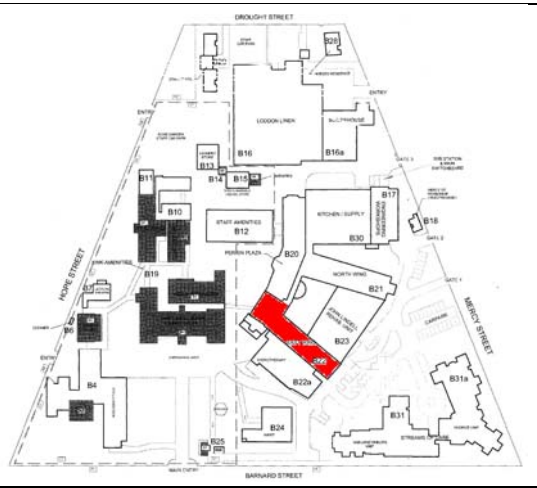




Location: Barnard St Frontage
Built: 1951 commenced, opened 1958
Date range:
Designer: YFGS Architects
Builder: Lewis Construction Co Pty Ltd



History:

It had been intended that the East Wing would be commenced shortly after the boiler house complex and be completed shortly after the boiler house allowing time for any trials and corrections which may have been required. The commencement date was in mid July 1951 with the works carried out by Lewis Constructions to a contract price of £229,150. Mechanical contractors were and electrical work was by JL Howard (£11,783)

Fate was to intervene when in 1952 the Commonwealth Government, on review of all its loans and grants to the states determined that it was entering an era of financial shortages and in May 1952 all public works funded by the Commonwealth were halted. This had a major impact across works projects in Victoria. The works had been in progress at the time and the concrete pour of the first floor of the building was brought to a sudden halt.

Work did not recommence until mid 1955 and the shell of the building finally completed in 1958 when it was opened by Sir Dallas and Lady Brooks the Governor of Victoria. The cost to date was £325,578.

Description:

A seven storey block designed with two distinct functional areas: the south services end containing the entry, foyers, stairwell and elevators designed as a glazed egg-crate area with the main ward wings in cream brick with a sheer wall on the east while the west façade is delineated by a series of narrow concrete sunshades marking the floor levels of the building.

The entry is clearly marked by a welcoming forward projecting entry oriented toward the parking lot. This consists of an aluminium framed glass wall, and terrazzo paving projecting from the wall above. The east wall is primarily in brick with steel framed windows.

The building contains wards, speech pathologists, gymnasiums, physio wards, teaching areas, surgery areas, dental areas, sterilizing and laboratories.

Cultural Heritage Significance

Primary Historic Theme: Development of Bendigo Asylum

No significance

Historic Sub Theme: Post War Development

Primary significance as historical recommencement of the provision of services after the war and one in which the idea of recuperation on sunlit balconies is overthrown by the new technologies of disease control and a whole new range of chemical cures provided courtesy of WWII.