

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

REGISTER ENTRY

**Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the
*Heritage Places Act 1993***

PLACE NO.: 26413

NAME: **Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct)**
 [including Sheridan Building (former Kiosk), Bice Building, Women's
 Health Centre (former Outpatients' Department), Allied Health Services
 Building (former Admissions and Casualty Department), McEwin
 Building, Former Margaret Graham Nurses' Home (State Heritage Place
 No 13093), remnant iron-railing fence to North Terrace, and brick
 boundary wall to Frome Road]

ADDRESS: **North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000**
 CT 6134/112 Allot 14 D51367 Part sec 513 Hundred of Adelaide

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) comprises a cohesive group of related buildings occupying a prominent position at the south western corner of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and is representative of the importance of the Hospital in South Australia's history. Established by the colonial government in 1841, the Hospital is the oldest facility of its kind in the state, and has occupied its present site since 1856. It has functioned as the principal public/ teaching hospital for South Australia, and centre for medical research and training for over 170 years.

The place demonstrates an important aspect of South Australian history in the development of public health and the growth of centralised services for the community in the first half of the twentieth century. Its location, on the corner of North Terrace and Frome Road, demonstrates the early twentieth century planning for a larger and more efficient hospital. Although the six buildings in the precinct were constructed over a period of more than forty years from 1908 to 1946, the result is a carefully considered complex of structures related by location, scale, aesthetic detail and materials, which demonstrate the expansion of the hospital in response to population growth and advances in medical treatment in the early to mid-twentieth century.

A significant quality of these buildings is both their individual and group aesthetic which is quite distinct from other contemporaneous architects' work. The precinct evolved from a Master Plan for the site conceived in 1921-22, and progressively implemented over the following 25 years. The six buildings display a cohesive design aesthetic originating with the design for the Former Margaret Graham Nurses' Home completed in 1911 (State Heritage Place No 13093), and continued in the work of successive architects in the Architect-in-Chief's Department, including the important South Australian architect George Gavin Lawson who was employed for a time in the Department. Their formal design and the aesthetic qualities of the group demonstrate an outstanding and original interpretation of Edwardian/Inter-War Free and Stripped Classical design in South Australia which evolved, with repeated scale and detail, over several decades from the early 1900s to the 1940s.

The distinctive and original design vocabulary demonstrated by the buildings in the precinct was first introduced in the Margaret Graham Nurses' Home. As well as distinctive colonnaded verandahs to all levels the building displays a design vocabulary of bell cast roof forms, broad eaves with brackets, rendered rusticated plinth with face red brick walls above, and entrance porticoes with rusticated columns. The essence of this style is further elaborated in the Bice Building (completed 1927) and repeated in later buildings in the North Terrace group, including the Women's Health Centre and Allied Health Services Building (both completed in 1935) and the McEwin Building (completed in 1946). These four finely-detailed multi-storied buildings are complemented by the simplified *tempietto* (temple-like) form of the small central Sheridan Building (1925). The exterior integrity of the group is high and together these five buildings present as a unified and readily recognisable precinct at the eastern end of the North Terrace streetscape.

As a prominent landmark, and the primary access point to the Royal Adelaide Hospital for most patients and visitors, the precinct has important cultural and social associations for the South Australian community as the focus for public health care and medical research for most of the state.

The six buildings are significant both as contributory elements within a cohesive group, and individually.

The **Former Margaret Graham Nurses' Home**, on Frome Road, was listed in 1985 and is State Heritage Place 13093. Refer to the South Australian Heritage Register for details of the listing.

The **Sheridan Building (former Kiosk)** is a small but distinctive octagonal structure located at the main entrance to the Hospital. It was completed in 1925, having been largely funded, under a private bequest from Alice Frances Keith Sheridan, and her sister Violet. It operated for many years as a kiosk and tea-room, staffed by volunteers, and profits were used to purchase extra equipment for the hospital. It demonstrates the importance of philanthropy and volunteers in the provision of public facilities at this time. The building is notable for its formal design and aesthetic qualities, as an interpretation of the classical *tempietto* form applied to a small

public building. It was designed by the Architect-in-Chief's Department along with other buildings in the group. It is an excellent representative of a small well-designed public building.

Completed in 1927, the four-storey **Bice Building** was the first of several multi-storey buildings proposed as part of the new Master Plan for the hospital developed in 1921/22. It comprised administration offices, accommodation for medical staff, and wards with open balconies. Its design reflects the needs of the evolving hospital site and modern theories of hospital design, which included cross ventilation and balconies and north-south orientation, to allow the benefits of sunlight and 'clean air' for patient care and cure. The formal design and aesthetic qualities demonstrate an outstanding and original interpretation of Edwardian/Inter-War Free Classical design. Designed by the Architect-in-Chief's Department it may have been influenced by the work of George Gavin Lawson. This distinctive style is repeated in other iterations in all the buildings in the North Terrace group.

The **Women's Health Centre** and **Allied Health Services Building** are also derived from the 1921-22 Master Plan for a larger and more efficient hospital, and are essentially intact and capable of demonstrating hospital design theories of the time. Construction of both buildings was delayed due to depressed economic conditions, and they did not open for patients until late 1935. The Women's Health Centre was originally built as the new Outpatients' Department and its design reflects an important change in medical practices, with the separation of outpatients' treatment from admission wards. Similarly, the Allied Health Services Building, originally the Casualty and Admissions Department, reflects contemporary theories of hospital design by incorporating a range of ward and room sizes, to provide patients with accommodation appropriate for their treatment. Both buildings repeat the distinctive style and design vocabulary established in the adjacent Bice Building.

