

**BENDIGO BENEVOLENT ASYLUM, FORMER
HOSPITAL
100-104 BARNARD STREET,**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

HISTORIC BUILDINGS REGISTER Y

STUDY GRADING: A

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1859-

FIRST OWNER : BENDIGO BENEVOLENT ASYLUM

ARCHITECT: LOVE, R.A.; VAHLAND & GETZSCHMANN



CITATION:

History

'The central section of the main building of the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum (now the Home and Hospital for the Aged) was commenced in 1859 to the design of Robert Alexander Love, and was opened with appropriate

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ceremony the following March. At this stage it was a plain red-brick three-storey building with neither verandahs nor portico.

Robert Getzschmann designed the gatehouse in 1862 whilst his partner W.C. Vahland was in New Zealand. Together, they designed the wings to the central block, industrial school and finally, the addition of the portico in 1872 completed the central building. Vahland remained architect to the institution until the twentieth century, during which time numerous additions and alterations were made¹.

The former superintendent's residence in the grounds was erected in 1879².

A foundation stone for the portico was laid 19.12.1872 and other works noted on the stone included the founding of the asylum there in 19.12.1857³.

Other works

Other works include: 1873 portico wing, iron fence (and lodge?); 1884 construction of a two-storey lying-in ward (later George Edward Mayne Nursing Education Dept.); 1892 new female ward (Vahland & Getzschmann); 1926 commonwealth laboratory built in the grounds; 1949-58 new boiler house (Yuncken Freeman Brothers, Griffiths & Simpson); 1951-8 100 bed five-storey ward; 1959 new nurses home; 1963-9 remodelling of existing buildings; 1966 new Day Hospital started; and added 6 floors to the Day Hospital (1973-6)⁴.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION CITATION:

Description

Established in 1857 and moved to its present site in 1860. It appears that earliest parts of principal wing date from this time, although portico was not added until 1872. West wing (2 storey exposed brick structure with verandah on east facade) dates from 1868. Other structures include - Superintendent's residence and porters lodge. Later works were undertaken by Vahland and Getzschmann.

Condition

There have been minor alterations to the exterior (verandahs glazed, etc.). The interiors are not significant.

Significant Associations

Love, R. (Designer)

Significance

The benevolent home is one of Bendigo's oldest institutions and comprises the main wing, 1868 wing, residence and lodge. It is an outstanding complex of nineteenth century hospital buildings. A distinctive feature of the group is its unity with the slender, paired semi-circular arched windows being a consistent element of each building. The superb ionic portico is also important. The buildings are set in attractive grounds and are a fine element of this historic city.

Bibliography

1. National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 315.
2. Historic Buildings Preservation Council, File No. B/15/2.
3. Bendigo Advertiser. 16 March 1860.
4. Bendigo Advertiser. 20 December 1872.

1 Butcher & Flanders p.95
Butcher & Flanders p.95
F. St. on building
4 HBC FN662618G AHC nom. form

5. Lewis, M. 'Bendigo' in Australian Council of National Trusts, Historic Public Buildings of Australia, Melbourne, 1972.



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