



NATIONAL  
TRUST

57 Murray Street, Perth



## Mission

*"The National Trust of Australia (WA) will conserve and interpret Western Australia's heritage (historic, natural and Indigenous) for present and future generations."*



Conservation works carried out and completed by the National Trust of Australia (WA)



Yard

PERTH

STIRLING

EASTERN RAILWAY

MOORE

VICTORIA

STR.

ADELAIDE

ALCOHOL

## **57 Murray Street, Perth**

Built – 1911

The National Trust of Australia (WA) has undertaken extensive conservation work and interpretation outcomes in line with its mission to ensure a sustainable future for the Former Public Health and Medical Department building at 57 Murray Street. The building has exceptional cultural heritage values. It is representative of the workings of Government, the policies and policy makers which shaped the development of the State and influenced the nation's history. This relic, sitting proud but humble on Murray Street in the City of Perth reiterates the impact of Western Australia on the national history of Australia. The conservation project carried out has ensured 57 Murray Street's contribution to understanding our past by current and future generations.

This project has made an undoubted contribution to the enhancement of heritage fabric in the City of Perth. The National Trust of Australia (WA), (NTWA), understands this project within a historical context of the wider heritage precinct at the East end of Murray Street. With neighbours such as the Perth Chest Clinic (1902), Fire Brigade No 1 Station (1900), Salvation Army HQ (1899) and the Government Printing Office (1870) just to name a few. It is believed that this precinct will continue to evolve its identity within the City of Perth. As the CBD continues to densify, expand and demand more space, the conservation and then engagement of the city with heritage buildings has become increasingly significant. It is our wish that the people of our city will continue to engage with the East End of Murray St. as the city expands and adaptive reuse occurs.

The building's fine ornamented architectural detailing and Donnybrook stonework facade are prominent components of the Murray St east precinct; an exemplar work of Chief Architect Hillson Beasley and builder SB Alexander. The Conservation and Adaptive Works project at 57 Murray Street has taken 36 months (2012-2013) including the oral history and conservation planning projects, totalling a value of \$4.7 Million and restoring a net lettable area of 1260sqm.

The building represents and provides a platform from which to consider State Power. Numerous government departments have occupied 57 Murray Street from 1912 to the 1990's, it was home to the administration of the first State Public Act 1911 which is still in use today. The development of Public Health theories, policies and practices evolved in this place: from 'miasma' theory to bacteriology, 'germ' control and personal hygiene through to the State's attempts to control a range of infectious diseases from 1912 to 1974 including venereal disease, Tuberculosis and Poliomyelitis.

Also represented here is the systematic oppression of Aboriginal people by successive State government ministers, departments and individuals through the Aborigines Act (1905) and Native Administration Act (1936). Most notably AO Neville – Who as "Chief Protector of Aborigines" enforced key policy directions of the time such as absorption and assimilation that saw the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families and influenced the national stage. These policies were developed by Neville through his 23 year administration at 57 Murray St (1922 – 1945). Departmental practices at this place reflect the State's control and surveillance methods and the State's intervention with individual lives whether Aboriginal or diseased for most of the twentieth century.

The building condition in 2012 was fair. However, after 100 years of continuous use, the building fabric required conservation. Services were all due to be replaced; the roof and guttering was perished; the double storey east and west verandah wings were in poor condition and the masonry, in particular the impressive Donnybrook stone facade, required a program of conservation works. The building also offered no universal access and accordingly works included a platform lift and passenger lift between ground and first floors to make future use of the buildings sustainable.

The project was managed in house by the National Trust's multi disciplinary staff and was completed on time and on budget. Experienced heritage builders Western Projects completed the works. The building will be leased at market value, ensuring a significant contribution to the ongoing sustainable management of this and other Trust properties. Works included complete conservation of the building envelope and internal elements such as the main staircase, plaster and lathe ceilings, cornices and roses/vents, double hung and casement windows, leadlight windows and timber fireplaces using traditional methods. Intrusive ceilings and wall partitioning were removed to reinstate larger rooms. All ad hoc air-conditioning was replaced. Male toilets were restored and new female toilets and universal access toilets were introduced on each floor. The 1963 mezzanine was retained while the 1980's lavatories were refitted with an "End of Journey" facility (constructed within the former animal house outbuilding). Painting and new floor finishes completed the project with colour and material selection mindful of the heritage values of the place.

The Conservation Plan was updated by National Trust 2010 -2011 prior to works commencement and formed the basis for decisions regarding the adaptive re-use of the place. National Trust of Australia (WA) secured a Treasury advance in order to undertake conservation and adaptive works in 2012. Lifeline which was operating from the building relocated to new premise in December 2011 and planning of the conservation works commenced July 2012 using in-house heritage expertise. A comprehensive archival record was made of 57 Murray St prior to the works commencement. The heritage impact statement prepared for development approval comprehensively outlined changes to the place and the impact on values. An "As Constructed" archival record has been prepared on completion of the works.

