
Fairfield Hospital Grounds (former) later Thomas Embling Forensic Centre (see HO303)



Fairfield Hospital Grounds



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Location

off Hospital Grounds Yarra Bend Road, FAIRFIELD, City of Yarra

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO344

Heritage Listing

Yarra City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The following wording is from the John Patrick Landscape Citation, 1998 for the property. Please note that this is a "Landscape Citation", not a "Statement of Significance". For further information refer to the Landscape Citation held by the City of Yarra.

Landscape Citation, 1998

Description

Built as the Queens Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital and opened in 1904, the Fairfield Hospital dealt primarily with scarlet fever and diphtheria, and was placed well away from central Melbourne in Northcote, where a number of institutions were already located, most importantly the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum.

The site has undergone almost continuous development since its establishment, and the grounds reflect the various stages of this development.

Remnant Fabric (Man Made)

Extensive systems of paths are located throughout the site.

Remnant Fabric (Vegetation)

The site contains a number of mature trees that appear to be contemporary with the early history of the site. These include various Cypress (*Cupressus* sp.) and Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) that provide a contemporary setting to the earliest buildings on the site. Two imposing Cedars (*Cedrus deodara*) on the southern side of the main drive, and a pair of Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) at the main entrance are recorded on the National Trust of Australia's (Victoria) Significant Tree Register. An Indian Fig (*Ficus palmata*) is classified by the Trust, and is believed to be the only specimen of this species in Australia.

Statement of Significance

The landscape at Fairfield Hospital is locally significant as a contemporary setting for an early and major hospital complex. The landscape reflects the development of the site since the early 1900s, and contains a number of trees recorded and one classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

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|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Yarra - Northcote Urban Conservation Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1982; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1998; Yarra - City of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007; |
| Construction dates | 1901, |
| Hermes Number | 103816 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 2

see HO303- shown as south part of grounds, currently Forensic Centre site

Physical Description 1

Externally the first buildings were of cavity face brickwork with stucco dressings and Marseilles pattern terracotta tiles; they generally followed the Queen Anne or Federation style of architecture.

The two original ward blocks (1901-04; Building Nos. 4 and 5; later the Pathology Building and the Pay Office and Fitters and Turner's Building) are single-storey red brick Edwardian buildings characterised by two conically roofed octagonal tower rooms on the north end. The buildings are long and pavilion-like, with terracotta tiled roofs and timber-framed windows.

The new administration building and wards of 1916-17 is a symmetrical double-storey austere brick building, late Edwardian in style. The walls are of red brick with rendered string courses, lintels and chimney caps. The entrance is marked by a decorative gable-end bearing the words the QUEEN'S MEMORIAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL. The building has a relatively complex hipped and gabled roof clad in terracotta tiles. The entrance porch is a later addition.

The Nurses' Home (1901-04, extended 1916 on its east side) is a three-storey brick building with an unusual three-storey timber-framed verandah. The roof is penetrated by tall gabled bays.

The ambulance garage, workshops and men's quarters (1940) is an austere single- and double storey brick building with Moderne characteristics. The double-storey section is parapeted and has a relatively narrow horizontal band of windows. The ambulance garage is behind a dominant curved brick wall which forms part of the perimeter fence of the complex. The FVG Scholes block (1949) is an unusual modern building with a glazed facade, much of it zig-zag in plan.

Other structures on the site include the tall, tapered brick incinerator chimney.

Many of the buildings have been altered, particularly in the post-War period. Some entrances have been changed, and covered walkways connecting buildings erected.

(Note: this site has been redeveloped)

Integrity

Poor

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>