# **Application form**

Heritage

## Entry of a place in the Queensland Heritage Register

**Use this form** to apply to have a place considered for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

#### **Before** completing this application form:

- read the Application Guide: Entering a State Heritage Place in the Queensland Heritage Register available at www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/
- call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) and discuss this application with the Applications Coordinator, Heritage Branch

## 1. Applicant details

APPLICANT NAME/S		TITLE
ORGANISATION NAME (if applicable)  Bundaberg Regional Heritage Group		
POSTAL ADDRESS		POSTCODE
EMAIL ADDRESS		
TELEPHONE (business hours)	MOBILE	
TELEPHONE (after hours)	EMAIL	

## 2. Applicant consent

Ticking YES in the box below means you give consent to the department to publicly disclose your name with this application. At no time (whether you tick YES or NO) will your personal contact details be made public during processing and assessment of this application. The department removes contact details (i.e. address, email and telephone numbers) from all copies of the application except those provided to the Queensland Heritage Council.

Applicant consents to person	al informati	on being released	Yes □	No ⊠
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE				
PRINT APPLICANT'S NAME			DATE SIGNED 24 Oct 2023	



#### 3. Place details

NAME OF PLACE AND / OR FORMER NAME Former Nurses' Quarters – Bundaberg Base Hospital		
STREET ADDRESS 273 Bourbong Street, Bundaberg Queensland 4670		
LOT/S ON PLAN/S Lot 80/B158103	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA/S Bundaberg Regional Council	
GPS COORDINATES (IF KNOWN)		
-24.86836, 152.33650		

#### 4. Consultation with the owner of the place

Do you own the place that is the subject of this application?	Yes □	No ⊠
If you are not the owner of this place, have you consulted with the owner?	Yes □	No ⊠

## 5. History of the place

#### HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Bundaberg Hospital Nurses' Quarters is a two storey brick masonry building erected in 1914 by Pomfret and Anderson with subsequent extensions, additions and renovations carried out during each decade between 1920 and 1971. The quarters were initially built to service the newly constructed double storey brick hospital designed by F.H. Faircloth and built by Niels Carl Steffensen. Construction of the single storey quarters coincided with Bundaberg's population growth and increased demand for hospital nurses resulting from a socio-cultural shift towards institution-based nursing. The construction of the quarters was influenced politically by both The Health Act Amendment Act of 1911 and The Hospital Nurses Award 1921, both of which included mandated provision for a higher standard of onsite accommodation for nurses.

Significant additions to the quarters were opened in October 1937 at a cost of £5,120 which provided twenty-eight bedrooms, dormitory, dining, study, box room and modern bathrooms on each level all within a spacious 84' x 32'. The additions were linked to the original 22'x32' nurses' quarters.

Further extensive additions occurred in 1963 providing a further 5100 sq feet of space and were constructed using cavity brick, pine timber flooring and galvanised iron roofing to seamlessly complement the existing structure. Work included the extension of the nurses' laundry, enclosure of ground floor verandahs, creating a false ceiling by lowering the ground floor ceiling from 12 foot to 9 foot, construction of two additional accommodation blocks in the eastern wing and conversion of nurses' cubicles into rooms.

Subsequent work has included the conversion of the first floor western wing into offices, lining of the walls with plasterboard and some French doors to the verandah replaced with casement windows.

The 1937 aesthetic façade of the quarters is substantially intact and the footprint of the earlier brick quarters is still clearly evident within the full western portion of the building. See Attachment 2 for full referenced history

#### REFERENCE LIST

Heritage Survey Qld Health Volume 1 T. Blake, M. Kennedy & M. Pullar October 1996

Nolan, J., Bundaberg: History and people, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press, 1978.

Walker, J.Y., History of Bundaberg: Typical Queensland agricultural settlement, Bundaberg, WC Aiken, 1890.

Rackemann, N., Bundaberg: From pioneers to prosperity, Bundaberg, Bundaberg City Council, 1992. Gammon, S., Local History Feature 'Bundaberg Base Hospital', Bundaberg, Bundaberg Libraries, n.d.,

https://www.artsbundaberg.com.au/downloads/file/30/base-hospital-story accessed September 2023.

Bundaberg Regional Council Heritage Place Card 22

https://mapping.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/planning scheme/ps heritage place cards/22.pdf

See Attachment 2 for full referenced History

#### LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Cadastral Map with Mark Up, including Site Plan
- 2. History Research
- 3. Nurses Quarters Overlay aerial 1926 v now

## 6. Description of the place

#### WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

The Old Quarters are a short distance from 'E'-Block to the north and consist of an elongated, rectangular, two storey, face brick structure with a number of wings extending to the north and an extension joining at an obtuse angle on the eastern side. The building has a rib (trim) deck clad iron roof in a combination of Dutch gable and hip configuration, with three gables at the façade (southern elevation). The building is fronted by a wide verandah with separate roof supported by waist height brick piers and timber posts and arches on the upper level at the front and sides.

The verandah has a simple, timber slat balustrade. Access is via several French doors. On ground level the building is dominated by an arcade spanning the entire front and featuring an accentuated keystone in each arch and simple timber balustrades. A number of brick steps lead into the arcade. Several French doors provide access into the building on the ground floor. The main entrance is via a two storey protruding section covered by a wide gable. This section features quoining.

## 7. Statement of cultural heritage significance

Decide which criteria are relevant to your application and complete a response for each in the boxes below. Write 'not applicable' against the criteria that are not relevant to your application.

#### CRITERION A the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's history

The Bundaberg Hospital Nurses' Quarters are important in demonstrating the significant role of the nursing profession in the provision of health care in Queensland. Nurses' Quarters were an essential part of a hospital complex in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, providing on-site accommodation for nursing staff and thereby helping to regulate nurses' behaviour and lifestyle.

The Bundaberg Hospital, including the early iteration of the Nurses' Quarters, were built in 1913-1914 in response to a cultural shift away from health service provision by community based, untrained nurses to in-hospital services. This resulted in a need for the nurses to live onsite and significantly changed the demographic to predominantly young, single women.