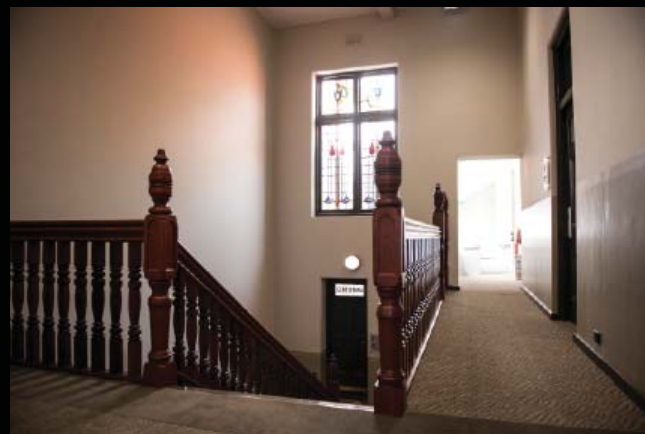
Further historical research was undertaken in the planning stage to increase understanding of the activities undertaken at 57 Murray St and the influence of departmental activities on people's lives both from a state and national perspective. This research forms the basis for the interpretation strategy for the place. A commonwealth funded oral history program was undertaken by Ciena Fitzgerald in 2013, who undertook four oral histories recording more detailed information about the way the building was occupied. Transcripts have been made of these oral histories.

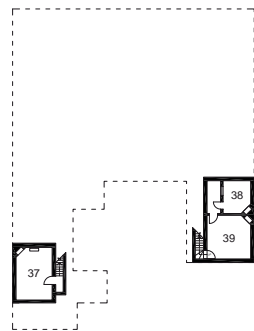
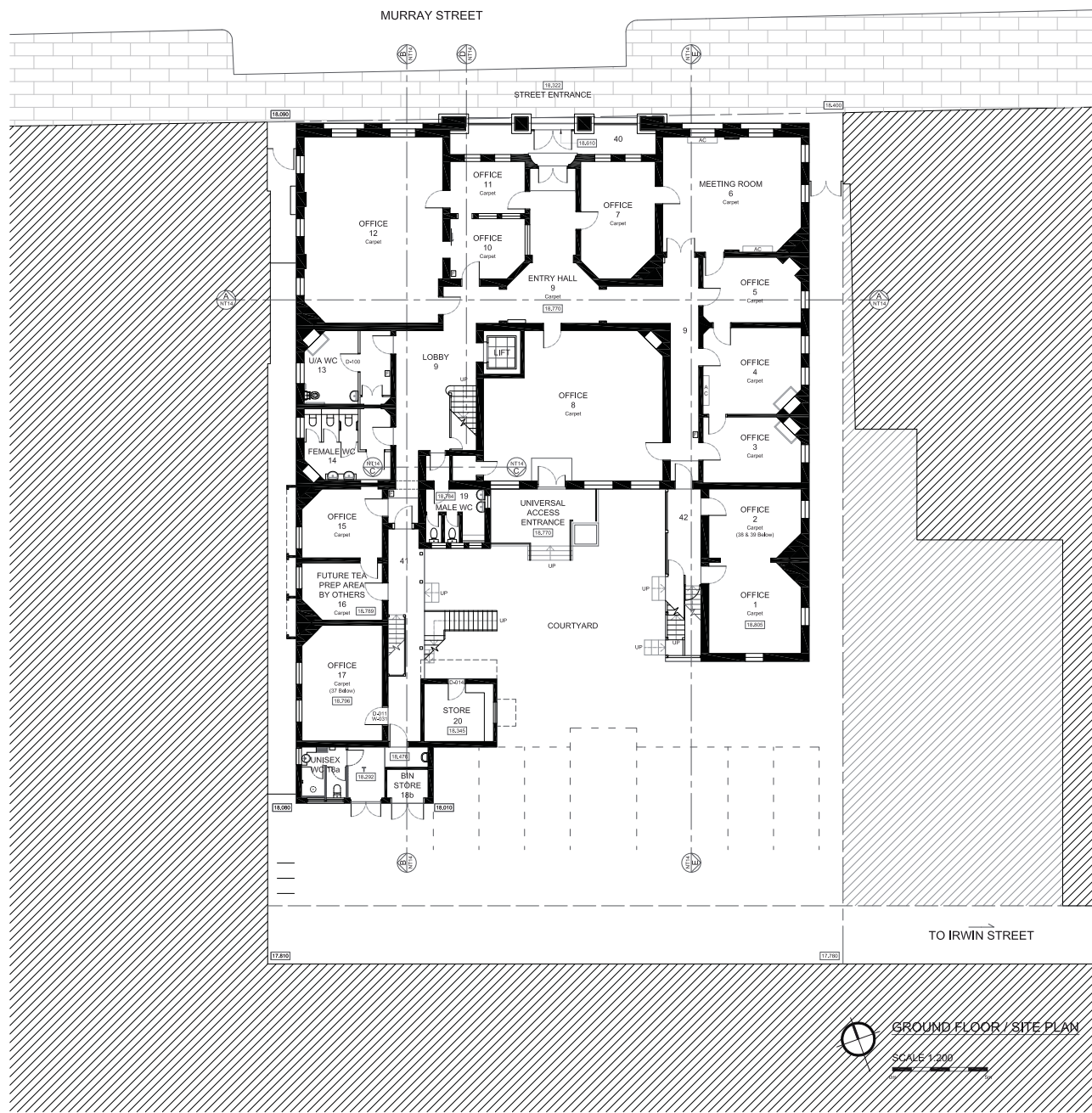
Compliance requirements meant that additional toilets, and the introduction of a passenger lift, were essential. These were included with minimal interference to the building fabric. In addition, alternative solutions were used to comply with fire safety requirements. Challenges in maintaining the heritage values included making decisions about retention of material evidence of the building's previous use – items such as laboratory fit out, sinks, signage and old canvas fire hoses. Some have been retained in situ and interpreted while others are stored as a collection in a dedicated basement area.

