

**Melbourne After Care Home, later After Care Hospital,
Melbourne District Nursing Society, 45-47 Victoria Parade,
Collingwood**

Heritage overlay: HO336

City of Yarra Property Number: 298365 (of unit 1)

What is significant?

The Melbourne After Care Home, later After Care Hospital, Melbourne District Nursing Society at 45-47 unit 1-30 Victoria Parade, Collingwood was created in 1926, and 1936 for the Melbourne Nursing District and has close historical associations with this group. The hospital was established to serve clients unsuited to nursing in their homes and for those recently discharged from hospital.

The place has a high integrity to its creation date.

Fabric from the creation date at the Melbourne After Care Home, later After Care Hospital, Melbourne District Nursing Society is locally significant within the City of Yarra, compared to other similar places from a similar era.

How is it significant?

The Melbourne After Care Home, later After Care Hospital, Melbourne District Nursing Society at 45-47 Victoria Parade, Collingwood is historically, socially and architecturally significant to the locality of Collingwood and the City of Yarra.

Why is it significant?

The Melbourne After Care Home, later After Care Hospital, Melbourne District Nursing Society is a significant Melbourne nursing institution, commencing here in 1926, with this building completed in 1936. It is a well-preserved and distinctive design, being a 3 storey clinker brick façade in a Neo-Georgian style created by the well-known architectural firm, A and H L Peck.

References:

Municipal rate books:

VPRS 377/P/000

City of Collingwood / Barkly Ward

Rate year/Rate no./Occupier/Owner/Description /NAV

1944/5; Between 276 and 277; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Victoria Parade;

277; Melbourne District Nursing Society; 47 Victoria Parade, Lock up Shop; 60

Between 277 and 278; Melbourne District Nursing Society; 49 Victoria Parade, Brick house and shop;

Between 277 and 278; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Victoria Parade;

1940-41; Between 284 and 285; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Melbourne District Nursing Society;

285; Raphael Lilian, shopkeeper; Melbourne District Nursing Society; 47 Victoria Parade, Lock up Shop; 60

286; Dugan Roy crossed out; Melbourne District Nursing Society; 49 Victoria Parade, Brick house and shop; 110

Between 286 and 287; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Victoria Parade;

1935/36; Between 281 and 282; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Victoria Parade, pop 13;

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282; Smithson Charles H., dairyman; Melbourne District Nursing Society; 41 Victoria Parade, Brick house; 120
Between 282 and 283; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Victoria Parade;
1930/31; Between 273 and 274; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Between 41 and 49;
274; Smithson Charles H., Dairyman; Melbourne District Nursing Society; 41 Victoria Parade, Brick house; 120
Between 274 and 275; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Between 41 and 37 Victoria Parade;
1925/26; Between 274 and 275; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Between 41 and 37 Victoria Parade;
1920; Between 276 and 277; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Between 41 and 37 Victoria Parade, Brick House;
1915; Between 279 and 280; Melbourne District Nursing Society; Between 41 and 37 Victoria Parade, Brick House;

Melbourne or Victorian directories:

North Side
1944/45; 39-43 Melbourne Dist Nursing Society
43-45 After Care Hospital
1940; 39-43 Melbourne Dist Nursing Society
43a Raff's Coffee Lounge
43-45 After Care Hospital
1935; 39 Melbourne Dist Nursing Society
41 Smithson C. H. dairy
43-45 After Care Hospital
1934; 39 Melbourne Dist Nursing Society
41 Smithson C. H. dairy
43-45 After Care Hospital
1933; 43-45 After Care Hospital
1932; 43-45 Melbourne District Nurses Society
1931; 43-45 Melbourne District Nurses Society
1930; 43-45 Melbourne District Nurses Society

Other references:

