

## APPENDIX I

### Heritage Impact Statement





Kempsey District Hospital  
River Street, West Kempsey

## Statement of Heritage Impact



February 2013

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Graham Brooks & Associates Pty Ltd  
 Incorporated in NSW  
 Architects, Planners & Heritage Consultants  
 71 York St, Level 1  
 Sydney 2000 Australia  
 Tel: (61) 2 9299 8600  
 Fax: (61) 2 9299 8711  
 Email: gbamain@gbaheritage.com  
 www.gbaheritage.com  
 ABN: 56 073 802 730  
 ACN: 073 802 730  
 Nominated Architect: Graham Leslie Brooks  
 NSW Architects Registration: 3836

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# Executive Summary

This report has been prepared in accordance with the heritage requirements of the DGRs relating to an application for State Significant Development, SSD5363, the Redevelopment of Kempsey District Hospital. As the proposed redevelopment is being sought under State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I) are the consent authority. Construction enabling works will be undertaken through a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) with Health Infrastructure as the approval body.

The site of the Kempsey Hospital is a listed heritage item on Schedule 1 of the *Kempsey LEP 1987*. It is also included on the Health Infrastructure Section 170 Register, and is in the vicinity of two local heritage items.

The proposed redevelopment of the Kempsey District Hospital, prepared for Health Infrastructure, includes a new main entrance, new and expanded emergency department, new 6 bed emergency medical unit, new medical imaging department, establishment of an integrated community care centre, new 4 space medical day stay unit, new 32 bed inpatient unit, expansion of HDU / CCU, new peri-operative unit, significantly expanded renal dialysis service and relocation and/or expansion of several primary health care, community, and ambulatory services. The redevelopment will involve the demolition of a number of buildings within the eastern section of the site. Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building) is not proposed to be demolished.

The report identifies the European heritage significance of the site through a revised Statement of Significance, but excludes consideration of archaeological or Aboriginal heritage. An assessment of the heritage impact of the proposed redevelopment has been made in light of the revised Statement of Significance.

The report concludes that, as the original form and fabric of Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building) is to be retained, the proposed redevelopment will have an acceptable level of impact on the heritage significance of the Kempsey District Hospital and the heritage items in the vicinity.

The buildings proposed to be demolished under the REF approval process have been assessed as being of little heritage significance.

Building 12 (the Blood Bank Building) is identified as having moderate significance. The demolition of this building seeks consent as part of the State Significant Development Application, SSD 5363.

Building 12 has seen numerous alterations and additions and a change of use which has degraded the integrity of the building. This has reduced its significance and overall contribution to the heritage significance of the site.

In addition, the building cannot be feasibly retained and incorporated as part of the redevelopment of the hospital site without seriously impacting on the future operations of the site as a medical facility and the potential impact on Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building) and heritage items in the vicinity. Therefore, its demolition is justified.

It is recommended that an archival photographic record be prepared for the buildings of identified moderate significance that are proposed for demolition (Building 12). Memorials, foundation stones, etc, of buildings proposed to be demolished should be relocated to the new building and interpreted.

Based on the outcomes of this report it is recommended, from a heritage perspective, that the Department of Planning Infrastructure issue approval for the demolition of the blood bank; bulk site excavation and site preparation; and the development of the main works associated with the redevelopment of the Kempsey District Hospital.



# Introduction

# 1.0

## 1.1 Background

This report has been prepared to accompany an application for State Significant Development, SSD 5363, the Redevelopment of the Kempsey District Hospital. The report evaluates the proposed architectural drawings prepared for Health Infrastructure.

The proposed redevelopment of the Kempsey District Hospital includes a new main entrance, new and expanded emergency department, new 6 bed emergency medical unit, new medical imaging department, establishment of an integrated community care centre, new 4 space medical day stay unit, new 32 bed inpatient unit, expansion of HDU / CCU, new peri-operative unit, significantly expanded renal dialysis service and relocation and/or expansion of several primary health care, community, and ambulatory services.

The redevelopment will involve the demolition of a number of buildings within the eastern section of the site excluding Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building) under the REF approval process. These buildings have been assessed as being of little heritage significance except for Building 12, which has moderate significance and is subject to approval as part of the State Significant Development Application.

## 1.2 Report Objectives

The main objective of this Statement of Heritage Impact is to analyse the overall heritage impact of the proposed development in relation to the Environmental Planning Instruments (EPIs) specified in the Director General Requirements (DGRs) and the guidelines of the Heritage Branch of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

## 1.3 Methodology and Structure

This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared in accordance with guidelines outlined in the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, 1999, known as *The Burra Charter*, and the New South Wales Heritage Office publication, *NSW Heritage Manual*.

*The Burra Charter* provides definitions for terms used in heritage conservation and proposes conservation processes and principles for the conservation of an item. The terminology used, particularly the words *place*, *cultural significance*, *fabric*, and *conservation*, is as defined in Article 1 of *The Burra Charter*. The *NSW Heritage Manual* explains and promotes the standardisation of heritage investigation, assessment and management practices in NSW.



## 1.4 Site Identification

The subject site is located on the eastern side of River Street, West Kempsey. The site is bounded by Polwood Street to the north, Tozer Street to the east and the West Kempsey Cemetery to the south. It is described by NSW Land and Property Information (LPI) as Lots 1 to 8 and Lot 14 DP 759080.

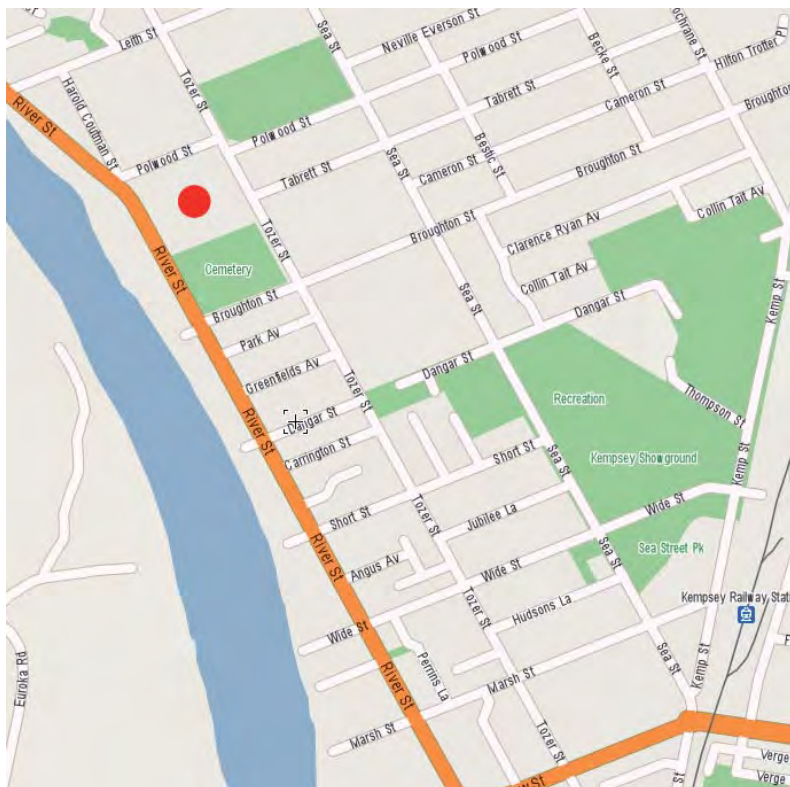


Figure 1.1  
Location map showing the subject site marked with a red circle.

Source: street-directory.com.au

## 1.5 Building Identification

Altogether there are thirty two buildings on the subject site. From hereon in, the buildings will be referred to by the building number as identified in the table below.

Building numbers and names are as used in the BVN Existing Building Numbers map. The table below includes the Building Number, the Building Name/Use and the Historical Building Name/Use, where appropriate.



Figure 1.2  
Cadastral map of the Kempsey District Hospital, outlined in red.

Source: Land and Property Information, 2012



Figure 1.3  
Aerial of the Kempsey District Hospital, outlined in red.