	Entry of a place in the Queensland Heritage Register
	As a consequence of this shift, the Qld. Health Act Amendment of 1911 sought to ensure there was "proper and sufficient" onsite accommodation for these young, single, female nurses. The Qld. Hospital Nurses Award 1921 saw this requirement evolve further, by stipulating better working conditions entitling nurses to free room and board and "separate rooms or cubicles".  This legislation resulted in many new Nurses' Quarters being constructed in Queensland. The Bundaberg's Nurses' Quarters evolved from a single storey building to include a new two-storey facility featuring modern, well-equipped bathrooms on each floor. Built by the Qld. Public Works Department, it seamlessly linked the remodelled old quarters. These Nursing Quarters were designed to provide a practical and secure physical environment for young women whilst affording the greatest protection of their moral virtue and reputations of their associated hospitals.  Bundaberg 's Nurses Quarters is regionally important in demonstrating the evolution of the nursing profession in the changing pattern of health care in the State of Queensland. It represents the commitment of the Queensland and the Bundaberg area community towards its nurses and their welfare. The building is exceptional in design with brickwork deliberately matched across its development. It is distinctive in Queensland's history as being representative of the role of nurse's accommodation in hospital design and is surviving physical evidence of their role in the State's healthcare.
CRITERION B the place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Queensland's cultural heritage	
CRITERION C the place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Queensland's history	
CRITERION D the place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places	
CRITERION E the place is important because of its aesthetic significance	As only one of few remaining extant brick Nurses' Quarters in Queensland, the Bundaberg Nurses' Quarters symbolise the important contribution made by the nursing profession to the provision of health care in Queensland. Local architect, E.H. Boden (who designed the heritage-listed Bundaberg Nurses' Memorial) and prominent Queensland architects D.B and H.J. Carlyle (who designed heritage-listed Fallon House in Bundaberg) are represented in its design, construction and detailing.  The quarters are aesthetically significant due to their attractive expressive attributes and their demonstrated representation of nurses' accommodation in Queensland. It was designed and constructed in keeping with the contemporary early 20 <sup>th</sup> -century architectural style of a utilitarian professional building. It is a fine example of an interwar, institutional nurses' quarters designed for both function and a legislatively mandated requirement for "proper and sufficient" onsite accommodation (Health Act Amendment Act 1921 and Hospital Nurses Award 1921). As an aesthetically attractive "home away from home" its aim was to retain and entice young nurses to train and work in Queensland hospitals.  The colonial neo-classic façade contains elements of contemporary Edwardian Baroque styling and remains substantially intact. The external facade is complete and includes the wide verandas of the vernacular 'Queenslander', timber work, brick arches, french doors, key stones and quoining. Despite additions over the years, the external façade

maintains the seamless cohesion and unity of scale, form, texture and materials intended in the original architectural designs.

The original cellular structure including rooms and amenities is largely extant. The interior aesthetic maintains original features including the art deco balustrading of the 1937 staircase, albeit of a more simple, austere design in keeping with the utilitarian function of the building. Progressive alterations and a range of eras, uses, forms and styles - particularly flooring and amenities - are more clearly evident in the interior of the building.

The institutional nature of the building retains its appropriateness and integrity which is evident in its attractive architectural repetition across the front and side facades and in its strong symmetrical design and mass.

Architectural and compositional qualities including Dutch gables and attractive timber fretwork, joinery, posts and beams, all compliment the utilitarian nature of the building and is evidence of the contemporary social and cultural desire to incorporate attractive and homely elements into the architectural design of nurses'

accommodation. Subsequent additions to the original 1914 structure have been sympathetically achieved so as not to compromise its original architectural integrity and visual appeal.

Positioned within the original medical precinct of the Bundaberg Hospital, the quarters are a prominent local landmark designed to visually reinforce ideas of Queensland's progressive adherence to modernisation of public institutions. The quarters are positioned for easy viewing from the surrounding area and the Tallon Bridge which links North and South Bundaberg. Contributing to both the streetscape and the district's sense of social continuum, the Bundaberg nurses' quarters have maintained their cultural and social significance for nearly a century and are well-composed and constructed using high quality materials.

CRITERION F the place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

The nurses' quarters have a long and special association with a substantial part of Queensland's nursing and medical profession. It is of cultural and historical significance for the Queensland and Bundaberg region community of young women (and latterly men) who trained at the Hospital and were required to live onsite in the quarters during this period from 1914 until the late 1980s when nursing training became university based.

CRITERION G
the place has a strong or
special association with
a particular community
or cultural group for
social, cultural or
spiritual reasons

Additionally, a number of Queensland's enlisted war-nurses were Bundaberg nurses who had/have a direct relationship with the structure, the site and the extant amenities of the nurses' quarters. Past and present nurses, their families and residents the Bundaberg region and Queensland have an enduring reverence for these war nurses who have been memorialised at the <u>Bundaberg War Nurses Memorial and Park</u> which is located immediately adjacent to the Hospital and recognised on the Queensland State heritage register (600365).

As their (often) first home-away-from-home, thousands of current and ex nurses had, and still have, a strong emotional association with the quarters. As a long-standing site of accommodation, relaxation, spiritual support, camaraderie and education for the young trainees and nurses, they represent both an historical part of their vocation's professional and cultural evolution in the State and region, and a source of lasting personal memories. These add both tangible and intangible value to historical narratives of Queensland's nursing and medical communities.

From its opening as a single storey brick construction in c.a. 1914 and subsequent extensions, the quarters have remained in continual use by and for nurses – originally as

	dedicated residential accommodation and most recently as office space, and limited temporary residential rooms.
CRITERION H the place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in Queensland's history	

## 8. Site plan showing proposed boundary

Attach a site plan to this form. Tick to confirm:

- ☑ the site plan is drawn or sketched to scale
- ☑ all significant heritage elements of the place are shown and clearly labelled in their approximate locations
- ☑ the proposed heritage boundary is shown
- ☑ the cadastral (lot on plan) boundaries of the place are shown

## 9. Photographs

Attach photographs to this application that show the place in its current state. Number all photographs and complete the index table below adding more rows if needed.

If submitting an electronic application, submit the photographs in a digital file attached with the application form. Maximum file size for digital images attached to this form is 250kb each.

If submitting an application in hard copy, submit the photographs as an electronic file saved onto a CD or USB and attach one hardcopy print out of images to this application form.

DATE AND TIME TAKEN 23 May 2023		PHOTOGRAPHER	
COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS  By law copyright of material submitted is subject to conditions set out in the copyright licence for that material.			
Please enter licensing details in the metadata for each image/file requiring copyright.			
A copyright licence may be obtained free of charge from Creative Commons at <a href="www.creativecommons.org">www.creativecommons.org</a> . Creative Commons licence 'Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-No Derivative Works' is recommended. This licence maintains author copyright but allows others to copy and distribute work provided the author is given credit (in a way specified by the author) and the work is not changed in any way and is not used commercially.			
IMAGE NUMBER	FILE NAME	DESCRIPTION	
IMG 7310	IMG_7310 pool and middle extension north	hside Rear of Quarters Pool and middle extension	
IMG20230523085657a	IMG20230523085657a external southside	External view from southside	
IMG20230523085741	IMG20230523085741a rear northside	External rear northside	

