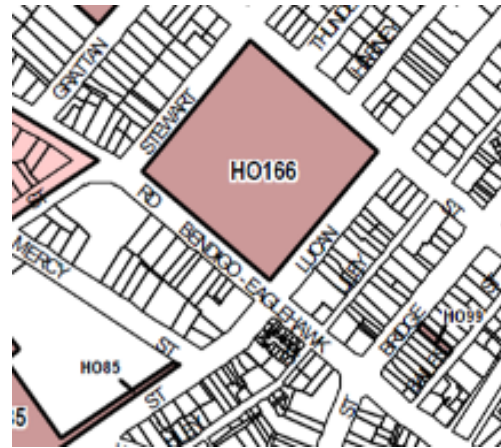


Site Bendigo Hospital Campus (Lucan Street Site)

Formerly Bendigo and Northern District Base Hospital



Bendigo Hospital 1874 – Photograph: Bendigo Health Records



Address Lucan Street
BENDIGO

Designer Pre 1900 - Vahland and Getzschmann
Post 1945 - Yuncken Freeman

Built From 1858

Builder Various

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The Bendigo Hospital, addressing Lucan Street, Bendigo, is a complex of buildings on a rectangular-shaped site bound by Arnold Street to the west, Stewart Street to the north and Bayne Street to the east. It comprises boundary fences and walls, landscaped areas and approximately sixteen buildings. The first hospital building (constructed in 1858 and demolished in 1989) and several subsequent buildings, were designed by Vahland and Getzschmann.

How is it Significant?

The Bendigo Hospital is of historical, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Bendigo.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the Bendigo Hospital is significant for its long associations with the history of healthcare in Victoria and as one of the earliest district hospitals established in Victoria. Victoria's earliest regional public hospital was established in Geelong in 1852. This was followed by hospitals in Bendigo and Castlemaine in 1853. The Bendigo Hospital was relocated to the present site in 1858. Ten other district hospitals were established in Victoria between 1854 and 1858. Most of the early Bendigo Hospital buildings have been demolished as the facilities were improved and adapted over the years to meet the changing needs of healthcare and the local community.

Socially, the Bendigo Hospital is significant as a provider of healthcare to the local community for more than 150 years. In addition to general medical and surgical facilities, the hospital complex has also included infectious diseases wards, laboratories for medical research, a tuberculosis chalet and nurses' accommodation and training facilities. Some of the buildings and structures, such as the Lansell Laboratory Building and Fountain, were only erected as a result of donations by Bendigo residents, while the contribution of other board members and fundraisers, such as John Stanistreet and George Pethard, is commemorated in the naming of buildings.

Aesthetically, the front fence and entrance to the Bendigo Hospital are significant as an outstanding example of a fence design by the prominent Bendigo architects Vahland and Getzschmann. WC Vahland is perhaps most well-known for his design for the Bendigo Town Hall and a substantial number of religious buildings. Vahland



and Getzschmann were responsible for most of the structures built on the hospital site between 1858 and 1900. Very few elements from this period have been retained on the site, but include Modesty House and the Mortuary. These two buildings are not as aesthetically significant as the front fence and entrance.

History

The first Bendigo Gold District Hospital was opened in 1853 on Rowan Street, approximately 1.5km south west of the present hospital.¹ Three years later, it was decided that the first hospital site and its building were unsuitable. The present site, ten acres of land bounded by Lucan, Arnold, Stewart and Bayne Street in Bendigo, was listed in the *Government Gazette*, 31 December 1868, and was permanently reserved for a hospital on 20 December 1872.² The earliest hospital building on the site was the Central Block, built in 1858 with flanking wings added in 1863/64. It was the first major work designed by the important firm of architects, Vahland and Getzschmann.³

The site was progressively developed and all of the structures built prior to 1900 are believed to have been designed by Vahland and Getzschmann. These included the Gatehouse of 1862 (demolished 1983), the Bowen Wing of 1873/74 (demolished 1995), the Mortuary of 1887, Modesty House (former Officer's Quarters) of 1891 and a Nurses Home of 1898 (demolished c.1990). A Lunacy Ward, Isolation Ward and other residential and service structures were also constructed during this period and indicated on Assistant Surveyor's George Black's Survey Plan of the City of Sandhurst in 1882-84.⁴

A training school for nurses was constructed at the Bendigo Hospital in 1885 and in 1895, Vahland designed a larger Nurses' Home for the site. This commitment to nurses' training continued into the 1960s when the proposed redevelopment of the site included substantial staff accommodation and new nursing school facilities. However, only a fraction of the scheme was built and this comprised new nurses' accommodation within the Pethard Wing of 1964.⁵ The hospital's role in nurse education came to an end in 1989 when the last hospital-based nurses completed their courses at Bendigo Hospital and tertiary courses were introduced elsewhere.