Though not completed until 1946 due to the intervention of World War Two, the four-storey **McEwin Building** also belongs to the suite of multi-storeyed buildings first conceived in the early 1920s. Designed as the new Operating Theatre Block, it incorporated nine up-to-date general and specialised operating theatres, and well-equipped X-Ray department. It also included wards for surgical and medical cases, featuring balconies and sundecks for patient access to fresh air as an aid to recovery. Structurally, the building is a departure from the load-bearing face brick of its neighbours, being of steel-framed construction encased in concrete, with concrete floors and balconies, however the exterior is sheathed in face brickwork to harmonise with other buildings in the group. Its formal design and aesthetic qualities include the use of design details first established in the 1922 design for the adjacent Bice Building. The continuation of the earlier detail (particularly the bell cast roof form, rendered plinth and face red brick walls) by the architects in the Architect-in-Chief's department when developing the 1930s Stripped Classical design links the buildings together, while allowing the McEwin Building to be assessed as an individually aesthetically significant building in its own right.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*)

(a) *it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.*

The Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) demonstrates an important aspect of South Australian history in the development of public health and the growth of such services for the whole of the State in the early twentieth century, a period of rapid population growth and notable medical developments. It reflects the progression of medical practices in the design of hospital buildings at that time. The cohesive group of buildings demonstrates the early twentieth century planning for a larger and more efficient hospital.

(d) *it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.*

The Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) comprises a suite of mostly multi-storeyed buildings first planned in the early twentieth century as part of an essential redevelopment of the hospital. Their design reflects the needs of the evolving hospital site and contemporary theories of modern hospital design and construction practice, which included cross ventilation and balconies and north-south orientation, to allow the benefits of sunlight and 'clean air' for patient care and cure. This design is essentially intact and legible, and capable of demonstrating hospital design theories of the time. The Precinct represents an outstanding example in South Australia of a cohesive suite of purpose-built institutional structures of considerable historical and architectural significance.

(e) *it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.*

The buildings comprising the Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) display formal design and aesthetic qualities that demonstrate an outstanding and original interpretation of Edwardian/Inter-War Free and Stripped Classical design in South Australia through the inter-war period. The Precinct is an excellent example of the work of the Architect-in-Chief's Department over a 20 year period. This style, introduced in the Former Margaret Graham Nurses' Home and further elaborated in the Bice Building, is original and distinctive and is repeated, in other iterations, in all the buildings in the group.

(f) *it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.*

The Precinct is strongly identified with, and representative of, the State's major hospital, which has served the community as a focus of health and medical

care for South Australia over many generations. The precinct to this day forms the main public entry point and public focus of the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

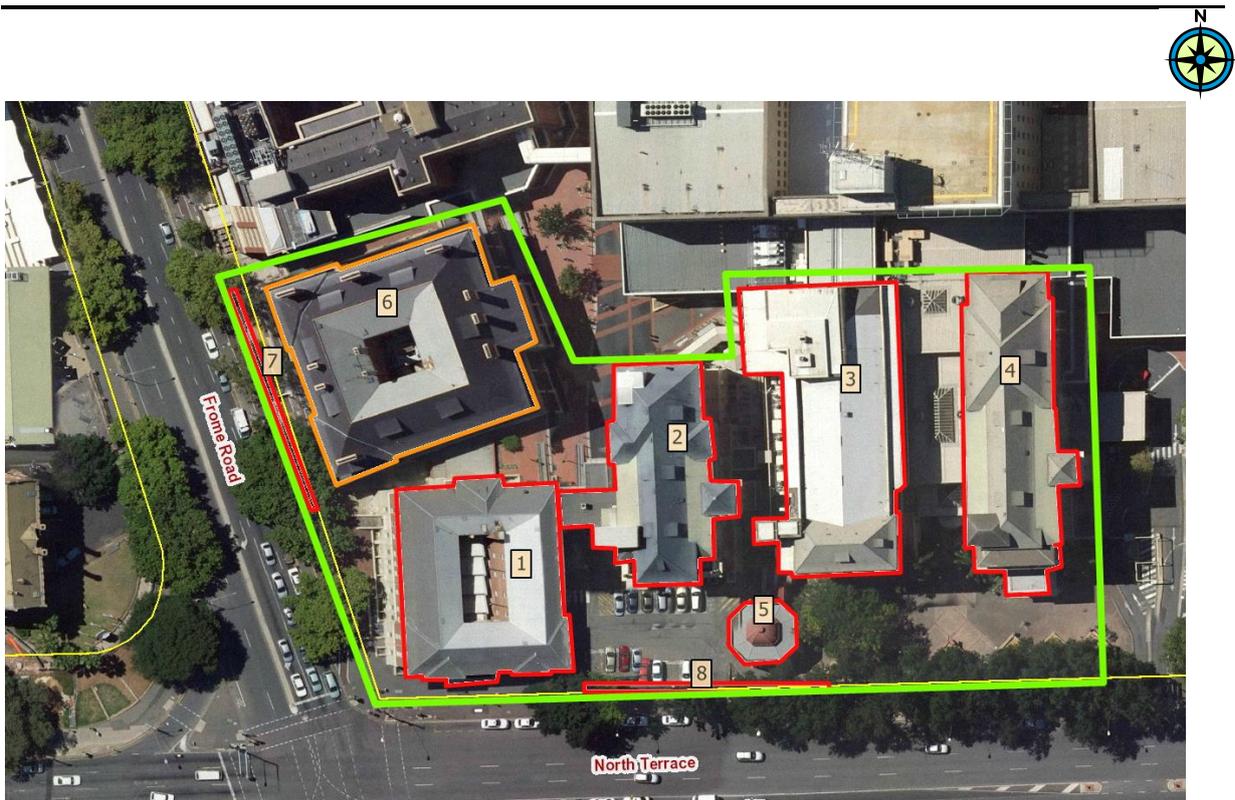
SITE PLANS

The attached Site Plans 1 and 2 generally indicate the important features and elements of the place.

