DRAFT REPORT

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

ROYAL NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL
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PRECIS OF THE REPORT

This investigation has been undertaken at the request of McDonald McPhee Pty Ltd as part of a conservation plan which is being prepared for the Royal Newcastle Hospital on behalf of the hospital. This report is intended to provide an historical context for the development of the major buildings and landscape components within the current property boundaries. This information will be used as a framework in which to assess the significance of individual components and the most appropriate measures for their management.

This history is not intended to be a detailed analysis of each unit. This level of investigation would be appropriate for individual conservation plans of buildings or other structures. Neither is it intended to be a description and analysis of the medical or social history and development of the hospital. It is an overview of the evolution of the physical environment that is encompassed within the hospital boundaries.

The detail in this report has been largely derived from original documents including annual reports, minutes and plans. Research has been carried out in the Mitchell Library, State Archives Office of NSW, the Royal Newcastle Hospital and Newcastle Public Library. Dr B. Champion's history of the site has been of great benefit.

The evolution of the hospital's environment has been discussed in terms of a number of phases. These phases reflect major periods of change and development most closely related to the evolving physical landscape. The phases cover the period 1818 to the present day and consider aspects including the convict hospital, the first public involvement in establishing the modern hospital and later large scale building programmes which completely altered the face of the nineteenth century institution.

A number of individual chronologies are included at the end of this report which may be referred to for the general development of the hospital or its individual components. They reflect only the information that has been revealed by a search of the extant documentary resource.

A hospital has existed in this site since 1817 when a gaol within the convict settlement was converted for use as a hospital. From the beginning, complaints were made against the administration, the facilities, the rations, the supplies and the sand which constantly overwhelmed the site and blew into the wards. By the 1850s popular demand was for the construction of a new hospital and this
occurred during the following decade. It is possible that the old building survived for a number of years alongside the new hospital. There may be foundations of that first structure located within the hospital grounds under the buildings; building supervisors in the 1940s claim to have seen massive foundations and brickwork of that period.
SECTION 2.0
PREFACE TO THE REPORT

2.1 Parameters of the Investigation

This investigation is concerned with the development of Royal Newcastle Hospital. The hospital is located on Pacific Street, Newcastle and is bound by Hunter Street, Watt Street, Shortland Esplanade and includes parts of Ocean and King Streets. The research is concerned with the evolution of the physical environment; the buildings, structures, relics and landscape encompassed within the hospital's property.

2.2 Initiative for Investigation

This investigation has been carried out at the request of McDonald McPhee Pty Ltd. It is one component of a conservation plan being prepared for the site on behalf of the hospital.

2.3 Objectives

The primary objective of this work has been to investigate the development of the physical environment contained within land that has been used since the early years of the nineteenth century for a hospital. The study is designed to investigate the evolution of the major components of the hospital as a means of providing an historical context for the assessment of significance of these components.

This history is not intended to be a detailed analysis of each component. This level of investigation would be appropriate for individual conservation plans of buildings or other structures. Neither is it intended to be a description and analysis of the medical and/or social development of the hospital. It is an overview of the evolution of the physical environment that is encompassed within the hospital boundaries.

This work is designed to provide the context in which to define hierarchies of significance. The historical framework allows this hierarchy to be established. Conservation and management decisions may be formed within this context.

2.4 Methodology

Original research has centred on a variety of sources including news files in the Newcastle Library, plans in
the basement of the hospital and press cuttings compiled by the Public Relations Department of the hospital. In addition annual reports and minutes have been consulted at Newcastle University and Mitchell Library as well as surveys and plans.

The discussion has been organized in chronological and thematic phases. These phases reflect the growth and evolution of the hospital as revealed by the documentary resource. These phases are:

Phase I: 1818 - 1860 The First Hospital

Phase II: 1860 - 1875 Establishing a New Hospital

Phase III: 1875 - 1896: Extensions

Phase IV: 1896 - 1914: Stagnation and Reconstruction

Phase V: 1914 - 1939: The "Third Hospital": Incorporation and Consolidation

Phase VI: 1939 - 1989 The "Fourth Hospital": Forward Planning


At the conclusion of the report is a chronology that details the development of the hospital as well as individual chronologies representing key components of the site.

2.5 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report has been compiled by W. Thorp who was also responsible for much of the research. The efforts, assistance and advice of Mr N. Carter, Mr B. Gascoigne, Ms R. Chester, Mr D. Rowe and Mrs Murdoch, Mr J. Macdonald and Ms J. Wing are all gratefully acknowledged.

2.6 Abbreviations Used in the Text

LD Lands Department of NSW
ML Mitchell Library
SAO/NSW State ARCHIVES of NSW
SPF Small Picture File
SECTION 3.0
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.1 Phase I: 1818 - 1860

The First Hospital

Newcastle was founded in 1801 as a convict settlement largely devoted to the quarrying of the abundant local coal seams. It was, in fact, a gaol within a gaol; the most desperate second offenders in the colony were sent to Newcastle for the purposes of removing them from the main town of Sydney and to punish them through the hard labour entailed in producing raw materials. The first settlement was abandoned in 1802.

A second attempt at settlement was made in 1804. Convicts were again set to coal mining and other works such as timber-getting. Construction of permanent habitation commenced soon after the arrival of the new settlers. A stone wharf was constructed in 1804 at the foot of what is now Watt Street, the Commandant's quarters in the same year as well as a variety of huts and shelters and the convict stockade was built during 1805-1808. In the period 1810-1820 a number of new town facilities were established including the first school in 1816, the first Christ Church in 1817 and the Commissariat Store in 1812 (1). The first hospital that stood on the site of the later Royal Newcastle Hospital land was erected during this period.

The structure later used as a hospital appears to have been constructed in 1817 for use as a gaol. It was converted, under the direction of Captain James Wallis, the Commandant of the settlement, to serve as a hospital (2). A plan showing the town in 1818 (3) indicates a single structure, noted as the hospital, located at the end of Wallis Street (now King Street). In the same year it was described in the Sydney Gazette as;

"an excellent Hospital well aired and well situated constructed with stone, with a viranda round it and enclosed with a suitable paling" (4).

Plans of the town in 1822 still show a single building to be located on the site (5). In evidence presented to Commissioner Bigge in the same year the information was provided of the role change from gaol to hospital. It was noted at the same time that considerable inconvenience was caused by the quantity of sand that blew into the hospital from the nearby sand dunes (6). This evidence contains the only description of the hospital from the early settlement:

"The Hospital at Newcastle was built by convicts condemned by Colonial sentences to work there, and is situated upon a sandy hill. It lies between the sea shore and the town."
It was intended for a gaol, but was converted by Captain Wallis, the Commandant, into a hospital...

"The building consists of two rooms for patients that are not capable of receiving more than twenty-five beds, and of two small rooms ten feet long and six feet side, one of which is appropriated to the use of female patients and the other to the grinding the rations of wheat for the use of the Hospital. The building is of stone and rough cast with a projecting pediment in front supported by wooden columns. It is much exposed to the north-west winds, and the ventilation is sometimes suspended from the necessity of closing the windows against the clouds of sand with which it is surrounded. The residence of the surgeon is a little distance from the Hospital." (7)

This description appears to closely resemble a building shown in a drawing of Newcastle from c. 1817 - 1818 now held by the Mitchell Library. Plans of 1823 and 1826 continue to show a single building on the hospital site (8) however, by 1834, the hospital is shown with what appears to have been either an attached garden or another building (9). By 1849 the hospital definitely encompassed three separate buildings (10). These appear to be illustrated in a painting of Newcastle made by J. Rae in the same year.

A similar arrangement is shown in 1857 (11) and 1860 (12). Another map of 1860 shows the dedication of land for a new hospital of 1 acre, 2 roods and 10 perches (13).

Conditions at the hospital appear to have been poor. In addition to the incursions of sand, which in 1839 covered the morgue, the building was said to be dilapidated by 1827 (14). Some patients slept on the floor and at times there were few blankets and limited medical supplies. Vermin also were a problem. The Committee which governed the establishment were at odds at various times. Many complaints were made to them; for example, the numbers of beds increased so much that they allowed only a foot between each (15). In 1861 it was stated that;

"The present building was hardly suitable for a scullery; there were no ward rooms and the place was dirty to a degree.... There were only two small rooms and the living and dead were found together. Patients were poisoned by the atmosphere in the room, the decayed timber, the diseased lungs, bad state of breath and bad ventilation." (16)

A combination of all these factors led to popular demand for the construction of a new hospital and this occurred during the 1860s. The old hospital building may have survived for some years after the construction of the new hospital. Certainly the three old buildings and a small
out-building survived until 1864; town plans show them on the site. Champion notes a number of old drawings and paintings of the new (1860s) hospital where a portion of an older building appears to have been recorded. He also quotes a building supervisor at the hospital who claimed to have seen the foundations of three old buildings under the "northern side of the hospital"; massive blocks of dressed stone... very crude lime cement and again very old brickwork." (17). It may be that foundations of this old structure survive on the site as sub-surface archaeological features.
3.2 Phase II: 1860 - 1875
Establishing a New Hospital

In July 1861 James Hannell, the Major of Newcastle, called a public meeting to discuss the construction of a new hospital. Despite initial enthusiasm subsequent meetings frequently lapsed for want of a suitable quorum. In 1864 the hospital Committee advertised for designs for a new hospital. Seven designs were received and in the following year the land for the hospital was gazetted (1). Money was raised by collections and public functions. A special building committee was formed to aid the process.