During the pre- First World War years, there was great concern about the waves of infection that swept through the Bendigo district and beyond. These included epidemics of scarlet fever, typhoid fever and diphtheria, which led to the construction of new Infectious Diseases Wards in 1915 (demolished 1964). In 1920, the Commonwealth Health Department investigated the high prevalence of respiratory disease in the Bendigo area and recommended that a tuberculosis clinic should be opened in the city with Government staff and funding. The Lansell Laboratory Building (initially a purpose-built Commonwealth tuberculosis clinic and laboratory providing X-ray and pathological services) was subsequently built in 1928 and in 1933 a Tuberculosis Chalet, which was a sanatorium for tuberculosis sufferers, was built (demolished c.1990).⁶

After the Second World War, the designing architects associated with alterations and additions at the Bendigo Hospital were members of the firm Yuncken, Freeman Brothers Griffiths and Simpson (later known as Yuncken Freeman Architects). This firm was responsible for the design of a number of other important hospital complexes in Victoria. They prepared their first new development plan for Bendigo Hospital in 1946. Another development plan was proposed in 1960. In the following decades, many existing buildings on the site were redeveloped or demolished and new buildings constructed. In 1989, the Central Block dating from 1858 was demolished as part of the hospital's largest re-building program. The only structures to survive from the nineteenth century are the 1887 Morgue, the 1891 Modesty House (former Officer's Quarters), and the boundary wall, fence and main entrance to Lucan Street.

There have been close associations over the years between the Bendigo Hospital and the nearby former Bendigo Benevolent Asylum (now the Anne Caudle Campus). These two bodies employed the same architects, (initially Vahland and Getzschmann, and then Yuncken, Freeman Brothers). Finally, in 1995, the Bendigo

¹ David Lloyd, *Domestic Comforts They Had None. A Pictorial History of the Bendigo Hospital*, 2003, p.2.

² Bendigo Hospital File, RS 7245, Dept. of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

³ *Bendigo Gold Fields Hospital, Lucan Street, Bendigo*, Bendigo and Eaglehawk Heritage Study. Significant Sites, Graeme Butler and Associates. 1993

⁴ *Black's Survey Plan*, City of Sandhurst, 1882-1884, Sheet 5, DSE and description of building in Lloyd, p. 17.

⁵ Drawings held in the Archives of the Department of Human Services.

⁶ David Lloyd, *Domestic Comforts They Had None. A Pictorial History of the Bendigo Hospital*, 2003, p.99.

November 2010

Hospital and former Benevolent Asylum amalgamated to form the Bendigo Health Care Group. This Group also included the Bendigo and Region Psychiatric Services.

More detailed historical information is provided in the full Heritage Survey.

Description

The following descriptions only cover elements of primary or contributory significance on the Bendigo Hospital site.

Landscape, Fountain and Boundary Treatments

The site is rectangular and slopes gently uphill from Lucan Street toward Stewart Street. A palisade fence extends along the Lucan Street boundary of the site and this is where the main entrance into the site is located. A central driveway lined with avenue plantings of sixteen oak trees extends up from the main entrance to the main hospital buildings. The front of the site, along Lucan Street, is well planted with a variety of mature trees including Cypress, Liquid Amber, Ash and a Cork tree. A painted, cast concrete fountain centred within a shallow circular pool, was first installed in front of the Central Block in 1913, but was relocated near the main entrance in 1972. The fountain is decorated with Baroque-style ornamentation.

