policies recognising that multi-culturalism would play 'an important part' in the school through the late twentieth century.<sup>89</sup>

In 1973-75, in common with many suburban primary schools, carpet was laid over the school's timber floors, new classroom furniture was introduced, and the Principal's office and staff rooms were re-furnished.<sup>90</sup>

In 1978, the school bell was re-located, as the stand in the grounds was beyond repair, and 'installed in a place of honour' in the school hall.<sup>91</sup>

From the late 1970s, efforts were made to increase the area of the school site by acquiring adjoining land. In February 1979, Swan Location No. 9927 formerly portion of Perthshire Location Ae, being Lot 6 on Diagram 5705, 314 square metres in area was set apart as a Public Reserve, No. 35879, for the purpose of Primary School (West Leederville). In June, the area was increased by a further 769 square metres, when Swan Location 9965, formerly portion of Perthshire Location Ae, being Lot 6 on Diagram 1514, was likewise set apart.<sup>92</sup>

In 1979, to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Western Australia, a commemorative tree was planted in the grounds, 'in front of the boys toilet'.<sup>93</sup> Tree planting on Arbour Day had been a well established practice in Western Australian schools through the twentieth century, and it is probable that this tree was one in a succession of tree plantings at the school.

In December 1979, plans were drawn for the conversion of the pavilion classroom to a Pre-Primary Centre, including provision of a wet area, which were duly implemented.<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> West Leederville School - Removal & Re-erection of Existing Pavilion Classroom - Additional Basins, 20 September 1960.

<sup>88</sup> Proposed New Toilet Block, West Leederville Primary School, 19 September 1961, and New Latrine Block West Leederville Primary School, PWDWA 39405, March 1962.

<sup>89</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 24.

<sup>90</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 25.

<sup>91</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 25.

<sup>92</sup> *Government Gazette* 16 February and 8 June 1979, p. 427 and p. 1499 respectively.

<sup>93</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 25.

<sup>94</sup> West Leederville Primary School Conversion of Existing Classroom to Pre-Primary Centre, PWDWA December 1979.

In May 1981, plans were drawn for a new door landing and steps at West Leederville School.<sup>95</sup> In 1981, photographs show the Woolwich Street, Northwood Street and southern frontages of the school.<sup>96</sup>

In May 1987, after 10 years of negotiations with the Education Department, plans were drawn for the construction of a small oval at the school. Work commenced, including removal of a number of existing trees.<sup>97</sup> The Minister for Education, Dr. Carmen Lawrence, the local M. P. and one of the school's patrons, also approved plans for "an imposing entrance pergola" to the main building, designed by Architect Philip Griffiths, and provided a "generous donation" which enabled the project to proceed.<sup>98</sup>

On 31 December 1987, the original 1898 Reserve No. 5075 (Swan District) "School Site" was canceled, and Reserve No. 35879 was amended to comprise Swan Locations 10826 and 10827, on Diagram 88142, in lieu of Swan Locations 9927 and 9965, and its area increased to 1.0814 hectares accordingly.<sup>99</sup>

In 1988, *West Leederville Primary School* celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A plan of the school at that date shows the sequential development of the place, and the uses of each room/area in the main building in 1988.<sup>100</sup>

In common with many schools, at various periods the place has been utilised also by diverse groups for various activities. In 1988, the groups involved at the school included the Cambridge Players, Combined Schools Brass Band, Northern Districts Lapidary Club, Miniature Club, Fair Maids of Perth, Perth Morris Men, and Chung Wah Association, which had used the school for its culture and language classes since 1980, and then catered for 200 students.<sup>101</sup>

In 1989, new toilet facilities were added to the Pre-Primary Centre.<sup>102</sup>

On 1 October 1993, Reserve No. 35879, comprising Swan Location 10826 and 10827, was amended to exclude Location 10827. A new Certificate of Title was issued, showing the school site as Swan Location Lot 10826, 1.0814 ha. in area, designated Reserve 35879 for the purpose of Primary School West Leederville.<sup>103</sup>

In 1995, following the destruction of the aforementioned shed located between the main building and the pavilion classroom, a new gardener's store was built to the east of the toilet block.<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>95</sup> West Leederville School New door landing and steps, PWDWA Job No. 6114312, May 1981.