	-	
IMG20230530091451	IMG20230530091451a outside northside	External northside rear
P1000146a	P1000146a internal french doors	Internal French doors ground floor
P1000150a	P1000150a first floor verandah eastside	Ground floor verandah external eastside
P1000173a	P1000173a verandah first floor southside	Ground Floor verandah southside
P1000175a	P1000175a internal staircase	Internal staircase
P1000179a	P1000179a upstairs verandah southside	First floor verandah southside
P1000181a	P1000181a upstairs verandah southside	First Floor verandah southside over central portico
P1000186a	P1000186a internal staircase	Internal staircase
P1000192a	P1000192a upstairs verandah northside	First Floor verandah rear Northside
P1000225a	P1000225a laundry northside	External Laundry rear northside
bun02015	bun02015 General Hospital Bundaberg ca1885 BRN 189476	The original hospital erected on the site during 1880-81, was little more than a four-room cottage with kitchen and a separate ward for Kanakas. Hospital is located in Bourbong Street, West. Buildings shown have been demolished during major redevelopment in 2009.
bun02725	bun02725 Old Hospital, Bundaberg n.d. BRN 208082 R.Bugden Donor	Original hospital. (see above) Permission obtained by Bundaberg Regional Library.
bun01078	bun01078 Building the Base Hospital ca1913 BRN 181529 Connell Steve donor	Ca 1913 Hospital under construction Bundaberg Base Hospital complex was opened by the Governor of Queensland, Sir William McGregor on July 9, 1914.
bun02008	bun02008 Bundaberg General Hospital ca1915 BRN 189463	ca.1915 Overhead looking north
bun02056	bun02056 Bundaberg Base Hospital ca1915 BRN189534	Ca 1915 view from Takalvan Street.
bun02735	bun02735 Bundaberg Hospital ca1920 BRN 208058 R.Bugden donor	Ca1920 view of hospital from street Permission obtained by Bundaberg Regional Library.
bun02876	bun02876 Bundaberg General Hospital ca1926 BRN216683 Lyn Bernet donor	Street view ca 1926 Permission obtained by Bundaberg Regional Library.
bun00423	bun00423 Nurses Quarters n.d. BRN 190808 R.Farthing donor	Nurses quarters with completed extensions
bun00433	bun00433 Nurses at Bundaberg Base Hospital 1945 BRN190572 S.Kidd donor	Nurses on steps of Nurses Quarters.) Permission obtained by Bundaberg Regional Library.
bun07085	bun07085 Bundaberg General Hospital staff ca1920 BRN361192 S.Tobin donor	Names known - Back row: L-R. Dowdell, M. Newton, Frieberg, N. Morgan, Amess, Jones, McMahon, Allan, Clarke, Relf, Jealous. Names known - Middle row: L-R. Sister Brind, Graham, Matron McKay, Dr Edgerton, Wilson, Harley, Hefferan, Dr Ivan Haines. Names known - Front row: L-R. Muriel Walker, Nancy Donnelly, Glennie, Hatte, Thiele, Webbm Burridge, Jecayle.

bun07084	bun07084 Bundaberg General Hospital staff ca1920 BRN 361191 S.Tobin donor	Names known - Back row: L-R. Hayden, Blundell, Julie, Davies, Whetter, Joyce, Helmore. Names known - Middle row: L-R. N. Collins, Tynan, Fullerton, Quin, Carey, Scott McCormack, R. McGrory, Fullerton, St. Ledger, Schuh, Widdower, Banks. Names known - Front row: L-R. S. Fairlie, Morgan, Webb, Dr Ivan Haines, Matron Dunn, Dr Oversted, Glennis, Deem.
Bun02914	bun02914 Staff of the Bundaberg General Hospital ca1936 BRN216731 K.McLellan donor	All staff at entrance to hospital ca 1936/1937
IE219331	IE219331 SLQ Bundy Hospital ca1881 IE 219331 out of copyright	Old (First) hospital ca1881 erected 1880-1881
IE1384069	IE1384069 SLQ Bundy Hospital Lithograph ca1894 IE 1384069 out of copyright	Old Hospital ca1894
IE2845720	IE2845720 SLQ Bundy Hospital 1895 IE 2845720 out of copyright	Old Hospital ca1895
IE219928	IE219928 SLQ Bundy Hospital 1904 IE 219928 out of copyright	Old hospital 1904
IE219445	IE219445 SLQ Bundy Hospital First ca1906 IE 219445 out of copyright	Old hospital 1906
IE1384284	IE1384284 SLQ Bundy hospital under construction ca 1910 IE 1384284 out of copyright	'new' hospital under construction 1910(?) 1913/1914
IE220426	IE 220426 SLQ Bundy Hospital ca 1915 IE 220426 out of copyright	'new 'hospital erected 1913/1914 Opened 9 July 1914
IE220087	IE220087 SLQ Bundy Hospital 1923 Salvation Army Band 1923 IE 220087 out of copyright	Street view of 'new' hospital with Salvation Army Band 1923
IE1384744	IE1384744 SLQ Bundy Hospital 1924 IE 1384744 out of copyright	Street view of 'new' hospital with Horse and buggy ca 1924
IE219433	IE219433 SLQ Nurses Quarters IE 219433 out of copyright	Nurses Quarters ca 1937 before eastern extension
IE219916	IE219916 SLQ Bundy Hospital Nurses Quarters 1937 IE 219916 out of copyright	Nurses Quarters ca1937. Pennants indicate this may be opening celebration for second floor extension
IE210575	IE210575 SLQ Bundy Hospital Nurses ca 1928 IE 210575 out of copyright	Nurses on steps of Nurses Quarters ca 1928
IE210578	IE210578 SLQ Bundy Hospital Nurses ca 1928 IE 210578 out of copyright	Nurses on verandah of Quarters ca 1928
IE219910	IE219910 SLQ Bundy Hospital 1948 IE 219910 out of copyright	Street View of 'new' hospital 1948
IE219907	IE219907 SLQ Bundy Hospital aerial 1951 IE 219907 out of copyright	Overhead of Hospital complex 1951 showing extended nurses quarters – including eastern wing
IE219331	IE219331 SLQ Bundy Hospital ca1881 IE 219331 out of copyright	Old (First) hospital ca1881 erected 1880-1881

## 10. Lodgement

All sections of this form must be completed and attachments prepared (in particular the site plan showing the proposed heritage boundary and photographs of the place) <u>before</u> an application is lodged. Incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

### Send one copy of the completed form and attachments to:

Email:
heritage@des.qld.gov.au

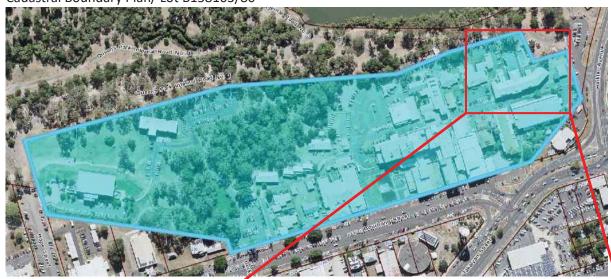
Applications Coordinator
Heritage Branch
Arts and Heritage
Department of Environment and Science
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

#### **Further information**

- email heritage@des.qld.gov.au
- call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) and ask to speak to the Applications Coordinator, Heritage Branch
- visit www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/



Bundaberg Regional Council Cadastre Information from Interactive Mapping Hospital Complex 273 Bourbong Street Bundaberg Cadastral Boundary Plan/ Lot B158103/80



#### Description

Plan Lot: B158103/80 Address: 273 Bourbong St Bundaberg West Legal Area: 10.14 ha DNRM Landuse:

Details

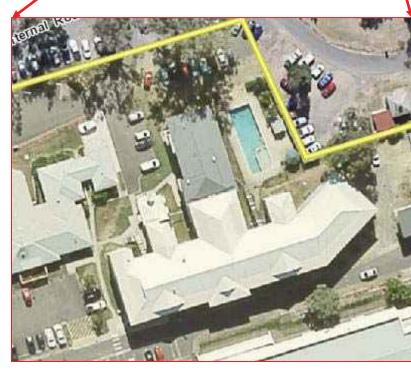
B158103/80

DNRM Landuse N/A

Address 273 Bourbong

Legal Area 10.14 ha

Full Address 273 Bourbong St Bundaberg West





Bundaberg Base Hospital 273 Bourbong Street Bundaberg <a href="https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/">https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/</a>
Nurses' Quarters: Latitude/Longitude -24.868332638375527, 152.33664327643743



# **Bundaberg Hospital Nurses' Quarters** Site Plan





The history of the Bundaberg Hospital Nurses' Quarters is inextricably intertwined with both local and broader Queensland political, social, cultural and economic histories. The nurses' quarters are both a literal and figurative extension of Bundaberg General Hospital's progression from a modest colonial timber hospital to a modern multi-storey brick medical precinct. Indeed, the practical necessities of accommodating Queensland nurses onsite both reflected and influenced the progression of Queensland's medical history.

The construction of the first Bundaberg Hospital was ultimately the result of a small yet united community and the strong leadership of newly elected hospital-reserve trustees Messrs Alexander Walker, James C. Walker, Samuel Johnston, Thomas Manchester and Alfred Henry Brown.<sup>1</sup>

Positioned on three acres bounded by Branyan, Bingera and Quay Streets on the "best site in town on the bank of the river at the extreme west end of the town immediately opposite a large island in the centre of the river", the original Bundaberg Hospital was built by Arthur Midson, painted by the Rev. K. Birtwistle, and completed in March 1881 at a cost of £1,045. Designed by Joseph Wright, the "Cottage Hospital" was a simple timber structure with 7' verandahs front and back, and a central front gable. It comprised an eight bed general ward, bathroom and a four-bed fever ward at one end; a five-bed female ward, three bed special-ward and a bathroom at the other, and a central dispensary, linen room, dining and board room. The external kitchen, washroom, nurses' bedroom and sitting room were positioned at the back. Three outdoor 'closets' and a 10'x 12' 'dead house' completed the project. A separate building, the "Kanaka Hospital", accommodated South-Sea Island labourers and contained eight beds and accommodation for a warder and a nurse.

Patients at the hospital were expected to fund their stay through either a single £10 contribution for a lifetime membership, a minimum £1 yearly premium or the comparatively hefty sum of £4 per day of admission. Except in cases of accident or extreme emergency, free medical care was assessed on a printed recommendation from a financial subscriber. 9

The following years saw extensive aesthetic and practical improvements to the hospital, a myriad of repairs, and further structural additions which ultimately catered for forty-two

<sup>1</sup> Queensland Government Gazette, 26<sup>th</sup> April 1879, vol 24, no. 84, p.986

Gammon, S., Bundaberg Base Hospital, *Local History Feature*, Bundaberg Library, p.1; The Telegraph, Brisbane, 5<sup>th</sup> March 1881, p. 3; Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 1909, p.3; Darling Downs Gazette, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1885; Queensland State Archives, ITM582500, Bundaberg Hospital Elevation Plans, 1881; Queensland Government Gazette, 26<sup>th</sup> April 1879, vol 24, no. 84, p.986; Cullen, E., Bundaberg Institutes, Bundaberg Hospital Board, 2000, np; Bundaberg – A History from the Newspapers 1862-1903, Bundaberg Genealogical Society, vol. 1, p. 23; The Week, Brisbane, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1879, "Bundaberg", p.24.

Gammon, S., Bundaberg Base Hospital, p.1; Queensland State Archives, ITM582500, Bundaberg Hospital Elevation Plans, 1881; Bundaberg – A History from the Newspapers 1862-1903, Bundaberg Genealogical Society, vol. 1, p.19.

Queensland State Archives, ITM582500, Bundaberg Hospital Elevation Plans, 1881.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

Gammon, Bundaberg Base Hospital, p.1; Darling Downs Gazette, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1885.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Queensland Government Gazette, 26<sup>th</sup> April 1879, vol 24, no. 84, pp. 1356-1358.

lbid.

male patients across seven wards and twenty-one female patients across four wards.<sup>10</sup> By 1898 however, with the hospital significantly affected by termites, it became apparent that a new, larger brick hospital with greater surgical capability was needed.<sup>11</sup> In December of that year, The Bundaberg Hospital Committee formally discontinued existing management and appointed a head nurse as matron and employed a staff of trained nurses.<sup>12</sup>

The late nineteenth century was largely dominated by the community-based home-nursing services of private, freelance, often untrained nurses and midwives, many of whom were widowed with added responsibilities of dependent children. By the early twentieth century, significant increase in public demand for hospital services forced the institutions to consider the practical necessities of having an increased number of nurses living on site. This changed the primary demographic of nurses from home-based mothers to young, single, unencumbered women, and slowly improved standards of communal accommodation in which to house them.

Standards of nursing accommodation throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were not formally regulated and, like many other small country hospitals, Bundaberg's hospital nurses were housed in small timber buildings with very basic amenities. <sup>16</sup> Professional expectations and living conditions for nurses increased significantly, however, with The Health Act Amendment Act of 1911 which provided for "proper and sufficient" onsite accommodation for nurses. <sup>17</sup> The Act also established a five-member Registration Board for general, midwifery, and mental (health) nurses. <sup>18</sup> For a payment of ten shillings, registered nurses received preferential employment conditions in hospitals covered by The Hospitals Act. <sup>19</sup> Within twelve months, 1,401 nurses had registered in Queensland. <sup>20</sup>

Bundaberg's steady population growth and the progressive cultural shift away from home-based nursing services simultaneously led to increased demand for a larger hospital and more nurses to service higher patient intake. <sup>21</sup> By 1910, with Bundaberg's population having grown by six hundred percent to 4,880, concerted effort was made to construct a new

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 1897, p.2; Gammon, Bundaberg Base Hospital, p.2; Queensland State Archives, ITM582499, Bundaberg Hospital Elevation Plans, 1890.

Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 1897, p.2; Gammon, Bundaberg Base Hospital, p.2.

The Week, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1898, "Provincial", p.12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Madsen, W., Early twentieth-century untrained nursing staff in the Rockhampton District: a necessary evil?, p.312; Cook, M., *The Noblest Profession: Nursing in Queensland*, Queensland State Archives, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

Madsen, Early twentieth-century untrained nursing staff in the Rockhampton District: a necessary evil?, p.312.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Cook, The Noblest Profession: Nursing in Queensland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Blake T., Kennedy M. and Pullar M., Queensland Health, *Heritage Survey*, Site Assessments, vol. 1, October 1996, p.54.

Health Act Amendment Act of 1911, p. 5172

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5174.