The boundary treatments date from c.1885. The decorative cast iron palisade fence, set into a bluestone base, curves inwards to form a semi-circular recess for the entrance, framed by two pairs of granite gate piers. The piers originally framed central iron gates, sufficiently wide for a horse-drawn vehicle, flanked by two smaller pedestrian gates. All the gates have since been removed, but the piers and fence are largely intact. At the corners of Lucan and Bayne Street, and Lucan and Arnold Streets, the boundary treatment changes from the palisade fence to a brick wall, which is variously intact around the perimeter of the site. Where intact, the red brick wall has a sandstone plinth and is approximately 2 to 2.5 metres high. The wall is capped by a rendered roll-over top with embedded glass to deter intrusion. Simple brick buttresses are located at regular intervals on the inner face of the wall.

Modesty House

Modesty House, built in 1891, is a double-storey red brick building with a double-storey verandah extending along the south-east elevation. The building turns its back on Stewart Street and addresses the rear of the main hospital buildings. It is rectangular in plan and has a hipped roof clad with corrugated iron. The similarly hipped and corrugated iron roof of the timber-framed verandah is separate to the main building's roof. Cast iron balustrade panels, brackets and friezes ornament the verandah structure. Timber-framed, double-hung windows are spaced at regular intervals across the elevations, while the main entrance is centrally located on the south-east elevation.

Mortuary

The Mortuary is a single-storey red brick and rendered building with a gabled roof clad with corrugated iron. The rectangular building was built in 1887 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. This accounts 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.

Lansell Laboratory Building

The Lansell Laboratory Building was constructed in 1928 of red brick with a tiled, hipped roof. The double-storey building is essentially rectangular in plan and addresses Arnold Street. The focus of the symmetrical front elevation is a central rendered loggia. The loggia has a pedimented parapet and a cornice supported on simple corbels. Just below the corbels, the name 'EDITH & GV LANSELL LABORATORY & CLINIC' is applied to the wall in rendered letters. All but one of the three round-arched openings to the front of the loggia, and the two

side arches, have been infilled at a later date. A later concrete ramp and steps lead up to the central arch of the loggia and from there to the main entrance into the building through a modern glazed door.

The building has multi-paned, steel-framed casement windows with painted concrete lintels and sills. Further decorative details include bands of brickwork, wrapping around all the building's elevations, with patterns formed by alternating manganese and red bricks. A barrel-vaulted ventilating dormer projects from the roof, above the loggia. It has horizontal louvres and is clad with metal sheet. It presumably assisted with the ventilation of the laboratories. Multiple ventilating tubes projecting from the roof also contributed to the ventilation system. Deep eaves, lined and bracketed with timber, are another feature of the building's design.

Old Library

The Old Library was built in 1908, originally as a Lunacy Ward. The single-storey, red brick building initially had a T-shaped plan, but the demolition of the rear wing has left it as essentially a rectangular building. Symmetrical bays projecting from the two short ends of the building accommodated toilets and were most probably the male and female ablution blocks. The building appears as though the north-east elevation was originally the front elevation. Before the nearby Pathology building was constructed, this elevation would have been directly visible from the main entrance on Lucan Street. This front elevation is distinguished by the jerkin head roofs over the two most prominent bays. A verandah originally extended between these bays, but has been enclosed at a later date. The remainder of the building has a hipped roof clad with corrugated iron.

The current entrance into the building is through a modern glazed porch built between the ablution block and main building at the northern corner of the building. A further addition has been added to the southern corner of the building. The building features four brick chimneys with rendered tops, projecting from the main ridge. The multi-paned windows are timber-framed and double-hung.

Yarrington House

This single-storey residence built in c.1920 faces the main driveway of the hospital. It has a red brick plinth, with rendered walls above and a predominantly hipped roof covered with concrete tiles. The focus of the design is a central gabled porch on the north-east elevation. The porch has a large round-arched opening, emphasised by an elongated keystone and hood moulding. It appears as though the arch was originally face brick, but has been painted. Triangular buttresses to the front and sides of the porch provide further visual interest.

Either side of the porch are double-hung, timber-framed windows in a set of three. The windows feature decorative leadlight in an Art Deco style, and rendered flower boxes permanently mounted below. A convex bay window, also comprising a set of three double-hung windows with Art Deco leadlight, projects from the south-east elevation. Elsewhere, the windows are similarly timber-framed, but not elaborated with leadlight. Two tall and slightly tapered rendered chimneys extend from the south-eastern side of the building. Later modifications include a concrete ramp and handrails up to the front porch. The porch floor has been concreted and the front door modified. A rendered addition with a gabled tiled roof has been added to the rear of the building.