SITE PLAN 1

PLACE NO.: 26413

NAME: Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct)
[including Sheridan Building (former Kiosk), Bice Building, Women's Health Centre (former Outpatients' Department), Allied Health Services Building (former Admissions and Casualty Department), McEwin Building, Former Margaret Graham Nurses' Home (State Heritage Place No 13093), remnant iron-railing fence to North Terrace, and brick boundary wall to Frome Road]
North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000



Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) (outlined in green) generally indicating its important features (outlined in red). (Existing State Heritage Place No 13093 is outlined in orange)

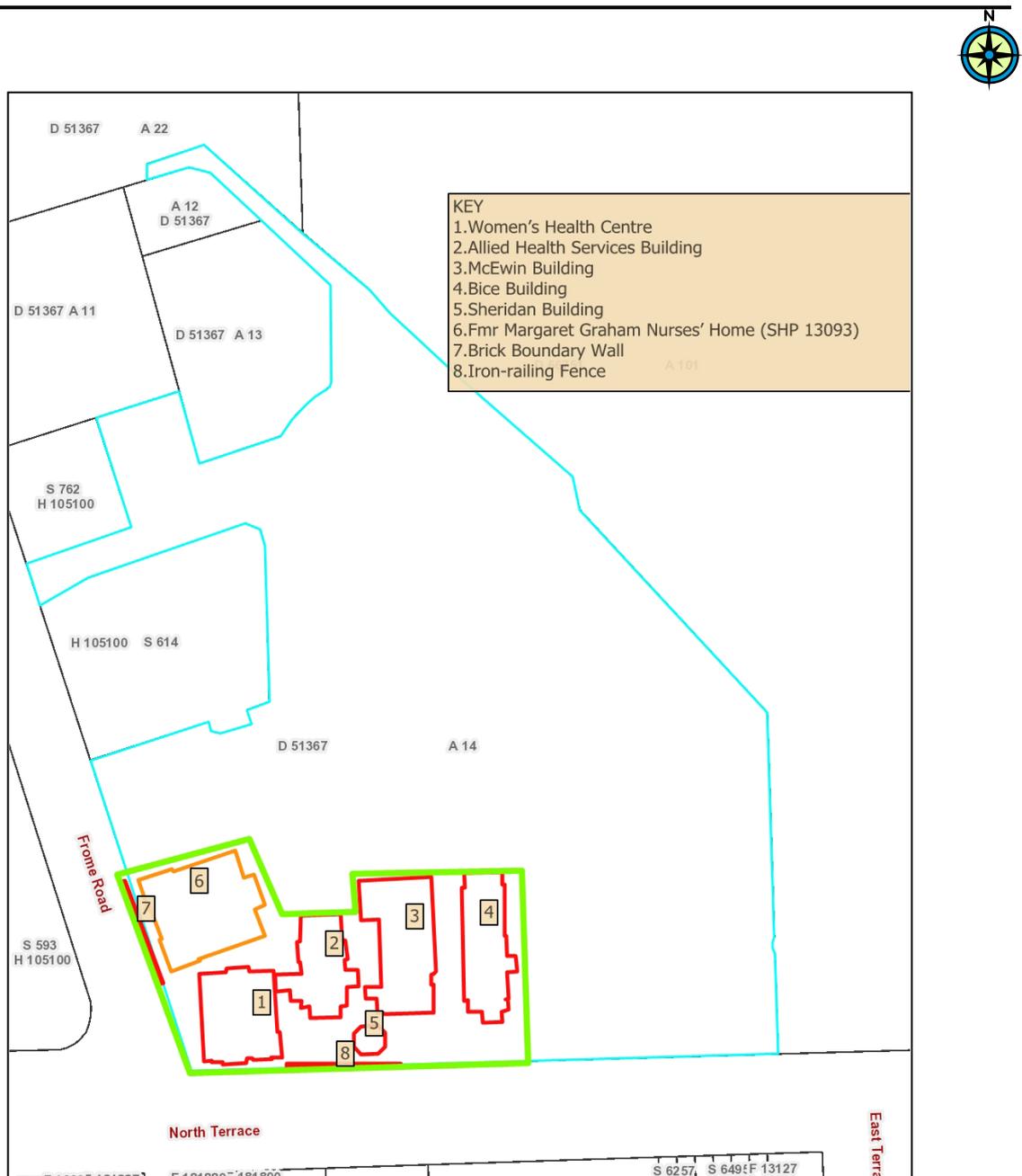
KEY

1. Women's Health Centre (former Outpatients' Department, 1935)
2. Allied Health Services Building (former Admissions & Casualty Department, 1935)
3. McEwin Building (1946)
4. Bice Building (1927)
5. Sheridan Building (former Kiosk, 1925))
6. Former Margaret Graham Nurses' Home (1911, SHP No 13093)
7. Brick boundary wall in front of Margaret Graham Nurses' Home (c1911)
8. Remnant sections of original nineteenth century iron-railing fence (c1860s?)

SITE PLAN 2

PLACE NO.: 26413

NAME: Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct)
[including Sheridan Building (former Kiosk), Bice Building, Women's Health Centre (former Outpatients' Department), Allied Health Services Building (former Admissions and Casualty Department), McEwin Building, Former Margaret Graham Nurses' Home (State Heritage Place No 13093), remnant iron-railing fence to North Terrace, and brick boundary wall to Frome Road]
North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000



Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) outlined in green, generally indicating its important features outlined in red (plus existing State Heritage Place No 13093 outlined in orange). Allotment boundary shown in blue.