Cook, *The Noblest Profession: Nursing in Queensland*; Health Act Amendment Act of 1911. Health Act Amendment Act of 1911, p. 5176.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Cook, The Noblest Profession: Nursing in Queensland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Blake, Kennedy and Pullar, Queensland Health, *Heritage Survey*, Site Assessments, vol. 2, June 1996, p. WB07/1.

hospital on the seven acres of government-gazetted hospital reserve on the Burnett River site.<sup>22</sup>

Designed by prominent Queensland architect Frederick Herbert (F.H.) Faircloth, the new two-storey hospital was to be built of brick in the contemporary pavilion 'Nightingale' style "in keeping with the progress of the town". <sup>23</sup> The Hospital Committee preemptively calculated that half a million bricks would be needed for the new hospital and nurses' quarters and there was little difficulty in sourcing the bricks locally. <sup>24</sup> By early 1910, local brick makers Messrs, T. Keys, G.A. Fischer and W.J. McDougall had each signed contracts to begin production at a rate of approximately 35,000 bricks per month at a cost of approximately £3/5 per thousand delivered to site. <sup>25</sup>

In the first six months of 1911, the Cottage Hospital treated 494 patients - ninety more than the previous year. <sup>26</sup>Daily bed numbers had risen by five per day to twenty-seven. <sup>27</sup> Plans for the new brick hospital were officially approved by the government and both public subscription and tender submissions were called. <sup>28</sup>

In July 1911, the hospital board accepted the £13,257 tender of Niels Carl Steffensen for construction of the new hospital.<sup>29</sup> As the prolific "Builder of Bundaberg", Steffensen was responsible for many of Queensland's most culturally significant buildings in Maryborough, Childers and Bundaberg, including the Queensland National Bank, the Church of England and Bundaberg Post Office.<sup>30</sup>

The ribbon was cut on the new brick hospital by Governor of Queensland, Sir William MacGregor, on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1914, nearly three years after the foundation stone was laid in November 1911.<sup>31</sup> With generous public subscription contributing £5,145 and a government endowment of £8,838, the hospital opened unencumbered by debt.<sup>32</sup> The brick nurses' quarters, at a total cost of approximately £3,000 were, however, still under construction by Messrs Anderson and Pomfret.<sup>33</sup> The completion of the hospital and nurses' quarters - one

Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 1909, p.3; Gammon, Bundaberg Base Hospital, p.2; Principle Towns in Queensland, *The Australian Handbook*, Gordon and Gotch, 31<sup>st</sup> December 1881, p.412.

Department of Environment and Science, Gaydon's Buildings: History, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022; Blake, Kennedy and Pullar, Queensland Health, *Heritage Survey*, p. WB07/5; Gilber, H., Florence Nightingale's Environmental Theory and its influence on contemporary infection control, Australian College of Nursing Ltd, *Collegian*, 2020, p. 629.

Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 1910, p.4; Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1910, p.3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 1910, p.4; Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1910, p.3.

 $<sup>^{26}~</sup>$  Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday  $19^{\text{th}}$  July 1911, p.4.

<sup>27</sup> Ihid

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Construction: Weekly supplement to Building (Sydney), Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 1911, p.5.

Maryborough Chronicle, Thursday 18th September 1947, page 3.

Daily Mercury, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 1914, p.7; Blake, Kennedy and Pullar, Queensland Health, Heritage Survey, p. WB07/1; Daily Standard Brisbane, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 1914, p.7.

Daily Mercury, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 1914, p.7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Ibid; Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 1914, "Hospital Board", p.4.

of only eleven built in Queensland between 1901-1921 - coincided with a building boom in Bundaberg and further contributed to the town's fine architectural streetscape.<sup>34</sup>

Staff accommodation was an essential part of hospital infrastructure and a well-functioning, aesthetically-pleasing local hospital considered a symbol of economic security and progressive socio-culture.<sup>35</sup> Whilst the new hospital was an imposing double-storey building, the nurses' quarters were a comparatively simple single-storey brick structure with a bungalow roofline and eleven rooms – seven for day nurses and four for night.<sup>36</sup> A sitting room, dressing room and bathroom were included, and the surrounding verandahs were enclosed with room-darkening louvred blinds.<sup>37</sup>

In February 1915, after some community debate surrounding the pros and cons of gas and electricity, The Hospital Board awarded a tender to light the quarters to Electric Light Co at a cost of £18/15 less £5 donation.<sup>38</sup>

On the 16<sup>th</sup> May the following year, the old timber hospital was repurposed as Bundaberg's new Infectious Diseases Hospital. <sup>39</sup> Once again supervised by Faircloth, portions of the old buildings were purchased by council, removed to site behind the new hospital and renovated at a total cost of £1,100. <sup>40</sup>

Within a few short years of the nurses' quarters being completed, however, it became apparent that further additions would be necessary, and 1919 saw the addition of three single rooms, a dormitory, a box room and a lavatory block at a cost of £3,000. 41

The result of extensive lobbying by the newly formed Queensland Nurses' Association, The Hospital Nurses Award 1921 significantly improved working and accommodation standards for Queensland's nurses. <sup>42</sup> The award stipulated basic pay rates, a maximum 112 working hour fortnight, and entitled nurses to free room and board "as far as practicable" in "separate rooms or cubicles". <sup>43</sup> Hospital boards were forced to upgrade existing accommodation facilities or build new ones to meet the new minimum standards. <sup>44</sup> A 25% increase in staffing levels to mitigate the reduction in working hours resulted in the

Daily Mercury, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 1914, p.7; Blake, Kennedy and Pullar, Queensland Health, *Heritage Survey*, Site Assessments p.55

Blake, Kennedy and Pullar, Queensland Health, Heritage Survey, Site Assessments pp. 9&54.

Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 1913, p.4; Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1913, p.3.

Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1913, p.3.

Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 1915, p.2.

 $<sup>^{39}~</sup>$  Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday  $17^{\rm th}$  May 1916, p.4.

<sup>40</sup> 

Bundaberg Mail, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Janurary 1919, p.2; The Queenslander, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 1919, p.10.

Blake, Kennedy and Pullar , Queensland Health, Heritage Survey, Site Assessments p.54.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

construction of twenty-six new nurses' quarters across Queensland between 1924 and 1930. 45

For the Bundaberg Hospital Board, the new award meant a total increase in nursing-staff wages of £2,000 per year. <sup>46</sup> It also necessitated another £3,000 each for new quarters and furnishings and a further £1,000 for additional housekeeping staff. <sup>47</sup> By 1924, however - the year prior to the introduction of a forty-four hour working week – the nurses' quarters still had a total of eight beds. <sup>48</sup>

In 1920, there were 3,700 hospital beds in Queensland, 4.6 beds per 1,000 residents.<sup>49</sup> By 1940, that number had more than doubled to 7,606, or 7.6 beds per 1,000, an increase greater than Queensland's relative population growth.<sup>50</sup>

The most significant incarnation of the Bundaberg Hospital nurses' quarters came with the extensive remodeling of, and additions to, the quarters in 1937 at a cost of £5,120. Deened by Minister for Health and Home Affairs E.M. Hanlon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1937, the new two-storey nurses' quarters measured a spacious 84'x32' and had provision for twenty-eight bedrooms plus a spacious dormitory. The additional second storey comprised fifteen bedrooms, a dining room, study and box room. Modern, well-equipped bathrooms were on each floor. Constructed by The Public Works Department, the new quarters were linked with the old 22'x32' quarters and were flanked by verandahs on both levels with materials and detailing closely matching the original building.

