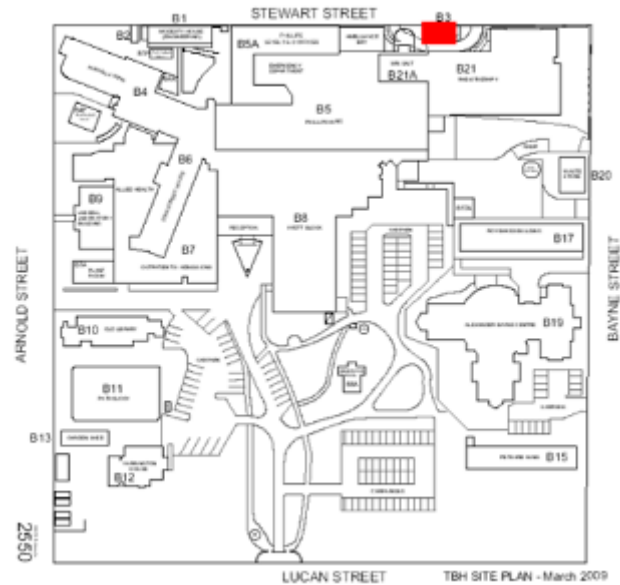


B3 Mortuary



Location: Stewart Street
Built: 1887
Designer: W.C. Vahland
Builder: Unknown



History:

The Mortuary was built in 1887 and replaced an earlier morgue on the hospital site. It has not been used as a morgue for many years. A Stores and Refuse Disposal Building was shown as adjoining the southern side of the Mortuary in 1959 drawings and in the 1997 photograph below, this adjoining building has since been demolished. The Mortuary was used in recent years as a museum and archive for some of the hospital's records. A plaque on the building records that it was designed by WC Vahland and restored in 2003.

Description:

A single-storey red brick and rendered building with a gabled roof clad with corrugated iron. The rectangular building is built on the Stewart Street boundary. Sections of the high brick boundary wall around the hospital site have been removed from the Stewart Street boundary and this wall originally abutted both ends of the Mortuary building (as shown in the photograph below), accounting for its plain brick elevation to Stewart Street. Instead, the building was designed with entrances on the two gabled side elevations.

These elevations on the short ends of the building each feature a central door with top light, flanked by narrow timber-framed, double-hung windows. Rendered dressings surround these door and window openings, and also surround circular vents with timber louvres in the gables above. Other rendered details include the gable coping, plinth and quoins at the building corners. On both building ends, a row of ten small rectangular openings extends above the windows and door, but below the circular vent. These openings are now glazed, but were probably left open originally to increase the ventilation of the building.

There is evidence of a simple door opening on the Stewart Street elevation, which has since been bricked-up. Externally, the building is relatively intact; however, the original door on the north-east elevation has been replaced with a modern flush door.

Cultural Heritage Significance

Historic Theme: Development of the Bendigo Hospital

Primary significance to the major historic theme and to the site as part of the group of the structures which define the site's earliest history.



The Mortuary prior to restoration works, 1997. Note that the boundary walls abutted the building.
Source: Bendigo Health Records



The Mortuary prior to restoration works, 1997. Note the abutting building, which has since been demolished.
Source: Bendigo Health Records