

**NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (WA)  
HISTORIC PLACES –  
EXTRACT FROM “TRACES OF THE PAST” CD**

**IDENTIFICATION / LOCATION**

<b>Current Name of Place:</b>	Sunset Hospital
<b>Street Address of Property:</b>	Birdwood Parade Dalkeith
	Nedlands
<b>Local Government Authority:</b>	Nedlands Perth
<b>Title Details: Lot No:</b>	Reserve A1667/9547
<b>Architect/Designer:</b>	Hillson Beasley
<b>Builder:</b>	Not known
<b>Construction Date:</b>	Community Services
<b>Alteration/Additions Date:</b>	Health & Community services
<b>Materials:</b>	limestone                      corrugated iron

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The complex provides a direct link to early forms of palliative care in WA as well as to methods of dealing with the poor. The buildings are a fine example of the early 20th century concept for residential care resulting from community concern for the well

**DESCRIPTION**

The extent of the assessment: all buildings on site prior to 1910 are included, together with the hospital building dating from 1927. The grounds: including all of the area contained in Reserve 1667/9547. The area to the south contained by a line extending the Iris Avenue boundary to the river alignment then eastwards some 370m and returning north of the original reservation which contains the hot pool remnants and the site of the original jetty.

The Buildings, to the design of Hillson Beasley to house 400 inmates, were commenced in 1904. They are basically of stone construction with corrugated galvanised iron roofing. Limestone for the construction was obtained from the nearby quarry at Point Resolution. As the river was still considered a viable means of transport, a 90m jetty and shelter (since demolished) was included. The two-storey hospital building at the eastern end of the complex was added later. Accommodation included three residential ward buildings each around a central ablution facility, administration, kitchen, dining, laundry, nurses home, superintendent's residence and mortuary. One of the three ward blocks was used as a hospital.

The service buildings are of considerable interest as largely intact shells retaining a number of architectural elements typical of the time. Significant among these is the external and internal detail of the dining block, the mortuary and the laundry facility.

After the complex was completed, a timber framed weatherboard and iron building known as the 'Bungalow' was removed from its original site at the foot of Mt Eliza and was transported to Sunset (then known as 'The Old Men's Home'). For many years the building housed the alcoholics and the rowdier inmates of the institution. Of great significance at the time of inspection (1990) was the cinema projection facility in the dining room complete with fittings.