<sup>96</sup> Frank Sharr West Leederville School, 8 July and 10 October 1981, HCWA Place No. 2208.

<sup>97</sup> West Leederville Primary School Ground Development Site Plan, BMA, Job No. 611431, signed May 1987.

<sup>98</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 25.

<sup>99</sup> *Government Gazette* 31 December 1987, p. 4586.

<sup>100</sup> Philip Griffiths, West Leederville Primary School Main Building July 1988, in Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 9.

<sup>101</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit., p. 26.

<sup>102</sup> New Toilet Facilities Pre-Primary Centre West Leederville, BMA, 12 May 1989.

<sup>103</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 3101 Fol. 274.

<sup>104</sup> Geoff Spence op. cit.

In November 1996, the place was included in the Municipal Heritage Inventory for the Town of Cambridge, with the recommendation that it be entered in the State Register of Heritage Places.<sup>105</sup>

In November 1996, the place was included in the Municipal Heritage Inventory for the Town of Cambridge, with the recommendation that it be included in the State Register of Heritage Places.<sup>106</sup>

In the late twentieth century, the Education Department implemented a policy to provide covered assembly areas at all schools. In January 1998, plans were drawn for a covered assembly area, canteen and store to be built at *West Leederville Primary School*. The site plan shows the proposed site for the new building to the east of the existing classroom building, with the existing toilet block, weatherboard and brick sheds to the south and south-east of the new area. The works included removal of the existing brick shelter (1958) near the Woolwich Street boundary of the school.<sup>107</sup>

In July-August 1999, a transportable building was erected near the southern boundary of the school site, to serve as a kindergarten.<sup>108</sup>

In 2003, the place continues to be used for its original purpose as a primary school serving the suburb of West Leederville with an enrollment of around 250 students. Prominent past students include Wilson Tuckey, Member of the House of Representatives, Robert 'Bob' Hawke, former Prime Minister of Australia, who was Patron of the school for a period, and James Murray, who served as Lord Mayor of Perth.<sup>109</sup>

## 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*West Leederville Primary School* is a brick and iron primary school in the Federation Arts and Crafts style constructed in stages from 1898, together with a collection of buildings comprising shelter sheds, pavilion classroom, pre-primary, toilet block, covered area, transportable classroom, kindergarten, covered sand pit, and gardener's store, in an open bitumen paved and grassed setting.

*West Leederville Primary School* is located at a point roughly half way between Subiaco Primary School and the site of Leederville Primary School, north of the Fremantle to Perth Railway line. The school is set in a context of mainly Federation period houses, particularly in Holyrood, Northwood, Blencowe, Woolwich, Kimberley, and Tate streets, together with St Leonards Avenue. There are several churches dating from the same period. There are a number of houses that reflect post World War II Mediterranean immigration, and a number of new buildings from the last 20 year period. The predominant form remains the fabric from the Federation period.

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<sup>105</sup> Municipal Heritage Inventory Town of Cambridge, Adopted 12 November 1996.

<sup>106</sup> HCWA Place No. 2208.

<sup>107</sup> West Leederville Primary School Covered Assembly, Canteen, Store, Site Plan, Floor Plan, CAMS Job No. 6148P. Documentation by Philip McAllister Architect in association with Parry & Whyte Architects. Plan shown as designed and drawn by KJR, January 1998.

<sup>108</sup> Gardener's record book, July-August 1999; and Geoff Spence op. cit.

<sup>109</sup> Gill, Barbara op. cit. p. 43; framed letter from Bob Hawke, at West Leederville Primary School; and Spillman, Ken (Ed.) op. cit., p. 13.



The school is set on one of the highest points in the suburb, with the topography falling south to the railway line, north to Lake Monger, and in both the eastern and western directions along Woolwich Street. The school is sited on the corner of Woolwich and Northwood streets, and is bordered by residences to the east and south.

Most of the buildings are set to the centre of the site and towards its north, with a grass buffer area between the school buildings and Woolwich Street, together with a bitumen play area. There is a very narrow bitumen area and garden bed to the west on Northwood Street, another bitumen area and grassed areas to the south and more contemporary buildings along the eastern boundary, together with a small oval in the south-east corner.