Source: Land and Property Information, 2012

Building Number	Building Name/Use	Historical Building Name/Use
Building 1A	Administration Offices	1913 Hospital Building
Building 1B	Administration Office	
Building 1C	IT Office	Dispensary, Pathological and Sewing Rooms, Payroll Office
Building 1D	Cleaning Storage	Bath Room
Building 2	Kiosk	Daisy Turner BEM Kiosk
Building 3	Pathology, Emergency Department, Theatres, Medical Records, Pharmacy, Central Sterile Services Department, Old Store Room, various amenities, Store Rooms	
Building 4	Education Building	
Building 5A	Kitchen, Cafeteria, Laundry, Storage, Rest Rooms, Day Surgery, Ward G, Education Officer's Medical Ward	
Building 5B	Physical Resources, Old Children's Ward	
Building 6	Mortuary	
Building 7	Garbage Store	
Building 8	Garbage Store	
Building 9A	Carpenter/Painter Store	
Building 9B	Maintenance Overflow, Secondary Medical Records, Mental Health Records	Laundry
Building 10	Helicopter/Aviation Fuel	
Building 11A	Garden Shed	
Building 11B	Cement Slab	
Building 11C	Water Tower	
Building 11D	Water Tank	
Building 12	Blood Bank	Isolation Block
Building 13A	Community Health, Allied Health Services	Nurse's Home
Building 13B	Transitional Aged Care	
Building 13C	Oral Health	
Building 13D	Drug and Alcohol	
Building 14	Aboriginal Health	
Building 15A	Needle & Syringe Program Stores	
Building 15B	Car Washing Requirements	
Building 16	Rehabilitation Service, Renal Dialysis Service	Children's Ward
Building 17A	Maternity	
Building 17B	Mental Health	Private and Intermediate Ward Block, Maternity
Building 17C	Mental Health Offices	
Building 18	Hydrotherapy and Physiotherapy	





## 1.6 Heritage Management Framework

The DGRs for this project note the following in relation to heritage:

### 9. Heritage

*A statement of significance and an assessment of the heritage impact on the significance of any heritage items, including the Kempsey District Hospital site, and/or conservation areas should be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines of the NSW Heritage Manual, if relevant.*

The relevant EPI, pertaining to heritage, that is to be addressed as part of the key issues is the *Kempsey Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 1987*.

The Kempsey District Hospital site, River Street, West Kempsey, is listed in Schedule 1 of the *Kempsey LEP 1987* as an item of local heritage significance. It is also included on the Health Infrastructure Section 170 Register. The subject site is not located within a heritage conservation area.

The Kempsey District Hospital is located within the vicinity of two heritage items listed in Schedule 1 of the *Kempsey LEP 1987*. These are:

- West Kempsey Cemetery, Broughton, River and Tozer Streets, West Kempsey; and
- Kempsey High School, 13 Broughton Street, West Kempsey.

As no part of the subject site is included on the NSW State Heritage Register there is no requirement under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* to seek approval from the NSW Heritage Council for this application.

Development approval for the proposed redevelopment is being sought under *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011*. Therefore, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I) are the consent authority.

As DP&I will be the consent authority, Clause 29 of the *Kempsey Local Environmental Plan 1987* is not relevant to the proposal. Of the buildings proposed to be demolished, Building 12 (the Blood Bank) has been identified as being of moderate heritage significance, which seeks consent as part of the State Significant Development Application.

The application will be referred to the Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Heritage as part of the formal assessment process. Kempsey Shire Council will also be consulted as part of the DP&I's due process.



Figure 1.5  
Heritage Map with the Kempsey District Hospital outlined in red. The West Kempsey Cemetery is located to the south of the site and the Kempsey High School is located on the block diagonally opposite the cemetery, to the south east.

Source: Heritage Map, Kempsey Shire Council, 1987



Figure 1.6  
West Kempsey Cemetery, as viewed from River Street through the established row of trees, overlooking the northern boundary with the Kempsey District Hospital.



Figure 1.7  
Kempsey High School, as viewed from the intersection of Broughton and Tozer Streets.

## 1.7 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Sinclair Croft, Senior Heritage Consultant, of Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd and has been reviewed by the Director, Graham Brooks. Unless otherwise noted all of the photographs and drawings in this report are by Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd.

## 1.8 Report Limitations

This Report is limited to the analysis of the European history of the site. Recommendations have been made on the basis of documentary evidence viewed and inspection of the existing fabric.

A site inspection was undertaken on 16 July 2012 to determine the general condition and integrity of all of the buildings on site. As Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building) and Building 12 (the Blood Bank Building) are the oldest on the site, a thorough assessment of their fabric and condition was undertaken.

Archaeological assessment of the subject site is outside the scope of this report. The Archaeological Management Provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977* apply to any relics which are located below ground level. If, at any time, unexpected archaeological remains are uncovered or disturbed, work must stop immediately and the NSW Heritage Council must be notified.

This report only addresses the relevant heritage planning provisions and does not address general planning or environmental management considerations.

# Historical Summary

# 2.0

## 2.1 Brief History of the Macleay Valley

Prior to the arrival of Europeans the Macleay Valley was inhabited by the Ngamba-ngagu Aborigines. John Oxley passed through the area but he found the river swampy and inaccessible and did nothing to encourage settlement.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest European settlement was recorded in the area in 1827 when Captain A. C. Innes, the commandant at Port Macquarie, established a cedar party north of Euroka Creek on the Macleay River.

Farming was extensively carried out on the lower reaches of the Macleay. Sugar cane was tried but failed because of frosts. Dairying started early in the twentieth century and maize growing has always been an important staple industry.

Bullock and horse teams were used for transporting goods initially and shipping also played a major role in transport. Up until 1893, the entrance to the Macleay River was at Grassy Head and droghers regularly plied the river carrying produce to meet the ocean going ships which tied up at Kempsey wharf.<sup>2</sup>

## 2.2 Brief History of Kempsey

The first land grants were surveyed on the east bank of the Macleay River in 1835. Samuel Onion's grant of 802 acres was sold to Enoch William Rudder, a merchant from Birmingham who became Kempsey's first European settler.<sup>3</sup> The township itself was founded in 1836 when Rudder established a punt service across the Macleay.<sup>4</sup> He surveyed the land for a private town which he named Kempsey as he found the countryside reminiscent of the valley of Kempsey in the Severn Valley, Worcestershire, England.

Around this time, and until the early 1840s, the primary European interest was in the cedar. Land was leased on an annual licence fee. These "old runs" were later surveyed and the land purchased. Once timber was exhausted (by about 1842) the land returned to the pastoralists. At various times beef, sugar cane, maize and dairy cattle have formed the basis of the valley's rural economy until the 1970s. Beef continues to be a major product.<sup>5</sup>

In 1886, the borough of Kempsey was proclaimed. This name remained until the Municipality of Kempsey was established in 1907 with the formation of the Macleay Shire. The growth of the town was slow.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Kempsey Shire Council, *History of the Macleay Valley*.

<sup>3</sup> Kempsey Shire Council, *History of the Macleay Valley*.

<sup>4</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2004.

<sup>6</sup> Kempsey Shire Council, *History of the Macleay Valley*.

Kempsey consists of Central Kempsey, which began as a town in 1850, West Kempsey, proclaimed in 1856 and became, and is still known as, the 'civic' centre of Kempsey and South Kempsey, gazetted in 1926 as a town area after being included in the boundary of West Kempsey since 1859.<sup>7</sup>

Like so many towns along the New South Wales coast, Kempsey was still being served by coastal ferries until 1960, despite the railway reaching the town in 1917.<sup>8</sup>

Currently the town has a population of approximately 10,000. It is a large thriving town servicing the surrounding region which is traversed by the Pacific Highway.<sup>9</sup>

## 2.3 Historical Context of Health in Kempsey

### 2.3.1 Introduction

Historically, the Kempsey District Hospital was located in the Newcastle (Hunter River Combined) Health District.<sup>10</sup> The alterations, additions and new development outlined below demonstrates the continual phases of development associated with the ongoing improvement of medical facilities at the Kempsey District Hospital.

As is typical of medical facilities, major upgrades are carried out, such as the proposed redevelopment of the Kempsey District Hospital. This in turn will be followed by additional stages of development, additions and alterations as the health service and technology continues to improve and evolve. In addition, services need to expand to meet the needs of an increasing population.

### 2.3.2 Establishment of a Hospital (1880s)

Former master mariner David Colvin Coombes organised a public meeting on 19 May 1880 in the School of Arts Hall at Kempsey to discuss his idea that Kempsey needed a hospital.<sup>11</sup> As a result, the Hospital Board was founded in the same year.<sup>12</sup> Coombes was elected as honorary secretary<sup>13</sup> and he commenced taking collections for funding.<sup>14</sup>

Local member for the Hastings-Macleay, Sydney solicitor, Robert Burdett Smith, was given the responsibility of securing a grant of Crown land and a pound for pound subsidy for the building. Plans and specifications for the hospital building had been drawn up prior to the required funds being raised.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Kempsey Shire Council, *Kempsey*.

<sup>8</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2004.

<sup>9</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2004.

<sup>10</sup> C.J. Cummins, *A History of Medical Administration in New South Wales*, 1979.

<sup>11</sup> Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

<sup>12</sup> *The Daily Examiner*, *Macleay District Hospital*, 29 November 1917.

<sup>13</sup> Macleay Historical Society, *Macleay District Hospital*, 1962.