Current Photographs



Main Entrance and Fountain



Modesty House



Mortuary



Lansell Laboratory Building



Old Library



Yarrington House

Comparative Analysis

An investigation into nineteenth century hospitals revealed some similarities between the design for the Bendigo Hospital and others constructed at the same time. A central block, like that designed at Bendigo, was commonly designed as the architectural focus of a hospital complex, being the largest element and sited at the front and centre of the site. Like the central block designed by Vahland and Getzschmann, the buildings were usually symmetrical with flanking wings. Typical examples include the Royal Edinburgh Infirmary (1870-1879) and the Berlin Hospital (1868-74). Another common feature seen at Bendigo was the siting of a separate residence for a superintendent, usually in the front and to the left of the main entrance. Such an arrangement was included in the designs for the new Hamburg Hospital (1885-89), the Melbourne Hospital (1846-57) and the North Melbourne Benevolent Asylum (1850-58).

An unusual aspect of the design for the Bendigo Hospital is the siting of the Central Block in the rear half of the site. This meant that, initially, landscaped grounds occupied the front half of the site and created a picturesque setting for the buildings. While space around hospital buildings had been recommended, at least since Tenon in 1785, to help isolate infectious diseases and improve air quality, few sites were large enough to support such generous gardens.⁷ In addition, the siting of Vahland and Getzschmann's Central Block compromised its preservation in the future expansion of the hospital. Later buildings were built either side of the driveway leading up to the Central Block, but the siting limited the efficient use of the land.⁸ Buildings were eventually built in front of the Central Block, destroying the architectural focus of Vahland and Getzschmann's original design.

⁷ J. Tenon, *Memoires sur les hospitaux de Paris*, Paris, 1788, p. 401.

⁸ *The Bendigo Advertiser*, 27 May 1884 – This article suggests that it was Vahland's intention that additional hospital accommodation could be provided in three wings, each equivalent to the Bowen Wing, on either side of the main driveway.

Apart from the minor similarities described above, a comparison with 11 nineteenth century German hospitals uncovered no designs with particular similarities with the Bendigo Hospital, which may have influenced Vahland and Getzschmann when they undertook their architectural training in Germany.⁹ The hospital which most closely resembled the Bendigo Hospital was the Melbourne Hospital.

The central block of the first Melbourne Hospital was built in three stages (1846, 1854 and 1857), just before the central block at the Bendigo Hospital. It was initially designed by Samuel Jackson, but most of the early buildings were demolished in the early twentieth century. While Jackson's central block is stylistically different to Vahland and Getzschmann's design, the massing and symmetry of the buildings is similar.¹⁰ Like Bendigo, the Melbourne Hospital had a gatehouse and a Secretary's Residence on the left hand side. The other stark similarity is the inefficient siting – large open areas were left between the fences on Lonsdale and Swanston Streets and the Central Block – 'giving the pleasing appearance of the apparent spaciousness of the grounds'¹¹. But in reality, all the other buildings which were successively added to the complex were crammed into the small spaces left along the Russell Street and Little Lonsdale frontages.

The Bendigo Benevolent Asylum, located just two blocks away, was also developed by the architects Vahland and Getzschmann and was very similar to the design of the Bendigo Hospital in a number of ways. Both have similar geography in the slope and size of the land. Both have a surrounding wall and a metal open fence along the main address with an ingo to the main entrance. The design of the entrance is also similar to Vahland's other sizeable stand-alone fence at the White Hills Cemetery of the 1880s. Grand iron gates have since been removed from the Asylum and Hospital, but are still extant at the Cemetery.

Inside the main entrance, on the right hand side, at both the Hospital and Asylum, were gatehouses - the gatehouse has been demolished at the Hospital, but is still extant at the Asylum. Both gatehouses were designed in a picturesque mode suggesting they were designed from a pattern book. Long, straight driveways from the main entrances originally lead to the main building of both complexes. The main building has been retained at the Asylum, but demolished at the Hospital. However, both sites have retained a strong sense of the original landscape design bordering this driveway and drawing the eye to the buildings at the top of the driveway. A further similarity in the designs is the siting of the Superintendent's Residence, somewhat separate from the core buildings and located to the left of the driveway. However, the Asylum's Superintendent's Residence is a grand house dating from c.1880, whereas the Hospital's Yarrington House was a more modest residence built in the 1920s.

