

Site:	Fairfield Hospital	Significance:	B
Address:	Yarra Bend Road, Yarra Bend	Map Ref:	2D G2
Access:	Restricted	Survey Date:	19/5/98



Intactness:
 E [] G [] F [x] P []

Condition:
 E [] G [x] F [] P []

Existing Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register []
 Register of the National Estate [x]
 Planning Scheme []
 National Trust []

Recommended Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register []
 Register of the National Estate [x]
 HO Controls [x]

Description

Built as the Queens Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital and opened in 1904, the Fairfield Hospital dealt primarily with scarlet fever and diphtheria, and was placed well away from central Melbourne in Northcote, where a number of institutions were already located, most importantly the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum.

The site has undergone almost continuous development since its establishment, and the grounds reflect the various stages of this development.

Remnant Fabric (Man Made)

Extensive systems of paths are located throughout the site.

Remnant Fabric (Vegetation)

The site contains a number of mature trees that appear to be contemporary with the early history of the site. These include various Cypress (*Cupressus* sp.) and Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) that provide a contemporary setting to the earliest buildings on the site. Two imposing Cedars (*Cedrus deodara*) on the southern side of the main drive, and a pair of Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) at the main entrance are recorded on the National Trust of Australia's (Victoria) Significant Tree Register. An Indian Fig (*Ficus palmata*) is classified by the Trust, and is believed to be the only specimen of this species in Australia.

Potential Threats

Expansion or redevelopment of the site onto significant landscape areas. Reduction in the level of maintenance, which would challenge the heritage value and general landscape character of the site. Failure to maintain the existing significant trees to a level that would ensure a long amenity life.

Management Steps

The extent of the landscape, particularly as a setting for an important group of public buildings, warrants the preparation of a detailed conservation study for the landscape at Fairfield Hospital. It should detail development of the landscape since establishment and outline policies for the ongoing conservation of the site, from which a conservation implementation plan could be prepared.

Statement of Significance

The landscape at Fairfield Hospital is locally significant as a contemporary setting for an early and major hospital complex. The landscape reflects the development of the site since the early 1900s, and contains a number of trees recorded and one classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

Reference

AHC (Australian Heritage Commission). Database 100230 File 2/14/038/0008. (1995).