<sup>14</sup> Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

<sup>15</sup> Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.



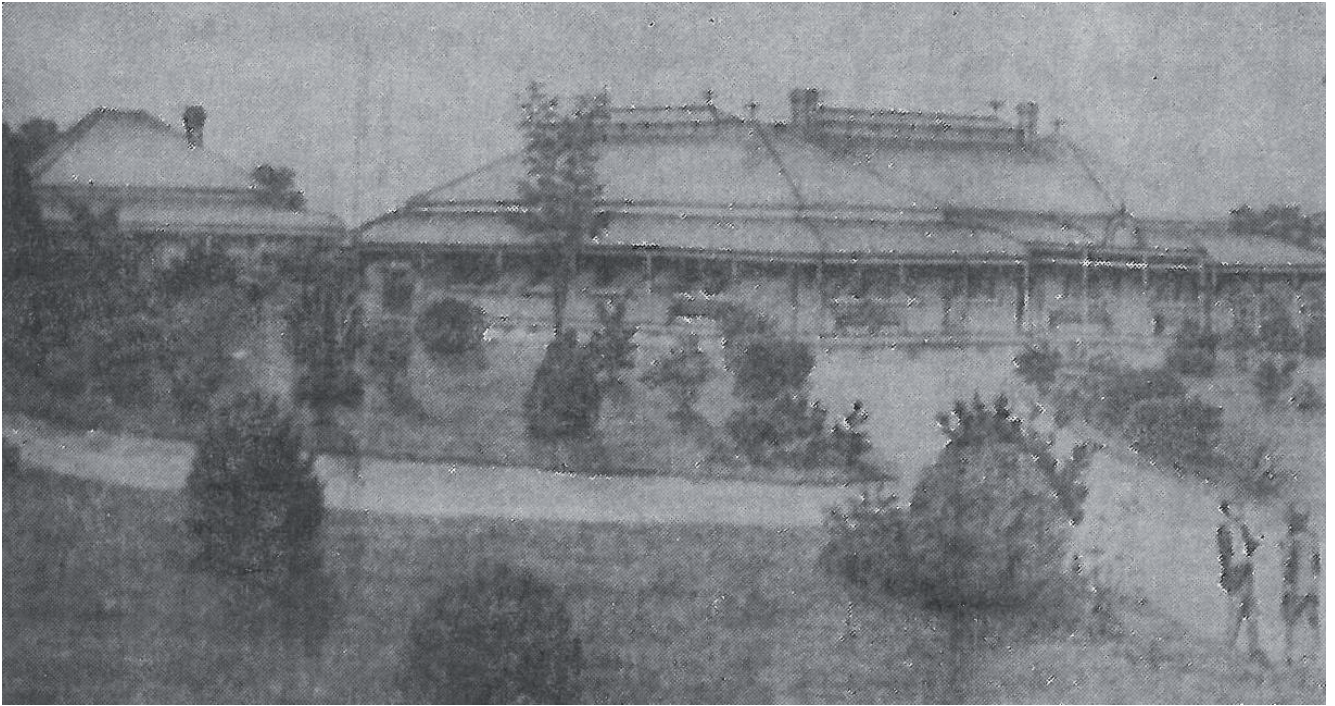


Figure 2.1

The original Macleay District Hospital, opened in 1881, photograph taken of a pen and ink drawing presented to W T Dangar, Esq. The separate nurse's quarters is visible to the left. These were retained for a period and used in conjunction with the preceding 1913 Hospital Building.

Source: *The Macleay Argus*, June 1964

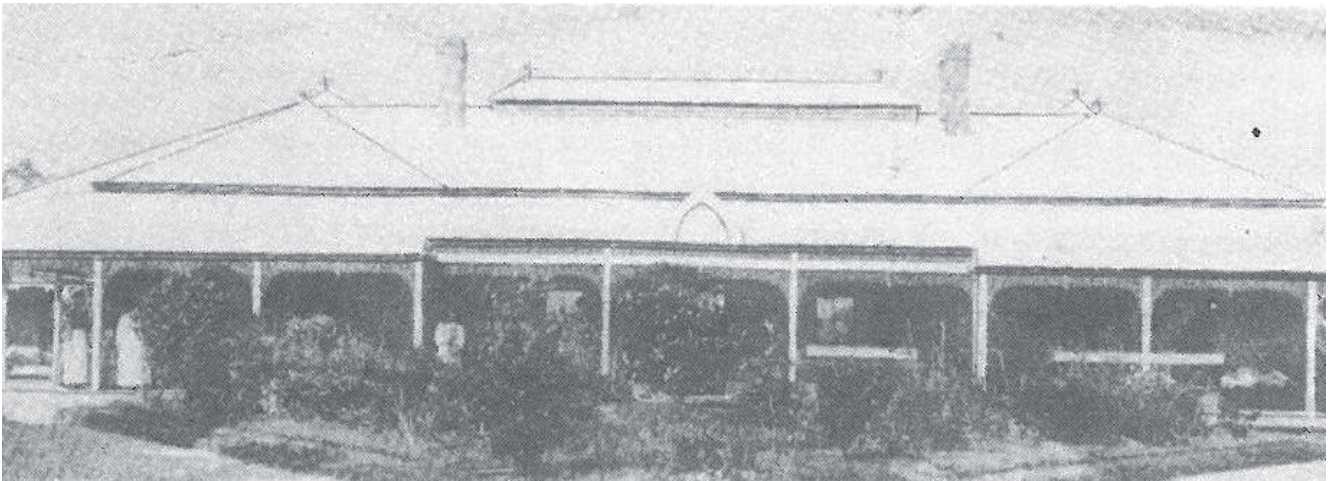


Figure 2.2

The original hospital, 1889.

Source: Riggs, P. *A Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*

From historical photographs and drawings, it is known the first hospital building was single storey with a hipped roof. A verandah wrapped around at least three sides, with decorative iron lace between verandah posts. Chimneys are visible and some form of detailing was located over the centre verandah roof. The building was set within landscaped gardens.

Although the first steps to building the hospital had been taken, the NSW Government did not gazette its dedication of six acres 24 perches of land for hospital usage until March 1881.<sup>16</sup>

The Government provided a grant of £400 as part payment of its contribution towards half of the costs. Coombes signed a contract in May 1881 for the erection of a two ward hospital. Specifications included a detached kitchen and an underground tank.<sup>17</sup> The cost of the building was £1,375.<sup>18</sup> The building contractor was Mr Robert Masterton.<sup>19</sup>

Thick bush enclosed the hospital site. It was located on a track servicing the riverside settlement of Greenhills and beyond.<sup>20</sup>

According to a local, James O'Brien, the bricks were handmade by Henry Perrin at his brickworks in Perrins Lane, West Kempsey. Timber was supplied by Thos. Hennessy's mill at the river side of River Street. Cabinetmaker, Archie Smith, of Smith Street, made most of the furniture.<sup>21</sup>

The Hospital Committee invited local member Robert Burdett Smith, to lay the foundation stone on 24 November 1880.<sup>22</sup> Copies of the *Macleay Herald*, dated 20 November 1880, a copy of the *Macleay Chronicle*, dated 18 November 1880, and a £5 note were placed under the foundation stone of the building.<sup>23</sup> These and the foundation stones disappeared when the building was demolished in 1913.<sup>24</sup>

The hospital was opened on 7 December 1881 with a capacity of 24 beds.<sup>25</sup>

A copy of Smith's speech titled "*Delivered at the Ceremony of the opening of the Macleay District Hospital, New South Wales, on 24 May, 1882, the Anniversary of the Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Victoria*", illustrates the building was opened on the anniversary of the Queen's birthday.<sup>26</sup>

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16 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

17 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*, National Library of Australia, Canberra, 1981.

