

Register of Historic Places and Objects

SHI Number
4671003

The PHA NSW Heritage Register

Item Name: **Building 55 (Ward 12) & Building 57 (Jac**

Location: **Fleet Street, Parramatta**

Address: Fleet Street

Corner:

Suburb / Nearest Town: Parramatta 2124

State: NSW

Local Govt Area: Local Government Area:
Parramatta City

DUAP Region:
Sydney West

Historic region:
Sydney

Property Identifier:

Boundary:

Item Type: Built

Group: Health Services

Category: Hospital

Owner: Department of Health

Owner Codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current Use: Psychiatric Hospital

Former Uses: Psychiatric Hospital

Assessed Significance:

Endorsed Significance:

Statement of Significance: Jacaranda House and Ward 12, Cumberland Hospital are significant because they belong to a precinct which represented a new stage in the evolution of the Hospital, demonstrating philosophies concerning the treatment of the newly and acutely mentally ill which evolved in the late nineteenth century. These philosophies which viewed insanity as medically treatable, given the correct environmental influences, were embraced by Dr. Frederick Norton Manning and developed by Dr. Eric Sinclair, Inspectors-General of the Insane. Ward 12 and associated buildings, located near the Parramatta River within the Cumberland Hospital complex, represent the physical implementation of this philosophy of care, providing an open, pastoral setting, enabling the separation of less severe cases from the acutely mentally ill, who occupied more enclosed structures in other parts of the institution. Jacaranda House, built as separate accommodation for nurses on night duty, also reflects the attitudes towards appropriate conditions for nursing staff recommended in the late nineteenth century by Florence Nightingale, and further developed into formal policies in the early twentieth century, commensurate with the increasing recognition of nursing as a profession.

Historical Notes or Provenance: In the early years of the NSW colony there was no special provision for the accommodation of the insane, with sufferers being assigned to inappropriate establishments such as the gaol at Parramatta, the government farm at Castle Hill, Hyde Park Barracks and Liverpool Court House. The first purpose-built lunatic asylum was constructed at Tarban Creek in 1838 in response to Governor Richard Bourke's call for such an establishment. The decision was influenced by developments in England regarding the appropriate treatment of the mentally ill. The new philosophy then being expounded argued that under the right circumstances lunatics could change or at least control their behaviour. Previously 'treatment' of lunacy was not a consideration; it being accepted as one of the many variants of the normal human condition (Sue Rosen, 'Historical Context Report' in Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Conservation Plan, the Riverside Precinct, Cumberland Hospital Parramatta, 1996, Vol. 2, pp.1-3.).

Tarban Creek quickly became overcrowded, so to alleviate the situation, the Parramatta

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Female Factory was converted into a Lunatic and Invalid Asylum in 1848 and was intended primarily for those unlikely to be cured. Following the introduction of the Lunacy Act in 1878, the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum became known as the Parramatta Hospital for the Insane. This reflected the changing views on mental illness and the philosophies of Doctor Frederick Norton Manning, Inspector General of the Insane, who believed that asylums should be 'hospitals for the treatment of diseased brains, and not cemeteries for the burial of disordered intellects.' By 1890, psychiatrists argued that control of environmental factors was also important for the successful treatment of mental disorders (Rosen in Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol. 2, 1996, 3-4.).

From the 1860s the pavilion design became popular for major asylums in the English - speaking world and by the 1890s pavilion wards were considered the ideal in both general and mental hospital ward design. These were single storey free standing structures that enabled the separation of patients according to their medical categorisation. Natural ventilation was an important design feature. In general hospitals verandahs were to be wide enough so that patients' beds could be wheeled out onto them, in mental hospitals they provided shelter for mobile patients and the associated gardens and ferneries provided a restorative ambience. It was through the correct use of space - classification and separation of patients - that moral well-being emerged and was maintained (Rosen in Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol. 1, 1996, 4-5.).

