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# Former Austin Hospital for Incurables Complex

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## Location

145 - 163 Studley Road,, HEIDELBERG VIC 3084 - Property No B5645

## Municipality

BANYULE CITY

## Level of significance

Regional

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant? The former Austin Hospital for Incurables Complex, Studley Road, Heidelberg, was founded in 1882. Contributory elements include the Davies Building of 1889-90 and mature *Washingtonia robusta* palm tree, the former Gate Lodge of 1892 and 1906-7, the Bowen Centre of 1897 and adjoining mature ficus tree, the former Marian Drummond Nurses' Home of 1913-14, Zeltner Hall of 1917 and two mature plane trees, the former Edward Wilson Nurses' Home of 1925, and the mature oak avenue south-east of the Edward Wilson Nurses' Home planted prior to 1920.

The Austin Research Centre (former Kronheimer Wing) of 1905 is of local historic interest. The 1990s addition on the north side of the Bowen Centre is not significant.

How is it significant? The former Austin Hospital for Incurables Complex is significant for historic, social, architectural and aesthetic reasons at a Regional (metropolitan Melbourne) level.

Why is it significant? Historically, the former Austin Hospital for Incurables Complex is the only medical hospital within the metropolitan area to have retained a complex of 19th-century buildings. The Davies Centre, the Bowen Centre, and the Gate Lodge all retain recognisably 19th-century forms and building fabric. While the Davies Centre was altered by the addition of wide balconies in 1912, this change is part of the building's significant early history within the hospital complex.

The buildings are significant for their associations with early hospital benefactors. All of the contributory buildings were constructed with donations from private benefactors, and often named after them or their loved ones. The former Gate Lodge is the only surviving building in the hospital complex to have been funded by Elizabeth Austin, the founding benefactor of the hospital.

Zeltner Hall is of social significance for its role as the social, recreational and religious centre for the hospital. Architecturally, the Marian Drummond Nurses' Home is an interesting and intact example of a late Federation transitional bungalow style applied to an institutional building. The combination of geometric pattern iron balustrading panels at the lower level and shingles to the upper level of the verandah is also unusual. The

Edward Wilson Nurses' Home is a highly intact example of a Georgian Revival building designed by Melbourne architects Blakett and Forster.

The Bowen, Marian Drummond and Edward Wilson nurses' homes are of historic significance as a unique group of the earliest surviving purpose-built nurses' homes in metropolitan Melbourne.

Aesthetically and historically, the contributory buildings in a landscape setting with an avenue of mature trees, lawns, pathways and vistas create an attractive complex which is tangible evidence of the human scale of 19th and early 20th-century hospital complexes.

Classified: 07/09/2009

Other Names      Austin Hospital Complex,

Hermes Number   64395

Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

The extent is the entire Austin Hospital site, Studley Road, Heidelberg, and encompasses the following contributory elements: the Davies Building and mature *Washingtonia robusta* palm tree, the former Gate Lodge, the former Bowen Nurses' Home and adjoining mature ficus tree, the former Marian Drummond Nurses' Home, Zeltner Hall and two mature plane trees, the former Edward Wilson Nurses' Home and the mature oak avenue running south-east from in front of it.

The Austin Research Centre (former Kronheimer Wing) of 1905 is of local historic interest, only, as it has been extensively altered. The 1990s addition on the north side of the former Bowen Nurses' Home is not significant.

*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/>*