A ceremony was devised to mark the occasion and a procession led to the site where the foundation stone was laid with a time capsule inserted under it. The architect for the hospital has been questioned. It was noted in 1865 that "Mr Lewis the Architect" was preparing a model of the new edifice. It was also noted that the southern wing of this model was unlikely to be built for some considerable period. By this time serious disagreements and disharmony were coming to mark the proceedings of the Committee. In 1873 it was noted that,

"the present handsome and ornamental structure ... was opened to the public under very great difficulty and squabbling in 1865" (2)

By 1866 the first wing of the new hospital was occupied although it had not been properly completed. In the following year rules for admission were published. At that time thirteen patients were housed in the new structure.

After the first enthusiasm the hospital sank into the doldrums. During 1868 - 1869 many meetings of the Committee lapsed for want of a quorum. Tradesmen were not paid. Public meetings were called to boost interest in the institution and to increase the number of subscribers. A new Committee was elected and more interest was subsequently taken in the hospital; more fund raising was carried out to augment the funds.

In 1869 further work was carried out on the building mainly for the provision of services. A bath was installed and tenders were let for gas fittings. Conflict within the administration continued; at this time over the means of dispensing medicines. In 1870, after threats from the Committee to the Building Committee, the stair case to the upper floor was finally completed and in 1871 water closets were installed in the grounds.

In the same year the first moves were made to solve the problem of the inadequate water supply. This had been a problem from the outset of the first hospital's establishment. In that year tenders were called for the
erected of iron tanks to secure the water supply in place of the brackish water that came from a well. There was also a recommendation made that the bath and bath house be restored to their proper use although what improper use they had been made to serve was not specified.

Improvements to the grounds were also made in this period. In 1871 two pairs of iron gates were donated by the City Council and, after a charity benefit to raise the funds for pillars to support the gates, these were installed. In 1874 gas lamps were erected over these gates. In 1873 funds were requested for the construction of an operating theatre in the upper floor of the hospital. At that time the request could not be granted but in the following phase considerable extensions and additions were made to the site to accommodate these needs.

There are a variety of photographs available which document the development of the hospital at this time (3).
3.3 Phase III: 1875 - 1896: Extensions

In 1875 the hospital funds finally stabilised and the first action taken was to create a more reliable water supply. In that year the well which had been the principal source of water collapsed. Tenders were then called for sinking a tank in front of the hospital that would hold 15000 gallons (1).

In response to the hospital's increasing financial stability, aided by more charity benefits which allowed the institution to claim a government subsidy, the subject was broached of extending the hospital as originally planned. As a first measure an operating room was built in 1876. The building cost seventy pounds (2). However, nothing immediately occurred after this to continue the momentum.

By 1879 the surrounding sand drifts, which had again covered the "dead house" and continued to blow in the windows, were tackled via a galvanised iron fence which was then in the course of erection around the site. At the same time a report was called for to define the necessary repair works (3). Erosion and damage caused by the exposed position from wind, salt water and sand were a constant problem.

In 1881, in response to the epidemics of typhus, scarlet fever and measles which raged not only in Australia but overseas, agitation reached a peak in Newcastle for the construction of a Contagious Diseases Hospital. After many years of complaints 3000 pounds was allocated in 1882 for the construction of such an institution. In the interim a temporary wooden building was constructed on a concrete foundation. This was constantly full from local cases and from sailors coming to port in infected ships. In 1887 this building was converted for use as a kitchen, store and servants' quarters.

By 1883 the hospital was fully occupied and the growth of the district made the construction of the originally planned southern wing necessary. Moves were made to raise funds for this project. By 1884 this new wing, the Hannell Wing, was in the course of construction. The building, a symmetrical two storey Gothic Revival influenced structure, was occupied in later 1885. The architect for the building is unknown although it has been suggested that it was Frederick Menkens (4).

During the course of the construction the contractor, needing water for his work, attempted to rectify the severe water shortage by drilling for water in a well at the western end of the hospital. The attempt was unsuccessful and the sad state of the water supply was
ruefully noted by the Committee of the time. In 1882 the Inspector of Charities was noted as being critical of some of the conditions in the hospital. In particular the water supply was singled out:

"The water supply to the closets I found not working, this has also been the case on other visits I have made and I cannot fear that the water supply to the whole Hospital, more especially in dry seasons, is inadequate for baths, closets, kitchens etc.." (5)

Town water pipes were laid to the hospital in the following year although, by 1887, concerns were being expressed over the cost of this supply.

By the time the Hannell Wing was completed the funds which had been allocated for a permanent Contagious Diseases Hospital had been returned to the Government although appeals for this hospital continued to be made. It was felt by the hospital authorities that the budget was too restrictive to meet the needs of the greater community, hence the reasons for returning the money. The temporary ward was converted in 1887 for use as a kitchen and it was not until 1891 that isolation wards were constructed along the extreme northern boundary of the hospital. It was noted in that year that:

"At present the hospital has one ward only for infectious diseases. The Committee has in mind the erection of three isolation wards with nurses' quarters apart and an accident ward with further accommodation for the staff" (6)

The final cost of the wards, which were furnished during 1892, was 2000 pounds.

1887 saw important changes made to the hospital. A new mortuary and drying shed, the latter seventy-three feet in length, were erected at the rear of the buildings, the old mortuary was renovated for use as a patients' clothes store, the outpatients' department was created and the first annual report was issued (7). The Hannell Wing and the original northern wing were painted and cleaned internally and alterations were made to the existing buildings. These encompassed the following:

"The building formerly used as a kitchen with a shingle roof is having another storey built on it and a slated roof, then it will be used as a dining room on the ground floor and a ward overhead. The building at the rear formerly set aside as a contagious disease ward will be in future used as a kitchen, store and servants' rooms, with a covered way leading from it to the main building." (8)

In 1891 a private ward for patients was finally opened
after repeated requests from the staff. This was made possible by the construction of a new nurses' dining room at the ear of the buildings. It measured 18' 9" x 15' and it contained a small female ward above it. Prior to this the private ward had been utilised as the staff dining room. The work was carried out under the supervision of F. Menkens (9). In 1896 the kitchen acquired a four room extension and the north wing better lavatory and bathroom accommodation.

In 1888/89 the boundaries of the hospital were altered and a new dedication was made that encompassed two acres and thirteen perches. In the following year, 1890, the Government resumed twenty-two feet of land on the northern boundary to open a street to the beach; Ocean Street.

Both Pacific and Shortland Parks had been formed by 1892. They had been established by the dumping of town refuse and complaints were made by the hospital during the time of their formation over the stench and flies arising from night soil being dumped on the hospital perimeter (10). At times the drain carrying the bath water from the hospital to the beach below was blocked by this rubbish (11). The hospital drains were finally connected to the mains along the south side of Hospital Lane in 1894.

By the end of this period, with income effected by the depressed economy, the maintenance of the site was considered to be of enormous importance. It was noted in 1895 that,

"The preservation of the buildings, appurtenances, fences etc, has been very carefully guarded. The whole of the exterior of the main building, kitchen, morgue and rear fences has been thoroughly repaired and painted, and a large portion of the wards has been well ventilated and renovated" (12).

Photographs of the period show the grounds to be well fenced and landscaped with small gardens and fountains. However it was noted, in 1894, that the rear of the grounds were then not yet well fenced. Fencing had been erected there from time to time but both vandalism and sand drifts constantly destroyed the work. Tenders were called in 1894 for new work but the cost was so high that the matter was deferred (13).

The first detailed survey of the site, drawn in 1896, shows the main wing composed of the original northern wing and the attached Hannell Wing, linked to two large sheds to the east, isolation wards along the northern boundary, two small sheds on the very southern boundary and a landscaped entrance to the main building (14).
3.4 Phase IV: 1896 - 1914: Stagnation and Reconstruction

At the beginning of 1897 the same cautious approach to maintaining the hospital facilities was noted. In the Annual Report of that year it was stated that:

"The buildings and Grounds of the Hospital have been maintained in a good order throughout the year although only such repairs as were absolutely necessary have been effected. These include principally the renovating and painting of the internal parts of the Isolation wards, Nurses' Room connected therewith, and the Kitchen and Laundry of the main building. The improvements to the north wing of the main building, in the shape of better bathroom and lavatory accommodation, commenced at the latter end of 1896, were completed early in the year."

(1)

By that year, however, the development of the district and the demands made on the hospital caused an assessment of the needs of the hospital to include a new operating theatre, casualty reception room, consulting room, abdominal surgery room and extra staff accommodation. In particular the Annual Report noted the inadequacy of the nursing staff's accommodation and the pressing need to solve this problem as well as the old fashioned nature of the operating theatre. It was noted that the hospital suffered great disabilities due to insufficient accommodation. The hospital Committee called for designs.

One design for the operating theatre prepared by Peter Bennett was accepted (2) but by 1898, however, no progress had been made although sketch plans had been prepared. Various proposals were also put forward for a Childrens' Ward to be partially funded by the Newcastle District Public School Teachers' Association but the negotiations broke down for this project (3). Expensive repairs were carried out in this year to repair storm damage to the Resident Medical Superintendent's quarters and to the southern and eastern sides of the main building, particularly on the roof (4).

