

SWAN MATERNITY HOSPITAL (FMR), WEST PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Swan Maternity Hospital (fmr)
Other names	
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	17281
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Removed from MI 28 Feb 2012

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	590 Newcastle St
Locality	West Perth
Survey	LOT: 12 D/P: 27710
Vol/folio	2704/974
Reserve	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Some Lower degree of integrity / authenticity but contributes to the heritage of the locality.
Management category	Category 4 Retain elements of the place where feasible. Photographically record prior to major development or demolition.
Statement of significance	The place has aesthetic value for the remaining form and detail of its original function as a simple maternity hospital demonstrating the Federation Queen Anne style. The place has historic value for its association with the many small maternity hospitals that operated in the suburbs of Perth in the first half of the 20th century. The place has some historic value for its association with Nurse Alice Maud Mary Stockley who was recognised by her peers and the community for the work she did as a midwife. Subsequent alterations to the building, enclosure of the original verandah, later additions, and substantial changes to the surrounding streetscape have diminished the place's integrity, authenticity and setting. As a result, the historic and social associations are only weakly expressed in the remaining fabric and the place is considered to make a limited contribution to the cultural heritage significance of the locality.

PLACE USE	
Original use	Health: Hospital
Current use	Health: Administration
Other use	
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1913; 1968
Walls	Brick Weatherboard
Roof	Terracotta Tile
Architectural Style	Federation Queen Anne
Physical description	The main original portion of the subject place has a two-room street frontage and a main hipped tiled roof form with broad simple roof planes and a gable over the central front entrance featuring a white painted barge board and white painted battens. The verandah forms part of a continuation of the main hipped roof form with an extended shallower pitch and originally extended the periphery of the building featuring timber posts and decorative valance and ornamental brackets typical of the Federation Queen Anne style. Much of the verandah has since been enclosed and the decorative detail removed. Internally the front entrance of the building opens into a long central hallway with the rooms projecting to the east and west of the central hallway forming part of the original portion of the maternity hospital. The rooms to the eastern portion of the original building form part of the extensions made to the building in the 1960s. Alterations undertaken during the 1960s, including enclosure of most of the original verandah and construction of a substantial addition, have reduced the building's ability to demonstrate its original design and use.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Condition	Moderate
Integrity	Low - Moderate
Authenticity	Low - Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Gold Rushes of the late 1890s and early 1900s resulted in an increase in the population and placed enormous pressure on existing maternity resources and facilities. As training opportunities improved, more trained midwives opened larger homes and provided services which the smaller homes could not compete with.

The Swan Maternity Hospital, at No. 590 Newcastle Street, was built to facilitate the demand of maternity and obstetrics services in the local area in 1913. The hospital was advertised as having the privilege of "Each patient has a separate room" as well as the premises having their own cow. It is not known who was the architect or builder of the premises.

The Wise's Post Office Directories show that no occupier was listed at the subject lot at No. 590 Newcastle Street before 1914, indicating that the lot had not been developed before this time. In 1914, a private hospital is listed as occupying the subject place with Mrs Alice Maud Mary Stockley in residence. Alice Stockley (1866-1945) was born in Devon, England and settled in Western Australia in the early 1900s with her husband Joe and six children. She undertook her midwifery training at Fremantle Hospital and established this hospital with the assistance of medical practitioners.

It was stated in her obituary that this hospital was a place of refuge for any woman needing assistance. She retired in 1945 at the age of 78. The establishment of the hospital under name was one of the factors that lead to she and Joe Stockley divorcing in 1919.

In 1937, Nurse Stockley continued to work at the Swan Hospital although under the management of Mrs. A. F. Bell until 1945.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1945, the government adopted a new policy which provided maternity wards in all main hospitals. Many private maternity hospitals closed or were taken over by the government. The Swan Maternity Hospital changed its ownership to nurses Menzies and Jackson in 1944 and renamed to Blaich Appin Maternity Hospital in 1946. The State Record Office information confirms that the Department of Health purchased the Blaich Appin Maternity Hospital in 1949. The property remains under the ownership of the Department of Health to the present day.

A Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage & Drainage Department (MWSSD) Plan shows the outline of the property in 1952. The original layout of the subject place remains relatively intact nowadays. In 1968, alterations and additions were undertaken by a Principal Architect Leonard J. Walters from the Public Works Department of Western Australia for the Perth Child Guidance Clinic, Blaich Appin, Leederville. Most of the verandah was enclosed and an eight-room office was built on the original lawn and garden as a new addition.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century show these extensions and since then the form and extent of the structure have changed little.

While the place retains associations with the history of maternity care in Western Australia and the work of Alice Maud Mary Stockley, alterations to the building and changes to its surroundings have reduced the legibility of these associations within the physical fabric of the place.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Social Services: Health	
	Infrastructure: Development of Settlements and Services	
Associations	Alice Maud Mary Stockley	Founder and Manager
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. The West Australian, 8 august 1945, p. 3. The Truth, 15 March 1919, p. 3. Sunday Times, 16 Nov 1913, p. 5. Information from the City of Vincent Local History Centre	

VERSION	DATE	AMENDMENT	COUNCIL RESOLUTION
V1	9 Dec 2025	Adoption onto Local Heritage Survey	OCM 9 December 2025 Item 9.4
V2	18 Aug 2026	Category changed from 2 to 4 including updated text	OCM 18 December 2026 Item 9.1

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