Street trees around the site are Queensland Box Trees (*Lephostemon conferta*), most of which are misshapen by years of pruning to keep the canopies clear of overhead power lines. School fences are no longer the timber palings indicated in the documentary evidence, but rather galvanized steel pipe and link mesh that came into vogue in the immediate post World War II period. Plantings within the school grounds represent a considerable period of school gardening, with most plantings dating from the Inter-War period to the present. The Woolwich and Northwood street section comprises a lawned area bordered with a garden bed containing Roses (*Rosea spp.*), Paperbark Trees (*Meleleuca ...*), and English Elm (*Ulmus...*), Hibiscus (*Hibiscus spp.*), Red Flowering Gum (*Eucalyptus ficafolia*), Chinese Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*), Coastal Moort, a Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), and Bottlebrush shrubs (*Callistemon spp.*). The bitumen area to the north-east of the school has a Chinese Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*), and a Hibiscus (*Hibiscus spp.*) hedge along the street frontage, together with a Eucalypt memorial tree planting set close to the school. Trees along the eastern boundary comprise Coastal Moorts, Eucalypts, and Cape Lilacs . The south-east corner is a grassed area that serves as a small oval. There is an enormous Moreton Bay Fig Tree (*Ficus macrophylla*) that shades a good deal of the oval area. Plantings around the oval include Chinese Pepper Trees (*Schinus molle*), a Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*), English Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Camphor Laurel. The pre-school centre has play areas situated to its south and these areas combine grassed areas, sand pits and play equipment, together with some mature plantings including a Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), Camphor Laurel and Chinese Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*). The south-west corner of the yard contains the kindergarten a sheltered sand pit and plantings that include Chinese Pepper Trees(*Schinus molle*), Eucalypts, and Ash Tree, Cypress, Camphor Laurel, and a Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*). Finally along the eastern boundary, there is a narrow path and garden bed containing African Iris (*Dietes bicolor*), Paper barks, and young Olive Trees (*Oleo europea*). To the east of the main school building there is a Red Flowering Gum (*Eucalyptus ficafolia*) memorial tree.

### **Main School Building 1898-1923**

The main school building comprises a series of classrooms clustered around a central school hall. This arrangement of spaces gives the school its characteristic external appearance; a large school hall with a lantern light

over it, with lower scale classrooms and amenities clustered around the perimeter. The building was developed sequentially, as indicated in the documentary evidence, with subtle shifts in the design of the original and subsequent stages. This form of school building has been categorised as Central Hall type.<sup>110</sup>

The exterior is characterized by the brickwork walls, corrugated galvanized iron roofs, double hung sash windows with hopper or centre pivot lights over, four panel doors, and modest porches at entries. The whole of the exterior has a restrained Federation Arts and Crafts styling to it, though not as elaborate as schools such as Cottesloe State School or Subiaco School from the same period.

The north elevation comprises a strip of teaching spaces, office, school entrance and staffroom (formerly a classroom). It is a long gabled roof section of building, with a brick English bond plinth, stucco plinth band, stretcher bond brickwork, a stucco string course, two pane double hung sash windows, centre pivot lights over the double hung sashes, timber framed sun hoods, and ogee gutters. A timber framed corrugated iron roof porch is located over the eastern entrance. This was constructed for the celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school in 1988. There is a very simple awning over the western entry. The corrugated iron roof is penetrated by a number of brick construction chimneys, and there are plain galvanized iron rainwater goods, including ogee gutters and circular downpipes. The western section has a brick gable terminating the run of classrooms along the western side of the hall. The wide eaves overhang is lined with birdboards. The gable of the school hall appears above the classroom ridgeline, and the lantern light above that again, together with its three stack ventilation cowls

The east elevation repeats the same architectural language; however, there are no sun hoods, and the side elevation of the school hall lantern light is a prominent feature, with its vertical sashes, gabled roof and ventilation cowls. The evaporative cooling air conditioning is a reasonably prominent feature of the roofscape viewed from the side of the building. An additional feature is a large porch in the south-east corner, with a range of lavatory basins and drinking troughs arranged around its walls. The south and west elevations use the same vocabulary as the east elevation.