Approved by the South Australian Heritage Council on 28 August 2014

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

Physical Description

The place comprises five multi-storey brick and stucco buildings, plus a single storey *tempietto* (temple-like) structure, clustered in the south-west corner of the Hospital site on the intersection of North Terrace and Frome Road. Though construction spanned four decades, the buildings all followed a coherent vision for the future development of the hospital which was formally articulated in a Master Plan devised in 1921-22, and are consistent in design and materials across the group. The architectural qualities of the buildings are significantly Edwardian in source, particularly Edwardian Classical Free Style (reflected in the composition of entrance porticos), and later evolving to incorporate aspects of Stripped Classicism towards the end of the period.

The distinctive and original design vocabulary, featuring bell-cast slate-clad roofs, decorative embellishments and good quality red face brick and stucco construction was introduced by Charles Owen Smyth, as Superintendent of Public Works in the design of Margaret Graham Nurses' Home (completed 1911, SHP No 13093), and further elaborated by the Architect-in-Chief's Department in plans for the Bice Building (completed in 1927). These distinctive stylistic features were carried through to the later buildings in the group. With the exception of the McEwin Building (which is steel framed construction encased in concrete and sheathed in face brickwork) the buildings are constructed of load bearing brickwork with red faced brickwork used as the primary element on the external facades. The most significant elements of the composition are the rusticated plinths, (the ground floor serves as a plinth to the composition above) and the roof form of bell-cast upturned corner eave elements.

Former Margaret Graham Nurses' Home

The **Former Margaret Graham Nurses' Home**, on Frome Road, is State Heritage Place 13093. Refer to the South Australian Heritage Register for details of the listing.

The brick boundary fence/wall to Frome Road is contemporary with the construction of the building and contributes to its setting.

Sheridan Building

The Sheridan Building is a small octagonal structure, of a *tempietto* form (an ornamental structure resembling a small temple), due to the domed roof form and classical colonnaded facade that is now enclosed. On its completion in 1925 it was described as 'an imposing structure, and is a combination of utility and beauty'.

The former kiosk building faces south towards North Terrace and was originally designed to have a wide verandah surrounding a central internal space that was used as a tearoom. The kitchen was located on its north rear side, and it also contained a shop, located on the west side, and accessed from the open verandah. A small addition was constructed on the north side of the building, during the 1958 works to adjacent buildings. The front 'verandah' was enclosed some time after 1962.

The building is constructed with rendered load-bearing brickwork with exposed brick plinths and parapet. The roof over the central room is domed and clad with sheet metal, while the windows and doors were originally timber; those opening into the central room are divided by closely spaced glazing bars. The ceiling follows the underside of the dome and the walls are plastered, with painted tiles evident on the walls in the former kitchen. The floor is concrete and overlaid with sheet floor coverings, possibly concealing an original terrazzo finish which is evident in the skirting.

Bice Building

The Bice Building is constructed of load bearing brickwork with red faced brickwork used as the primary element on the external facades. The most significant elements of the composition are the rusticated plinth, (the ground floor serves as a plinth to the composition above) and the roof form of bell-cast upturned corner eave elements which are repeated in the other buildings proposed in the Master Plan. The massing of the building is particularly architectonic and almost monumental for a small four storeyed building, but the detailing enhances the physical massing.

The architectural qualities of the building are significantly Edwardian in source, particularly Edwardian Classical Free Style reflected in the composition of the entrance portico. Articulation of all elevations is carefully considered and balanced in proportion and the central recessed bay of the middle storey is enclosed in a semi-circular arched opening which makes reference to work of earlier architects such as H H Richardson and Halsey Ricardo and Charles Voysey, and others including Edward Lutyens in the late Edwardian period. This arched opening also refers back to the arched openings of the Flinders Wing which was constructed in the early 1890s and was located to the east of Bice Building. Earlier buildings in Adelaide with this prominent arched and recessed entry were many and included the Adelaide Steamship Company Building in Currie Street constructed in 1911 by Alfred Wells. The design also followed on from the aesthetic established by the Margaret Graham Nurses' Home, particularly in the bell cast form of the roof.

Women's Health Centre (former Outpatients' Department)

Like the earlier Bice building and the adjoining Allied Health Services Building, the Women's Health Centre is constructed of load-bearing brickwork with reinforced concrete floors and ceilings. The floors between the levels are of reinforced concrete construction, integrated to ensure fireproofing. Large brackets support the wide eaves of the roof. The exterior of the ground floor and basement levels to the north and west elevations was originally finished with natural finish render, using an off-white cement (since painted) and having regular recessed horizontal joints to form a base to the composition. Render is also used to provide a band around the top of the walls to the second floor and to the south portico, this having a cornice moulding, columns and corner piers with rendered moulded detailing to the top using the same motif as the Bice and Allied Health building.

The four-storey building, including the basement level, which is largely above ground on the north side, was designed to meet the requirements of the Outpatients' department. The building plan is a compact rectangle, with the basement and ground levels fully occupying this floor area. A saw-tooth roofed light court occupies the centre of the building for the first and second floors. The ground floor level was entered from a portico directly off North Terrace into a small entry hall with a caged lift and circling stair immediately to the west and opening into the reception area with a large desk on the east. The central part of the ground floor was occupied by a large waiting room lit by overhead windows. A bed lift with circling concrete stair was located north of the waiting room, with toilets located on either side, a configuration that continued through each level of the building.

