

Statement of Significance: Former Children's Hospital Precinct, 110-150 Drummond Street, 15-31 Pelham Street and 125-161 Rathdowne Street, Carlton (November, 2021)

Heritage Place:	Former Children's Hospital Precinct	PS ref no:	HO81
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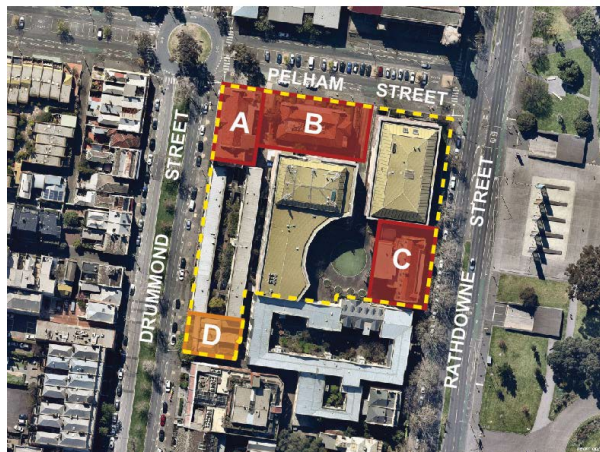


What is significant?

The former Children's Hospital Precinct with frontages to Rathdowne, Pelham and Drummond streets, Carlton, and comprising the Princess May Pavilion (1900-01), Nurses Home (1907), Administration Building (1912) and terrace houses at 110-114 Drummond Street, is significant.

Within the precinct, the significance categories are as follows (Figure 16):

- The Princess May Pavilion, Nurses Home and Administration Building are significant.
- The three Victorian terraces to Drummond Street are contributory.
- The 1980s townhouses and 1990s office development are non-contributory.



Site Boundary

Significant

Contributory

A Princess May Pavilion, Pelham Street

B Administration Building, Pelham Street

C Nurses Home, Rathdowne Street

D Three Victorian terraces, Drummond Street

Figure 16 Significance categories in Former Children's Hospital Precinct (source: nearmap)

This document is an incorporated document in the Melbourne Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

How is it significant?

The Former Children's Hospital Precinct, comprising the Princess May Pavilion (1900-01), Nurses Home (1907), and Administration Building (1912) and terrace houses at 110-114 Drummond Street, is of local historical and aesthetic significance.

Why is it significant?

The Former Children's Hospital Precinct, comprising the Princess May Pavilion (1900-01), Nurses Home (1907), and Administration Building (1912) and terrace houses at 110-114 Drummond Street, is of historical significance (Criterion A). The hospital was established on this site in 1876, in Sir Redmond Barry's former house in Pelham Street, and was the principal hospital for children and paediatric care in Victoria for some 90 years. It was previously located in buildings in the CBD, having been founded by doctors John Singleton and William Smith in 1870, and reportedly the first paediatric hospital in the southern hemisphere. The three remaining purpose-built hospital buildings, being the Princess May Pavilion, Nurses Home and Administration Building were constructed in the early twentieth century as part of a comprehensive hospital building program, when existing buildings were replaced by purpose-designed buildings more suited to the hospital's growing requirements. The Carlton hospital was one of a number of major hospitals in Melbourne and Victoria which were either constructed or underwent significant redevelopment in the first decades of the twentieth century. These establishments tended to specialise in areas of health, including infectious diseases, mental health, women's health, and the health of children as at Carlton. This also occurred at a time when the growth and affluence of the city and state allowed for the funding and construction of substantial hospital and medical institutions. Following the opening of the new Royal Children's Hospital in Parkville in 1963, the Carlton facility was adapted to use as St Nicholas Hospital, for children with intellectual disabilities. The buildings underwent some alterations at this time, with St Nicholas Hospital closing in 1985. The three terraces to Drummond Street, while not purpose built for the hospital, are understood to have been acquired by the hospital during its period of expansion on the site, and therefore have an historical connection.

The Former Children's Hospital Precinct is also of aesthetic significance (Criterion E). The three purpose-built hospital buildings, constructed in the Edwardian period, are of considerable architectural merit and have a high level of external intactness. Their prominent red-brick forms are distinctive within the Carlton context and represent significant contributors to their respective streetscapes, being an important Carlton block. The stylistic cohesion of the three buildings also reflects the input of noted architects Guyon Purchas and William Shields, the latter believed to have been involved in all three building designs. Individually, the earliest of the buildings, the Princess May Pavilion, is noted for its combination of eclectic Jacobethan and Art Nouveau motifs, prominent gable ends with ogee profiles, canted bays and oriel windows, double-height brick arcaded verandah, and high bluestone plinth or semi-basement level. The Nurses Home has a highly symmetrical composition, with prominent gable-ended pavilions again with ogee profiles and oriel windows, flanking the central three-storey component with ironwork balconies incorporating Art Nouveau detailing. The last of the buildings, the Administration Building, has an overall symmetry and form which harks back to the 1907 Nurses Home, but with simplified detailing. Repeated here is the central balconied bay sited between prominent flanking pavilions with decorative notched gables, and again with an ogee profile.

Primary source

Carlton Heritage Review (Lovell Chen, 2021)