One of the major works of this period, however, occurred in 1899 after samples of water from the cistern that fed the hot water system were sent to the Government Analyst. The results were so shocking that an immediate programme of cleansing and repairs was undertaken. The works encompassed every nook and cranny in the hospital including the "hollows under sheds (which were) filled with a putrid slime" (5).

By the end of 1898 the Government finally voted 6000 pounds as a first installment on the erection of a proposed new hospital at Newcastle. Competitive designs
for a new hospital embracing the "better" portions of the existing structure as well as a detached nurses' home were again called for by the Committee. Nine designs were submitted and judged by the Colonial Architect. The winning entry was submitted by a Brisbane-based architect, J.J. Clarke (6).

However, little or no progress occurred for many years. In addition, in expectation of the imminent major building works, even repairs were kept to a minimum although in 1908 it was stated that the hospital "was like a new pin both inside and outside with the exception of the isolation block and mortuary which are under review for demolishing and rebuilding" (7). In 1909, however, it was reported that;

"With the exception of some important repairs done in strengthening the ceiling to the Hannell Wing... and further repairs to the roof of the main building... no repairs or renovations beyond the ordinary minor ones inseparable from establishments of such magnitude have been effected. The whole of the buildings, inside and outside, fences etc require painting and renovating, but in view of the probability of large works being undertaken in the very near future in the shape of new additions, it has been considered inadvisable to make any expenditure in this direction at present, leaving such to be carried out in conjunction with the new work." (8)

In 1901 a programme was finally put into effect to provide a new nurses' home and an operating theatre. It was planned that when the money became available another block was to built in front of the existing hospital (9). The operating theatre was attached to the south-western corner of the Hannell Building and the nurses' home was located in the extreme south-western corner of the site.

In 1902 a meeting was held to consider more additions to the site, in particular a new kitchen and laundry. These were obviously necessary; the kitchen was noted as being old, wooden and decayed and condemned several years prior to their meeting. Menkens submitted two schemes for these works and both were vetoed for various reasons. Finally a site for a kitchen was found near the old kitchen. Funds became available for this work in 1904 but the Committee decided to request a special grant for the laundry project and this was delayed (10).

It was not until the Premier authorised the immediate expenditure of 1500 pounds that work on these new premises got underway but it was not until 1906 that the laundry was finished and 1908 until the kitchen was completed. During the two years since its completion the laundry had not been fitted up. Both came into service soon after. The new morgue was also built at this time.
In 1908 the Government allocated a special grant of 2000 pounds for new buildings as a further installment towards the completion of the proposed new hospital but this was still far off. Electricity, however, was installed in 1908.

By 1910 work had still not commenced on the new project and it still seemed far off; the financial condition of the hospital was at a low ebb. The condition of the hospital was also at a low point. It was stated that:

"The present buildings are old, obsolete and in great disrepair and have been condemned as unfit for their purposes both by the Board of Health Authorities and our own Honorary Medical Staff." (11)

In 1911 urgent appeals were made to the Government to get some of the work started but doubts were raised about the suitability of the site. Suggestions were made to use the site of the Hospital for the Insane in Newcastle but after some disagreements the matter was referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

The only relief provided in 1911 for the assorted problems of the hospital was a small grant of five hundred pounds that was to be used to paint the Nurses' Home and for the erection of a temporary ward in the isolation area to accommodate some of the overflow cases. In addition to this work the old brick laundry building was removed and an area in the front of the kitchen building was enclosed with a weatherboard fence and the ground paved and asphalted (12).

The report of the Parliamentary Committee was made available in 1913. It found that the existing hospital was unsuitable:

"The buildings constituting the main hospital were erected in 1865, and are unsuitable for the purpose for which they were intended. The wards are low ceilinged, narrow, dark, ill ventilated, and, at times, are overcrowded with beds. The old wards in the isolation area have been condemned by the Health Department and the doctors on the general staff as unfit for habitation on account of their unsuitability.

"The Nurse's Home, though comparatively a modern building, having been put up in 1901, is structurally defective, as in the exposed position it occupies it appears to be impossible to keep the water out in stormy weather, and, in consequence, a number of the bedrooms have been in an unhealthy condition by reason of the damp walls and ceilings. The accommodation in the building is insufficient for present requirements. There is no accommodation in the isolation area for the housing of the
nurses detailed for duty in this section.

"The laundry, kitchen and domestic servants' quarters are modern buildings, and are equal to present requirements. The machinery for laundry purposes is insufficient...

"The inconvenience experienced from the lack of accommodation for both indoor and outdoor patients has been keenly felt for many years, the wards being frequently overcrowded, while numbers of patients of both sexes are constantly awaiting admission. This refers to the scant accommodation in the infectious diseases area as well as the general hospital." (13)

Eleven schemes were considered to replace the hospital. One involved a move to the Hospital for the Insane site and one the redevelopment of the existing site keeping such parts of the existing structure as were warranted and gradually demolishing the older structures as the new buildings replaced them. The second scheme was recommended by the Committee. This entailed the construction of a northern pavilion with two wings, a southern pavilion with two wings and an isolation block of four wards. The existing laundry, kitchen, servants' quarters, mortuary, nurses' home and sundry small out-buildings were to be kept.

This was the beginning of a series of programmes that were to change the face of the old nineteenth century hospital.
3.5 Phase V: 1914 - 1939: 
The "Third Hospital" Incorporation and Consolidation

Following the release of the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works the foundation stone was laid of the new wing, the North Wing. In 1914 a proposal was put forward to frame an Act of Parliament for the purpose of incorporating the Hospital. The Newcastle Hospital Act was adopted in 1915 (1).

Detailed plans for the construction of the North Wing were prepared in 1914 and by 1915 the first section of the new pavilion, the western wing, was completed and opened although the building programme suffered through industrial action (2). By 1916 the other pavilion was nearing completion and was soon to be occupied. The old hospital block was, during this time, progressively demolished. In 1917 the eastern section of the northern wing was completed and brought into use. Various repairs and renovations were carried out during the remaining years of this phase on this building including large scale works, undertaken, in 1938 to rewire the building and enclose the Pacific Street verandahs.

In 1918 a brick garage which was to be used for an ambulance building was constructed at the rear of the old nurses' wing (3).

In 1914 some measures were taken to repair the Nurses' Home particularly to eliminate the damp problem which had been noted by the Committee in 1913. Repairs to this building and the associated retaining wall were carried out to the cost of two hundred pounds (4). In 1917 the Newcastle Club Building (opposite the hospital) was taken over to be refurbished as the new Nurses' Home. This move was largely due to the insufficient accommodation afforded by the old home and the inability to extend this building. It was noted at the time that:

"the comparatively new premises of the Newcastle Club... have been secured by the Government by arrangement with the members of that institution... The building secured as a Nurses' Home will suit the purposes of the hospital admirably, being well built and commodious and affording the necessary accommodation required for some time in the future and when extensions are needed to accommodate the increasing number of nurses and female domestic staff as required... there will be found ample room on the newly acquired property and adjoining land to enable the requisite extensions to be made. Some minor internal alterations are necessary to the building prior to occupation." (5)

In 1917 a fire stair was added to the building and a large programme of works and renovations was carried out in
1920. In 1921 a "very old building" facing King Street, which had been used principally for the Night Nursing Staff, was demolished and this again created serious problems in accommodating the nursing staff (6). The continuing problem of accommodating the nurses was noted in the following year and it was stated that plans for additional quarters had been prepared for and approved by the Board. Some action on the matter was hoped for in the following year. Extensions were made to the home in 1926 and 1938 additional extensions were commenced in 1938.

In 1919 working plans and specifications were prepared by the Government Architect for the Administration Block. These were approved in the following year when the Prince of Wales visited the hospital, however, by 1922 work had still not commenced on this block; further revisions were made to the design. This occurred again in 1923. The inconvenience caused by these delays was serious. As early as 1917 it was noted that:

"the premises remain in a dismantled and disorganised condition. The Board has made strenuous and prolonged efforts to induce the Government to proceed with the work... but so far all the proposals have either been turned down or not been fully considered and the premises remain in their incomplete condition owing to want of funds to complete the works. This obstacle in the progress of the erection of the building which is so much required is causing no little inconvenience in the work of carrying on the Hospital with efficiency." (7)

In 1925 the foundation block of this building was laid and by 1926 the Administration Block was nearly complete. In 1927 it was completed and renamed the York Wing after the visit by the Duke and Duchess of York. Extensions were added to it in 1938.

Plans were prepared for a boiler house and chimney stack in 1920 and tenders were shortly to be called at the time of the publication of the Annual Report. Plans for additions to the boiler house were prepared in 1922. In 1938 it was noted that work was in progress on a new service block which included a boiler house to accommodate three new boilers and subsidiary plant. In 1926 tenders were called for the addition of four rooms and alterations to the building adjoining the old kitchen which was to be used by the Resident Medical Staff. New quarters for these staff were in the course of construction in 1938 as well as a mortuary and up-to-date workshops.

In 1927 a contract for a new kitchen was completed; this was expected to provide ample accommodation for hospital needs for several years (8). The work was to a design by Messrs Denley and Chippin, the Honorary Architects to the hospital (9).
In 1919, and again in 1920, 1921 and 1922 the state of the isolation wards were brought to the attention of the Committee. The wards along the northern perimeter appear to have been demolished in c. 1910 prior to the construction of the North Wing leaving only temporary accommodation on the eastern side of the site.