The building remains authentic and has a high degree of integrity, while the building fabric remains as physical evidence of its use.

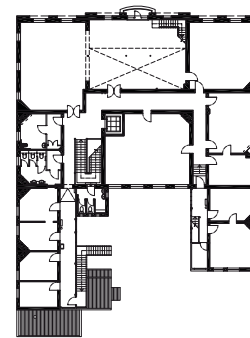
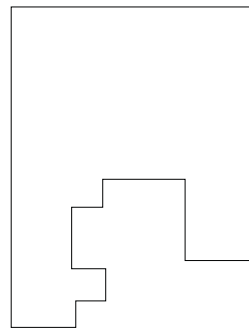
The interpretation highlights stories and themes on site using graffiti, display panels, collection based in situ artefacts, as well as off site through social media, a printed booklet and dedicated website with virtual tours. The offsite approach to interpretation is significant in making accessible the heritage values of the building which will be tenanted. The building facade is appreciated by the community for its contribution to the Murray Street East precinct streetscape. Night facade illumination and the comprehensive works enhance the buildings presence in this precinct.

The wide variety of conservation works completed at 57 Murray Street by the National Trust of Australia (WA) raise knowledge, awareness, understanding and commitment to Western Australia's natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage. The Trust has achieved this objective through the conservation and interpretation of this heritage place it manages on behalf of the community and government of Western Australia. ■



