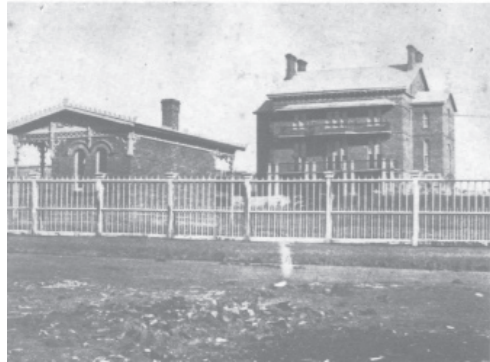


Bendigo Benevolent Asylum c. 1860



On 7 February 1859, the Bendigo Advertiser carried an advertisement calling for 'Specifications for a brick and stone building for the Benevolent Asylum. Four local architects submitted plans, but the Asylum's Building Committee selected Robert Alexander Love, an Irish architect with American experience. Additions and alterations made to the building between 1863 and 1873 were designed by Vahland and Getzschmann. These changes included the addition of the eastern and western wings (1864-66), extensions to the west wing (1869-70), the addition of the portico (1872) and completion of the rendering (1873).

The original building by Robert A

The **Main Administration Building** (as it's known today) is a substantial and robust three-storey brick building, restructured in 1860 from a brick building designed by Robert Love. Between 1864 and 1873, Vahland and Getzschmann 'modernised' and enlarged the building in numerous stages, as funding permitted. The building's generous proportions and its Ionic styling, along with its large portico and gigantic base course, make it the standout building of the site. The rusticated base course supports large render work Ionic columns supporting a temple pediment and fronting a two-storey recess in the façade.



Bendigo Benevolent Asylum - Circa. 1875

The rear of the building was originally an open verandah but this was later filled in to provide additional rooms to the building. The interior is generally one room deep, followed by a corridor running the length of the building, then one further room before the rear verandah. This is now followed by a further range of rear rooms along the verandah's original edge. The interiors are simple, somewhat plain, nineteenth century rooms. The entrance lobby and corridors are a little more detailed, featuring some decorative plasterwork and pressed metal ceilings, although overt decoration is avoided. While the layout of the stairs and main central corridor has not altered over the years, the vast majority of rooms have been subdivided into smaller rooms and the ceilings have been replaced and lowered to allow for the installation of services.



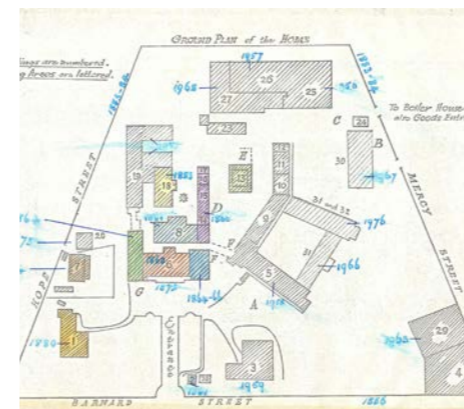
Bendigo Benevolent Asylum - today

The internal stairways are substantial bluestone wedges cantilevered from the brick walling and locked together through joggled joints and the occasional wrought iron bolt.

Architecturally, Bendigo Health's Anne Caudle Centre campus is the largest and most intact complex of buildings and structures designed by the prominent Bendigo architects W.C. Vahland and R. Getzschmann between 1860 and 1900. The Bendigo Hospital was also designed by Vahland and Getzschmann and was very similar to the Anne Caudle Centre campus in design and scale, but few original elements of the hospital design have survived.

Aesthetically, the Anne Caudle Centre campus is significant as the only benevolent asylum designed predominantly in the classical style. While the majority of benevolent asylums were designed in a Tudor style, the buildings of the Anne Caudle Campus were predominantly designed in variations of Academic Classical and Italianate styles. The German training and background of the architects Vahland and Getzschmann are likely to have had a strong influence on the aesthetics of the buildings.

All information contained in this booklet is attributed to: heritage ALLIANCE Architects and Heritage Consultants who conducted and authored a Conservation Management Plan on the Anne Caudle Centre campus in 2009.



West Wing (Female Ward) c. 1890-1892

Designer: W.C. Vahland

In April 1890, the Bendigo Asylum Committee decided to do even more for district women by the construction of a separate, two-storey building 'exclusively for female patients.' Designed by the architect, W. C. Vahland, tenders were let in June 1890. The two-storey building had three wards, each with its own dining room and facilities. The new building was completed by 1892. The West Wing is a double-storey red brick building, essentially rectangular in plan with a single bay projecting from both the east and west elevations. A key element of the design is a glazed lantern, with a hipped roof, located over the central crossing, or intersection, of the gabled roofs. All the roof forms are clad with corrugated iron and feature bracketed eaves in the Italianate style. Original window openings are round-arched and house timber-framed, double-hung windows. Extant original elements include the central bluestone staircase with cast iron balusters and timber handrail, located directly below the lantern. The ceiling of the lantern is timber-boarded and features a large, decorative, vented rose (possibly cast iron). Elsewhere, the ceilings have been largely replaced with acoustic tiles, but the ceiling joists show evidence of earlier lath and plaster ceilings. At least three original decorative and circular cast iron wall vents are evident above the suspended ceiling in the northern, ground floor ward.