The basement shared a similar layout to the floor above, with a waiting room in the middle of the building, but the examinations rooms on either side were replaced with large spaces, that to the east being used as a gymnasium and that to the west divided into cubicles for massage and electrotherapy. The entire perimeter of the building at this level has windows with light wells on the south, west and east sides. The first floor was devoted to gynaecological and dermatological patients and the second to eye and ear patients. These upper floors were disposed as examination and consulting rooms, small operating theatres for minor procedures and X-ray rooms.

One of the innovations in the building was the introduction of a pneumatic carrier system for conveying patient information to the medial officers and to the dispensary, along with a special system developed in Adelaide for delivering gases to the operating theatres.

Allied Health Services Building (former Admissions and Casualty Department)

Like the Bice Building (to the east) and the adjoining Women's Health Centre (to the west) this building is constructed of loadbearing brickwork with reinforced concrete floors and ceilings. The exterior of the ground and third floors was finished with natural finish render, using an off-white cement (since painted), with that to the ground level having regular recessed horizontal joints to form a base to the composition. Render is also used for the cornice moulding between the second and third floors and the ornamentation to the tops of the brick pillars and piers to the south portion of the building.

Large brackets support the wide eaves of the roof. This is of a steeply pitched timber-framed construction, with bell-cast eaves, and was originally clad with slate, possibly from Willunga, like the Bice Building, although this has since been replaced with synthetic fibre cement slates. The majority of the windows are timber framed double-hung sashes, with the exception of metal-framed windows to the south elevation and the stair at the north end of the west elevation. Like the Bice Building, large cylindrical perforated metal braziers sit at the corners of the parapets at third floor level on the south elevation.

The four-storey building with a full basement was designed to provide accommodation for the admissions and casualty department. A waiting room was located on the west side of the building at ground floor level adjacent to the driveway between the buildings that allowed ambulances and other vehicles to drop patients at the reception. The remainder of the ground floor contained two surgical dressing rooms, a consulting room, accommodation for the resident medical officer, a nurse's duty room, four examination cubicles for casualty cases and an operating theatre for minor operations. One of the innovations in the building was a special system developed in Adelaide for the delivering of gases to the operating theatres. A kitchen was also reported as forming part of this level.

A single large ward used for surgical cases occupied each of the three floors above, providing accommodation for a total of approximately 50 patients along with the associated facilities. The wards opened onto balconies recessed into the east and west sides of the building. A covered link was provided at first floor level over the roadway to connect the building with the Outpatients' Building. Accommodation was also provided for two medical officers to live in the building so that one was always on duty day or night, and the building was also reported as having special rooms for the treatment of casualty patients suffering from severe shock, and an X-ray room.

The original Main Entry from North Terrace was at the south end of the waiting room on the west side of the building. The internal configuration of the ground floor was arranged around a north-south corridor, with that to the north portion being central to the plan, while the south portion was west of centre, and turned east at the south end. Small rooms opened off either side of this corridor.

The three floors above mirror the configuration of the central corridor, with flanking rooms of the ground floor at the north end, but the central portion of the south section is occupied by a large, wide north-south space, which originally formed the wards. Large recessed balconies opened off the east and west sides of the wards as did small rooms at the south end. A lift with circling stair opens off the west side of the north end of this corridor. Toilets were either located at the north end of the building, opposite the lift, or in a room that projected off the east side of the building beyond the line of the east balcony. The configuration of the basement matches that of the former ward levels, with the large space corresponding with the wards opening onto aisles on the east and west sides through large arched openings below the balconies and associated rooms.

There was also an intention to link this building with another new building to the north, as doors were included to all the levels from ground to third floor level at the end of the corridor to the north elevation. This building, probably a new theatre block, was never constructed, and only the opening to the ground floor was used to provide access to the other hospital buildings, with a covered link later constructed to form a connection with the McEwin Building. The later additions involved adding a room to the east elevation at ground floor level, together with a lift on the west side of the building, serving all floors except the basement. The original link at first floor (Level 4) to the former Outpatient's Building was also altered to provide an enclosed passage with rooms opening off the north side and extended up to form a matching link at second floor level (Level 5).

McEwin Building

The McEwin Building is three-storeyed, of steel-framed construction encased in concrete with concrete floors and balconies. The exterior is sheathed in face brickwork. The south end of the building has a different character to the remainder of the structure, with characteristics in keeping with the adjacent earlier buildings. Like these existing buildings, the ground floor is rendered with horizontal joints, with the render also used for the central projecting bay that extends up to first floor level. The south elevation is divided by projecting brick piers, with moulded rendered capping supporting a large cornice moulding below a steeply pitched hipped roof above this section has bell-cast eaves and is clad in slate. This character is simplified for the other elevations, where the use of brick and the render to the ground floor forms continuity with the south portion, with the east and west elevations being distinguished primarily by the long horizontal cantilevered concrete balconies and awnings.

The central X-ray department for the entire hospital together with three special operating theatres originally occupied the ground floor. Six operating theatres were located on the first floor with common sterilising facilities between pairs of theatres. The second floor was occupied by post-operative wards for 38 patients and a blood transfusion department, while a similar number of beds were available as main

wards on the third floor, although the latter was used in the short term to relieve the (by then) desperate need for nurses' accommodation. The part basement was occupied by plant at the north end of the building, while stores and staff common rooms occupied the south portion, and a large plant room occupied the north portion of the building at the roof level.

The main access was at the north end of the building, including from the north elevation and towards the north end of the east and west elevations, where external covered ways connected to the existing buildings on either side. These opened onto an east–west corridor with separate bed and passenger lifts, together with a stair on the north-side and toilets on the south at the west end.