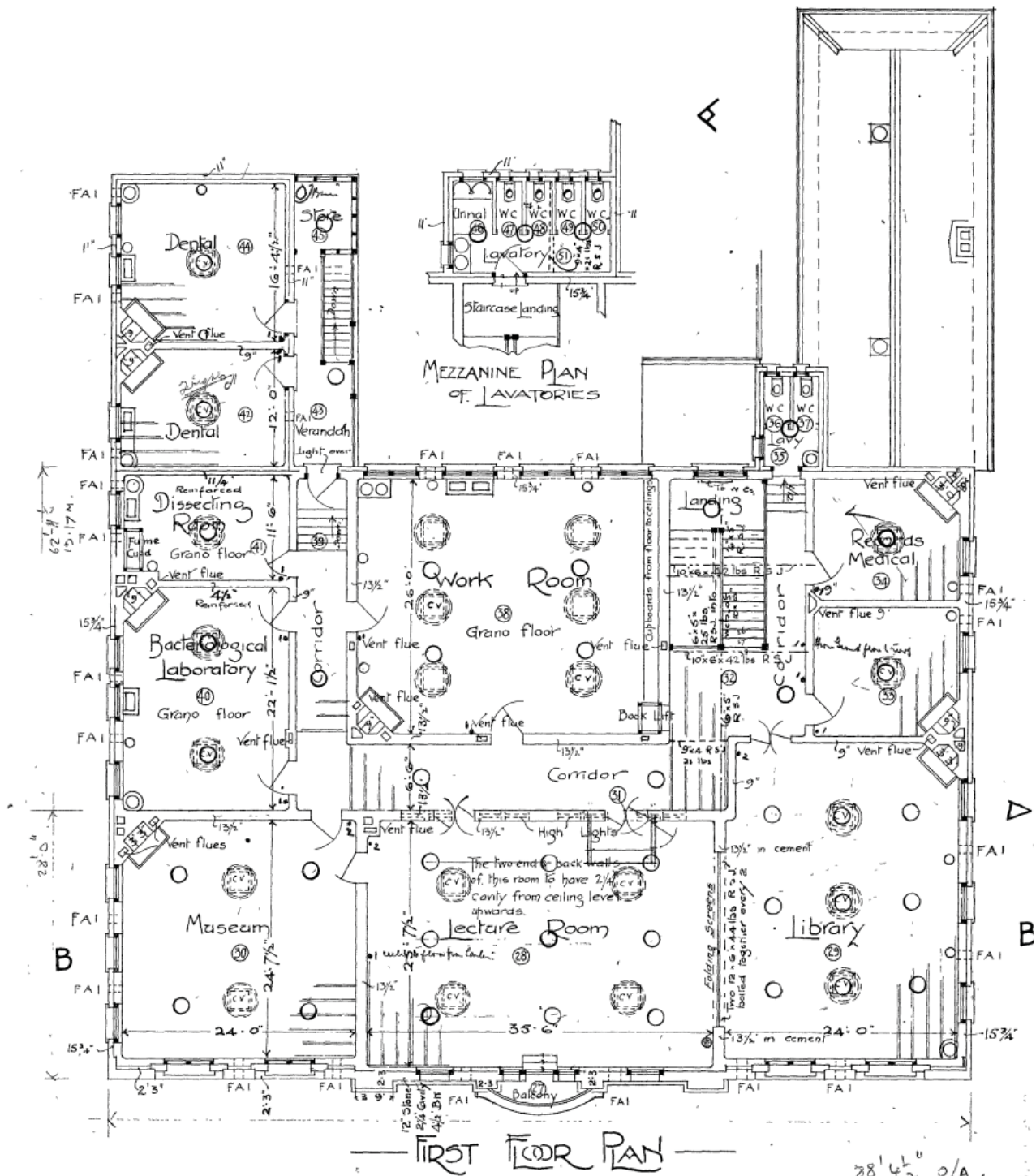


CELLAR  
SCALE 1:500



FIRST FLOOR  
SCALE 1:500



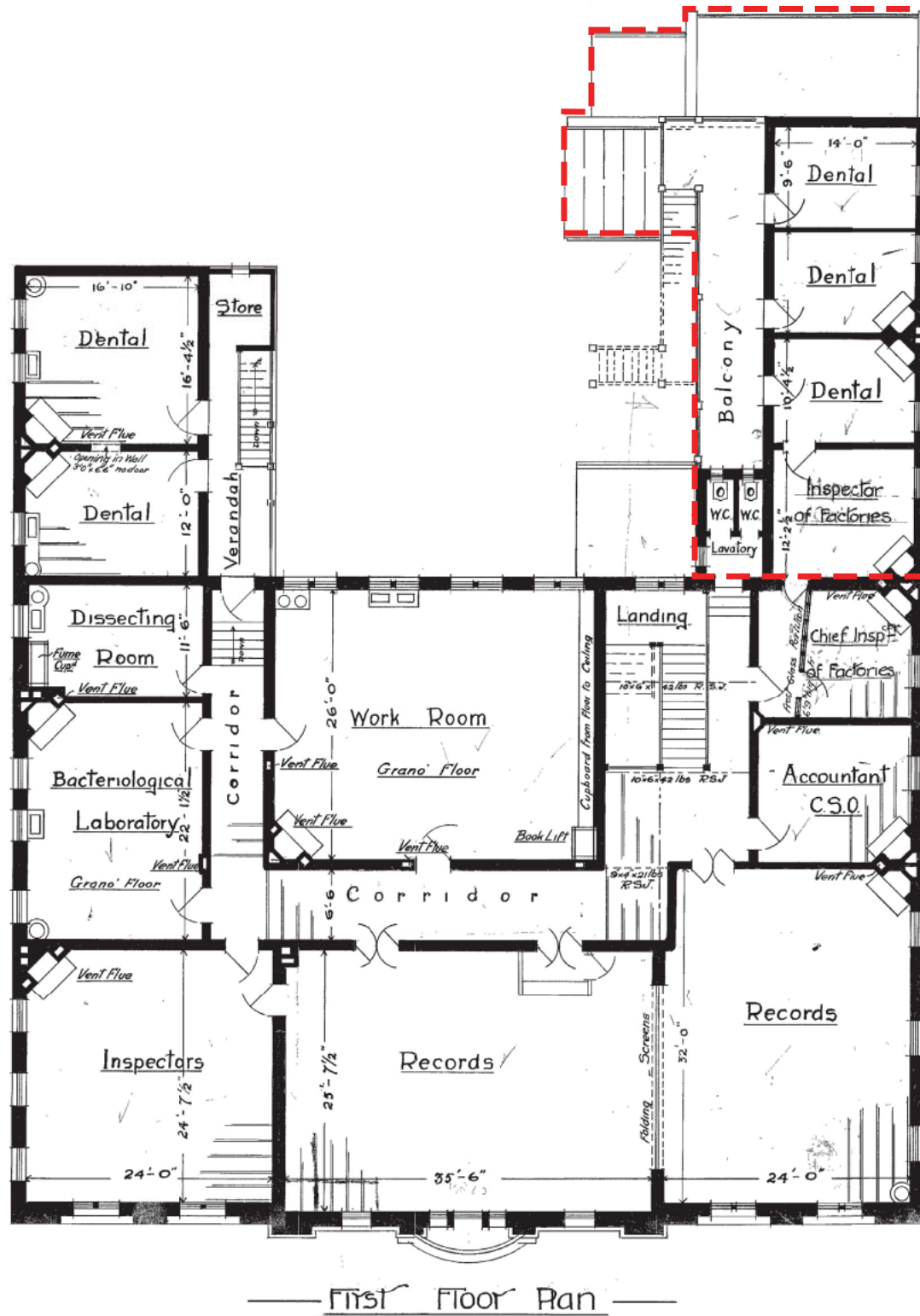


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

28' 4 1/2" O/A.  
26.0 M.

