

FORMER NURSES HOME

Address: 80 King William Road
(cnr Brougham Place)
Certificate of Title: 1352/45

Use: Administration
**Women's & Children's
Hospital Policy Area:** PA9
North Adelaide Historic (Conservation) Zone

Heritage Status: LHP
Other Assessments: Nil
Conservation Reports: Nil



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

This building forms part of the Adelaide Children's Hospital complex. Following a £10,000 donation from Mrs George Michell in 1943 for new physiotherapy rooms and a department for the surgical treatment of infants, this three storey building was constructed to provide for these specialist departments. This continued the tradition of prominent SA families' involvement in planning and development, making large donations towards new hospital buildings and specialist departments as and when they became needed. The foundation stone for the Michell Building was laid by Premier Tom Playford on 14 April 1944 and was completed by 1946. Designed by prominent local architects Woods Bagot, the new wing of the hospital was built by Frickers.

This building was constructed under conditions whereby a Commonwealth Act for cessation of building works was introduced in 1942 as part of war time restrictions. However, special permission was given for those building projects which were deemed crucial or part of the war effort. Recognising the need for further expansion following the construction of the Michell Building, the hospital committee embarked on a development plan for the hospital's future. Following the war the hospital needed a utility block, a new nurses' home, a central sterilising room, a nurses' training school and other accommodation.

When the hospital needed to expand again its 1973 Development Plan stated 'the role of any health facility within the community it serves can never be static and thus the building housing the institution must be able to adapt to the differing needs of the community at different times'. Within this context, the hospital has continually needed to replace buildings or adapt older retained buildings as and where appropriate. While the hospital is dominated by its more recent multiple storey buildings across six town acres, the Michell Building, together with the late nineteenth century Campbell and Angus buildings, represent the historical development of the hospital built for children, and which has more recently, also become a maternity hospital.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE:

Designed by prominent Adelaide architects, Woods Bagot, this three storey building was considered essential by the state government when it was built during the Second World War at a time when only those building projects viewed as crucial or part of the war effort were allowed by war time building restrictions. A large donation towards its construction from the Michell family enabled it to be constructed.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (under Section 23(4) of the *Development Act, 1993*):

- (a) This hospital building displays historical and social themes that are of importance to North Adelaide as it represents the continued expansion of the Children's Hospital during the Second World War.
- (b) It represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area as the Children's hospital has been located at this site since its inception.
- (c) It has played an important part in the lives of local residents as the focus of child health care for the area and the State.

FORMER NURSES HOME, 80 King William Road (cnr Brougham Place) (cont)

- (d) This former nurses home displays aesthetic merit and design characteristics of significance to North Adelaide as it is a 1940 purpose built hospital building designed by Woods Bagot architects.
- (f) The building is a notable landmark in the King William Road streetscape, at the bend up to O'Connell Street.
-

EXTENT OF LISTING:

External form, materials and details of the three storey 1940 front section of the building including walls and roof form. Later alterations are not included.

NOTE: The 'Description of Place and Elements of Heritage Value' listed in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan for this property is as follows:

Former Nurses Home

Three storey front section of the building. Excludes balcony infill

This is the legally recognised listing and should be used for the purposes of development application assessment

REFERENCES

- ACC Building Plan 6472, Woods Bagot Architects
- ACC *Digest of Proceedings*, 18 October 1943, p 181.
- *Advertiser* 15/4/1944 p 5.
- Margaret Barbalet, *The Adelaide Children's Hospital 1876-1976*, p138, 187.



SLSA - B12324 - 1952