"We have again to call public attention to the scandalous condition of our isolation wards... Our present isolation accommodation is makeshift. There are six beds and ten cots in a badly situated and improperly isolated building and this wretched makeshift is all the isolation that exists in this great and populous city of Newcastle." (10)

In 1924 plans for a new isolation block had been finished and tenders called; it was completed in the same year but it was noted that it was first used as temporary nurses' accommodation while repairs were made to the old nurses' home. The building was described as substantial, brick on deep cement foundations with two floors and balconies (11).

In 1927 the condition of the Outpatients' department was considered;

"This department is not at all in keeping with a modern and up-to-date institution. The accommodation is far too limited for the numbers attending the various clinics. It is hoped that as the Board of Directors has purchased a splendid site for the purpose of an Out-Patients' Block the Government will do its share by erecting as quickly as possible a suitable up-to-date building." (12)

In 1928 plans were nearly finalised for the construction of an Out-patients' and Pathological Laboratory Block. Tenders were called in 1930 but the work could not proceed until the finances for the building were assured. By 1933 work was proceeding on this building, the money coming from the Unemployment Relief Council. It was constructed on property purchased at the corner of Pacific and King Streets. The building was finally completed in 1934.

By 1938 a new administration block and quarters for the Resident Medical Officers and dieticians were in the course of construction. It was also noted at this time that the extensions to the nurses' home were in progress as were those to the administration block. Work was in progress on the new service block, mortuary and workshops as well as the renovation of the north wing. A "long overdue" painting programme was at that time being carried
out. In the same year plans were prepared for the creation of a new basement under the York Wing.

By this time, however, a programme only of essential new construction was approved; at the close of this phase it was hoped that financial assistance could be found for the provision of additional public wards, private and intermediate wards and public maternity wards, a new laundry and remodeling of the casualty department which was felt to be most inadequate. Modern kitchen facilities were also desired.

In 1939 it was stated that no new works were in the course of planning but all those which were being completed were in hand. The war years brought a brief respite to the active building campaign of the preceding years.

During this period many references were made to the poor condition of the buildings due to the exposed position of the site. For example, in 1919, it was noted that:

"Owing to the Hospital's close proximity to the sea it is found extremely difficult to maintain the good condition of the Hospital's buildings and out-buildings. The strong sea air has a deleterious effect on all iron work and in order to preserve it from decay much attention must be bestowed to keeping it well covered with paint." (13)

During the next large building programme many of the defective areas of the hospital were to be improved although the continuing effect of the hospital's position was to be felt until the present day.
The war years slowed the building programme of the preceding years. Plans were prepared for a number of projects but none came to fruition. For example, in 1942, the proposed construction of a maternity block was halted due to the war and in 1943 plans were made for additions which included a 360 bed ward, a kitchen and operating theatre block amongst other works. In 1944 the hospital was approached by various servicemen's organisations with the intention of building a memorial ward. However, the only visible outcome of those years was the provision of air raid precautions. The old nurses' home was used as a military dental clinic and storerooms.

In 1945 however, work commenced again on a building programme that was to continue in varying form for most of the next few decades.

The first building that came into being in the post war years was the Nickson Wing designed by Stephenson and Turner. Prior to the commencement of this building, site works included the demolition of Ward 12, the Linen Room, the Kitchen Block and the old RMOs' quarters. The old nurses' home was also demolished at this time. A new store was located in the underpinned section of the York Wing, the kitchen services were transferred to the basement of the new RMOs' quarters and tunnels were constructed for steam and power lines (1).

By 1947 the steel frame on the building was complete and the new laundry was under construction (2). In the same year approval was given for extensions to be made to the out-patients' building via a second floor on the existing building. This project was completed in 1950 but the plan to build a new out-patients' building required the acquisition of the adjoining Beach Hotel property. This scheme was still in abeyance in 1950 when the Board requested a sum of 30,000 pounds to acquire this site (3). The money was allocated in the following year's estimates.

A large programme of extensions designed in three stages was also planned for the nurses' home. These stages encompassed the erection of a multi-storied block north of the existing home, an extension to the existing home and, finally, the construction of a new block on the corner of Pacific and Hunter Streets (4). By 1949 sketch plans for the first two stages were in hand but the third stage, which was to be a new building to replace the old club building, had to wait until that building could be vacated (5).

By 1952 plans for this work had been approved but adverse loan conditions led to the shelving of the programme (6).
However, in 1955, approval was given for the construction of a new nurses' home that was to occupy a site fronting Pacific and Hunter Streets. Arrangements were made to give one month's notice to the tenants of the shops that were to be demolished and tenders were to be called immediately (7).

By 1948 the Nickson Wing was nearing completion. In that year a submission was made to add the "Royal" to Newcastle Hospital, subsequently approved in 1949 with the visit of the King and Queen to the hospital. Stephenson and Turner prepared a long range planning scheme for the hospital development at this time, the first true planning document (other than, perhaps, the 1913 Commission Report) in the hospital's history. It was noted in the Annual Report of 1948 that;

"The Board has directed that steps be taken to ensure that adequate building area is available to meet the coming demand by pressing for the resumption of property in the vicinity of the existing out-patient block." (8).

The first stage of these resumptions had commenced by 1949. The Board also considered the ultimate removal of the North and York Wings at this time;

"This plan envisages the erection of a block of similar design to the one now being completed in place of the existing north wing and their ultimate linking by an appropriate unit to replace the present York Wing." (9)

Both the Nickson Wing, apart from some finishing, and the extensions to the Out-patients' Department were completed in 1950. In the following year the maternity wing opened. By 1953 the hospital was again facing financial problems. This set back precluded the completion of the laundry and the finishing work on the Nickson Wing.

In 1954, when funds were again available, the Committee highlighted as priorities the construction of the new laundry and the final completion of the Nickson Wing. The laundry plans were prepared by Stephenson and Turner in the following year and the building was completed in 1955. In the same year plans were prepared for a nurse's home. This new building was completed in 1958 and the Irene Hall Nurses' Home was officially opened in 1960. Other accommodation was sought in 1955 by the purchase of a block of flats known as "Wirraway" situated close to the hospital on the corner of Watt and Church Streets (10). In 1956 Stephenson and Turner completed working drawings for an extension to the casualty department.

The early 1960s were quiet in terms of hospital expansion but in 1966 the project claimed to be the biggest single development in the hospital's history was approved and
tenders were invited for the plans prepared by Leighton and Irwin. This was the new Outpatients' Block, subsequently the McCaffrey Wing.

The project had first been considered in 1965 and sketch plans were prepared in 1966. The excavation works commenced in 1967 (11) and the foundation stone was laid at the same time. In 1969 it was reported that the building was to be finished by mid 1970. Leighton Irwin also prepared plans for an ambulance bay in 1969.

The McCaffrey Wing was completed in 1970 and it was connected to the Nickson Wing in the same year. The completion of the new building made the old out-patients' building obsolete and the site was eventually levelled and landscaped, including a fountain, with some provision made for car parking. This occurred in 1970. In 1971 the Nickson Wing was altered on the ground floor to allow for the installation of a new renal unit. This work was completed in the following year.

In 1972 the long awaited improvements to the laundry and boiler were broached; sketch plans were prepared for alterations and additions to these buildings.

After a period of low activity, in 1977, a detailed proposal was prepared to establish criteria for alterations and additions as part of a refurbishment programme for the existing hospital. In the following year a Food Services Facilities Study was undertaken to examine the rationalization of those services. It was in this year that "Chartel", which had been used at one time as the RM0s' quarters, was demolished. The levelled site was used as a helipad. A seventh floor was added to the Nickson Wing in this year for Nuclear Medicine (12).

Following the trend for planned development, in 1979, a Task Force report was prepared which considered the foreword planning and development of the site. Following this work a $20 million refurbishment programme was approved by the Directors. This programme included plans to refurbish the York and North Wings and to relocate some services and disciplines. A ten year development programme was envisaged.

By this time the Clinical Sciences Building was in the course of construction (it was completed in 1980) and plans were made to expand the nurses' dining room and to construct a tunnel under King Street to connect them to the hospital. Plans were also made to upgrade the patients' kitchen. The estimated cost of this work was $2 million.

Another study of the hospital was undertaken in 1980 by the Public Works Department. This work was designed to
consider the condition of the hospital buildings, a problem that had caused concern to various Committees since the establishment of the institution. The report recommended the demolition of the RMOs' quarters and the demolition and rebuilding of the south wall of the York Wing. The laundry, boiler house and North Wing were said to be repairable if sufficient money was spent on their repairs. The Nickson Wing and the Nurses' Home were considered to be in reasonable condition but the new storey added to the Nickson Wing and its link to the out-patients' building was said to have problems.

In addition to these works the out-patients' building was claimed to be in the most urgent need of repairs including some to the lift tower brickwork. In addition to these, repairs were required to the beams under the X-Ray department. The air conditioning was said to be inadequate; the laundry was old fashioned; the heating, ventilation and hot water was inadequate and the electrical services were out-dated (13).

In 1981 the Health Commission was advised that at least two buildings on the site would need to be demolished within the next few years. In that same year the North Wing, York Wing and Wheeler House were listed under the Heritage Act.

Little was done in immediate response to the findings of the Task Force Report although plans were prepared in 1983 for repairs to the boiler house, York Wing, Nickson Wing and for a kitchen redevelopment.