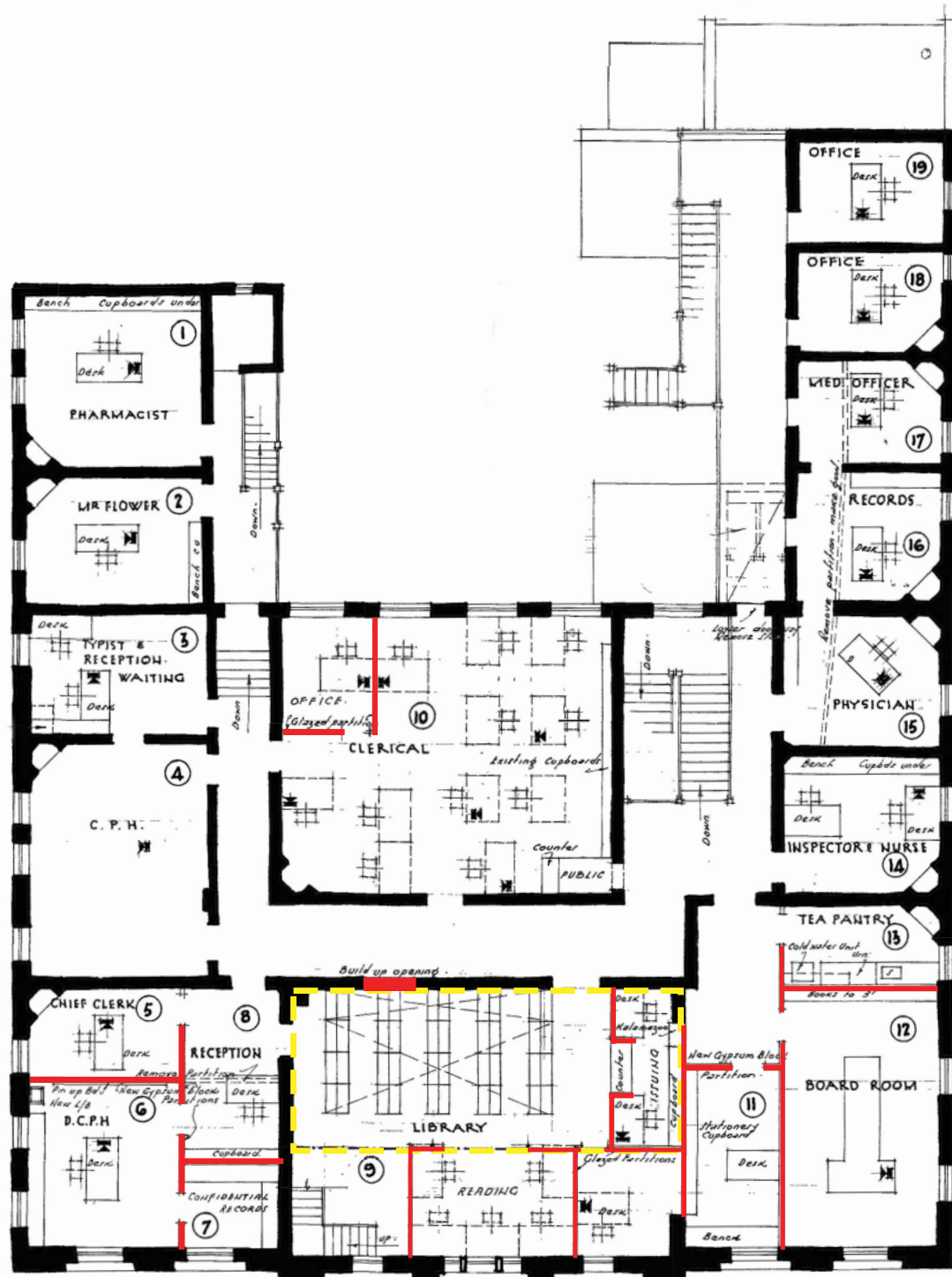
APP 33110





1922 EXTENSION OF WEST WING

**1922 First Floor Plan**  
West Wing Extension

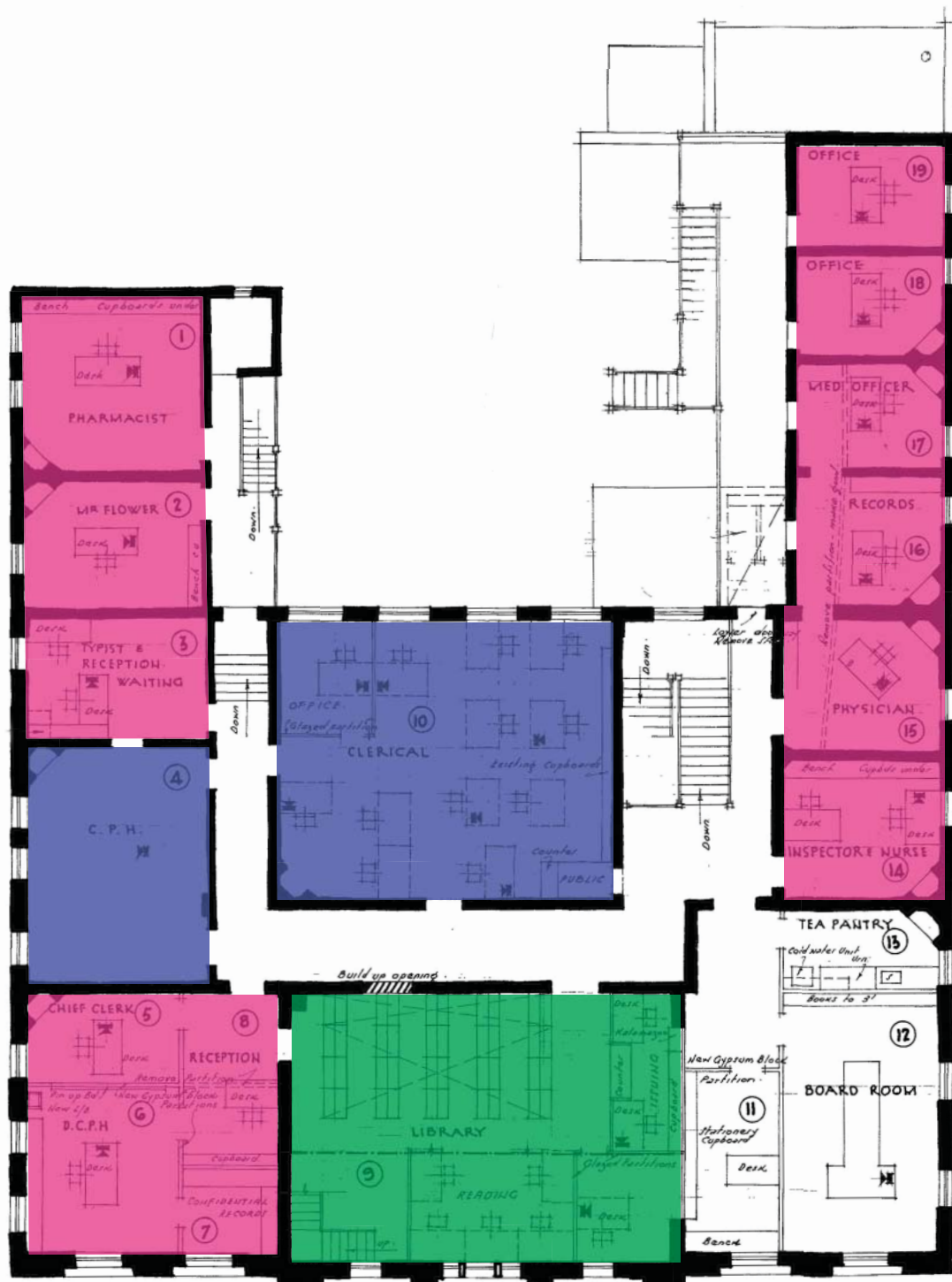


1964 MEZZANINE ADDITION