The furnishings of the new quarters were "neat and attractive" for, as Chairman of the Bundaberg Hospitals Board A.E. Aitkin stated, "they had no right to expect any girl to leave her home and devote her life to hospital service unless they could give her a home as decent and attractive as her own". <sup>56</sup> With an ever-increasing demand for nurses, a high standard of accommodation was designed to meet legislative obligations and to entice young women into the nursing profession. <sup>57</sup> Nursing quarters were designed to provide a practical and secure physical environment for young women whilst affording the greatest protection of their moral virtue and the reputation of the hospitals for whom they

<sup>48</sup> Cook, *The Noblest Profession: Nursing in Queensland*; Bundaberg Mail, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 1924, p.2.

Blake, Kennedy and Pullar, Queensland Health, Heritage Survey, Site Assessments p.54; Cook, The Noblest Profession: Nursing in Queensland.

Bundaberg Mail, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 1921, p.3.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

 $<sup>^{</sup>m 49}$  Blake, Kennedy and Pullar , Queensland Health, *Heritage Survey*, Site Assessments p.9.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> The Courier Mail, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 1937, p.18.

The Telegraph, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November1937, p.23; The Telegraph, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 1937, p.7.

The Telegraph, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November1937, p.23.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

The Courier Mail, Brisbane, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 1936,p. 18; Blake, Kennedy and Pullar, Queensland Health, *Heritage Survey*, p. WB07/5; The Telegraph, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November1937, p.23.

The Courier Mail, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 1937, p.18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Blake, Kennedy and Pullar , Queensland Health, *Heritage Survey*, Site Assessments p.55.

worked.<sup>58</sup> Nurses lived on site under the watchful eye of a Home Sister, a 10:00pm curfew, and strict conditions which forbade male visitors.<sup>59</sup> Until 1969, nurses who married were forced to resign from the workplace.<sup>60</sup>

Contemporaneously, nursing accommodation which reflected high moral, medical and community standards was also a public infrastructure priority. <sup>61</sup> Of a total £680,141 spent on public buildings in 1937, £153,000 was committed to alterations and additions to Queensland's nurses' quarters. <sup>62</sup>

Two years after the opening of the new quarters, the Bundaberg Hospital Board commissioned plans for further additions. <sup>63</sup> In 1941, the Board secured finance of £12,760 from philanthropic benefactors – and forerunners to NobleOak - the United Ancient Order of Druids (UAOD), for unspecified alterations and extensions to the nurses' quarters, a sum which had been largely spent by August 1943. <sup>64</sup> The tender of £12,673 was awarded to builder John Young of Bundaberg. <sup>65</sup>

In 1942, Council installed sewerage to the site at a cost of £2,000, funded by the Department of Public Works. <sup>66</sup> With Australia now also actively embroiled in the war in the Pacific, The Board sought government funding for protection of buildings and machinery, screening of glass doors and windows, blast protection, black-out materials, and the purchase and construction of air raid shelters. <sup>67</sup> The request was rejected as a subsidy but was considered eligible for a loan. <sup>68</sup> At a cost of £36, a red cross painted on the roof to designate the building as a medical facility to enemy aircraft was paid by Board revenue. <sup>69</sup>

The subsequent post-war boom in public works saw nurses' quarters prioritized, with twenty-nine new quarters built and the upgrading of fourteen existing quarters in Queensland. Incentive to increase bed-numbers only intensified with the federal Hospital Benefit Act 1945 which introduced a subsidy of six shillings for each bed occupied in public

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Cook, The Noblest Profession: Nursing in Queensland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Ibid. p.10.

Maryborough Chronicle and Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 1937, p.7; The Courier Mail, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 1938, p.5.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 63}$  The Courier Mail, Thursday  $\rm 10^{\rm th}$  August 1937, p.7.

V.J. Battersby to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board, received 24<sup>th</sup> August 1950; Progress Report of Works period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 1942; Progress Report of Works period ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 1943; NobleOak, United Ancient Order of Druids friendly society of NSW, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

 $<sup>^{65}</sup>$  The Courier Mail, Monday 21  $^{\rm st}$  April 1941, p.7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> Progress Report of Works period ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 1942;

<sup>67</sup> H.D.S. Forbes to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board, 19<sup>th</sup> October 1942; The Co-ordinator General of Public Works to J.F. Barnes MLA., Parliament House, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1942; E.A. Crosser to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board, 20<sup>th</sup> December 1945.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> The Co-ordinator General of Public Works to J.F. Barnes MLA., Parliament House, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1942

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> Blake, Kennedy and Pullar , Queensland Health, *Heritage Survey*, Site Assessments p.55.

hospitals.<sup>71</sup> This significant increase in bed capacity caused the number of nurses required in Queensland hospitals to rise by more than fifty percent during the subsequent decade.<sup>72</sup>

In June 1947, the Bundaberg Hospital Board requested permission from the Department of Health and Home Affairs to purchase now redundant military RAAF buildings for use as additional nurses' accommodation.<sup>73</sup> At a cost of £1,100, a ten year government loan at 12.2% was granted.<sup>74</sup> Funding of a further £10,000 for a more permanent solution to the accommodation shortfall, however, was rejected in December due to "greater urgency of others' proposals".<sup>75</sup>

The need for increased accommodation was further exacerbated by the considerable increase in nursing staff which resulted from the January 1948 introduction of a forty-hour working week. Further application for funding to convert the existing hospital maternity block into nurses' quarters was also rejected the following month. With "work urgently required", nurses "housed in RAAF huts and on verandahs", and "insufficient rooms and cubicles in the existing building", the Board again unsuccessfully attempted to secure £11,000 funding for the 1948-49 and 1949-50 financial years.

With the UAOD loan due to expire in January 1951, the Board finally secured an extended fifteen year loan of £17,140 at 3% p.a with the Order in August 1949. A further State Government loan of £1,000 at 3.1% over twenty years was also granted. It was not, however, until the 1952-53 financial year that E.H. Boden provided plans and estimates for additional accommodation for nursing staff at an estimated cost of £11,500.  $^{81}$ 

The 1950s also saw an annual southward Christmas migration of southern-state nurses who spent winters working in the warmer climates of Queensland. Their return home contributed to a serious end-of-year nursing shortage. As an enticement to both retain Queensland nurses and encourage their southern counterparts to remain in Queensland, local Nurses' Social and Welfare Committees were formed to promote the interests of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Maryborough Chronicle and Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 1937, p.7; The Courier Mail, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 1938, p.5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Ibid., p.55.