Meanwhile, Florence Nightingale's views on hospital design had begun to infiltrate hospital design and organisation in New South Wales. In the 1870s separate ward pavilions and accommodation for the nurses adjacent to the ward were incorporated into the design of pavilions at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital on her recommendation. By the 1890s the building of entirely separate residences for nurses was occurring coupled with an increasing emphasis on education and professional training (Rosen in Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol.2, 1996, 4-5.).

Jacaranda House which was built as a Nurses' Home was commenced in 1900 and completed in 1901. It was designed by the Government Architect's Office in the Federation style by George Oakeshott and at the time of construction was situated in comparative isolation, with an imposing driveway and landscaping, some of which may predate its construction. It was almost ten years later that Ward 12 was constructed adjacent to it. The construction of the Nurses' Home at Parramatta is in line with developments at other hospitals. Between 1886 and 1900 extra staff accommodation was built at the Coast Hospital. Irwin House, was built in the 1890s for nursing accommodation at Newington and at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital a nurses hostel and training school with in-house accommodation was also established (Rosen in Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol.2, 1996, 8.).

The nurses at 'Newington' were to be set apart from the impoverished 'inmates' in their care. Irwin House in its structure evokes a gentility and domesticity then considered desirable in those caring for the destitute. Like Irwin House, Jacaranda House has a domestic character within a large formally laid out group of specific use pavilion style hospital buildings. Both Jacaranda House and Irwin House are set apart from the wards with a circular driveway at the entrance. In Jacaranda House sitting rooms on either side of the entrance and verandahs provide views of the landscaped grounds. Irwin House, however differs in that it is a single storey structure with wings reminiscent of the pavilion design of hospitals and capable of accommodating many more nurses than Jacaranda House. Both Irwin House and

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the Nurses Home at Callan Park were also more elaborately landscaped than Jacaranda House. The difference in scale between Jacaranda House and other nurses homes built around this time is explained by the suggestion that Jacaranda House was only meant to accommodate staff on night duty while the majority of nurses and attendants (male nurses) continued to reside in the wards, while at general hospitals this was not the case. The domestic scale of Jacaranda House starkly contrasts with the present Nurses' Home built in 1934 which is larger and more institutional in design (Rosen in Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol.2, 1996, 8.).

Ward 12 and its companion suite of buildings (a male Admission Block and a two storey building for administration with accommodation for nursing staff and a matron on the top floor) that were built c. 1909 - 1910/11 reflect in their design and setting evolving views concerning the appropriate treatment of the newly and acutely mentally ill. Similar separate hospitals for the acutely ill were also built at Gladesville, Kenmore and probably at Callan Park (although the exact buildings at Callan Park have not been identified). At Parramatta Ward 12 and its companion Male Admission Block and Administration Block represent physically a new stage in the evolution of the Hospital. Their setting is typical of the concern to place patients in a pastoral and tranquil environment, and the open orientation toward the river is in variance with the totally enclosed courtyards that dominate other parts of the institution occupied by the chronically ill. As part of a separate suite of buildings, in fact a separate institution within the institution it represents the rise of the scientific and medical model, and the growing recognition of psychiatry as a discipline. As noted by Dr Eric Sinclair, who succeeded Manning as Inspector-General of the Insane, the medical profession had the chance to work with potentially curable patients, thus maintaining their interest in the 'science', in institutions otherwise largely filled with the hopeless and incurable. This change in emphasis is reflected in the term often applied to these Admission Blocks, that is 'Medical Wards'. From the patients' point of view, in the early stages of illness, recovery was more likely if they could be isolated from those who could not hope to be recovered. They were not only receiving asylum, they were the beneficiaries of treatment and there was the possibility of a cure (Rosen in Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol.2, 1996, 8.).

National Themes:

State Themes: Health

Labour

Science

Study Themes:

Designer: George McRae, W.L. Vernon (Ward 12); George Oakeshott, Vernon (Jacaranda House)

Maker / Builder:

Year Started: 1900

Year Completed: 1911

Circa: Yes

Physical Description: Both buildings are situated in the Riverside Precinct of Cumberland Hospital, Parramatta. Ward 12 is a symmetrically planned single storey brick domestic scaled building in the Colonial Revival style. Jacaranda House is an irregularly planned two storey brick domestic scaled building in the Edwardian 'Freestyle' design.