A central corridor ran the length of the building to the south, turning to the west at the south end to connect to a further bed lift and stair at the south-west corner of the building. Rooms opened off either side of the corridor to the ground floor (Level 3), with the ground floor surgical theatres located at the south end. The corridors were located in the same position to all of the levels above the ground floor, with large wards opening off its east and west sides to the second and third floors, while smaller wards occupied the south parts of the floor.

The first floor differed somewhat from the other levels in that the corridor served the theatres, which were arranged along the south and east sides, while a second corridor ran parallel to it against the west side of the building to provide alternative access to the west rooms. Change rooms, waiting rooms and workrooms were located around the north end of the building to the levels above the ground floor.

The components identified as being intrinsic to the heritage significance of the six buildings that comprise the Royal Adelaide Hospital (North Terrace Precinct) include:

- all external elevations, original elements and details
- bell cast roof form clad in slate tiles (Margaret Graham, Bice, Women's Health Centre, Allied Health Building and McEwin Building), and domed roof form (Sheridan Building)
- face red brick upper walls, articulated by giant order pilasters (in some cases vestigial) topped with pilaster capital panels
- rendered rusticated plinths with face red brick walls above
- Entrance porticoes with rusticated columns and capital panels (Bice Building and Women's Health Centre)
- metal framed windows (Margaret Graham, Bice, Women's Health Centre, Allied Health, and McEwin Buildings) and original timber framed windows (Sheridan Building)
- Remnant nineteenth century iron-railing boundary fence to North Terrace
- Brick boundary wall/ fence to Frome Road (adjacent Margaret Graham Nurses' Home)

The surviving sections of the original iron railing fence to North Terrace will form the southern boundary of the precinct. A reasonable buffer zone should be preserved to allow the associations between the buildings be recognised and appreciated as part of the North Terrace group.

The extent of listing excludes:

- all post-construction additions and alterations

History of the Place

Since its establishment in 1841 the Adelaide Hospital has undergone a number of major construction phases, to meet the need for improvement and growth in medical facilities. This need was particularly evident in the early twentieth century, as the hospital had to accommodate a growing population and modernise its patient health care. The new building program commenced with the construction of the Margaret Graham Nurses' Home in 1908-11, which set the standard for future development the site, however further progress was held back due to lack of funding and the intervention of the Great War. In September 1921, the Premier Crawford Vaughan appointed a subcommittee to discuss urgently-needed additional accommodation at the Adelaide Hospital. This formal Extra Accommodation Committee, as it became known, recommended the construction of several new buildings in order to modernise the hospital and equip it to cope with the additional demands of the State's growing population. These recommendations were embodied in a Master Plan for the site, finalised in 1922, which amongst other improvements envisaged the construction of a suite of six new multi-storey buildings to be located in the south-west corner of the hospital site, facing North Terrace, occupying land that had originally been gardens. Plans for the first of these new buildings were drawn up in the Architect-in-Chief's Department in 1924. Although the Master Plan was never fully implemented, with the intervention of economic depression and war dragging out construction over a quarter of a century, four of the proposed multi-storey buildings were eventually completed and still stand. The small Sheridan Building, added to the scheme through the generosity of a private bequest, provides a central point around which the four multi-storey buildings are clustered in a cohesive and well-balanced architectural group. The precinct constitutes a visually unified public interface for the hospital along its North Terrace frontage.

Margaret Graham Nurses' Home (1911)

The Margaret Graham Nurses' Home, completed in 1911, was to be the forerunner of a major redevelopment of the Adelaide Hospital site, to extend and update the hospital's nineteenth-century facilities. Throughout the history of the hospital, accommodation for nurses had been a frequent issue. At the turn of the century there were about 100 nurses employed at the hospital, most living in overcrowded

conditions in various buildings scattered around the site, or in leased accommodation nearby. Increased pressure to improve working and living conditions for nurses, led to the construction of purpose-built modern accommodation on the hospital site. Plans were prepared in 1908, prepared by the Superintendent of Public Works, Charles Owen Smyth, James T Brown was the contractor, and the building cost over £30,000. The design provided for 103 bedrooms, 11 sitting rooms, a library, gymnasium and a large dining hall that was also to be used as an entertainment space.

Sheridan Building (Kiosk) (1925)

This small building close to the entrance to the Royal Adelaide Hospital was built contemporaneously with the Bice Building during 1925. As the Bice Building was not opened until 1927, this was the first of the 'new' buildings, and came to be located close to the Casualty and Admissions Building, which opened in 1935. Work commenced on this small building in early 1925 and it was completed by mid-August at a cost of approximately £2410. It was designed by the Architect-in-Chief's Department for the Adelaide Hospital Auxiliary Committee, to serve as a kiosk. It was reported in *The Mail* on 15 August, 1925 that the 'building is intended to serve the double purpose of a kiosk and a Keith Sheridan memorial'. The building was officially opened on 18 November 1925, fitted out by the Committee as a tearoom and shop.

The Auxiliary Committee had been created in 1924 to provide comforts to patients in the form of linen items not provided by the hospital, and to raise money through the sale of teas and other items to patients, visitors and hospital staff. Money raised was directed towards the establishment of a separate maternity ward at the hospital. A bequest of £2,500 through the Keith Sheridan Fund trustees, from Miss Alice Frances Keith Sheridan and her sister Mrs Violet Laura Simpson, enabled the construction of the building. Alice Frances Keith Sheridan (who died in 1922), described as an 'erudite recluse' in her obituary, was a significant philanthropist in South Australia - she bequeathed her family home in MacKinnon Parade, North Adelaide to the South Australian Institutes Board, and her will also included a bequest of £20,000 to the University of Adelaide. A large original bronze tablet mounted on the wall in the central room, states that the building was erected in memory of Miss Sheridan and Mrs Simpson.