Department of Health and Home Affairs to J. F. Barnes MLA., Parliament House, 14<sup>th</sup> May 1947; E.A. Crosser to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board, 10<sup>th</sup> July 1947.

 $<sup>^{74}~</sup>$  E.A. Crosser to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board,  $10^{th}$  July 1947.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Letter - E.A. Crosser to J.F. Barnes MLA., received 1<sup>st</sup> December 1947.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Capital Works Proposal #2, Bundaberg Hospitals Board, 30<sup>th</sup> March 1948.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> E.A. Crosser to J.F. Barnes MLA., received 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1948.

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 $<sup>^{79}</sup>$  V.J. Battersby to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board, received  $24^{\rm th}$  August 1950.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> V.J. Battersby to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board, received 19<sup>th</sup> December 1950; Public Works Application, Proposal 4, 1951-1952 Loan Programme, Bundaberg Hospitals Board.

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Brisbane Telegraph, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 1953, p.23.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

nursing staff. Incentives to remain nursing in Queensland hospitals included financial bonuses and more lifestyle directed initiatives including air-conditioned staff accommodation, tennis courts and swimming pools.<sup>84</sup>

Bundaberg Nurses' Quarters had both a tennis court and a swimming pool with plans for the latter formalized in August 1954. With a capacity of 33,270 gallons (165, 941 litres) - and without a filtration system until 1969 - it was necessary to regularly drain large quantities of water to keep the pool clean. 86

1961 proved a turning point in the nursing accommodation conundrum.

Extensive additions to the existing nurses' quarters were finally included in the 1960-61 public works programme with construction costs expected to total approximately £36,000. Designed by architects Goodsir and Carlyle and with the capacity to accommodate sixteen Sisters and seventy-four nurses, the works included:

- Eight bedrooms for Sisters with built-in furniture to replace accommodation still currently provided in the RAAF huts.
- Six bedrooms to replace Isolation Ward Quarters.
- Five bedrooms to replace rooms occupied by trained staff and which would be included in a new teaching section.
- Three rooms for trained staff.
- A flat for the Deputy Matron (considered unusual for a hospital of that size) whose quarters would provide two additional bedrooms and a bath for nursing staff.
- A flat for the Matron whose existing quarters would be repurposed for teaching.
- A lounge, ironing room and kitchenette.
- New bath and toilet rooms on both floors.
- Reduction of ceiling height of ground floor from 12' to 9' to save in materials.
- Small balconies. <sup>88</sup>

With an additional 5,100 square feet (474 m<sup>2</sup>) of space, the new additions were constructed using cavity brick walls, timber floors and galvanised iron roofing to seamlessly complement the existing structure.<sup>89</sup> Construction was expected to be commenced before March 31<sup>st</sup> 1963 and completed by 30<sup>th</sup> September that year.<sup>90</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> Brisbane Telegraph, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 1953, p.23.

 $<sup>^{85}</sup>$  Letter – Under Secretary of Public works to  $^{18}$  The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board,  $^{18}$  August 1954.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> Letter – Under Secretary of Public works to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1969.

 $<sup>^{87}</sup>$  Public Works Application, Proposal 4, 1960-1961 Loan Programme, Bundaberg Hospitals Board.

Public Works Application, Proposal 4, 1960-1961 Loan Programme, Bundaberg Hospitals Board; W.C.H. Lester to The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, Brisbane, 20<sup>th</sup> September 1963; Letter – Under Secretary of Public works to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board, 29<sup>th</sup> June 1962.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> Public Works Application, Proposal 4, 1960-1961 Loan Programme, Bundaberg Hospitals Board.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

Funding of £20,000 was sought from the Co-ordinator General of Public Works, and a debenture loan of £9,580 over a fifteen year term at 5.1% was secured from the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia. <sup>91</sup> In total, the Board borrowed £28,500 to complete the project. <sup>92</sup> The Department of Health and Home Affairs pre-approved a total tender amount of £24,130 and the construction contract was awarded to local builder S. C. Lohse. <sup>93</sup> The floor and wall tiling contract was awarded to now iconic Queensland building and hardware suppliers Brett and Co. Pty. Ltd at a cost of £733. <sup>94</sup>

The following years saw a myriad of smaller renovations, alterations and additions to the quarters.<sup>95</sup> In April 1971, the Board borrowed a further \$27,320 from the Commonwealth Savings Bank for:

- Extension of the nurses' laundry
- Enclosure of ground floor verandahs
- Renovations and improvements to the toilet blocks
- Construction of verandahs outside matrons' rooms
- Conversion of nurses' cubicles into rooms
- Construction of two additional accommodation blocks in eastern wing.<sup>96</sup>

S.C. Lohse and Co. was again awarded the tender at \$14,790.97

Subsequent works to the nurses' quarters have included the conversion of the first floor western wing into offices, the lining of walls with plasterboard, some of the French doors to verandah replaced with casement windows and fibre-cement sheeting installed below sill height. 98

With only a handful of Queensland's 1930s-era nurses' quarters remaining largely extant, the Bundaberg Hospital quarters are a rare tangible archive of Queensland's changing political, industrial and societal patterns whilst providing insight into broader medical and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> F. Wicks, Commercial Savings Bank of Australia Bundaberg to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospital Board, 15<sup>th</sup> February 1963: Public Works Application, Proposal 7, 1962-1963 Loan Programme, Bundaberg Hospitals Board.

 $<sup>^{92}</sup>$  Department of Health to Secretary Hospitals Board Bundaberg, 13 $^{\rm th}$  December 1967.

Public Works Application, Proposal 2, 1963-1964 Loan Programme, Bundaberg Hospitals Board; Under Secretary Department of Public Works to The Secretary Bundaberg Hospitals Board, 25<sup>th</sup> September 1963, ref B/29/440; W.C.H. Lester to The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, Brisbane, 20<sup>th</sup> September 1963.

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Admin Officer Public Hospitals, Co-ordinator General of Public Works to Secretary Hospitals Board, 1971, 19/2A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>98</sup> Blake , Kennedy and Pullar , Queensland Health, *Heritage Survey*, p. WB07/6.

nursing history. As a site of continual use spanning more than a century, the quarters clearly demonstrate characteristics of evolving  $20^{th}$  century nursing within a progressive medical paradigm. They are also a proud cultural monument to the myriad of stories that make up Bundaberg's – and indeed Queensland's – social and cultural evolution.

