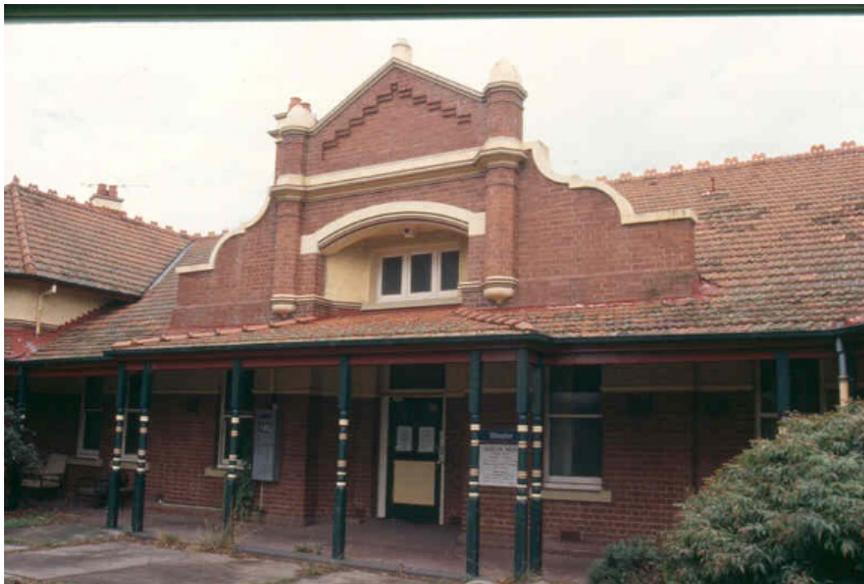


Victorian Heritage Register



VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER NUMBER: H2062
NAME: FORMER ROYAL PARK PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL
LOCATION: OAK STREET PARKVILLE, Melbourne City
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Melbourne City
CATEGORY: Heritage place
DATE REGISTERED:
FILE NO: 602722; HER/2001/000913; PL-HE/03/0019



HERMES ID: 2633
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NAME: FORMER ROYAL PARK PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

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- EXTENT:** 1. All the buildings marked B1-B11-as follows on Diagram 2062 held by the Executive Director:
- B1 Male Acute Ward
 - B2 Male Convalescent Ward
 - B3 Dining/Recreation Hall and Kitchen
 - B4 Female Convalescent Ward
 - B5 Female Acute Ward
 - B6 Mortuary/Pathological Block
 - B7 Male Workers Block
 - B8 Workshop
 - B9 Paint Store/Morgue
 - B10 Female Attendants (Staff) Block
 - B11 Female Workers Block
 - B12 Male Attendants (Staff) Block
2. All the land marked L1 as follows on Diagram 2062 held by the Executive Director, being part of the land reserved for the Commonwealth Games Village

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STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Former Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital (Hospital for the Insane) was constructed initially between 1906 and 1913 in the pavilion form of hospital design. The architect SE Bindley of the Victorian Public Works Department used the Federation Domestic Queen Anne style. The surviving buildings include the Male and Female Acute Wards (1907-09), Male and Female Convalescent Wards (1907-09), Dining Room/Recreation Hall and Kitchen (1907-09), Female Attendants' Block (1907-09), Female Workers' Block (1907-09), Male Attendants' Block (1907-09), Male Workers' Block (1913), Pathology/Mortuary Block (1909), the Workshop (1909-10), the Paint Store/Morgue (c.1920) and the remaining connecting walkways. The parkland setting of the hospital, the remains of the former airing courts, the rear roadway and significant trees and plantings are important as part of the site's history. The hospital is the earliest example, though significantly altered, of a hospital for the insane as distinct from a lunatic asylum, in Victoria. The alteration of the Lunacy Act in 1911 made possible a further change from Hospital for the Insane to Mental Diseases Hospital, allowing for the housing of (chronic) working patients apart from the acute cases. Working patients worked unpaid on the farm and in the laundry, as well as doing other necessary tasks around the hospital.

The Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital was part of an integrated system of psychiatric treatment introduced under the first Inspector General of the Insane in Victoria, Dr Ernest Jones in the early years of the twentieth century. It was the first psychiatric hospital to be established following the introduction of the Lunacy Act of 1903 and was intended for the treatment of patients with transient and recoverable disorders. The Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital site does not now include the Receiving House building (1905-06) which is located further to the east within Royal Park. The Hospital consisting of Receiving House and Acute Wards was part of a wave of reform which emphasised early diagnosis and swift hospital treatment for mentally ill patients.

