

CASSON HOUSE, NORTH PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Casson House
Other names	Woodville Rest Home After Care Rest Home The Rest Home
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	17955
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	2 - 10 Woodville St
Locality	North Perth
Survey	LOT: 50 D/P: 65788
Vol/folio	2768/776
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity.
Management category	Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.
Statement of significance	<p>The place has aesthetic value for its demonstration of the Inter War Stripped Classical style with later additions and modifications.</p> <p>The place is a landmark in the streetscape for its bulk and prominence position in the street close to the junction with View Street.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the provision of care and support for patients at this site from 1935 until the present day.</p> <p>The place is associated with Susan Casson M.B.E. J.P. who was the founder of what is believed to be the first charitable organisation formed for the benefit of psychiatric patients in Australia.</p> <p>The place has social value for the many members of the community who have been connected to this place as patients, staff, family, friends or volunteers since its foundation in 1935.</p> <p>This place is valued by the community for its continuity in the streetscape since 1935 and for its association with the provision of community services.</p>

PLACE USE

Original use	Residential: Flats/Apartment Block
Current use	Residential: Single Storey Residence
Other use	Health: Asylum

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Construction date	1939; 2010
Walls	Brick
Roof	Terracotta tile
Architectural Style	Inter War Stripped Classical
Physical description	<p>The double storey face brick structure has a gable roof that is clad with tiles. The main street façade is symmetrical with a central ground floor recessed entry above which there is the name of the place applied to the wall, and a bracketed window box, window and decorative arched panel above the window that is infilled with herringbone patterned brickwork. The gable is further defined by an open pediment. The windows throughout are sets of two double hung sashes on concrete sills with louvred timber shutters.</p> <p>Medium height face brick wall with decorative geometric pattern along the top and pillars each side of the palisade gate. Extensive planting in setback gardens.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Woodville Street was originally named Parker Street, and was part of the Woodville Estate, a residential subdivision in North Perth developed on Swan Location 653 by Solomon Herman and Thomas Whitton Williams in 1898. The Woodville Estate was the second subdivision in the area and was in the triangle formed by Angove, Farmer and Parker Streets.

The subject place is first listed in the Wise's Post Office Directories in 1912 as No. 2 Parker Street, with Thomas T. Baxter, builder, as the occupier. Joseph A. Thomson (J. & T. Ltd) is listed at No. 2 Parker Street from 1913 to 1914. In 1915, Parker Street changed its name to Woodville Street and thereafter the address of the subject place changed to No. 2 Woodville Street.

The subject place at No. 2 Woodville Street was occupied by Nurse Carslaw at that year. Mrs. C. H. Carslaw (Bute Private Hospital) and Stephen Carslaw are listed at the subject place between 1916 and 1917. Between 1918 and 1934, Joseph A. Thomson, JP (J. & T. & Co Ltd) is again listed at the subject site. A Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage & Drainage Department (MWSSD) Plan dated 1914 illustrates that No. 2 Parker Street was a single storey brick building with a verandah that ran the full width of the street frontage. A verandah was located at the rear central of the building. A brick stable was located at the north east corner of the site boundary.

In 1935, Mrs. Susan Casson purchased the subject property at No. 2 Woodville Street with the help of the Lotteries Commission for the sum of \$3,600, and the property was named Woodville Rest Home. Susan Adelaide Casson (1872-1952) was appointed by the Government in 1920 as a lay member of the Board of Visitors to Claremont Hospital. Mrs. Casson convinced the Board of the necessity for discharge and rehabilitation into the community of some of the patients and for this purpose instigated the foundation of the 'Mental Hospital After Care and Comforts Fund Association Incorporated'. The subject property was later named Casson House after Susan Casson.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In a letter to the City of Perth in 1939, Mrs Casson stated that 'the home was established for the reception and care of women suffering from nervous breakdowns, and discharged from Claremont and Heathcote, "to assist them until they are again well and fit to take their place in a well organised society."

When first purchased, the subject property accommodated seven patients. With the increasing demands for the beds, the subject place undertook several alterations and additions. In 1935, a hatched portion was added to the existing kitchen. In 1938, a side verandah, made of wood, asbestos and iron, was erected to the west of the Rest Home. Eventually, the association purchased the adjoining properties at No. 8 and No. 10 Woodville Street for future expansion over the years.

In 1939, the Board applied to the City of Perth to add a second storey to the existing building to provide more accommodation. However the application was opposed by some local residents and discussed at length by the City of Perth Council. Approval for the construction of a two storey front to the home was eventually granted in June 1939. A tender for the works of £2140 was accepted by architects Eales, Cohen and Fitzhardinge. It is probable that works commenced in late 1939. It is not clear how much, or if any, of the original building was retained.

The Wise's Post Office Directories list the subject place as the After Care Rest Home in 1935 and the Rest Home in 1940, with Sister Moncrieff and Nurse L. Enright as the person in charge respectively. Since then, the subject place is listed as Nos. 2-8 Woodville Rest Home until 1949. In addition to this, the Directories also reveal that Susan Casson is listed as the proprietor at No. 25 View Street, North Perth, which was proximate to Casson House. Mrs. Casson was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1920 and was awarded the M.B.E. in 1949.

In 1984, the name of the association was changed to Casson Homes Incorporated and continued to operate under the guidance of a member of the Casson family. In 2008, the Town of Vincent conditionally approved the planning application for proposed partial demolition of, and additions and alterations to the subject place.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century indicate renovations and extensions on the subject place were built in the late 1950s, more in the early 1960s extending the middle structure on the block. Again in the early 1970s, two of the structures appear to have been connected through renovation. Through the 1990s new roofs was installed on the northern most buildings. The southern building's form remained visually unchanged from the 1950s until 2010 when an extension was added. No other changes are seen in the aerial images since then.

Historic theme	Social Services: Health Social Services: General Social Services Peopling WA: Demographic Development	
Associations	Susan Adelaide Casson Eales, Cohen and Fitzhardinge	Founder and advocate Architects
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. The West Australian, 23 May 1939, p. 17. The Western Mail, 15 June 1939, p. 48. Casson Homes website, https://cassonhomes.com.au/ accessed October 2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Drawing of facade of the after-carehome for mental patients, Woodville-street, North Perth, for which tenders will be called shortly. The architects are Messrs. Eales, Cohen and Fitzhardinge.

The West Australian, 22 April 1939, p. 4.