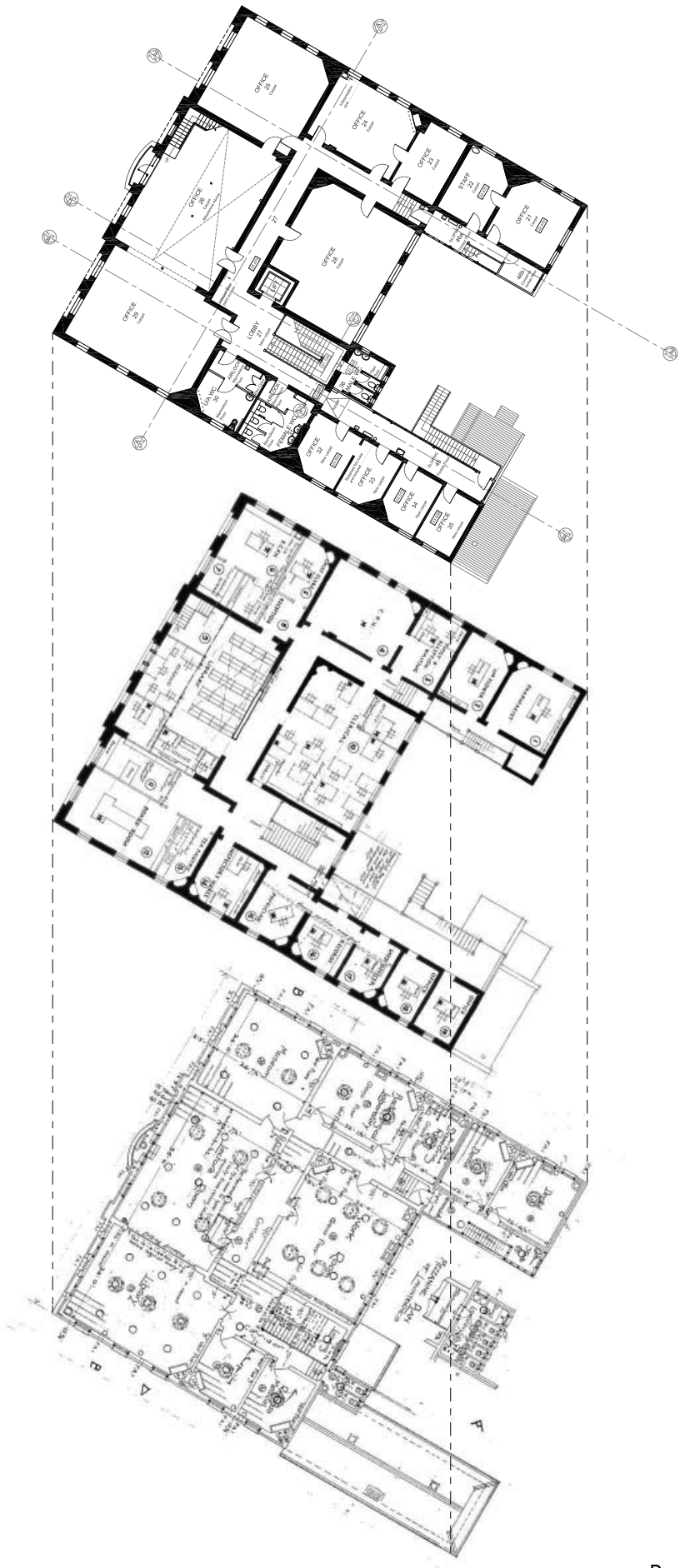
1964 DIVISIONAL WALLS

**1964 First Floor Plan**  
Mezzanine Addition + Partition Walls



- MEDICAL CONSULTING ROOMS
- STORAGE ROOMS
- LABORATORY ROOMS