Bice Building (1927)

The Bice Building was the first multi-storey building erected as part of an important redevelopment of the Hospital site which evolved from the planning of the 1921-22 Extra Accommodation Committee. The building drawings and specification were prepared by the Architect-in-Chief's Department and its distinctive and original design vocabulary, which paid reference to Owen Smyth's work, may have been influenced by George Gavin Lawson, who had been appointed assistant chief

draughtsman in the newly formed Architect-in-Chief's Department in November 1920. Tenders closed on 12 December 1923 and the contract was awarded to H S C Jarvis, of Croydon.

Work commenced in early January 1924 with a foundation stone being laid in August of that year, but the building was not opened until 1927. It was named after the recently deceased former Chief Secretary, Sir John Bice, who had done much to improve the Hospital as part of his Ministerial responsibilities. Changes were made to the building in 1958 when additional rooms were added on the eastern side of the building at ground and first floor level, and the front portico had an additional room added above with appropriate detailing to create a library internally.

The building was originally known as the Administration Building and contained offices, meeting rooms and other administrative services on the ground floor. The first and second floors provided accommodation for the resident medical officers and this included a library, billiard room, dining room and bedrooms. The third floor above was occupied by a large ward which was surrounded on three sides by balconies to encourage fresh air and foster natural ventilation. With a north-south orientation there was a maximum exposure to natural light on the east and west sides, and this encouraged cross ventilation, an important part of hospital design at this time.

Women's Health Centre (Formerly Outpatients' Department) (1935)

The Women's Health Centre was erected as part of the 1921-22 redevelopment plan. The building drawings and specification were prepared by the Architect-in-Chief's Department, and evolved from the original design of the Bice Building. The design also followed on from the aesthetic established by the Margaret Graham Nurses Home, particularly in the bell cast form of the roof. It was located at the busy corner of North Terrace and Frome Road, where the then existing Outpatients' building stood. Along with the adjacent Casualty and Admissions building to the east, the new Outpatients' building had been approved in the mid-1920s, but no work was commenced due to economic uncertainty. Agitation by the hospital administration, backed by the media in early 1928, highlighting the desperate need for a new Outpatients' building brought the proposal back to the government's attention. The overcrowding associated with this department was dealt with by the construction of a new temporary timber building further down Frome Road in 1929, until the new permanent building was erected on the North Terrace corner.

Documentation for the permanent building was reported as underway in January 1929 along with other hospital buildings, including the Casualty and Admissions building and a new Theatre Block, with money identified for the building as part of the budget in June. Nothing happened until additional funding was found for the former two buildings as a result of grants to provide unemployment relief made available in 1932 by the Federal Government, with approval given to proceed with

the Outpatients' Building in July at an estimated cost of £26,000. It was anticipated that the work on the two new buildings would employ 50 men, with the documents prescribing the use of South Australian materials. The tenders for this building were called in July, and the tender of C R Boss was successful. The foundation stone was laid in March 1933 and, by mid-year, the shell was complete, with the services yet to be installed and the fitting out of the building still occurring in May 1935.

The building did not open for patients until August 1935 along with the adjoining Casualty and Admissions building. The two buildings were reported to have employed approximately 100 men and to have had a combined cost of more than £100,000.

Allied Health Services Building (formerly Admissions and Casualty Department) (1935)

A new building, designated as a Casualty and Admissions Block, was located on this site as part of the 1922 Master Plan, positioned immediately south of the original operating theatre. Along with the adjacent Outpatients' Building (now the Women's Health Centre) to the west, it was approved in the mid-1920s, but work didn't commence due to increasing economic problems during the late 1920s. Agitation by the hospital administration in early 1928, backed by the media, to relieve the desperate need for a new Outpatients' Building brought this adjoining building back to the government's attention. Documentation for the building was reported as underway in January 1929 along with other hospital buildings, including the Outpatients' Building and a new Theatre Block, with funds identified for the building program as part of the budget in June. However construction did not commence until the additional Federal unemployment relief grant became available three years later. Approval was given to proceed with the new Casualty and Admissions Building in July 1932 at an estimated cost of £23,000.

The tender followed a few months after the Outpatients' Building, with changes required to modify the existing documents for this building, which were then several years old, to bring them up to date. The tender was won by H S C Jarvis and work started in November 1932. The walls of the building were complete and rendering was occurring by April 1934 when the roof timbers were being framed. By mid-year the shell was complete, but the services were yet to be installed and the fitting out of the building was still taking place in May 1935. The building did not open for patients until August 1935, along with the adjoining Outpatients' Building. The two buildings were reported to have employed approximately 100 men and to have had a combined cost of more than £100,000.

The addition of a single room has occurred at ground floor level to the east elevation. Additions have also been made to the west side of the building, involving the construction of a lift and the extension of the existing link with the Outpatients' Building to the west to both the first and second floors.