It was not until 1985 that repairs were made to the boiler room chimney. By that year construction was in progress on a $5.6 million programme to built new operating theatres on the existing McCaffrey Wing to replace the existing theatres that were housed on the ocean side of the hospital. During this period a comprehensive refurbishment and painting programme was carried out on all the wards. Tenders were also called to demolish the RMOs' quarters.

In 1986 plans were prepared for the construction of a cardiac catheter lab and in 1987 the PWD produced plans of a refurbishment programme for the Nickson Wing. The first major work of the later 1980s, however, was a $1 million programme aimed at repairing the facade of the McCaffrey Wing. This was in 1988 and in the same year an allocation was made in the state budget for the replacement of the kitchen and for improvements to be made to the laundry and linen services. A $1.35 million programme for upgrading the Nickson Wing involved the relocation of the intensive care unit and the conversion of the vacant sixth floor to ward accommodation.

In 1989 a $5 million programme was planned for the repair
of the badly corroded Clinical Sciences Building and plans were prepared by the PWD for a hydrotherapy pool but at the end of this year a natural catastrophe changed all the forward planning.
Earthquake and Heritage

In the final days of 1989 Newcastle was struck by an earthquake and in minutes the Nickson ward became the only safe accommodation within the hospital. Most buildings were damaged and the hospital was advised to demolish a number of buildings in the interests of public safety (1). These included the York Wing, link and services block. These were subsequently demolished in 1990. Reports on the condition of the remaining buildings were prepared by the Public Works Department in 1990.

The demolition work caused a number of concerns to be raised over the heritage issues of the site. The hospital has always been aware of its history, celebrating various anniversaries and causing an historical monograph to be published but the concerns of patient and staff care and accommodation have necessarily come first. The effects of the earthquake were to bring hospital pragmatism into conflict with environmental considerations.

Following claims that the demolition of the buildings had been too hasty and carried out in an unsafe manner the National Trust called for conservation orders to be placed on damaged buildings as a means of controlling future demolition (2). The Minister noted that three buildings, the North Wing, York Wing and Wheeler House were already registered under the Heritage Act.

The hospital, meanwhile, had prepared plans for a $35 million motel and office development on the newly vacant hospital land (3). Further disputes arose over the planned demolition of Wheeler House (4).

In response to this controversy the current conservation plan has been commissioned by the Hospital.
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4.3.1 Chronology of the Development of the Site

1818 Plan of town shows hospital at the end of Wallis Street (now King Street). A single building

Sydney Gazette mentions "an excellent Hospital well aired and well situated constructed with stone, with a veranda round it and enclosed with a suitable paling" (Dec. 26)

1822 Single building marked on same site

Evidence presented to Commissioner Bigge included a description and the information that it was originally intended for a gaol but had been converted to a hospital. It was also noted that considerable inconvenience was caused by the quantity of sand that blew into the hospital from the sand hills.

1823 Single building on site

1826 Single building on site

1834 Hospital shown with what appears to have been an attached garden

1839 Morgue covered by sand

1849 Hospital site shown with three buildings. Further subdivisions are now shown in the town

1857 Three buildings marked "hospital"

1860 Three buildings still marked hospital also dedication of 1a 2r 10p for new hospital

1861 Public meeting called to discuss construction of a new hospital. Meetings frequently lapsed for want of a quorum

1864 Plan of proposed site of new hospital. Shows three old buildings and a small outbuilding.

Committee advertised for designs for new hospital. Seven designs received.

1865 Gazette of land for new hospital.

Procession and foundation stone laid. A time capsule placed under the stone.

Model being built by Mr Lewis the Architect. Noted that the proposed southern wing unlikely to be built for many years.
Serious disagreements and disharmony in Committee

1866 Hospital occupied but not properly completed.

First female patient admitted but formal request to admit females refused on the grounds that there was no room.

1867 Report on the hospital completion.

Rules for admission published.

13 patients occupied the building.

1868-9 Hospital in doldrums - many meetings lapse due to lack of quorum. Public meeting called to boost interest and subscribers.

1869 Bath installed.

Hospital insured for fire for 1000 pounds.

Tenders for gas fittings.

Conflict over dispensing medicines.

1870 Staircase completed

1871 Water closets installed in grounds.

Tenders called for erection of iron tanks to secure a suitable water supply.

Recommendation that bath and bath house be restored to correct use.

Two pairs of iron gates donated and installed

1873 Funds requested for an operating theatre upstairs.

1874 Gas lamps erected over hospital gates.

Gas stove installed

1875 Hospital funds finally stabilise. Insurance increased from 1000 to 3000 pounds.

Well collapses

Tenders called for sinking a tank in front of the hospital to hold 15000 gallons.

Nuisance of night soil being dumped next to hospital

1876 Subject of extending the hospital as originally
intended broached.

Operating room built.

Funds increase through charity benefits. This allows hospital to claim subsidy.

1879 Hospital fully occupied.

Sand drift problem. Galvanised iron fence being constructed to alleviate the problem but unfinished at this time.

Report requested on repair works.

1881 Agitation for Contagious Diseases Hospital

1882 After many years of complaints 3000 pounds allocated for the construction of a contagious diseases hospital.

A temporary wooden building on concrete foundation authorised to cope with a fever epidemic.

Inspector of charities critical of some conditions in hospital

1883 Hospital full and the growth of the district made the construction of the southern wing necessary. Moves to raise funds

1884 New wing in course of being added. Memorial stone laid

Contractor for works drilling for water by establishing a well at western end of hospital grounds. Abandoned but the sad lack of water noted

1885 Hannell Wing occupied late in year.

The funds for the contagious diseases hospital returned to the government because the money was insufficient to build a unit that would meet the needs of the community

Appeals again for this hospital to be built.

Water pipes laid to hospital

1887 Alteration of building and concern re. cost of town water.

New mortuary and drying shed erected.

First annual report.
Creation of outpatients department

Alteration of temporary contagious diseases ward to kitchen, store and servants' rooms and former kitchen altered to ward and dining space. These were located at the back of the hospital and were connected to the main building by covered ways.

1888 Change of boundaries and area dedicated for hospital
1889 Old grant resumed and a new dedication made for hospital site - 2a 13p
1890 Government resumed 22 feet of land on northern boundary to open a street to the beach
1891 Isolation wards constructed (later demolished to make way for north wing). Final cost 2000 pounds

Private ward opened for patients after the construction of a new staff dining room with female ward above.

1893 Damage to buildings from storms
1894 Hospital drains connected to the mains in Hospital Lane

Tenders called for fencing the rear of the hospital but costs so great the matter deferred

1896 Ground plan of buildings

Renovating and painting of internal parts of Isolation Wards, Nurses Room and Kitchen and Laundry. North Wing gains better bathroom and lavatory accommodation.

Tenders accepted for four room addition to kitchen

1897 Requested additions include a new operating theatre, casualty reception room, consulting room, abdominal surgery room and extra staff accommodation. Committee called for designs.

1898 Repeated requests for the above still futile. Sketch plans prepared.

Various proposals for a Childrens Ward.

Extensive repairs to southern and eastern sides of main building and the Resident Medical Supervisors' quarters due to storm damage.

Government voted 6000 pounds as a first installment
on the erection of a proposed new hospital at Newcastle. Competitive designs called.

1899 Massive cleansing scheme for hospital after water samples from hot water cistern found to be putrid

1901 New nurses' block and operating ward constructed adjoining each other and the south-western corner of the main hospital

1902 Meeting to consider further additions to hospital including a new kitchen and laundry

1903 Two schemes submitted for laundry and kitchen; both vetoed.

Site for kitchen chosen near old kitchen

1904 Funds available for kitchen but work did not proceed

Plan of laundry but decision to request special grant for this work

1905 Lands Department Plan shows 1866 building with the Hannell Wing and outbuildings. Beach Street was a formed road with palisading and two sawn rail fences

1906 Grant issued dedicated to hospital: 2a 13p

Premier approves immediate expenditure of 1500 pounds to build modern kitchen and laundry facilities. Laundry completed later in year

1907 Laundry still not fitted out.

Approval given for new kitchen and servant's quarters. Plans prepared

1908 Government allotted special grant of 2000 pounds for new buildings as a further installment towards the completion of the proposed new hospital

Electricity installed

Plans drawn for retaining walls; critical need for these at back of site

Kitchen built but not fitted up and laundry still not fitted out

Storm damage to buildings

Sketch plans of new morgue

1909 Work on morgue and retaining walls completed.
1910 Hospital project still far off. Financial condition of hospital at low ebb.

Buildings condemned as obsolete

New morgue brought into use

Plan of new isolation wards approved

Storm damage

1911 Urgent appeal to government to get some work started. Doubts about suitability of site. Matter to be referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Temporary isolation ward established to accommodate overflow patients.

Nurses Home painted

Old brick laundry removed, kitchen enclosed and ground paved

1913 Public Works Committee Report. Found the buildings to be dilapidated and unhealthy and unsuitable for their purpose. Considered two schemes and favoured the redevelopment of the current site.

Foundation stone laid of new hospital. The first building, a three storey northern wing, to be erected in sections to allow gradual demolition of old building as new one progressed.

Additional plans drawn of isolation wards

Additional plans for retaining walls

1914 Proposal to frame an Act of Parliament to incorporate hospital

Plans prepared for North Wing

Only urgent works carried out to old buildings. Inside walls of kitchen and laundry renovated by being limewashed and the ironwork and wood painted. More painting carried out on ceilings of Operating Theatre, Instrument Room. Children's Ward renovated.

