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# ST VINCENTS PUBLIC HOSPITAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

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## Location

18-35 VICTORIA PARADE FITZROY, YARRA CITY

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2408

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 16, 2022

### What is significant?

The site is historically significant due to its association with past occupancy of a large city allotment that demonstrates its changing use in response to broader development of Melbourne, this is shown through multiple phases of buildings and occupants. The site is part of the block that became canvas town in the 1840s. J.T Hughes and J Hoskings purchased Lot 48 in 1840 where St Vincent's Hospital now stands. During the 1840s it was also Mr Bear's Garden until his death in 1851. The site was then subdivided, and seven terraces' houses, York House and Brenan Hall were constructed. By 1898, most of the land between Regent Street and Nicholson Street was occupied by seven terrace houses sandwiching Hall of Science (Lyceum) and York House. The Druid Wing was then constructed in 1919 in the place of the York House and two of the adjoining terraces. The modern St Vincent's Hospital was officially opened in 1960. The site is located at the south-eastern end of Nicholson Street, at its junction with Victoria Parade. It is located directly to the east of the Carlton Gardens. The entire area is covered by buildings, former buildings and other large hardstand surfaces. The site likely comprises building phases of numerous early timber structures, later brick and masonry terraces. The terraces include a series of yards, verandas and cesspits that are likely to retain an archaeological representation.

The site has the potential to contain significant historical archaeological features, deposits and/or artefacts which relate to the historic occupation of the allotments on the corner of Victoria Parade and Nicholson Street from at

least the late 1840s.

**How is it significant?**

**Why is it significant?**

Interpretation of Site

1. Tent City Pre-Gold Rush (1836m beginning Melbourne's colonial settlement - 1840s) 2. Mr Bear's Garden (1840s-1851) 2. Terrace Subdivision, York House and Brenan Hall (1850s-1900) 3. Early St Vincent's (Druid Wing) to the construction of Aikenhead wing (early 1900s-1960) 4. Modern St Vincent's Hospital (1960-present) There is sufficient historical evidence that the development site will retain archaeological remnants of its 19th occupation. This is likely to be greatest beneath Brenan Hall (Phase 3) as the only extant heritage building but could also include the cess pits associated with the terraces (No 1 to 9) as shown on the MMBW work plan. The potential for archaeology is dependant on the impact of the Aikenhead Building.

Hermes Number 208515

Property Number

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## History

J.T Hughes and J. Hoskings purchased Lot 48 in 1840 in 1840 where St Vincent's Hospital and the development site now stands. Part of the block became canvas town in the 1840s; a place where new arrivals and the poor could pitch their tents and live rough until they found more suitable accommodation. During the 1840ss, all or part of Lot 48 was purchased by John Bear. Newspaper articles reference this area as Mr Bear's Garden when discussing the western end of Victoria Parade during the 1850s (e.g. Melbourne Daily, 11 March 1851). After his death in 1851, Bear's Fitzroy land was subdivided and put up for auction. By 1880, the corner of Nicholson Street and Victoria Parade remained vacant, with terrace houses constructed further east.

1889, the Australasian Secular Association constructed the Hall of Science (now Brenan Hall) as a meeting place and lecture hall for the Freethought/Secular Movement in Victoria. By 1904, the building was referred to as Austral Hall and was used as a skating rink. St Vincent's Hospital aquired the building in 1913 where it was used an outpatient's hall.

in 1898, most of the land between Regent Street and Nicholson Street was occupied. Five terrace houses ran from the empty Nicholson Street corner block. The Hall of Science, called Lyceum in this plan, was sandwiched between the five terraces and another two terraces to the east. Alongside this on the Regent Street corner stood a larger building called York House, built in the 1870s. York House and the adjoining two terraces were demolished to make way for Druids Wing which was officially opened in 1919. In 1934, the remaining terraces along Victoria Parade were demolished to make way for the construction of the Aitkenhead Wing and Daly Wing which were officially opened in 1960.

*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/>*