Foundation Stone
This stone was laid by, Lady Huntingfield, August 31st 1936, For the Melbourne District Nursing Society After-Care Hospital, President Mrs G G Henderson
Vice Presidents, Mrs M M Phillips, Mrs Robert Hunter, Mrs F E Shillabeer, Mrs I J Marks, Hon Secretary Mrs L J Morshead, Hon Treasurer Mrs H F Mainsley, Architects A and H L Peck, Builder Andrew Douglas
MMBW Detail Plan shows once part of mansion Walmer, 41-47.
Cecily Elizabeth Hunter, 2003. DOCTORING OLD AGE A SOCIAL HISTORY OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE IN VICTORIA, degree of Doctor of Philosophy February 2003
`...initially set up in the late nineteenth century by philanthropic Melbourne women, to provide nursing care for sick mothers and their babies at home, enlarged the scope of its operations by building the After Care Home. It opened in 1926 to accommodate the Society's patients who were fit enough to leave hospital but not to return home. 52 Less than ten years after it opened however, the Home was renamed the After Care Hospital and accepted patients from the Melbourne Hospital who were considered to need nursing care but not the sophisticated medical services of that institution.' (from N. Rosenthal, People – Not Cases, The Royal District Nursing Service, Nelson, Australia, 1974,)

www.rdns.com.au:

1885 At a preliminary meeting of ladies and gentlemen anxious to form a society to provide skilled nursing for the sick poor in their own homes...resolutions were proposed and carried:

1. That it is desirable to establish district nursing in Melbourne
2. That a Society be now formed to carry out this object
3. That this association shall be called Melbourne District Nursing Society
4. That the special object of the Society shall be to give skilled nursing

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for the sick poor in their own homes

From the minutes of the first meeting of the Melbourne District Nursing Society, Tuesday, 17 February, 1885

'By 1926 an After Care Home had been opened and shortly afterwards, Melbourne's first 'well baby clinic' began operation. In the face of considerable opposition, the Society pushed forward with the development of Victoria's first family planning clinic to help women coping with the effects of multiple childbirths.

With the upheaval of World War 2 came more change and by the early 1950s care was extended to all, regardless of age or circumstance. Decentralisation commenced in the 1960s, the Society officially became known as the Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS), and the first suburban RDNS centre opened. Other centres soon followed throughout Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula.'

1926 The Melbourne After Care Home is opened by the Society in Victoria Parade. The hospital is established to serve clients unsuited to nursing in their homes, and for those recently discharged from hospital.

1930 An ante-natal clinic is established on the Victoria Parade site to provide care to women who have previously been denied such a service. A kindergarten nurse is employed to attend the children cared for by the Society.

1934 The Society establishes Melbourne's first birth control clinic to assist poor women without access to family planning advice.'

ADB: 'Shortly after her marriage Jessie Henderson joined the Hawthorn Ladies' Benevolent Society. But it was not until 1912, when her youngest child was 3, that she joined the committee of the Melbourne District Nursing Society (Royal District Nursing Service). She was an eager campaigner for the establishment of the society's after-care home in Victoria Parade, Collingwood, opened in November 1926. As president in 1923-47 she saw the formation of the society's first auxiliary in 1927, its first antenatal clinic in 1930 and the opening of a new wing to the after-care home in 1932. Possibly her most controversial action was her support of the Women's Welfare Clinic for birth control, opened in 1934 under the aegis of the society. She argued that it was necessary to aid women for whom child-bearing had become dangerous.'

Wight 2001:

By the early 1860s, a number of villas had been constructed in Victoria Parade, including Portia (15) and Floraston (39). Walmer (now demolished), at 41-47, was set well back on a deep site which backed onto Mason Street, and had a large front garden, unusual for Collingwood. The site is now occupied by the former Victoria Parade Geriatric Care Centre, constructed in the inter-War period.'

'Of note from the twentieth century is the former Victoria Parade Geriatric Care Centre (formerly the after care hospital, 45-47), a large three storey brown brick building with Inter War clinker brick neo-Classical façade and central vehicle driveway in the style of a coach entrance.'

C43 map shows as 39,

Proclaim: Property numbers vary;