1915 Newcastle Hospital Act. First section of new northern wing (the western part) completed and opened. Construction of eastern section resumed.

1916 Northern wing nearing completion and soon to be
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occupied.

Further demolition of old hospital block to make way for new Administrative Block

Foundation plans drawn for York Wing (administration building)

1917 Eastern section of northern wing completed and brought into use.

Newcastle Club Buildings (opposite hospital) taken over to be refurbished as Nurses Home

Detail plans of York Wing drawn

1918 Ambulance building completed next to isolation ward.

Plans for re-erection of retaining walls

1919 Working plans and specifications prepared for Centre Block

Appalling state of makeshift isolation ward brought to notice

1920 Visit of Prince of Wales. Centre Block not yet commenced but plans approved.

Plans prepared of boiler house chimney and stack

Large scale renovations and repairs to Nurses Home.

Extensive repairs to main building and operating theatre roofs due to recent storms.

1921 Demolition of "very old building" to make way for accommodation of nurses home

1922 Centre Block still not commenced

Plans prepared for additions to boiler house

Plans drawn of revised elevation to Pacific Street for York Wing

1923 Plans for nurses quarters approved by Government Architect and approved by board. Work expected to commence during the coming year.

Detail plans of York Wing prepared

1924 New isolation block completed at cost of 4321 pounds but initially used for nurses' accommodation while repairs carried out on old nurses' home
Centre Block still not commenced
Detailed plans for York Wing drawn

1925 Centre Block foundation stone laid
More detailed drawings of York Wing prepared

1926 Centre Block nearly completed
More detailed plans for York Wing
Plans drawn for additions to Nurses' Quarters

1927 York Wing completed (was the Centre Block but renamed for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York)

Tenders called for addition of four rooms and alterations to the building adjoining the kitchen for use by the Resident Medical Staff.

Approval given for a site on the eastern side of the hospital to construct an isolation ward. The hospital's honorary architects drew plans and specifications and the building was constructed. Described as a substantial, brick and on deep cement foundations in two floors with balconies.

Northern block painted and renovated.

New kitchen completed.

Property bought to accommodate a new Out-Patients department

Noted that serious damage caused by constant exposure to salt winds and spray.

1928 Plans nearly finalised for Outpatients' and Pathological Laboratory Block

Foundations laid of Wheeler House; used for nurses' accommodation

1930 Specifications prepared and tenders invited for Outpatients' building. Could not proceed until finance assured

Wheeler House opened

Plans drawn for morgue

1932 Proceedings delayed on Outpatients' Building because of Depression
Plans drawn for outpatients' department

1933 Work proceeding on Outpatients' Building. Funds from the Unemployed Relief Council. Constructed on property purchased at corner of Pacific and King Streets.

More plans drawn for outpatients' department

1934 Outpatients' and Pathological Block occupied

1935 Extensions to Wheeler House

1937 Stephenson Meldrum and Turner prepared drawings for Service Block

1938 New Administration block and new quarters for RMO and Dieticians being erected.

Program of essential new construction approved and it was hoped that financial assistance could be found for provision of additional public wards, private and intermediate wards and public maternity wards, new laundry and remodelling of the casualty department which was "most inadequate" and modern kitchen facilities.

Report notes the construction work on the extensions to the nurses' home and administration block were completed and work was in progress on the new service block, mortuary and workshops. Renovation of the north wing practically complete. A "long over-due" painting programme was being carried out.

Plans of internal details and services to RMO by Stephenson and Turner

Plans of underpinning and creating a new basement in York Wing by Stephenson and Turner

1939 No new construction but all works in hand nearing completion.

1941 Plans prepared for remodelling the North Wing by Stephenson and Turner, also for the new laundry.

Plans prepared by Stephenson and Turner for underpinning and alterations to the York Wing

1942 Air raid precaution plans drawn up. Maternity block construction prevented due to war

1943 Plans for additions being prepared include 360 bed ward, kitchen, operating theatre block and other works.
1944 RSS and AILA plan to construct a War Memorial Ward and the hospital was pleased to co-operate

Plans of extension to X ray department in York Wing by Stephenson and Turner

1945 Commence construction on multi-storey ward block (later Nickson Wing).

Plans for main block by Stephenson and Turner

As site preparation for this work the Ward 12 was demolished as were the Linen Room, Store, Kitchen Block and old RMOs' quarters. The new store was located in the underpinned York Wing, the kitchen services went to the basement of the RMOs' quarters and tunnels were constructed for steam and power.

1947 Steel frame completed on ward block. Approval for extensions to commence to second floor of outpatient block

Proposals for war memorial ward not finalised

Stephenson and Turner prepared plans of new office for Administration Building

1948 Proposal to add "Royal" to name.

Ward block now in finishing stages

Stephenson and Turner prepare long range planning scheme for hospital development

Stephenson and Turner prepare plans of the subdivision and extension of the York Wing

1949 King and Queen visit. "Royal" added to name.

Nickson Wing proceeding.

Little progress on Outpatients' block.

Noted need to acquire Beach Hotel property to allow construction of a new building for the out-patients' wards

Three stage extension programme devised for nurses' home

1950 Structural work complete on Nickson Wing.

Extension to Outpatients' top floor complete.

1951 Nickson Wing opened.
Maternity Wing to open soon.

Remodelling of outpatients' wards nearly complete. Resumption of Beach Hotel property not yet final.

1951 Money allocated for acquisition of Beach Hotel property to allow for construction of new out-patients' building

1952 Construction work on Nickson Wing almost complete

                 Plans shelved for nurses' accommodation extensions

1953 Poor finances precluded completion of new laundry and ward block but Commission did fund most of the outstanding commitments

1954 Funds now available for new construction in order of priority: new Laundry, temporary nurses home at Rankin Park and finishing work on Nickson Wing

1954 New laundry plans by Stephenson and Turner

1955 New laundry block occupied

                 Plans prepared for nurses' home on corner of Pacific and Hunter Streets. Tenders to be called immediately

1956 Working drawings for casualty department extension by Stephenson and Turner

1958 New nurses home built. Stephenson and Turner architects

1960 Irene Hall Nurses Home opened

1966 New outpatients' block funds approved. Said to be the biggest single project in the hospital's history. Tenders to be invited and plans already prepared by Leighton and Irwin

                 Celebrations for 150 year anniversary

1967 Foundation stone laid of new outpatients' block

1969 Outpatients' block to be finished by mid 1970

                 Plans prepared for ambulance bay by Leighton Irwin

1970 Outpatients' block completed and connected to Nickson Wing

                 Demolition of old outpatients block expected to commence in August. The site of the old building to be levelled and gardens and a fountain constructed
and the remainder tar sealed

1972 Structural alterations to Nickson Ward to accommodate new renal unit

Sketch plans prepared for alterations and additions to laundry and boiler house

1977 Detailed refurbishing proposal study completed to establish criteria for a programme of renovations, alterations and additions to the existing hospital buildings

1978 "Chartel" demolished. Was used by RMO as quarters. Had been built in 1917 as a private establishment and later used as a guest house and finally leased to the hospital. Levelled site used as helipad

Food Services Facilities Study undertaken to examine the rationalization of these services

Seventh Floor added to Nickson Wing for Nuclear medicine

1979 Task Force Report to consider planning and development of the hospital site

$20m refurbishment programme approved by Directors. Plans to refurbish York and North Wings and relocate some services and disciplines. Ten year development programme plan

Clinical sciences building in course of construction

Tenders to be called to relocate the blood bank on the old Building Centre opposite the construction site

Plans to expand nurses' dining room and construct a tunnel under Pacific or King Street to connect the home to the hospital. Also plans to upgrade patients' kitchen. All up cost $2 million

1980 PWD report re. condition of hospital includes recommendation to demolish RMOs' quarters (repairs would be uneconomical). Total repair bill for hospital to be $12 million. Also recommends south wall of York Wing to be demolished and rebuilt. Wirraway Flats also said to be at the end of their useful life. Laundry, boiler house and north wing could be extended if significant money spent on repairs. Nickson Wing and Nurses' Home said to be in reasonable condition but the new storey to the Nickson and its link to the outpatients' building also said to have problems. Outpatients' building
said to be in most urgent need of repairs. Little maintenance and external corrosion. Of the greatest priority were repairs to lift tower brickwork in outpatients; repairs to beams under X-ray department; York Wing; repairs or replacement of RMO building. Air conditioning was found to be inadequate; old fashioned laundry facilities; inadequate heating, ventilation and hot water supplies; out dated electrical services

Site plans for east car park by Leighton Irwin. Newmed I plans by Lawrence Nield and Partners

Clinical Sciences Building (also called David Maddison Building, NewMedI) completed

Plans of nurses' home dining room and kitchen extensions by Leighton and Irwin

1981 Health Commission told to demolish two buildings in the next few years because of structural defects

Newmed I (the Clinical Sciences building) opened.

Plans for the "other" car park and east car park by Leighton and Irwin

North Wing, York Wing and Wheeler House listed under the Heritage Act

1983 The Herald Fountain opened in Pacific Park

1984 Plans prepared for boiler house repairs

Plans prepared for York Wing repairs

Plans prepared for kitchen redevelopment

Plans prepared for Nickson Wing repairs

1985 Repairs to boiler room chimney stack. Danger of falling debris in high winds.

Construction in progress on $5.6 million programme to build new operating theatres on existing hospital McCaffrey Wing (two floors) to replace existing theatres housed on the ocean side of the hospital. Plans by Leighton Irwin

Comprehensive refurbishment programme of all wards and painting.