18 Macleay Historical Society, *Macleay District Hospital*, Kempsey District Hospital Files, n.d.

19 Macleay Historical Society, *Macleay District Hospital*, 1962

20 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

21 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

22 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

23 Macleay Historical Society, *Macleay District Hospital*, 1962

24 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

25 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

26 State Library, *Copy of Smith's Speech*, 1882.



The West Kempsey Cemetery adjoining the site was already in use when the hospital was constructed. The original cemetery boundary extended west across River Street down to the river. Part of the original cemetery was also located within the hospital site.<sup>27</sup>

In February 1886, there was discussion of erecting a new building on site. In July 1887, the committee discussed the construction of a new female ward.<sup>28</sup>

### 2.3.3 Expansion of Hospital Land (1905)

In 1905, the hospital had 26 beds and a daily average of 12 patients. It was apparent the hospital was becoming dated and in anticipation, the Hospital Committee commenced the process of acquiring by grant five acres and two perches which was dedicated in 1880. Although the committee was secure in its land tenure, its finances were not. One of the reasons for this was the provision of additional hospital facilities which had been constructed at Bellingen and the Hastings, formerly serviced by the institution at Kempsey.<sup>29</sup>

## 2.4 A New Hospital Building - 1913

The *Macleay Argus* reported the consideration by the Hospital Committee to move the hospital site to Broughton Street. This plan appears to have been discounted given the additional costs that would have been required for the nurses accommodation. The same article also mentioned the Hospital Committee was negotiating the purchase of two acres of adjoining land to screen the view of the cemetery from the existing hospital site with plantings of large ornamental trees.<sup>30</sup>

The 1913 Government Architect drawings for the new hospital building (Building 1A) included the separate Isolation Block (Building 12) and two bathrooms (Building 1D) off the verandah on the eastern elevation. They are recorded in a 1936 floor plan of the building.<sup>31</sup> The southern bathroom was either incorporated into, or demolished, for construction of the Casualty Ward.<sup>32</sup> In turn this ward would be later converted into the Aboriginal Ward, before being demolished.

The original hospital building was demolished in 1913.<sup>33</sup>



Figure 2.3  
A copy of the Property Title illustrating the "Extn to Hospital Site, Dedd 10 Jan 1888".

Source: Macleay Historical Society, n.d.

27 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

28 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

29 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

30 Macleay Argus, *The New Hospital*, 21 March 1913.

31 Department of Finance and Services, *New Main & Kitchen Blocks etc*, PH109/30, 1936

32 Department of Finance and Services, PH109/13, *Block Plan*, 1920.

33 Macleay Historical Society, *Macleay District Hospital*, Kempsey District Hospital Files, n.d.

Mrs Lavinia Keast as quoted in *A Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*, stated that the original hospital was not demolished to make way for the existing 1913 Hospital Building. According to Mrs Keast the new building was constructed around it with the timbers, roof and the floor being replaced, but the shell of the old building and the kitchen were incorporated into the new building.<sup>34</sup> The new building included 24 beds, with an additional 2 beds for infectious diseases. Constructed at a cost of £6,500, £1,400 was provided by public donation with the balance provided by Government grants. The new hospital building was opened in September 1913.<sup>35</sup>

Figure 2.4 below illustrates the approximate location of the original hospital and that of Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building). Providing the location of both buildings is accurate, it is evident they shared the same location but not the same layout. It is considered unlikely that the old building was incorporated into the new building. Upon inspection of the below figure it is evident that the shell of the old building could not have been incorporated into the new building as the walls and the footprint of the original and current building do not align. There is no physical evidence of any 1880s hospital fabric being incorporated into the 1913 building. All the existing material is consistent with early twentieth century fabric.

There may have been a number of scenarios for Mrs Keast to believe the old hospital building was being incorporated into the new building. For example, it is the possible that staged demolition of the old hospital building was undertaken while the new hospital building was being constructed. This could have enabled the continued use of the old building until a sufficient component of the new building was constructed to allow the hospital operations to be transferred to this building.

The *Macleay Argus* reports the steamer *Duranbah* arrived at Kempsey on 18 October 1913 with bricks for the new Macleay District Hospital. A quantity of other building material also arrived by steamer *Yulgilbar* the following week.

The same article reported local bricks had not been supplied in sufficient quantity to keep construction running on the internal walls, slowing progress. The quality of the bricks was said to be unequalled for quality in the market, and specified for outside work only.<sup>36</sup>

Mr A H Turtin was the foreman in charge of the construction of the new hospital.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

<sup>35</sup> Macleay Historical Society, *Macleay District Hospital*, Kempsey District Hospital Files, n.d.

<sup>36</sup> *Macleay Argus*, 24 October 1913.

<sup>37</sup> *Macleay Argus*, 24 October 1913.

In 1913 the *Macleay Chronicle* recorded that:

*“from its hilltop advantage, [the hospital] affords the convalescents sheltered beneath its broad verandahs a chance to enjoy every breeze that blows, and a glorious view - ranging from the placid river in the foreground...”*<sup>38</sup>

The Report of the Department of Public Works for the Year Ended 30 June 1915, records the following in relation to the Kempsey Hospital:

*“Macleay District Hospital (Kempsey) - These buildings were completed by the day labour staff during the year and comprise new main block, kitchen block, and additions to nurses’ quarters. The walls of the main and kitchen blocks are of brick on concrete footings, plastered internally, and with wooden floors to the wards, duty rooms, and kitchen block, and solid floors to verandahs and lavatory blocks. The main building contains male ward 51 feet x 24 feet, accommodating twelve beds, female ward 35 feet x 24 feet, eight bed, two special wards, matrons and committee rooms, lavatory blocks for both sexes, and verandahs 10 feet wide all round the block, floored with concrete. The kitchen block comprises large kitchen, dining room, man’s room, pantry, store, scullery, maid’s room, laundry, lavatory block, verandahs, and covered way connecting with main building.”*

<sup>39</sup>

On 12 September 1913 the new building was inaugurated and was opened a year later.<sup>40</sup> The opening of the hospital took place on Saturday 12 December. New South Wales’ first Minister for Public Health, the Hon. Frederick Flowers, attended the ceremony.<sup>41</sup> The capacity of the hospital was described as being about 50 people,<sup>42</sup> and anticipated to cost £30 a year to maintain the new hospital.<sup>43</sup>

At the opening of the new hospital building, Mr W O’Meara, President of the Hospital Committee, described the building as:

*“...up to date in every respect, and substantial enough to stand for centuries... but it must not be forgotten that the nucleus of this building fund was given by admirers of the dear old friend Dr Casement, for so many years closely connected with the institution.”*<sup>44</sup>

In recognition of this fact, the Male Ward was originally named the Casement Wing after Dr BN Casement.

Between 1913 and 1919 the name of the hospital on the Government Architect drawings changed from the Macleay District Hospital to the Kempsey District Hospital.

<sup>38</sup> *Macleay Chronicle*, 16 December 1914.

<sup>39</sup> *Legislative Assembly* 1915.

<sup>40</sup> *The Daily Examiner*, 29 November 1917.

<sup>41</sup> Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

<sup>42</sup> *The Daily Examiner*, 29 November 1917.

<sup>43</sup> *Macleay Chronicle*, 16 December 1914.

<sup>44</sup> *Macleay Chronicle*, 16 December 1914.





