

Heritage Data Form

ITEM DETAILS					
Name of Item	Edmund Blacket Building, Prince of Wales Hospital				
Other Name/s Former Name/s	Asylum for the Relief of Destitute Children				
Item type (if known)	Complex / Group				
Item group (if known)	Health Services				
Item category (if known)	Hospital				
Area, Group, or Collection Name	Prince of Wales Hospital group of buildings				
Street number	61				
Street name	High Street				
Suburb/town	Randwick	Postcode		2031	
Local Government Area/s	Randwick				
Property description					
Location - Lat/long	Latitude		Longitude		
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing
Owner	Prince of Wales Hospital (NSW Health)				
Current use	Nurses				
Former Use	Orphanage				
Statement of significance	<p>The Edmund Blacket Building is of historical significance as part of the former Destitute Children's Asylum, a unique complex of buildings and landscape elements of outstanding significance. The buildings demonstrate an uninterrupted progression of history from the operation of the orphanage in the mid nineteenth century, then as a military hospital and repatriation hospital during the early twentieth century and later as part of the Prince of Wales Hospital group.</p> <p>The Edmund Blacket building meets the state threshold for aesthetic significance as a fine example of the work of architect, Edmund Blacket, and as a noted local landmark and civic precinct in Randwick held in high esteem by the wider community. The archaeological potential of the Asylum Group is also of State significance because of its early settlement, continued use and limited disturbance.</p>				
Level of Significance	State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Local <input type="checkbox"/>	

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DESCRIPTION						
Designer	Edmund Blacket (northern and eastern wings)					
Builder/ maker	unknown					
Physical Description	<p>The Edmund Blacket Building is a U-shaped sandstone building, two and three storeys with a slate roof. It was constructed in two stages, the initial 1856-8 building comprised the eastern and northern wings and the southern wing and a third floor extension to the southern end of the eastern wing was constructed in 1864. The principal elevation fronting Avoca Street faces east and includes a central, single storey verandah between two projecting bays. The ashlar sandstone includes decorative stringcourses and sills and vermiculated quoins. The windows are multi-paned timber framed double hung and the French doors are timber panelled with multi-paned top lights. The building has boxed eaves (originally with stone brackets which have been removed), copper rainwater goods and stone chimneys.</p> <p>There is a two storey timber posted verandah to the courtyard at the rear of the building, with timber brackets, balustrading, rail and floor boards.</p> <p>There is a car park located immediately adjacent to the eastern elevation with a bitumen surface abutting the sandstone walls.</p>					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	<p>The building appears to be in good condition.</p> <p>Many archaeological remains exist on the site, which have the potential, through archaeological analysis, to provide further information on the cultural heritage and lifestyle of the previous occupants.</p> <p>Archaeological potential is high because of its early settlement, continued use and limited disturbance.</p>					
Construction years	Start year	1856	Finish year	1864	Circa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	<p>The southern wing, including a third floor addition to the southern end of the eastern elevation, was added in 1864. The eastern and northern wings retain their original form. Fireplaces have been bricked up. In 1975, alterations were made to the main building to provide accommodation for teaching purposes for the Schools of Surgery, Medicine and Psychiatry. In 1977, the lecture theatre in the north wing was enlarged and renovated and in 1978 works carried out on the second floor of the south wing provided additional accommodation for the department of Surgery. More work was carried out on the first floor of the east wing to renovate this area for secretarial staff in 1981.</p>					
Further comments						

HISTORY	
Historical notes	<p>The Destitute Children's Asylum</p> <p>By the early 1850s, following the depression of the 1840s and the social upheavals of the gold rushes, child destitution was a significant problem and the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children was established. In 1857, an Act of Incorporation was passed and the Randwick Asylum operated under</p>

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its own legislation. The Asylum was initially located at Ormond House in Paddington. In 1855, the site at Randwick, comprising 60 acres, was selected.

