

**BENDIGO GOLDFIELDS HOSPITAL  
HOSPITAL  
LUCAN STREET, BENDIGO**

**SURVEY DATE: 1991-2**

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER Y**

**STUDY GRADING: C\***

**CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1858-**

**FIRST OWNER : BENDIGO HOSPITAL TRUSTEES**



**CITATION:**

**PROPOSED EXTENT: BENDIGO GOLDFIELDS HOSPITAL WINGS (EXPOSED ON WEST AND NORTH), PART PERIMETER BRICK WALL ON BAYNE STREET, IRON AND STONE FENCE TO LUCAN STREET, FOUNTAIN, AND OFFICERS' QUARTERS ON STEWART STREET (REAR OF SITE)**

**BENDIGO & EAGLEHAWK HERITAGE STUDY-SIGNIFICANT SITES  
GRAEME BUTLER & ASSOCIATES**

## History

The centre block of the present hospital was erected in 1858, the two wings added in 1864 and the central clock tower in 1866. Clock-makers, Joseph and Company of Pall Mall, made the clock. The building gives the impression of having been designed in stages as well as erected. Now, only the western wing remains unobscured by modern additions.

The 'Bowen' pavilion wing was added in 1873-4, again by Vahland and Getzschmann, according to prevailing practice. In the days before antibiotics, good ventilation was vital to prevent epidemics in hospitals. The improved ventilation of detached pavilion wings made them popular with planners, but less so with the staff.

Officers' quarters with ornamental cast-iron verandah and balcony were added in 1890, to the design of W.C. Vahland. These still remain at the rear of the hospital.

Vahland and Son added the nurses' home in 1900, but removal of the verandah and other changes have left it almost unrecognisable. The impressive cast-iron gates were removed and accidentally destroyed. The hospital is now known as the Bendigo and Northern District Base Hospital<sup>1</sup>.

### AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION CITATION:

#### Description

The building was demolished in late 1989 early 1990. Prior to this it was described in the following terms:

The building is of two storeys beneath a continuous hipped roof with projecting wings to each side and the centre of the building marked with a tower rising above the roof. The building achieves its power through its heaviness of the plinth, the continuous rustication and especially the repetitive and continuous lines of fenestration. The broken chord pedimented treatment of the gables to the projecting wings further emphasises the constructivist nature of its architectural concept and the design is completed by the tower which is more akin to an earlier baroque tradition, but superbly balances the weight of the composition by giving it a delicate vertical emphasis. The building is constructed of rendered brick on a sandstone footing. The slate roof has been replaced with tiles. Internally, it is very simple with a long central corridor, two staircases and smallish rooms. Little embellishment remains, although the corridor walls have an ashlar finish and the wing wards retain their pressed metal ceilings.

#### Condition

The building was demolished in late 1989/early 1990.

#### Significance

The building was demolished in late 1989/early 1990. Prior to that event it was of great historical significance as the earliest District Hospital in Victoria and an important early example of the work of Architects Vahland and Getzschmann.

#### Bibliography

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File.

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1 Butcher & Flanders p.94