A more extensive comparative analysis, including a comparison with twentieth century hospital complexes, is provided in the full Heritage Survey.

Recommendations

Elements of Primary Significance:

There are five structures of primary significance on the site, in addition to identified trees and the central driveway. These are the Boundary Wall, the Lucan St Fence and Main Entrance, Modesty House, the Mortuary and the Lansell Laboratory Building. These structures should not be demolished or substantially altered. The setting of these structures is important and, wherever possible, new works in the vicinity should respect the scale, alignment and form of the existing heritage structures.

A buffer zone should be placed around these structures and elements in which no further construction takes place. Buffer zones for the buildings should be:

⁹ FJ Mouat and H Saxon Snell, *Hospital Construction and Management*, London, 1883.

¹⁰ Refer to 'Final General Report on Hospital Construction and Management,' HB Allen, 1891 – Appendix, and historic images of the Melbourne Hospital, State Library of Victoria.

¹¹ HB Allen, *Final General Report on Hospital Construction and Management*, Melbourne, 1891, p. 22.

November 2010

- ❑ Modesty House
At least 5m either side and 10m in front
- ❑ Morgue Building
At least 5m to the south-east side and 10m in front of each of the gabled ends.
- ❑ Lansell Laboratory Building
At least 5m either side and no works between the building frontage and Arnold St
- ❑ Boundary Walls
A buffer of 10m
- ❑ Front Fence and Main Entrance
A buffer of 30m along the Lucan St fence in which there are no works of any substantive nature apart from landscaping, tree planting and discretely located and housed fire outlets, gas and water metres.
- ❑ Central Driveway
Between the oak trees
- ❑ Avenue plantings of oak trees along central driveway
A buffer of 5m beyond the drip zone of the trees (circular)

Elements of Contributory Significance:

There are three structures and one element of contributory significance on the site. These are the Fountain, the Old Library, and Yarrington House and the Landscape fronting Lucan Street. These structures should not be demolished, but they may be adapted to suit functional requirements.

Buffer zones for the buildings should be:

- ❑ The Fountain
A minimum 1.5m is required, however this structure should be reinstated at the head of a reworked main entry path system where it may be part of a round-about or within a nature strip.
- ❑ The Old Library
A small buffer is required at the rear (2m) and sides while the frontage on the south east façade should have a more substantial buffer of up to 10m
- ❑ Yarrington House
A buffer between the frontage of the house and the main entry path should be maintained free of other structures, including car parking, and a 5m buffer applied to the remaining three sides.
- ❑ Landscape fronting Lucan Street
The buffers recommended above for the Front Fence, Central Driveway and oak trees is sufficient.

Elements of No significance

Some of these elements should be removed from the site. Others may be taken down as required in a long term building programme.

More extensive recommendations are provided in the full Heritage Survey.

Select References

Bendigo Advertiser, 7 February 1989.

Bendigo Benevolent Asylum Reserve File, File 06P127361, Dept. of Sustainability & Environment.

Bendigo Gold Fields Hospital, Lucan Street, Bendigo, Bendigo & Eaglehawk Heritage Study, Significant Sites, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1993.

Bendigo Hospital File, RS 7245, Dept. of Sustainability & Environment.

Black's Survey Plan, City of Sandhurst, Sheet 5, 1882-1884, Department of Sustainability & Environment.

Butcher, M. and Flanders, G. *Bendigo Historic Buildings*, 1987.

heritage ALLIANCE

Job 2009-09 Bendigo Hospital – Heritage Survey



November 2010

Hospitals & Charities in Victoria, 1862 to 1978, Public Record Office of Victoria.

Lawler, G. *The Vahland School*, Vol. 1 & 2, (undated Undergraduate Thesis, Melbourne University).

Lewis, MBL, *Architects Index*.

Lloyd, David, *Domestic Comforts They Had None. A Pictorial History of the Bendigo Hospital*, 2003

National Trust of Australia (Vic) *Bendigo Base Hospital*, FN 1064.

The Argus, 14 October 1863.