The Government Architect, Edmund Blacket, designed a number of schemes for single and two storey cottages for the asylum. The proposal for the building progressively got more ambitious. The foundation stone was laid by Sir William Denison on 8 May 1856. The asylum, designed by Blacket, was built between 1856 and 1858 and originally housed 150 children. A southern wing was added in 1864. Accommodation included dining rooms, dormitories and schoolrooms, a nursery, offices, a kitchen, a sitting room and a washing room.

In 1863, a small cemetery was established within the grounds of the asylum. And in 1867 a new building was constructed as a residence for the Superintendent, located on the corner of Avoca and High Streets and designed by J. Horbury Hunt.

As numbers grew, the close quarters in which the children lived meant that they were particularly susceptible to infection. In 1867, there were 77 deaths at the asylum, with a large proportion of these from whooping cough and measles. In response to the epidemic, work began on the Catherine Hayes Hospital, named after a visiting Irish singer who had donated money for this purpose in 1855. Thomas Rowe designed an Italian Gothic building to harmonise with the existing 'Italian buildings'. The building was opened on 9 March 1870.

By 1880 the Randwick institution had become a vast institution with 800 children and conditions had deteriorated. A Royal Commission enquiry into public charities in 1873-74 were appalled by what they saw at Randwick, drawing attention to the children's 'dullness of expression', which was not helped by their 'cropped hair and unbecoming dress'. Between 1876 and 1885 the asylum received substantial Government subsidies, however, by the mid 1880s, the asylum's death knell was already being sounded. New theories on child welfare were gaining currency at this time, including recognition that families played a central role in the in the process of socialisation. 'Child-saving' institutions were fighting to exist. Despite a huge reduction in numbers between 1882 and 1890, the asylum was still the largest 'child-saving' institution in the colony.

Military Hospital and Repatriation Hospital

At the outbreak of the war in 1914, the Catherine Hayes Hospital and the southern part of the main asylum building were offered to the military authorities. By October that year, 4000 soldiers were camped in the asylum paddock. In June 1915, as the wounded soldiers began returning home and the institution was taken over by the NSW Government as a permanent home for wounded soldiers. The 180 remaining children were sent to farms or boarded out.

Under the Defence Act and the War Precautions Regulations, the Federal Department of Defence requisitioned the building on 25 August 1915 and by 14 October all the children and staff had been vacated. State legislation assuming control of the buildings, land and assets of the Society for the Relief of Destitute Children was passed in 1916.

From 1923 until 1939, the former asylum served as a repatriation hospital. In 1925 the military hospital came under the control of the Repatriation Department and the name Prince of Wales was

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	<p>first used.</p> <p>At the outbreak of World War II, the hospital at Randwick was brought back into service as a military hospital, serving both the army and the navy. After the armistice, the Prince of Wales Hospital served as a repatriation hospital again and control of the hospital was vested in the Commonwealth Repatriation Department. The property continued in use as a military and repatriation hospital until the 1950s.</p> <p>The Prince of Wales Hospital</p> <p>With the opening of the Concord Repatriation General Hospital in 1953, the hospital was renamed the Prince of Wales Hospital, and operated as an annexe of Sydney Hospital. It catered principally for long term and convalescent patients. In 1959, The Prince of Wales Hospital was separated from Sydney Hospital and was developed as a teaching hospital.</p> <p>In 1983, the main building or Old Stone Building, from the asylum days was renamed The Edmund Blacket Building.</p>
THEMES	
National historical theme	Developing Australia's Cultural Life; Governing – Welfare (psychiatric care, children's asylum)
State historical theme	Developing Australia's Cultural Life – Creative Endeavour; Governing – Welfare; Governing – Welfare (psychiatric care, children's asylum)

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IMAGES - 1 per page

Please supply images of each elevation, the interior and the setting.

Image caption	Edmund Blacket building, Prince of Wales Hospital, eastern elevation				
Image year	2011	Image by	Susan O'Neill	Image copyright holder	GML