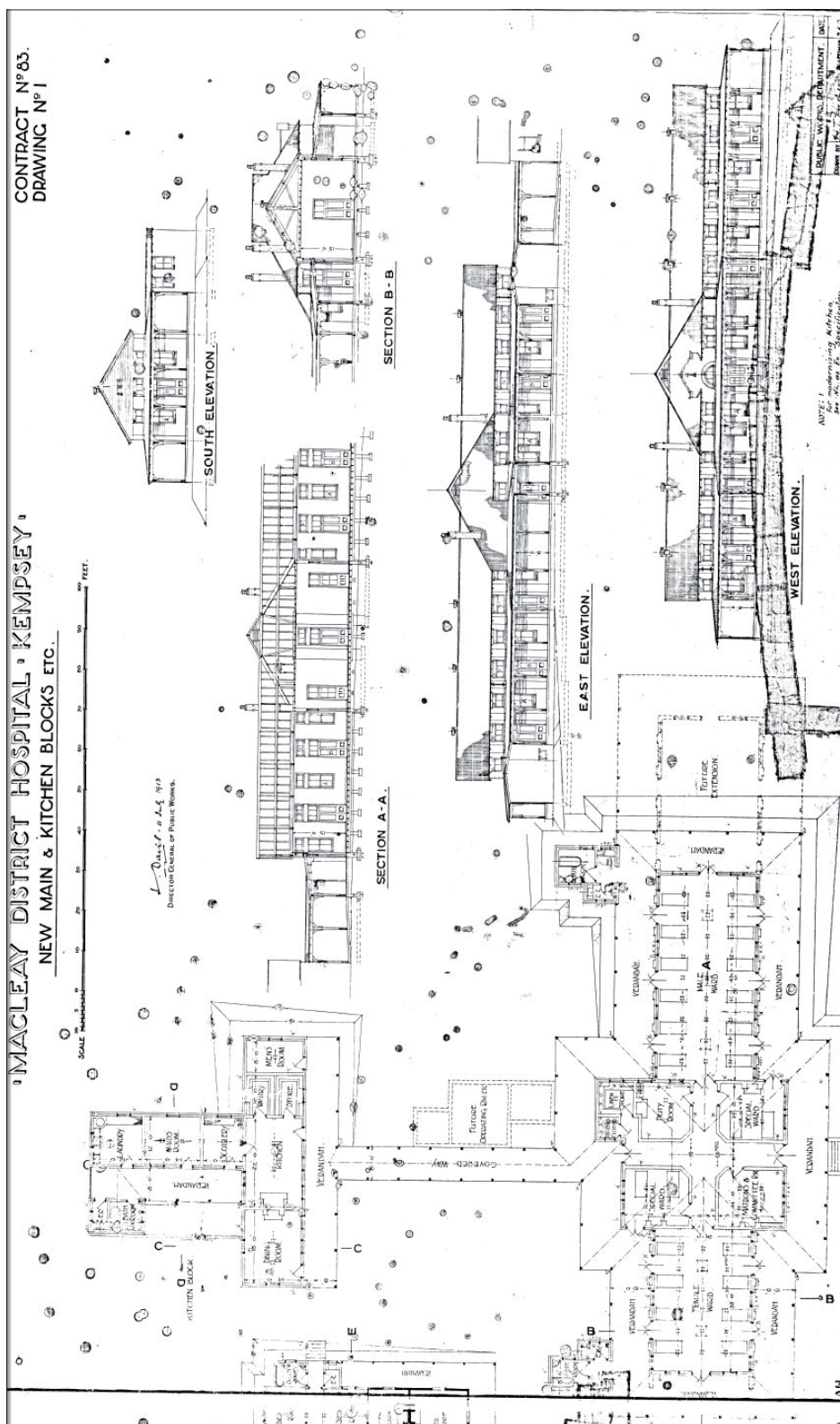


Figure 2.5  
The 1913 Government Architect drawings for the new hospital buildings, inclusive of Building 1A, kitchen and Maid's Quarters.



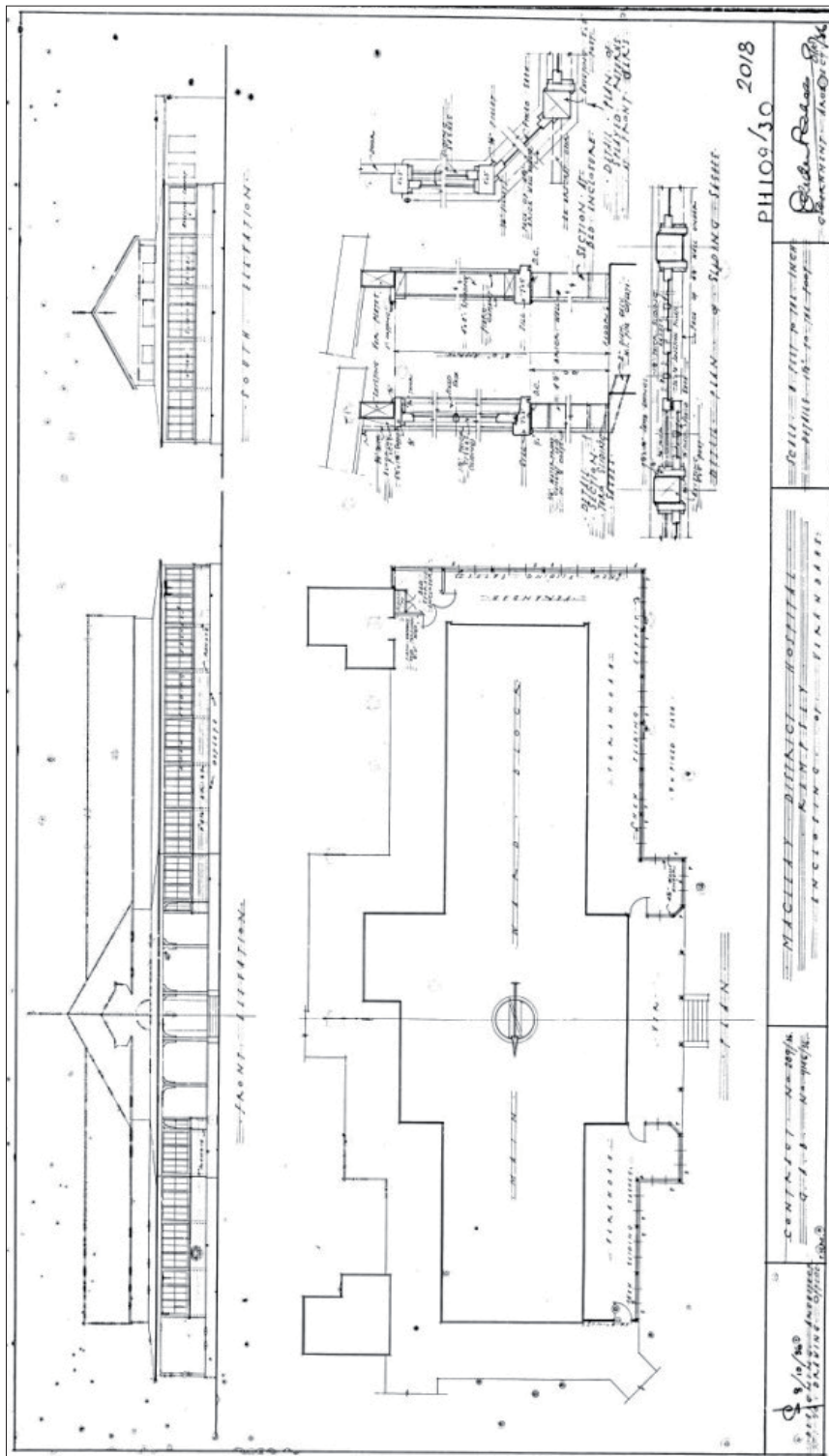


Figure 2.6  
The 1936 Government Architect drawings illustrating the proposed enclosure of the front verandah of Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building). The drawings include detail for the sliding windows. These works were carried out.

Source: Department of Finance and Services, *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - Enclosing of Verandah*, PH109/30, 1936



Figure 2.7  
An undated photograph of Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building). The picket fence in the foreground is known to have existed in 1920 (refer to the image below).

Source: Kempsey District Hospital, n.d.



Figure 2.8  
The Kempsey District Hospital, Building 1A, as viewed from River Street in 1920.

Source: State Library, 1920.



Figure 2.9  
A food trolley leaving the kitchen for the wards in 1921. The old nurse's quarters, constructed in 1881, is visible to the left and the nursing staff dining room is located behind the trellis, centre right in the image.

Source: Riggs, P. *A Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

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Conveniences that were modern at the time were not included in the new hospital design. Deep trench latrines were provided, which were regularly treated with lime. These were located to the rear of the hospital site, towards the Tozer Street boundary with the cemetery.<sup>45</sup>

A hot water service was installed by 1918<sup>46</sup>. A septic tank and electric light were installed in the 1920s at an additional cost of £1,000.<sup>47</sup>

Plans were drafted in 1936 for the enclosure of the front verandahs on the western elevation of Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building).<sup>48</sup>

Domestic Quarters adjoining the eastern side of the kitchen block had been constructed by 1947. The addition included scullery, maid's room, laundry and bathroom.<sup>49</sup>

Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building) was renovated and completely refurbished for its new role as the Assessment and Rehabilitation Unit in 1977.<sup>50</sup>

## 2.5 Inter War Development

### 2.5.1 Isolation Block (Building 12 - 1919)

In 1919, specific Government Architect drawings were drafted for the Isolation Block. The design was a replica of the Isolation Block included in the 1913 plans.<sup>51</sup>

The Report of the Department of Public Works records the Isolation Block as having been erected by 1920 and at a cost of £850.<sup>52</sup>

It is most likely this building was constructed as a result to the Spanish Flu Pandemic. The Spanish flu swept across the world in three waves between 1918 and 1919. It tended to affect an area for up to 12 weeks and then would suddenly disappear, almost as quickly as it had arrived, only to return several months later.

In terms of the loss of human lives, the Spanish flu was unprecedented in modern times. More people died during the pandemic than were killed in the First World War. The illness came on suddenly and progressed rapidly to respiratory failure and in some instances death. Many people died from bacterial disease after infection with influenza (known as secondary bacterial infection).

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45 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

46 Legislative Assembly, 1919.

47 *The Daily Examiner*, 29 November 1917.

48 Department of Finance and Services, P109/36: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - Enclosing of Verandahs*, 1935

49 Department of Finance and Services, P109/37: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - Block Plan Showing Drainage*, 1937.