Tenders to be called soon to demolish the old RMOs' quarters
1986 Plans of Cat scanner and cardiac catheter lab by PWD

1987 Plans for Nickson Wing refurbishment drawn by PWD

1988 c. $1 million spent on repairing facade of McCaffrey Wing

Allocation in state budget for replacement of kitchen and improvements to laundry and linen services

$1.35 million upgrading of Nickson Wing planned involving relocation of intensive care unit and conversion of vacant sixth floor to ward accommodation

1989 $5 million to be spent to repair badly corroded NewMed Building

Earthquake damages all buildings and Nickson Ward becomes only safe accommodation. Advice to demolish a number of buildings and the York Wing, link and services block were demolished.

Plans of hydrotherapy pool drawn by PWD

1990 Report on Existing buildings, McCaffrey Wing, Nickson Wing and Clinical Sciences Building prepared by PWD

Plans drawn of kitchen refurbishment

Demolition commences on York Wing, a linkway building and a services block damaged by the earthquake.

Claims that the demolition work was unsafe and premature. Site to be offered for redevelopment.

National Trust calls for conservation orders to be placed on damaged buildings to control demolition

Plans for $35 million motel and office redevelopment to occupy vacant hospital land

Disputes over planned demolition of Wheeler House and proposals to build in the newly opened ocean view created by the demolition of the York Wing

1991 Conservation plan commissioned
4.3.2 Chronology of the Convict Hospital

1818 Plan of the town shows hospital at the end of Wallis Street (now King Street). A single building.

1822 Single building marked on the same site

Evidence presented to Commissioner Bigge included a description and the information that it was originally intended for a gaol but had been converted to a hospital. It was also noted that considerable inconvenience was caused by the quantity of sand that blew into the hospital from the sand hills.

1823 Single building on site

1826 Single building on site

1834 Hospital shown with what appears to have been an attached garden

1839 Morgue smothered with sand

1849 Hospital site shown with three buildings

1857 Three buildings marked "hospital"

1860 Three buildings still marked hospital.

Dedication of 1a 2r 10p for a new hospital

1864 Plan of proposed site of new hospital. Shows three old buildings and a small out-building.

1865 Likely that the old building survived for some time after the new ward completed but date of demolition unknown.

1949? Possible site uncovered during underpinning works; large blocks of dressed stone, brick work and lime cement reported by works team.
4.3.3 Chronology of the First General Hospital

1861 Public meeting called to discuss construction of a new hospital. Meetings frequently lapse for want of quorum.

1864 Plan of proposed site of new hospital

Committee advertise for designs for new hospital. Seven designs received.

1865 Gazettal of land for new hospital.

Model built by Mr Lewis the Architect. Noted that proposed southern wing unlikely to be built for many years.

1866 Hospital occupied but not properly completed

1867 Report on the hospital completion

1868-9 Hospital in doldrums. Public meetings called to boost interest and gain subscribers.

1869 Bath installed.

Hospital insured for fire for 1000 pounds.

Tenders for gas fittings.

1870 Staircase completed

1874 Gas stove installed

1876 Operating room built (appears to have been a separate building)

1887 Cleaned and painted internally

1893 Storm damage

1896 Better bathroom and lavatory accommodation provided at rear of building

1898 Extensive repairs to southern and eastern sides of main building due to storm damage.

1913 Report by the parliamentary committee finds the building to be unhealthy and unfit for its purpose

Foundation stone laid of new building. Old hospital to be progressively demolished as new hospital (north wing) built.

1916 Further demolition of old hospital to make way for
administration block
4.3.4 Chronology of Southern Wing: The "Hannell Wing"

1883 Hospital full and growth of district made the construction of the southern wing necessary. Moves to raise funds.

1884 New wing in course of being constructed.

  Memorial stone laid

1885 Hannell Wing occupied late in the year

1887 Cleaned and painted internally

1893 Storm damage

1898 Extensive repairs to southern and eastern side of building due to storm damage

1901 Operating wing added to south western corner of site linking Hannell Wing to new nurses' quarters built at the same time

1906 Operating block externally renovated

1913 Report by parliamentary committee finds the building to be unfit for its purpose

  Gradually demolished as new North Wing constructed.
4.3.5 Chronology of North Wing

1911 Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works investigates the suitability of site and new hospital

1913 Foundation stone laid. The first building, north wing, to be erected in stages to allow gradual demolition of old building as new one progressed

1914 Plans drawn of North Wing

1915 First part of new northern wing (the western section) completed and opened. Construction of eastern section resumed.

1916 Northern wing nearing completion and soon to be occupied

1917 Eastern portion of new wing completed

1920 Extensive repairs due to storm damage

1921 Due to storms all the guttering on the roof and most of the down pipes replaced

1927 Whole block painted and renovated

1938 Renovation of the wing nearly complete; included rewiring and enclosing the Pacific Street verandahs.

1941 Plans prepared for remodelling the wing

1979 Plan to refurbish North Wing

1980 Report states that life of the building could be extended if significant money spent on it

1981 Listed under the Heritage Act
4.3.6 Chronology of "York Wing"

1917 Plans for York Wing drawn
1919 Working plans drawn
1920 Plans approved
1922 Delays in constructing the wing
    Plans drawn of revised elevation to York Wing
1923 More detailed plans of York Wing prepared by Government Architect under direct supervision of Mr Cranna in Newcastle
1925 Foundation stone laid and more plans prepared.
1926 Construction nearly complete
1927 York Wing completed and named for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York.
    New operating theatre located in the building, comes into action
1938 Extensions to administration building in course of construction
    Plans prepared for underpinning and creating a new basement
1944 Plans prepared for an extension to X-Ray department
1945 New store constructed in underpinned section of York Wing
1948 Plans prepared for subdivision and extension of York Wing
1978 Plan to refurbish York Wing
1980 Report recommends demolition and reconstruction of south wall
1981 Listed under the Heritage Act
1984 Plans prepared for repairs
1989 Earthquake damages all main buildings; York Wing demolished as well as link building
4.3.7 Chronology of Nickson Wing

1945 Construction commenced. Prior to the commencement of building, site works included the demolition of Ward 12, the Linen Room, the Kitchen Block and the old RMOs' quarters.

1947 Steel frame completed

1948 Now in finishing stages

1949 Work still being carried out

1950 Structural work complete

1951 Nickson Wing opened although work still continuing.
   Maternity wing to open soon

1952 Work still continues although almost complete

1953 Poor finances preclude completion

1954 Fiances now available for finishing work

1972 Structural alterations to Nickson Wing to accommodate new renal unit

1978 Seventh floor added for nuclear medicine

1980 Report states that building in reasonable condition
   The new storey to the Nickson Wing and its link to outpatients' building said to have a few problems

1984 Plans prepared for repairs

1987 Plans for Nickson Wing refurbishment

1988 Plans for $1.35 million upgrading which involved relocation of intensive care unit and conversion of vacant sixth floor to ward space

1989 Earthquake damages all buildings and Nickson becomes the only safe ward
4.3.8 Chronology of Clinical Sciences Building:
1979 In course of construction
1980 Completed
1981 Opened
1989 $5 million to repair badly corroded NewMed Building
4.3.9 Chronology of Contagious Diseases Building and Isolation Ward

1882 After many years of complaints 3000 pounds allocated for the construction of a contagious diseases hospital.

Temporary wooden building on concrete foundation authorised to cope with a fever epidemic.

1885 The funds for the contagious diseases hospital returned to the government. More appeals for this hospital to be built.

1887 Former temporary building converted to kitchen, store and servants rooms

1891 Isolation Wards constructed for 2000 pounds

1896 Painted and renovated

1908 Isolation blocks under review for demolition

1909 Site of old isolation wards considered to be best for new wards

1910 Plan of new isolation block approved

1911 Temporary ward established in isolation area to accommodate overflow patients

1913 Parliamentary Report states that the old wards in this section had been condemned by the health department

1919 Statement by Committee that the wards were makeshift and "wretched"

1924 New isolation block completed at a cost of 4321 pounds but delayed in use while repairs carried out on old nurses' home. Temporarily used as nurses' accommodation.

1927 Approval given for a site on the eastern side of the hospital to construct an isolation ward. The hospital's honorary architects drew the plans and specification. The building described as a substantial brick one on deep cement foundations in two floors with balconies
4.3.10 Chronology of Nurses' Home and Wheeler House

1891 Isolation wards built with accommodation for nursing staff
Nurses' dining room built at back of buildings

1896 Nurses' Room located in Isolation Ward. Painted in this year.
Report notes that rooms urgently required to house nursing staff. The present accommodation was said to be inadequate.

1901 Nurses' quarters erected in south-western corner of site

1906 Building externally renovated

1908 Badly damaged in storms

1911 Home painted

1913 Parliamentary Report states that the building was structurally defective and constantly leaked. Accommodation also said to be insufficient

1914 Repairs to old Nurses' Home and retaining wall to eliminate the damp problem

1917 Newcastle Club Buildings taken over to be refurbished as new Nurses' Home. Old home later used by RMOs.

1920 Extensive repairs and renovations to Nurses' Home

1921 "Very old building" demolished to make way for the nurses home

1923 Plans for nurses' quarters approved by Government Architect and approved by Board and work expected to commence during the coming year.