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Physical Condition: Good

Modification Dates: Ward 12

Wings have been added to the north and south - 1933; 1962. Other alterations include: enclosure of north end of main verandah with flat roof covered way link to north wing; replacement of original roof tiles; bricked up doors & windows at south-east areas of building (dates uncertain).

Jacaranda House

Main areas of alteration relate to the enclosure of a rear verandah, erection of a steel fire escape staircase, replacement of casement windows of ground floor bay window with modern timber awning type windows and construction of a concrete main entrance ramp with galvanised steel pipe handrails (dates uncertain).

**Recommended
Management:**

Further Comments:

Historical Significance: (a) Both Ward 12 and Jacaranda House represent, in their layout and setting, philosophies of care for the mentally ill and approaches to hospital design, that developed during the nineteenth century and were prevalent at the time of the buildings' construction.

Jacaranda House probably represents the first attempt in the twentieth century to provide a 'non- institutional' type of accommodation for nurses at a Hospital for the Insane. Its siting, when built, at a distance from the main hospital demonstrates a high level of concern for the welfare and conditions of night nurses, providing a quiet, secluded place for them to rest during the day (Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol.2, 1996, 27.)

Ward 12, the former Female Admission Block, was the first building designed as part of an enlightened new mental hospital in the early twentieth century at Parramatta Psychiatric Hospital. Its design, arrangement and orientation towards the river, as part of a group of similar 'pavilions', most of which still survive, demonstrates the concern to place patients in a pastoral and tranquil environment (Rosen in Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol. 1, 1996, 1, 30.).

(b) The buildings are associated with Walter Liberty Vernon, Government Architect for NSW from 1890 to 1911, who was responsible for the design of several pavilion style hospital buildings during the nineteenth century. The buildings at Cumberland Hospital reflect both Vernon's approach to design, which identified strongly with the Australian Colonial style, and the enlightened attitudes to the treatment of the mentally ill Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol. 1, 1996, 26-28.).

Jacaranda House is also associated with philosophies developed by Florence Nightingale and others in the late nineteenth century in regard to appropriate accommodation, conditions and training for nursing staff. Both buildings are associated with the philosophies implemented by Inspector Generals of the Insane, Dr. Frederick Norton Manning and Dr. Eric Sinclair.

Ward 12 is associated with the rise of the scientific and medical model approach to mental

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illness and the growing recognition of psychiatry as a discipline (Rosen in Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol. 1, 1996, 1.).

Aesthetic Significance:**Social Significance:****Technical / Research:**

Representativeness: Ward 12 is representative of the types of buildings that were constructed at psychiatric hospitals in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, to enable the separation of newly diagnosed patients and less severe cases from those suffering acute and incurable mental illness.

Rare Assessment: Few known examples of this type of former nurses' quarters and early twentieth century ward blocks exist in government hospitals, making both Jacaranda House and Ward 12 rare examples of their type (Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd., Vol. 1, 1996, 31; Vol. 2, 1996, 28.).

Integrity / Intactness: Good

References:	Author:	Title:	Year:
	Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty. Ltd.	Conservation Plan, the Riverside Precinct, Cumberland Hospital Parramatta	1996

Studies:	Author:	Title:	Number:	Year:
	Jackson, Teece, Chesterman, Willis Consultants Pty Ltd.	Conservation Plan, the Riverside Precinct, Cumberland Hospital		1996

Listings:	Name:	Title:	Number:	Date:
	Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register	NSW Health Dept.		
	Local Environmental Plan	Parramatta City Council		

Custom Field One:**Custom Field Two:** Rosemary Kerr of Sue Rosen & Associates, Heritage Assessment And History**Custom Field Three:** 13/09/2000**Custom Field Four:****Custom Field Five:****Custom Field Six:****Data Entry:** Date First Entered: 03/07/2001 Date Updated: 04/07/2001 Status: Completed