50 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

51 Department of Finance and Services, *Kempsey Hospital*, PH109/13, 1919.

52 Legislative Assembly, 1920.



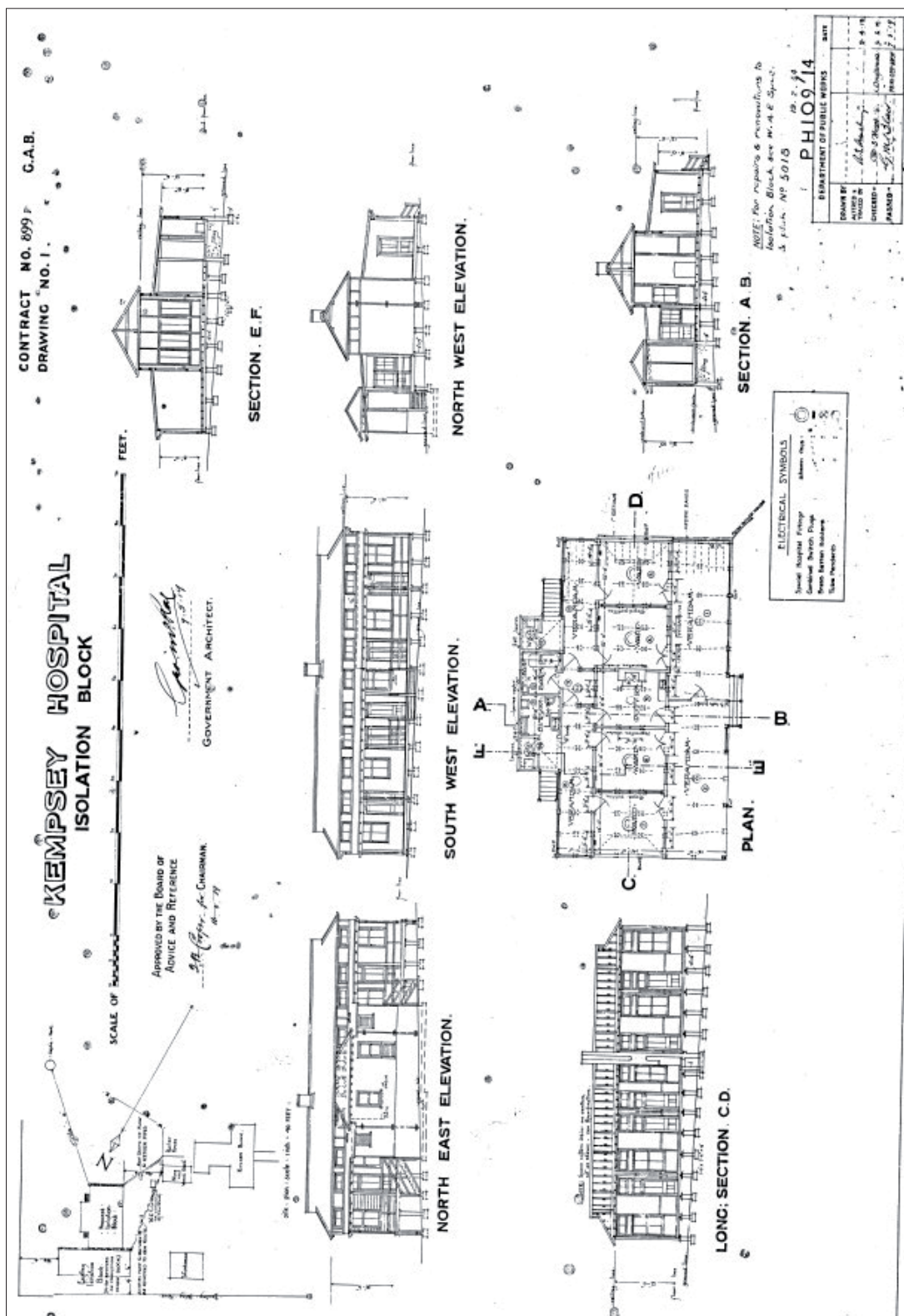


Figure 2.10  
The 1919 Government Architect drawings for Building 12 (the Isolation Block).

Source: Department of Finance and Services, *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - New Main & Kitchen Blocks, etc*, PH109/14, 1919

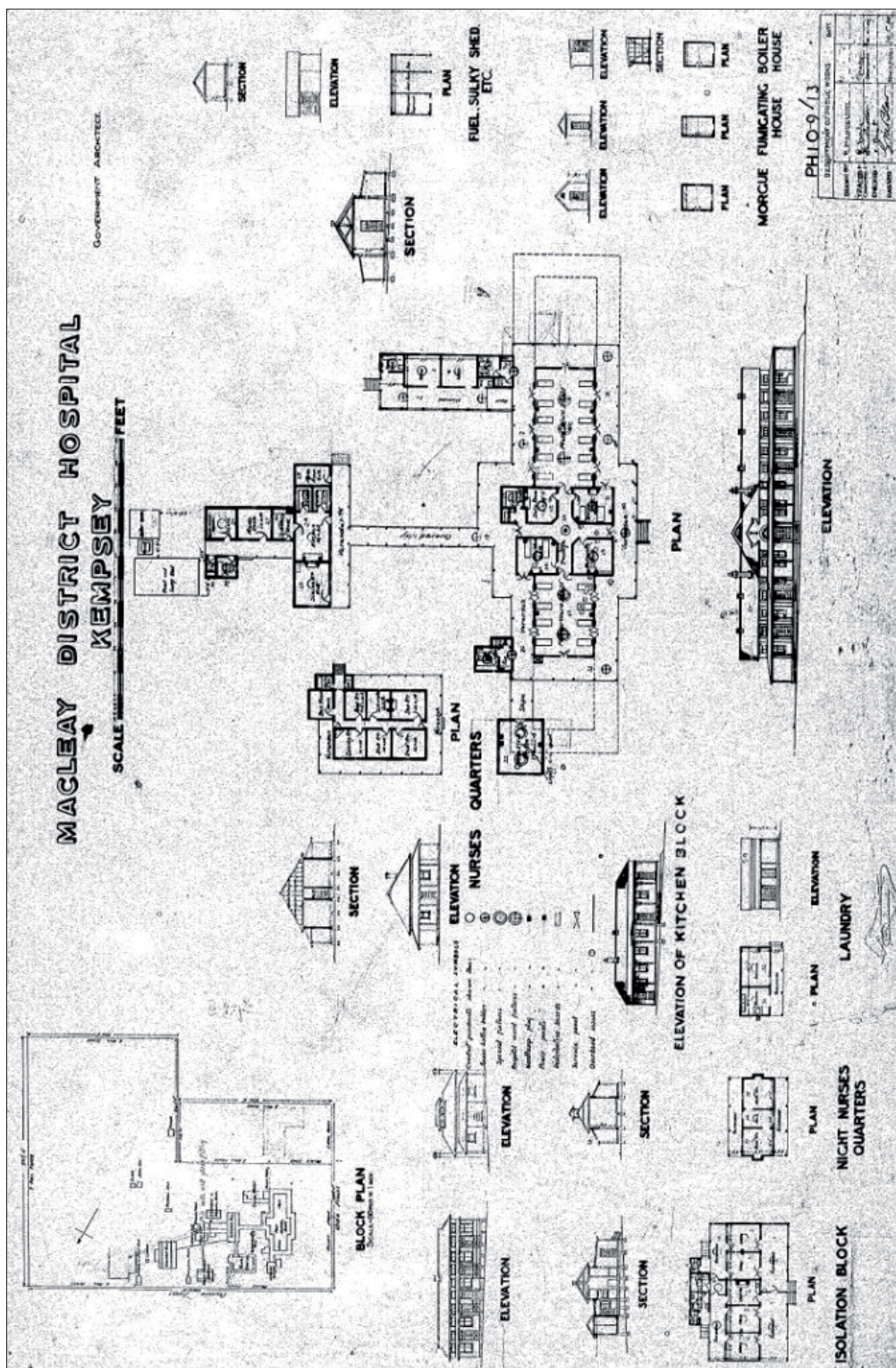


Figure 2.11  
The 1920 Government Architect drawings including Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building), Building 12 (the Isolation Block), Night Nurses Quarters, Laundry, Fuel and Sulky Shed, Morgue, Fumigating House, Boiler House and Block Plan.