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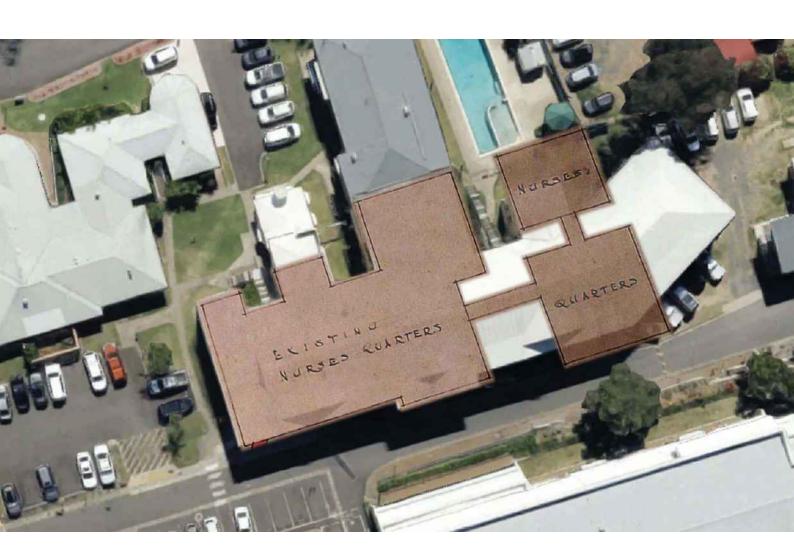
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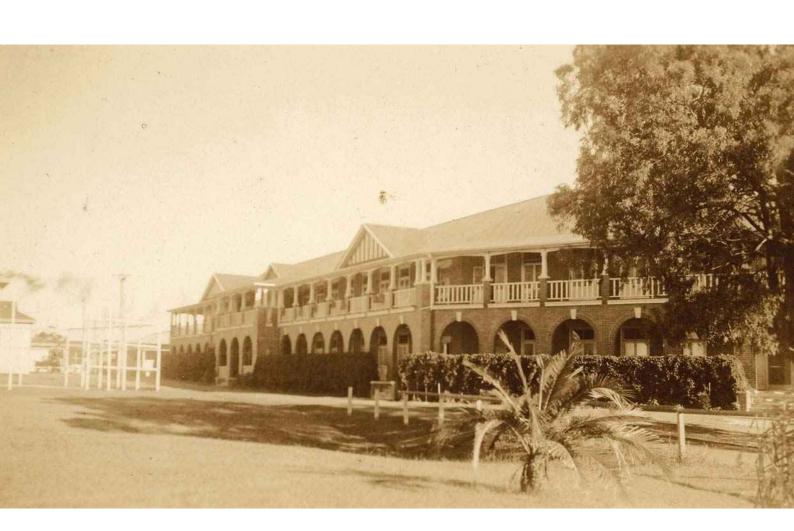
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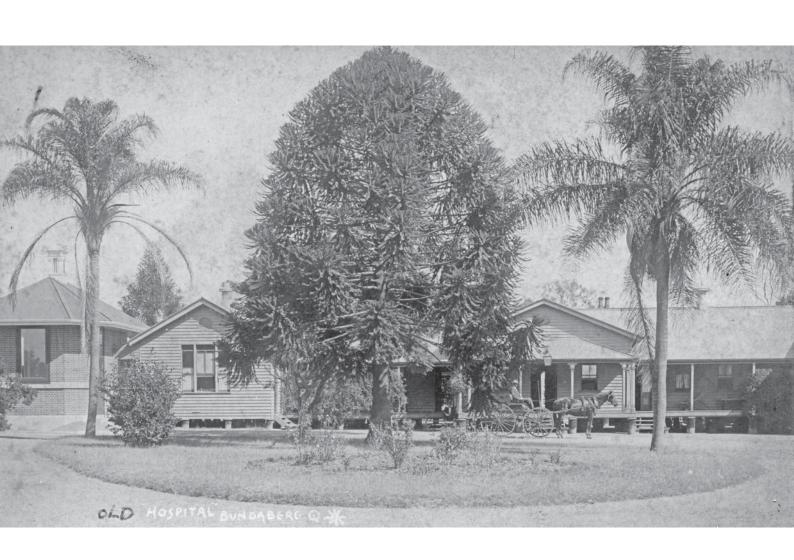
























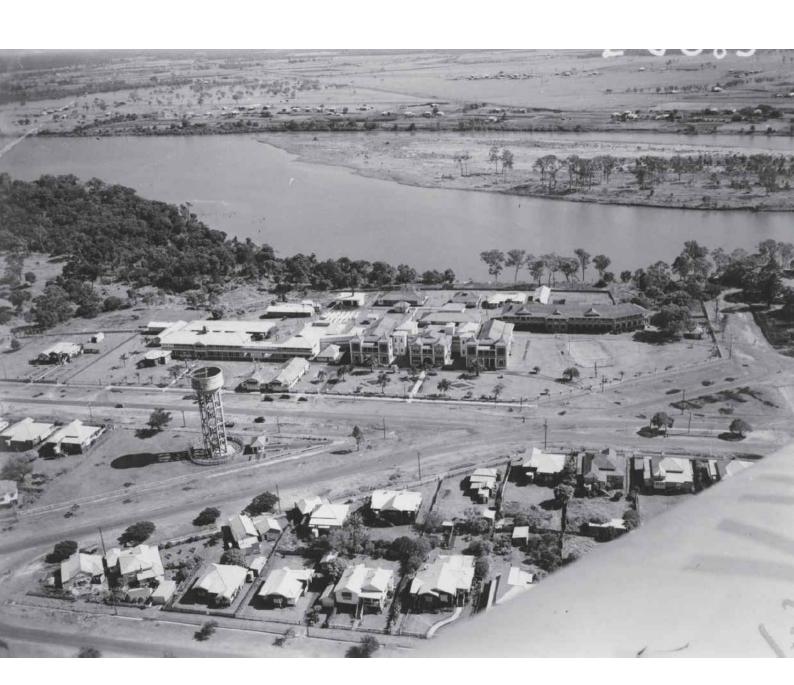












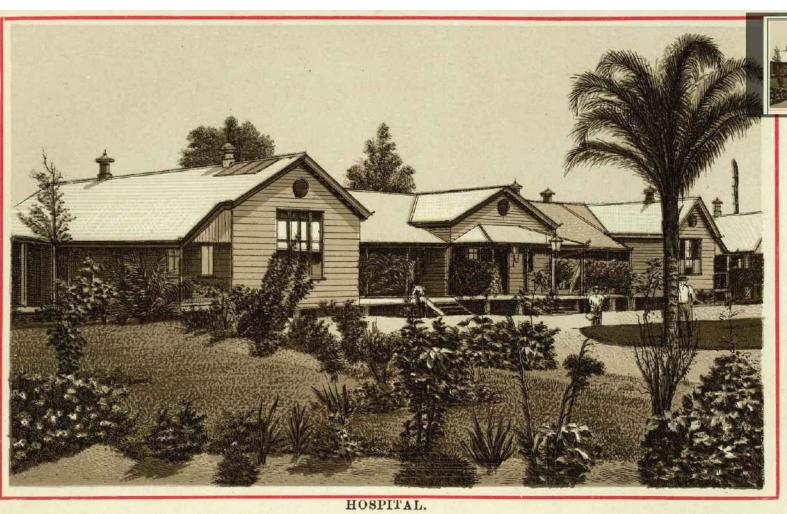








Brundaberg Hasfrital & Salvation Army band





New Hospital in Course of Erection, Bundaberg.