**1964 First Floor Plan**  
Room Use Investigation



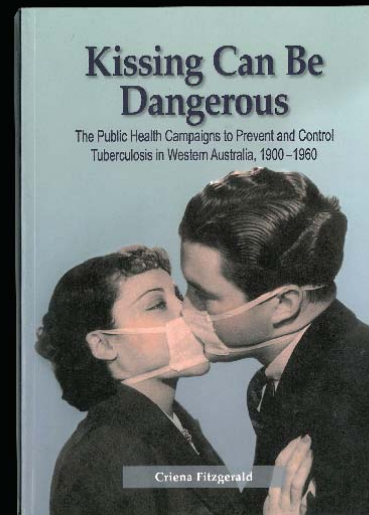
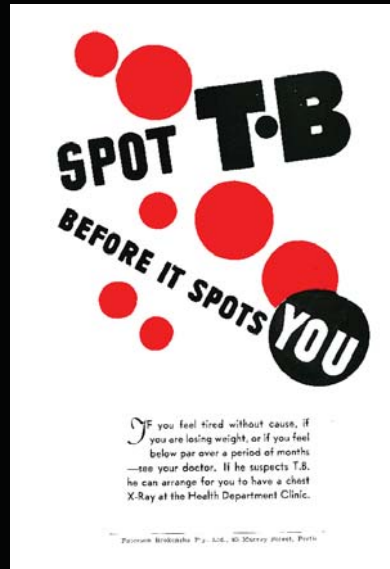
**2013 First Floor Plan**  
Building conserved to maximise heritage values.