Source: Department of Finance and Services, *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - New Main & Kitchen Blocks, etc*, PH109/13, 1920



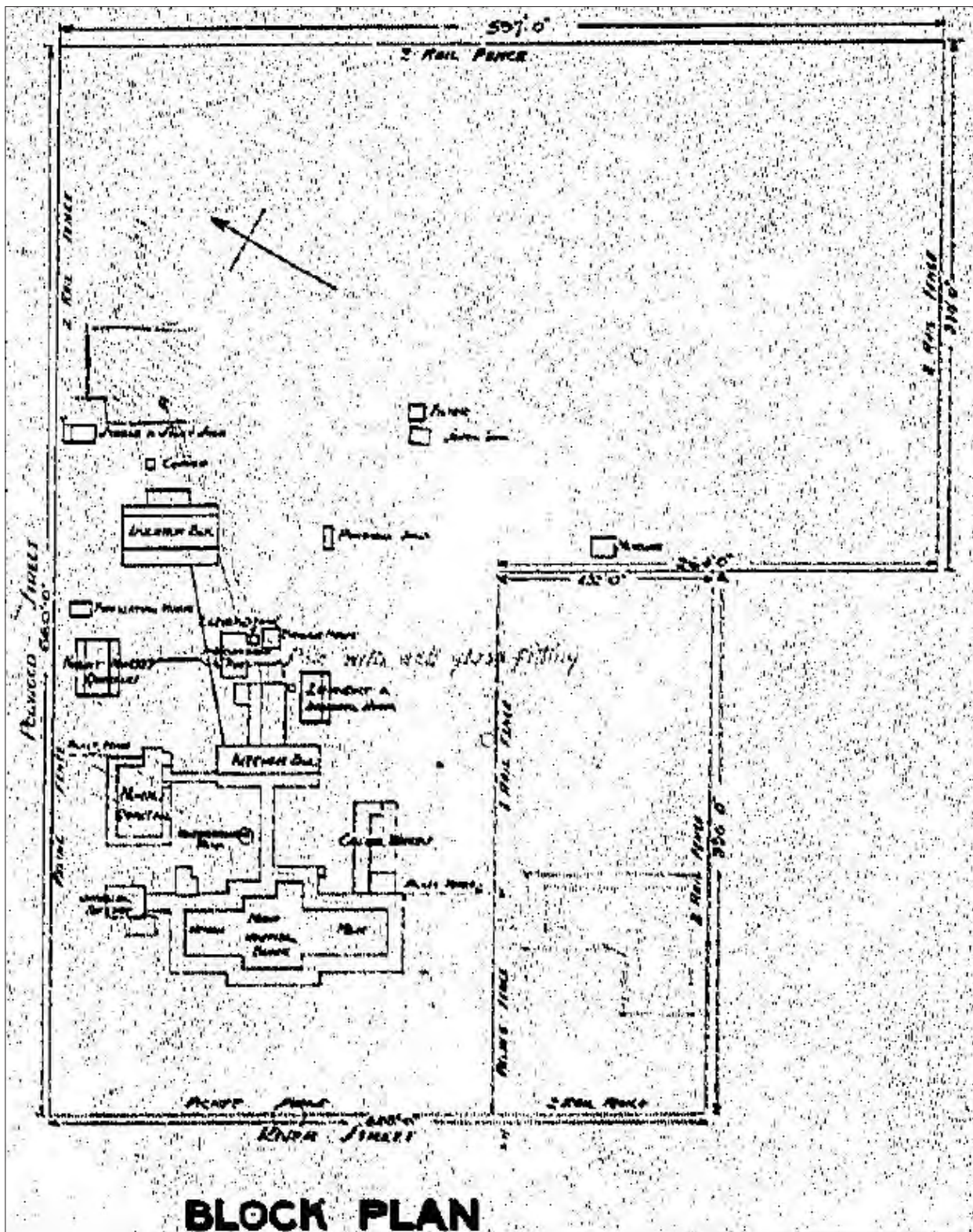


Figure 2.12  
Detail of the Block Plan from the 1920 Government Architect drawings. This confirms Building 12 (the Isolation Block) had been constructed by this time.

Source: Department of Finance and Services, *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - New Main & Kitchen Blocks, etc*, PH109/13, 1920

Worldwide, at least 50 million people are thought to have died, with unusually high numbers of deaths in young and healthy people aged 15 to 35 years. It has been estimated that about 25 per cent of the world's population was infected. Global spread and severity were influenced by the war and the movement of troops.

The Spanish flu did not reach Australia until 1919, partly because of strict maritime quarantine implemented by the government. It began in Victoria, spread to New South Wales then to the rest of Australia. By the end of 1919 (when the Australian population was just over 5 million), around 10,000 Australians, mostly young adults, had died of influenza. Health services in Australia were greatly stretched during this time.<sup>53</sup>

Reference to the Isolation Block had changed to the Blood Bank by 1955 which illustrates a change in use and associated modification of the building fabric including complete enclosure of the verandahs.<sup>54</sup>

### 2.5.2 Casualty Ward (Aboriginal Block - 1920s)

Plans were drafted up in 1920 for the addition of a Casualty Ward at the south eastern corner of the 1913 Hospital Building. It appears the southern bathroom was incorporated as part of the construction of the Casualty Ward<sup>55</sup>. This is evident in the 1936 Block Plan for the site which illustrates the building footprints. This later became the Aboriginal Block at least by 1946 when additions were drafted for the Aboriginal Block.<sup>56</sup>

### 2.5.3 Laundry Block (1935)

In 1935 a new laundry block was proposed to replace the original laundry, located south of the kitchen block. This was in the approximate location of the existing Physiotherapy Building.<sup>57</sup> By 1955 the Laundry had been converted to a Works building and a new Laundry and Boiler House had been constructed to the south of Building 12 (the Isolation Block).<sup>58</sup> The latter buildings have since been demolished. The laundry is now located within Building 5A (the Ward Block).

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<sup>53</sup> Department of Health and Aging, 2013.

<sup>54</sup> NSW Health, P109/15: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - Additions to Main Block & Nurse's Home*, 1955.

<sup>55</sup> Department of Finance and Services, PH109/13, *Block Plan*, 1920.

<sup>56</sup> Department of Finance and Services, P109/46: *Site Plan*, 1946.

<sup>57</sup> Department of Finance and Services, P109/35: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - New Laundry Block*, 1935.

<sup>58</sup> NSW Health, P109/15: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - Additions to Main Block & Nurse's Home*, 1955.



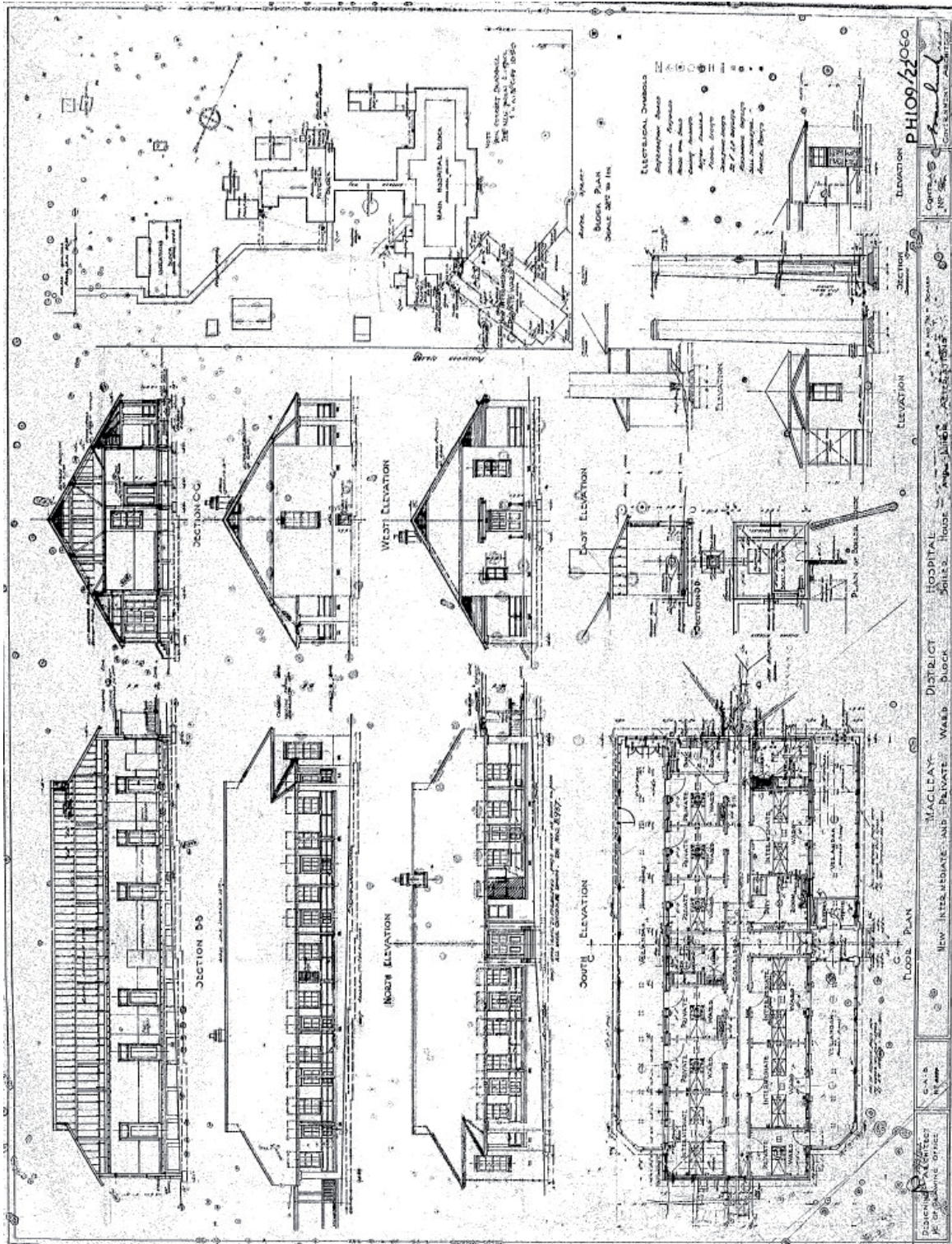


Figure 2.13  
The 1934 Government Architect drawings for Building 17B (the New Intermediate and Private Ward Block) to be located to the north west of Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building). This building would later serve as the Maternity Block for a period. It is currently used as the Mental Health Building.