The school was not originally planned around a school hall, but the hall was added in 1910, and subsequent additions have resulted in the hall being the central focus, with a small courtyard also at the centre of the building, then all of the rooms arranged around it. The courtyard is essentially a left over space arising from the early planning and most schools planned around a central hall do not have such spaces.

The hall has a carpeted timber floor, quad skirting, plastered walls, part glazed doors leading into surrounding rooms, a wide variety of hoppers and double hung sash windows off adjoining classrooms, a queen post trussed

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<sup>110</sup> Federation c. 1890- c. 1915, Central Hall Kelsall Binet Architects op. cit. Type 2, p. 6.

roof lined with timber, clerestory and vented lantern light soffit. There is a timber construction stage against the north wall, display cabinets on the east and south walls, honour roll on the south wall and historic photographs celebrating school triumphs in sport and music around a number of walls.

The surrounding classrooms have carpeted timber floors, quads, plastered walls, pinup to lower and mid walls, chalkboards and cupboards from the 1950s on front walls, fireplaces with gas fires in them, map rails on upper walls, lath and plaster ceilings and ceiling vents, though some classrooms have plasterboard ceilings, suspended light fittings, high and low level wall vents, and evaporative cooling registers in ceilings. Windows are generally two pane double hung sashes with pivot lights over on external walls, with a variety of centre pivot and double hung sash windows onto corridors and the school hall. The minor rooms in the courtyard and those that served as washrooms, hat rooms or lavatories have concrete floors, glass faced cement render dados with incised dado lines, and otherwise have similar finishes to the teaching spaces.

The whole story is one of gradual accretion, with minor panning and detail changes through time, with rooms constructed in 1898 and then a series of additions leading up to 1923. The changes through this sequence of development are quite minor and are restricted to windows, fireplaces, and the like. Graded platforms have been removed in classrooms, washrooms removed to provide more accommodation, teachers' cupboards and chalkboards changed, the hall soffit painted, paint finishes re-covered a number of times, carpets added, lighting introduced and then changed, gas fires introduced, and evaporative air conditioning introduced into teaching and administration areas.

The school building is well maintained and in good condition.

### **Pavilion Classroom 1915**

The pavilion classroom comprises the classroom and the former cloak lobby to the north. It is a timber framed gable roof building, with vertical timber boards to dado height, top hung 16 pane awning windows, fibro cement upper walls, birdboard lined soffits, and a corrugated galvanized iron roof, with a brick chimney breast and flue at the northern end.

The interior has carpeted timber flooring with a teacher's platform at the northern end. Most of the internal fabric has been obscured by modern finishes such as drop-in plasterboard ceilings and pinup wall linings, teacher's cupboards and shelving. Air conditioning has been introduced into this room also.

The building exterior is authentic and there is a section of original wall colour in the old lobby area that now serves as a store.

The building is generally in fair to good condition.

### **Shelter Sheds pre 1908**

There are two shelter sheds, one near the Woolwich Street boundary and one adjacent to the south-east corner of the building. Both are jarrah weatherboard lined stud framed structures with a mono-pitch corrugated

iron roof. Both face south and have unlined interiors and a concrete floor, together with timber ladder framed and slatted seats to the perimeter walls.

#### **Pre-school Centre 1941 (pavilion classroom relocated from Bayswater)**

This is a timber framed building with a jarrah weatherboard dado and fibro cement upper walls, a gabled roof over the classroom and skillion over the original verandah to the north, introduced toilets to the east and new verandah to the south. It has timber framed and aluminium windows, most of which relate to alterations since its relocation. The verandah to the south has a balustrade to its perimeter with vertical balusters and a plain handrail. The verandah and classroom have been joined into a single space, toilets added to the east end and the southern wall opened on to the new verandah. The play area is fenced off from the remainder of the school grounds.

#### **Brick construction toilets 1962**

This is a simple brick building, with a low pitched roof, highlight windows, concrete floors, brick and terrazzo partitions and vitreous china pans, with enameled cast iron wash hand basins. It is simple and utilitarian.