**1964 First Floor Plan**  
Plan shows evolution of building use.

**1911 First Floor Plan**  
Original plan with no rear west balcony, extra store or animal annex.

**Axometric Diagram**  
Development of 57 Murray Street





Public Health theories, policies and practices evolved at 57 Murray Street.  
Above; The first public health conference held in Western Australia.



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*Rowville*

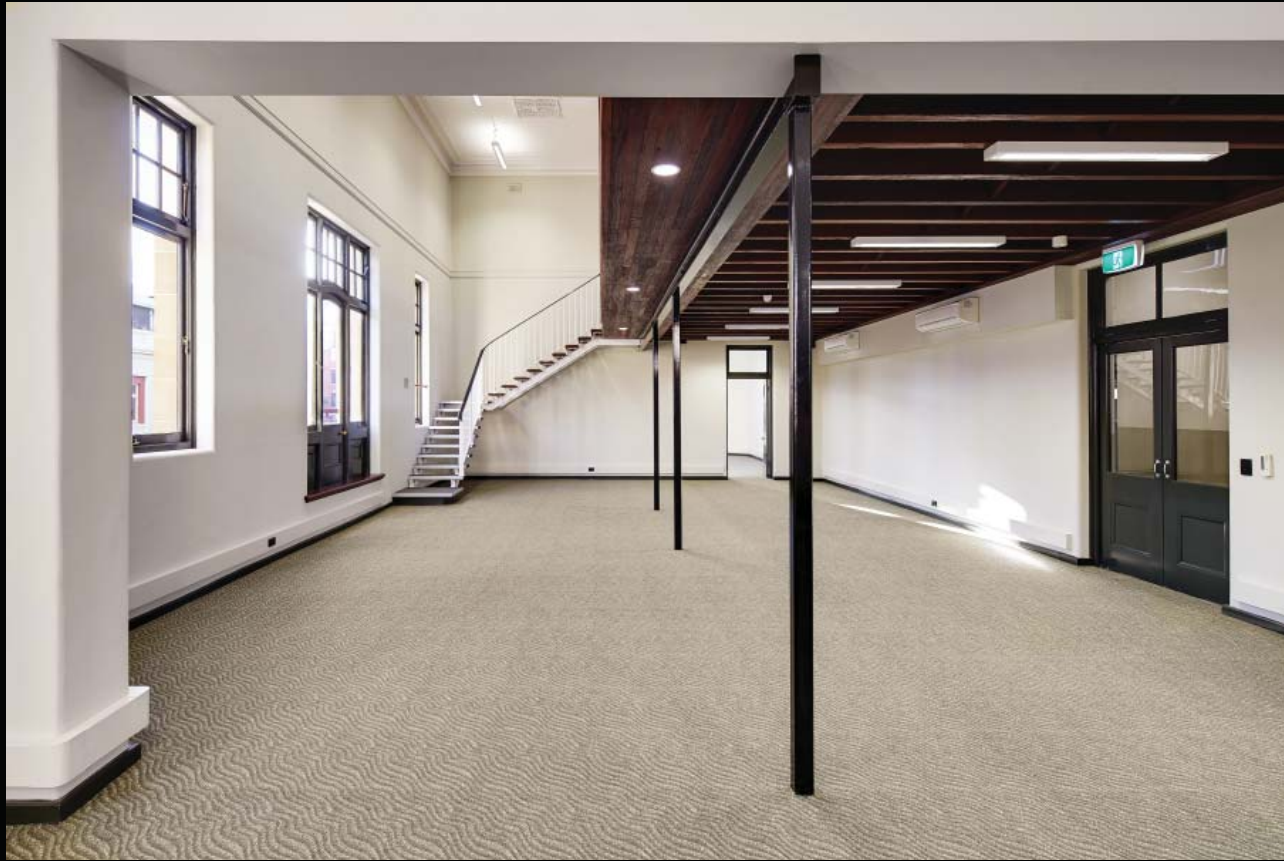
CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines impacted lives across the State from his offices at 57 Murray Street.





































In 1912, this laboratory was the only one available  
for bacteriological and pathological work in the state.

Laboratory

