



Nurses Home as built 1959 seen from the main entry area. The Matrons flat is to the rhs.

Location: Barnard St Frontage
Built: Designed 1958, built 1959
Designer: Hospital & Charities Commission
 Architect FC Armstrong
Builder: J Mitchell



History:

Originally proposed to be constructed for a budget of £15,000, the Nurses Home was completed in September 1959 for a contract price of £17,790 by contractors J. Mitchell & Sons to the design of the Hospital and Charities Commission architect FC Armstrong. The site was the vacant land at the frontage and the building was designed for 12 nurses and a matron arranged around an internal courtyard. The internal courtyard has since been filled by a meeting and administrative area but the exterior is much as built.

Description:

A single storey cream brick building with timber framed windows under a broad low gabled roof of tray roofing metal. The timber windows are set as pairs and the original drawings show them as manufactured by 'Stegbar'. The building has something of a domestic scale to it and the layout of the interior reveals there were approximately 12 dormitory rooms (some are now amalgamated) with common toilet and bathroom facilities along the rear end. The interior had a lounge room to the side of the atrium spaced which was floored with concrete pavers. The matron occupied a corner of the building with her own entry door on the Barnard Street side. The matron had two bedrooms although one of these could be closed off for use on the nurses side thus allowing 13 nurses to be accommodated. The matron also had her own kitchenette and one large bedroom and lounge.

The interior now contains offices where there were dormitory bedrooms, meeting room and an administrative area as well as ancillary spaces such as the kitchen and toilets which were in the original arrangement.

Overall there is little architectural aesthetic to this structure and is for the most part elevations of rectangles (windows) counter opposed to the broader rectangles of walling elevations.

Cultural Heritage Significance

Primary Historic Theme: Development of Bendigo Asylum

No significance

Historic Sub-Theme: Post War Development

Of **no** aesthetic (architectural) significance and low historical significance.

One of a group of new post war buildings in a stripped down mode where the aesthetic was not created by applied detail but was created by the arrangement of the architectural skin of the building in which geometric shapes (windows and doors) were arranged within other geometric shapes (ie the rectangle of the wall shape).