#### **Kindergarten 1999**

One of the most recently completed buildings at the place, this is a simple metal framed and clad building, with metal framed sliding windows and doors, set on a concrete pad.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

*West Leederville Primary School* is an example of the Federation period central hall school. Other examples in the metropolitan area include Highgate Primary School, North Perth Primary School and the Intensive Language Centre (located in the grounds of Perth Modern School).<sup>111</sup> The classrooms were built around a central hall, which was put to use for school assemblies and group activities. Refer to 'A Pictorial Guide to Standard Terminology for Government School Buildings 1890-1945' for a full list of the exterior characteristics of the design, which is well demonstrated at *West Leederville Primary School*, including medium pitched gabled corrugated iron roofs with roof mounted galvanised iron roof vents, brick chimneys with corbelled caps, timber framed double hung glazed windows, lantern lights to the central hall, and windows set in the classroom walls abutting the hall.<sup>112</sup> This type of plan was also used for schools in large towns, in particular on the Goldfields. It proved flexible to the particular needs of individual schools as new classrooms were added through time with minimum modification required to the pre-existing building in most instances. *West Leederville Primary School* is a good example that well represents this type of school design. There are nine Federation period primary schools of brick construction listed on The State Register of

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<sup>111</sup> Federation c. 1890-1915, Central Hall Kelsall Binet Architects ... op. cit. Type 2, p. 6.

<sup>112</sup> *ibid.*

Heritage Places. Of these, five are located in the metropolitan area but none are listed in the Guide as examples of the Central Hall type design.

Pavilion classrooms were first introduced in Western Australia from 1913-14. By March 1915, there were 16 completed or in the course of erection in the metropolitan area, including that at *West Leederville Primary School* and two at Bayswater Primary School. Classrooms of this type were often removed from schools when no longer required. On occasion, they were re-located to other sites, either at the same school or elsewhere, as with the pavilion classroom which was re-located to West Leederville School from Bayswater in 1941.

Pavilion classrooms which survived to the late twentieth century, as did those at *West Leederville Primary School*, were often modified and/or converted to other uses, with varying degrees of change dependent upon the individual school. For example, in February 1982, plans were drawn for the conversion of the pavilion classroom at Leederville Primary School to music workshops. The works implemented included a new full height stud wall, alterations to openings, fitting new benches and sunscreens.<sup>113</sup> The former pavilion classrooms at West Leederville and Leederville were not included in the list of examples of pavilion classroom type buildings in the Education Department Heritage Inventory 'A Pictorial Guide to Standard Terminology for Government School Buildings 1880-1945'. The schools at which the examples are listed do not include any of those listed in March 1915.<sup>114</sup> The 1915 pavilion classroom at *West Leederville Primary School* is among the earliest pavilion classrooms erected in the metropolitan area and possibly the only one that remains on its original site. The pavilion classroom re-located to the place from Bayswater in 1941, may also be among the earliest pavilion classrooms.

Shelter sheds of timber and iron construction were a common feature in school grounds from the late nineteenth century, and were included in the early building campaigns at most schools built in the early twentieth century. Some remained in use through much of the twentieth century, albeit with some changes implemented through time, such as those at *West Leederville Primary School*. Others were removed either to make way for further development of the school site or because they were no longer in use and/or beyond repair. In 2003, the number of extant shelter sheds is considerably diminished, and those at *West Leederville Primary School* are probably among a relatively small number of the survivors which were built pre 1908.

#### 13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Gill, Barbara *West Leederville Primary School 1898-1998 Remembering The Days* Parents and Citizens Association (1988).

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<sup>113</sup> Leederville Primary School Music Workshops Pavillion (sic) Building PWDWA Job No. 6/131/12, February 1982.

<sup>114</sup> Kelsall Binet Architects ... op. cit.

Spillman, Ken (Ed.) *Small Packages ~ A Centenary Celebration ~ West Leederville Primary School 1898-1998* (Frank Daniels Pty Ltd, Perth, 1998)  
West Leederville School Buildings and Works SROWA Acc. 1653

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

Gill, Barbara *West Leederville Primary School 1898-1998 Remembering The Days ...* (1988)  
West Leederville School Buildings and Works SROWA Acc. 1653

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Further research may reveal whether the pavilion classroom re-located to West Leederville from Bayswater in 1941 was one of the two original classrooms of this type erected at Bayswater by March 1915.