The West Wing undergoing current restoration

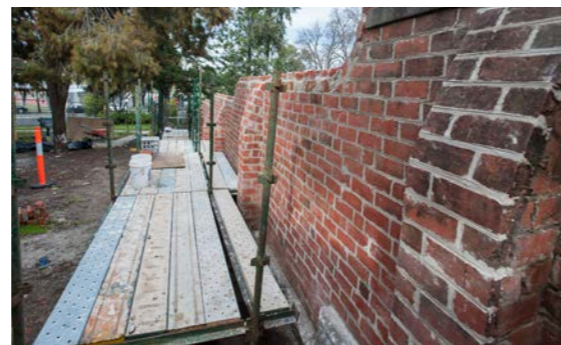
Former Dining Hall (Concert Hall)

The Dining Hall was built as a free-standing building to replace the original dining room within the Main Administration Building. It was constructed in 1883, during the period when W.C. Vahland was designing every other building on site; however, it is stylistically so different to his other buildings and designs built elsewhere, that its architectural provenance must be questioned.

Hope Street Wall, built by 1883

Designer: W.C. Vahland

Built as part of the containing wall which defined the site on the less public sides, it joined with the front fence along Barnard Street. In 1883, it was reported that a brick fence to Vahland's design had been completed. This wall is similar to the one surrounding the Bendigo Hospital site, where the site planning and early buildings were also to the design of Vahland and Getzschmann. The Bendigo Hospital wall is, however, far less intact having been broken through and decapitated in a large number of locations. It includes a pedestrian gateway leading towards the Superintendent's Residence, also dating from the nineteenth century. The brick wall is approximately two metres high primarily in stretcher bond with every fourth course a header-stretcher-header-stretcher arrangement. The wall is capped by a rendered roll over top (originally with embedded glass to deter intrusion) and built on a rock faced base of sandstone and tooled basalt work. Simple brick buttresses are located on the inner face of the walls at regular intervals. In contrast with the red brick wall, the gateway to the Superintendent's Residence is rendered and rusticated masonry. Stepped and round-arched mouldings cap the head over the arched opening.



Hope Street Wall undergoing restoration

Former Kitchen and Laundry

Built: c.1861-71, with later alterations

Designer: Probably Vahland and Getzschmann

Reference was made in the 1861 Annual Report of the kitchens and outhouses, separate from the main building, having been completed. Slight variations in detailing and materials also indicate that this corner of the building was added at a slightly later date.

Lying-In (Maternity) Hospital, c.1863-73

Designer: Probably Vahland and Getzschmann

Vahland and Getzschmann (and just Vahland after Getzschmann's death in 1875) were the only architects associated with the Bendigo Asylum between 1862 and 1900, and so it can be assumed that they designed the Lying-In Hospital. In 1886, the name of the Bendigo institution was changed to the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum and Lying-In Hospital. The Lying-in Hospital continued its maternity role until 1920, when the building was put to other uses.



Old Lying-in hospital today

Stylistically, it has a number of similarities with the Main Administration Building and the Gate Lodge, and was undoubtedly designed by Vahland and Getzschmann. The former Lying-In Hospital is a two-storey, bichromatic brick structure on a sandstone base course. The appearance of the brickwork is indicative of the building having been built to be viewed as brick. The double-storey verandah was a later addition, and the building originally had a much more austere appearance. The purity of the original design was evident in its simple rectangular plan, gabled roof with large acroteria, and the symmetry of the paired, round-arched windows. The corrugated iron-clad roof has a series of tube vents penetrating it from the rooms below. These appear to be early twentieth century alterations, no doubt the requirements of the State Health Department to ensure adequate ventilation in an era of concern for good health through access to good air and sunlight. The internal bluestone stairway has a number of similarities with the stairs in the Main Administration Building and is original. Like the Main Administration Building, the two large ward spaces (one on each floor) have been subdivided over the years. The rectangular building is a double-storey, bi-chromatic brick structure on a sandstone base course. It features paired, round-arched windows, and a gabled roof clad with corrugated iron. Classical acroterions, very similar to those applied to the Main Administration Building, were built at the apex of the gables and at the roof corners.

Morgue (Mortuary), c. 1883

Designer: Probably W.C. Vahland

The existing building is believed to have been built in 1883, and features a similar central roof vent and round-arched door openings as the Amenities Building. The Morgue is a small, gabled, red-brick building, now greatly obscured by later adjoining buildings and concrete paving. The building has only one door - a flush timber door with louvered fanlight above, centrally located on the south elevation. A round-arched louvered vent is located within the centre of the northern gable. The roof and a vented and gabled fleche over the centre of the roof ridge are clad with corrugated iron.