1924 Repairs carried out on old nurses' home and some nurses temporarily housed in new isolation block

1926 Plans drawn of additions to nurses' quarters

1928 Foundations laid of Wheeler House

1930 Wheeler House opened

1938 Extensions to nurses' home complete

Old nurses' home used as store room and military dental clinic
1945  Old nurses' home demolished to make way for Nickson Wing

1949  Three stage plan for extensions to nurses' home devised: I - new section to extend from present club building to Hunter street; II - new section facing Hunter Street; III - replacement of Club Building

1952  Plans for extensions shelved due to adverse loan conditions

1955  Plans prepared for nurses' home on corner of Pacific and Hunter Streets, tenders to be called immediately

1958  New nurses' home built. Stephenson and Turner architects

1960  The Irene Hall Nurses' Home opened

1980  Report states that nurses' home was in reasonable condition

   Plan of dining room and kitchen extension

1981  Wheeler House listed under the Heritage Act

1989  Earthquake damages all major buildings. Dispute over plans to demolish Wheeler House.
4.3.11 Resident Medical Officers Quarters

1896 Repairs to Resident Medical Supervisors' Quarters due to storm damage

1917 "Chartel" built as a private establishment, later used as a guest house and finally leased to hospital

1927 Tenders called for addition of four rooms and alterations to the building adjoining the kitchen for use by the resident medical staff

1938 New quarters for RMO and dieticians being erected

1945 Old RMOs' quarters demolished and kitchen services transferred to basement of the new building

1972 "Chartel" demolished. Site levelled and used as a helipad

1980 Report recommends demolition of old RMO's quarters

1985 Tenders called for demolition of old RMOs quarters
4.3.12 Chronology of Outpatients and Pathology Block (old) and new, the McCaffrey Wing

1927 This department stated to be very antiquated. The Board had acquired a "splendid" site for a new department and were calling on the Government to erect a new building as soon as possible.

1928 Plans nearly finalised for building.

1930 Specifications prepared and tenders invited for Outpatients' Building. Could not proceed until finance assured.

1932 Proceedings delayed on Outpatients' Building because of the Depression but more plans drawn.

1933 Work proceeding on the Outpatients' Building. Funds came from the Unemployed Relief Council. The building was constructed on property at the corner of Pacific and King Streets.

1934 Outpatients' and Pathology Block occupied.

1947 Approval for extensions to commence to second floor of outpatients' block.

1949 Little progress made.

1950 Extensions to top floor of outpatients' building complete.

Proposal to acquire Beach Front property to allow construction of a new building. Insufficient funds.

1951 Remodelling nearly complete.

Allocation to acquire Beach Hotel made for 30,000 pounds.

1966 New outpatients' block funds approved. Said to be the biggest single project in the hospital's history. Tenders invited and plans prepared by Leighton and Irwin. The McCaffery Wing.

1967 Foundation stone laid of new block.

1970 Outpatients' Building completed and connected to Nickson Wing.

Demolition of old outpatients' block expected to commenced in August. The site of the old block to be levelled and landscaped with a fountain and some to be tar sealed.
1980 Outpatients' building said to be in need of urgent repairs especially to lift tower brick work

1985 Construction in progress on $5.6 million programme to build new operating theatres and to replace the existing theatres

1988 $1 million dollars spent on repairing the McCaffrey Wing facade
4.3.13 Chronology of Bath House and Water closets

1871 Water closets installed in grounds

   Recommendation that bath and bath house be restored to correct use

1882 Report notes water supply to baths and water closets inadequate. Recommends construction of earth closets

1896 North Wing acquires better bathroom and lavatory accommodation

   Date of demolition of old facilities unclear
4.3.14 Chronology of Mortuary and Drying Shed

1887 Mortuary and Drying Shed erected at rear of hospital. Old morgue converted for use as patients' clothes store

1908 Morgue under review for demolition
    Sketch plans prepared for new building

1909 Work on new morgue progressing and completed later in year

1910 New morgue brought into use

1911 Manual power lift placed in new morgue to allow easy access to basement

1930 Plans drawn for new morgue

1938 Work in progress on new mortuary
4.3.15 Chronology of Laundry

1902 Meeting to discuss additions including new laundry

1903 Menkens submits scheme for three storey building on Telford Street to house new laundry, kitchen. Cost prohibitive

1904 Committee decides to seek special grant for erection of laundry and domestic servants' quarters

1906 Premier approved immediate expenditure of 1500 pounds to provide modern kitchen and laundry facilities

Laundry completed later in year

1907 Laundry still not fitted up

1908 Laundry said to be useless as still not fitted up

1911 Old brick laundry removed.

1913 Parliamentary report states the laundry to be a "modern" building and equal to the purpose but it required new machinery

1914 Laundry limewashed and wood and ironwork painted inside

1938 Report states need for new laundry

1941 Plans prepared for a new laundry

1953 Poor finances precluded completion of new laundry

1954 Funds now said to be available for new laundry

New plans prepared

1955 New laundry block occupied

1972 Sketch plans of alterations and additions

1980 Report states that life of the building could be extended if money spent on it

1988 Allocation in state budget for improvements to laundry facilities
4.3.16 **Chronology of Boiler House**

1920 Plans prepared of boiler house chimney and stack

1922 Plans drawn of additions to boiler house

1938 Work in progress on new service block which included a new boiler house with accommodation for three boilers and plant

1972 Sketch plans of alterations and additions

1980 Report states that life of the building could be extended if money spent on it.

1984 Plans prepared for repairs

1985 Repairs to chimney stack. Danger of falling debris in high winds
4.3.17 Chronology of Kitchen

1887 Former temporary isolation ward, built 1882, converted for use as kitchen, store and servants room

1895 Kitchen established on eastern side of site by 1895

1896 Plan for four room addition to kitchen. Work proceeded soon after

1902 Meeting to discuss additions including new kitchen

1903 Menkens submits scheme for three storey building on Telford Street to house new laundry, kitchen. Cost prohibitive.

A second scheme for kitchen submitted but vetoed by the medical staff as it was too near the operating theatre. Site eventually chosen was farther from the operating block and closer to the existing kitchen and laundry

1904 Funds for new kitchen available but work apparently did not proceed

1906 Premier approves immediate expenditure of 1500 pounds for construction of modern laundry and kitchen facilities

1907 Approval given for erection of new kitchen. New plans prepared for kitchen and servants' quarters

1908 New kitchen constructed but not fitted up

1911 Kitchen enclosed by a weatherboard fenced and the area in front of the building paved and gravelled

1913 Parliamentary report states the kitchen and associated servants' quarters to be modern buildings and adequate for the purposes

1914 Internal walls limewashed and ironwork and wood painted

1927 Contract for new kitchen completed and new equipment installed. The new block located south of the York Wing was designed by Messrs Denley and Chippin, Honorary Architects to the Hospital

1938 Report states need for a new kitchen

1945 Old kitchen demolished; services transferred to basement of new RMOs' quarters. Linen room and store also demolished.
4.3.18 Chronology of Water Supply

1839 Reference to water being carted to the convict hospital

1871 Tenders called for erection of iron tanks to secure a suitable water supply in place of a brackish well that was used by the hospital

1875 Tenders called for sinking a tank in front of the hospital to hold 15000 gallons

Well collapses

1884 Contractor for constructing southern wing drilled for water by establishing a well at the western end of hospital grounds. Abandoned but the great lack of water noted.

1885 Water pipes laid to the hospital

1887 Concern re. the cost of town water

1920 Note that an old well being used to supply the main boiler with rain water
4.3.19 Chronology of Landscape

1822 Evidence presented to Commissioner Bigge noted the considerable inconvenience caused by the quantity of sand that blew in from the sand hills.

1839 Morgue smothered with sand and by this time all the trees and bushes surrounding the hospital removed, aggravating the sand drift problem. Trunks of trees laid across road to allow carts to bring water to hospital.

1871 Two pairs of iron gates donated and installed.

1874 Gas lamps erected over hospital gates.

1879 Sand drift problem continues. Galvanised iron fence being constructed but unfinished at this time.

1887 Change of boundaries and area dedicated for hospital.

1890 Government resumed 22 feet of land on the northern boundary to open a street to the beach.

1892 By this date both Pacific and Shortland Parks had been established by the dumping of night soil and town refuse.

1894 Hospital drains connected to mains in Hospital Lane. Rear of grounds not yet efficiently fenced. Tenders called but costs so high that the matter was deferred.

1901 Land surrounding new nurses' block to be sewn with seed grass.

1903 Land around nurses' home said to be planted with many shrubs and plants.

1905 Lands Department plan shows Beach Street as a formed road with palisading and two sawn rail fences.

1908 Hospital said to have urgent need of new retaining walls at back. Plans drawn for retaining walls.

1909 Work on retaining walls progressing.

1910 Reclamation of land in Telford street to retaining wall.

1913 More plans drawn of retaining walls.

1918 Plans for re-erecting the retaining walls.

1938 Intention to formulate plans for the beatification of
the grounds

1970 Site of old outpatients' block to be levelled and landscaped with a fountain and some to be tar sealed

1972 "Chartel" demolished and site levelled and used as a helipad

1983 Herald Foundation opened in Pacific Park