The forecourt of the Allied Health Building contains remnants of the nineteenth century iron-railling boundary fence dating from the early development of the hospital. This remnant is probably the oldest extant hospital structure on the site, dating back to the original c1856 construction phase (it is evident in historical photographs from the late 1860s). It serves as an important link to the history of the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

McEwin Building (1946)

A new surgical block was considered critical by the time plans for this building were placed before the Public Works Committee in May 1939. Prior to its construction there were only two inadequately sized general operating theatres at the hospital, which resulted in a large backlog of operations and a long waiting list. The site of a new Operating Theatre Block, between the existing Bice building to the east and the Casualty Block (currently referred to as the Allied Health Services Building) had originally been proposed for a four-storey ward building as part of the 1922 Master Plan, but work on this building did not appear to progress beyond planning stage. Designed by the Architect-in-Chief's Department, with detailing linking it closely to the aesthetic established in the early 1920s by the Department, its general configuration was planned in consultation with six senior honorary surgeons attached to the hospital. The Public Works Committee did not recommend construction until March 1940, and tenders were called the following year when the Government was satisfied sufficient funding was available. In August 1941 six separate tenders were approved, totalling £100,773, with the largest contract of £64,864 being awarded to H S C Jarvis for the building work, and the other contracts being for the supply of the electrical, steam and hot water, mechanical ventilation, medical gases and lifts.

The hospital staff had to wait for their new facilities, with delays experienced in the construction due to the ongoing limitations created by the World War Two. Construction was completed in mid-1945, but it was not until July 1946 that the first operation took place within the building. The building was officially opened on 7 August 1946, by which time it had been named after Alexander Lyell McEwin, Minister for Health.

Additions have been made to the west side of the building, possibly in the 1960s.

References

This Summary is based on:

- McDougall & Vines, *Royal Adelaide Hospital Site Heritage Assessment* (January 2014)

Other references:

- Forbes, Ian L D, *From Colonial Surgeon to Health Commission: The Government Provision of Health Services in South Australia -1995* (Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide, 2003)
- Escort-Hughes, James, *A History of the Royal Adelaide Hospital*, 2nd edn, Board of Management of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide, 1982
- Donovan, Marsden, Stark, *City of Adelaide Heritage Survey*, 1982
- Register Nomination Report: Royal Adelaide Hospital (Nursing School, Physiotherapy Department, Bice Building, Margaret Graham Nurses Home, McEwin Building and Kiosk) (Robyn Taylor & David Carey, 7.5.1985)
- State Records of SA: Architect-in-Chief's Department GRG38/68 & 38/64
- State Library of SA: PRG 331
- *The Builder*, 1925
- *The Observer*, January 1923
- *The Mail*, 15 August 1925
- Architecture Museum of SA:
 - Gavin George Lawson, Cuttings Book
 - S250/33, Hurren, Langman & James, Engineers

DEWNR departmental files

SITE DETAILS

PLACE NO.: 26413

NAME: Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct)
North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

FORMER NAME:	Adelaide Hospital
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	A group of six architecturally-related red brick and stucco buildings, in the South-West corner of the hospital site, including North Terrace and Frome Road boundary walls/fences
DATE OF COMPLETION:	1911 (Margaret Graham Nurses' Home); 1925 (Sheridan Building); 1927 (Bice Building); 1935 (Women's Health Centre and Allied Health Services Building); 1946 (McEwin Building)
SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:	Description: Confirmed Date: 28 August 2014 Margaret Graham Nurses' Home only: SHP 13093 Confirmed 11 Sept 1986
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS:	Women's Health Centre only: Local Heritage Place No 15010 ('Nursing School, RAH') Adelaide City Council Development Plan Amendment authorised 1 Nov 2001
CURRENT USE:	Description: Hospital administration offices, medical and surgical facilities Dates: 1911-present
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Description: Various, including: Admissions/ Casualty, Nursing School, Operating Theatres, X-Ray. Outpatients' Department, kiosk Dates: Various from 1911
ARCHITECT:	Name: Architect-in-Chief's Department Dates: 1908 - 1946
BUILDER:	Name: Various, including James T Brown, H C Jarvis, T O'Connor & Sons and unknown Dates: 1908 - 1946
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Description: Adelaide City Council
LOCATION:	Street No.: Street Name: Corner North Terrace and Frome Road Town/Suburb: Adelaide Post Code: 5000
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Type: CT Volume: 6134 Folio: 112 Lot No.: A14, D51367 Hundred: Adelaide

PHOTOS

NAME: Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) **PLACE NO.:** 26413
North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000



Sheridan Building (former Kiosk) - West Elevation
(Source: McDougall & Vines, Heritage Assessment Report RAH, 2014)
Note remnant brick and iron railing fence on the right.



Bice Building - south east elevation viewed from North Terrace *(McDougall & Vines, 2014)*

PHOTOS

NAME: Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) **PLACE NO.:**26413
North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000



Women's Health Centre – south elevation (*McDougall & Vines, 2014*)



Allied Health Services Building - south elevation (*McDougall & Vines, 2014*) (Note remnant brick and iron railing fence)



McEwin Building - south elevation (*McDougall & Vines, 2014*)

PHOTOS

NAME: Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct)
North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

PLACE NO.:26413



**Margaret Graham Nurses' Home west elevation viewed from Frome Road, showing brick boundary wall
(photograph Marcus Beresford, Heritage Living Magazine, NTSA, August 2011)**

PHOTOS

NAME: Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) **PLACE NO.:**26413
North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Distinctive Design Elements: Bell cast roof form and eaves brackets



Margaret Graham Nurses' Home



Bice Building



Allied Health Services Building



Women's Health Centre



McEwin Building

PHOTOS

NAME: Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) **PLACE NO.:**26413
North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Distinctive Design Elements: Portico, column capitals and panels and cornice



Bice Building



Women's Health Centre



Bice Building



Women's Health Centre

PHOTOS

NAME: Royal Adelaide Hospital (South-West Precinct) **PLACE NO.:**26413
North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Distinctive Design Elements: Panels and cornice



Bice Building



Women's Health Centre



Allied Health Building



McEwin Building



McEwin Building drawing (1939)