How is it significant?

The Former Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Former Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital is of architectural significance as a relatively intact complex of early twentieth century buildings designed for the purpose of hospitalising and treating people with psychiatric conditions.

The Former Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital is of architectural significance for the scale and cohesive architectural style of the main accommodation buildings and the setting within a landscaped parkland environment.

The Former Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital is of historical significance as demonstrating early twentieth century approaches to patient assessment and cure, with an emphasis on early intervention. It is also of historical significance in the history of psychiatric care in Victoria, as the place where research into the clinical use of lithium, discovered earlier by Dr John Cade, and other treatments, took place. The mortuary/pathology block is significant in the history of science in Victoria for its associations with research and training in the treatment of psychiatric illness. The workers' blocks (patient accommodation) for unpaid patients demonstrate the reliance on patients' work in the running of the hospital as well as the idea of therapeutic work in recovery from mental illness. The female attendants' (staff) accommodation block (1907-09) was the first nurses' home provided within Victoria's mental hospital system, an initiative aimed specifically at improving the professional standards of nursing in psychiatric care. The remains of the airing courts attest to the daily routine of patients confined within a custodial institution and the belief in the therapeutic value of garden surroundings.

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PERMIT POLICY:

The policy is to allow no change which will diminish the cultural heritage significance of the place. The significance lies in the intactness of the external form of the remaining functionally related buildings, their scale and cohesive architectural style and their landscaped parkland setting. Some interior details in the early twentieth century buildings remain and should be retained. The interior of the Pathology Laboratory/Mortuary is of special interest as it retains features demonstrating its former function.

PERMIT EXEMPTIONS:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Interior

*Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.

*Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.

*Installation, removal or replacement of curtain tracks, rods and blinds.

*Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted art .

*Removal or installation of notice boards.

*Demolition or removal of non-original stud/partition walls, suspended ceilings or non-original wall linings (including plasterboard, laminate and Masonite), non-original glazed screens, non-original flush panel or part-glazed laminated doors, aluminium-framed windows, bathroom partitions and tiling, sanitary fixtures and fittings, kitchen wall tiling and equipment, lights, built-in cupboards, cubicle partitions, computer and office fitout and the like.

*Removal or replacement of non-original door and window furniture including, hinges, locks, knobsets and sash lifts.

*Removal of non-original glazing to internal timber-framed, double hung sash windows, and replacement with clear or plain opaque glass.

*Installation of stud walls, which are removable.

*Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of

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sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.

*Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and that the central plant is concealed.

*Replacement of lift car, mechanisms, motor and any associated elements which are not integral to the building.

*Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in situ.

*Installation, removal or replacement of electric clocks, public address systems, detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like on plaster surfaces.

*Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.

*Installation of plant within the roof space.

*Installation of new fire hydrant services including sprinklers, fire doors and elements affixed to plaster surfaces.

Landscape Permit Exemptions

* Repairs, conservation, and maintenance to hard landscape elements, buildings and structures, fountains and monuments, steps, paths, paths and gutters, drainage and irrigation systems, edging, fences and gates.

* The process of gardening; mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, emergency and safety garden works

* New or replacement planting which conserves the historic landscape character including specimen trees, avenues, rows, shrubberies flower beds, and lawns.

* Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373.

* Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering and drainage systems outside the canopy edge of significant trees

* Vegetation protection and management of the possum population.

* Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINATION ON A NOMINATION TO THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

NAME: FORMER ROYAL PARK PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

VHR NO: H2062

LOCATION: OAK STREET PARKVILLE, Melbourne City

CATEGORY: Heritage place

FILE NO: 602722; HER/2001/000913; PL-HE/03/0019

OFFICER/S REPORTING: rt

RECOMMENDATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- That the Place or object be included in the Heritage Register [Section 32(1)(a)]

Manager

Heritage Assessments

Date

Executive Director

Date

DETERMINATION BY HERITAGE COUNCIL

(Strike out where not applicable)

- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register [Section 42(1)(a)]
- That ALL or PART of the Place or object be included in the Heritage Register [Section 42(1)(b)]
- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register but instead referred to the relevant planning authority [Section 42(1)(a)(i)]
- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register but instead other steps be taken to protect or conserve it [Section 42(1)(a)(ii)]

Comment:

Meeting No

Date

Registrations Co-ordinator

Date