Source: Department of Finance and Services, *Macleay District Hospital - New Intermediate and Private Ward Block*, PH109/22, 1934

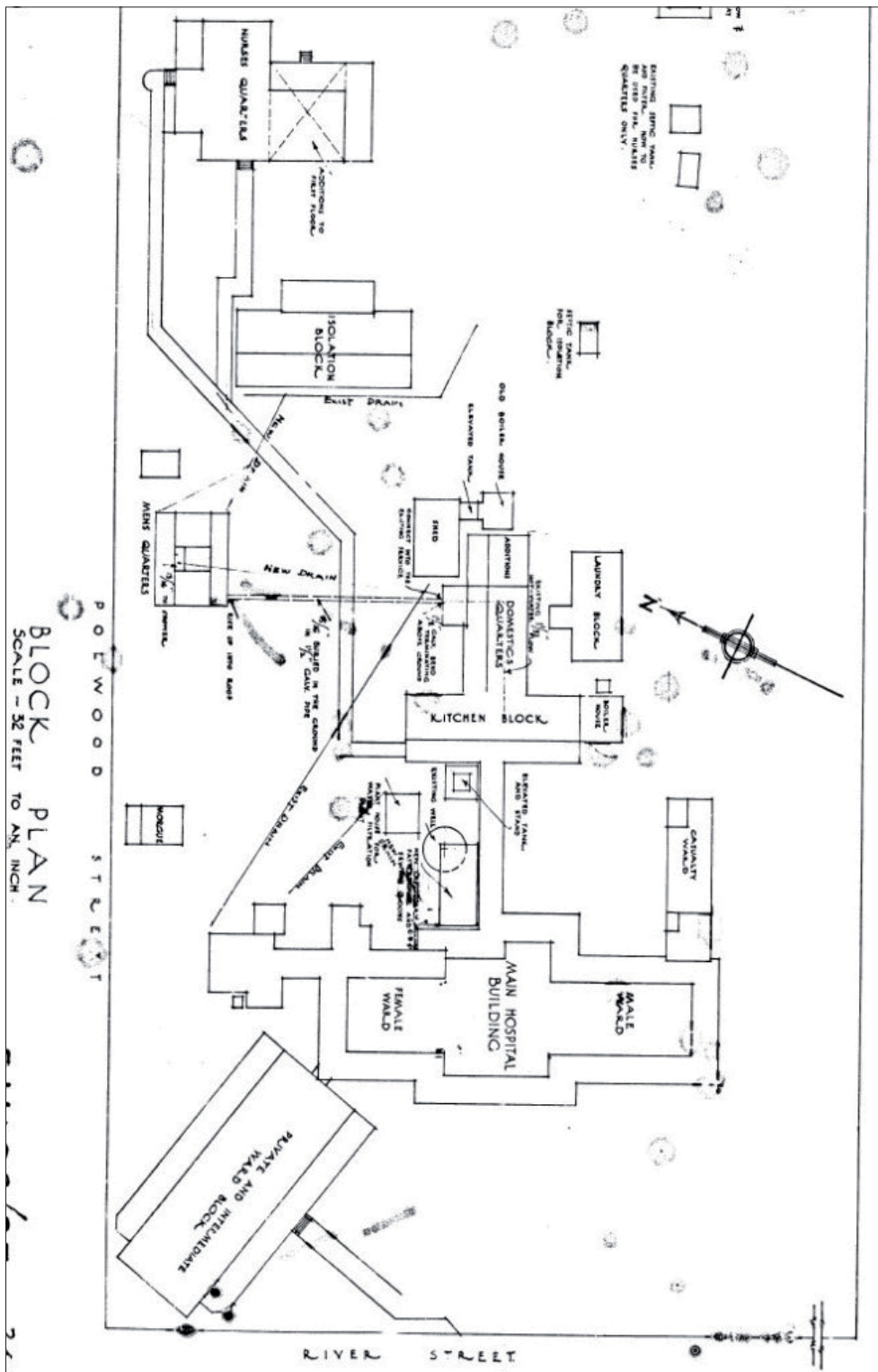


Figure 2.14  
The 1936 Government Architect Block Plan for the site. This shows the Nurses Quarters, Building 12 (Isolation Block), Men's Quarters, Morgue, Private and Intermediate Ward Block, Building 1C (Pathological, Dispensary and Sewing Room), Boiler House, Laundry Block and Casualty Ward had all been constructed by this date.

Source: Department of Finance and Services, *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - New Main & Kitchen Blocks, etc*, PH109/27, 1936



#### 2.5.4 Private and Intermediate Ward Block (Building 17B - 1936)

The Government Architect's Office drafted plans for Building 17B (the Private and Intermediate Ward Block) in 1934<sup>59</sup>. The 1936 Block Plan for the hospital site illustrates that the Private and Intermediate Ward Block had been constructed to the north western corner of the 1913 Hospital Building.<sup>60</sup> As annotated in the 1960s Drainage Plan, this building was later used as the Maternity Block. This building is currently used as the Mental Health Building.

#### 2.5.5 Dispensary, Pathological and Sewing Rooms (Building 1C - 1936)

Plans were drawn up in 1936 for Building 1C (the Dispensary, Pathological and Sewing Rooms). These were located at the rear (eastern elevation) of Building 1A (the 1913 Hospital Building) to the north of the covered way linking the building to the Kitchen building.<sup>61</sup> The 1946 Site Plan confirms this building had been constructed by this time.<sup>62</sup>

#### 2.5.6 Nurse's Home (Building 13A - 1936)

The 1936 Site Plan illustrates that a new, separate Nurse's Quarters had been established to the east of the Isolation Block.<sup>63</sup> The 1946 Site Plan confirms additions to the nurse's home had been completed.<sup>64</sup>

In 1961, a new Nurses Quarters was constructed facing to Polwood Street.<sup>65</sup>

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59 Department of Finance and Services, P109/22: *Macleay District Hospital - New Intermediate and Private Ward Block*, 1934.

60 Department of Finance and Services, *New Main & Kitchen Blocks etc*, PH109/30, 1936.

61 Department of Finance and Services, *New Main & Kitchen Blocks etc*, PH109/30, 1936.

62 Department of Finance and Services, P109/46: *Site Plan*, 1946.

63 Department of Finance and Services, *Site Plan*, PH109/30, 1936

64 Department of Finance and Services, P109/15: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - Additions*, 1946

65 NSW Health, P109/15: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - New Buildings*, 1961



### 2.5.7 Operating Block (Building 17C - 1937)

By 1937, an Operating Block had been constructed to the north of the 1913 building.<sup>66</sup> This building was made redundant after the construction of the 1955 Main Block (Building 5A) and subsequently adapted for use by Mental Health administration.

### 2.5.8 Considered Expansion (1940s)

The desire and need to innovate and improve was, and still is, a constant factor in the development of medical institutions.<sup>67</sup>

The Hospital Commission made a promise for nurse's quarters in 1944. Calls for tenders were stalled until mid 1946 with the Commission explaining that it was considering requests for alterations from the Board and the nurses. In March 1947, the Commission announced that the children's ward would be ready for occupation in June and that the nurse's home would be completed by September. It was also said a new maternity ward would be constructed.<sup>68</sup>

## 2.6 Post War Development

### 2.6.1 Children's Ward (Building 16 - 1946)

Building 16, a children's Ward Block, had been constructed to the north east of the 1913 Hospital Building by 1946. This resulted in the demolition of the original Mortuary. A new Mortuary facing Polwood Street was constructed.<sup>69</sup> The original Children's Ward is currently used as the Rehabilitation Building.

### 2.6.2 Kiosk (Building 2 - 1946)

A kiosk, prior to the existing kiosk, is also shown as being located to the west of the 1913 Hospital Building. Located just to the south of the current kiosk building, this was prior to the Daisy Turner BEM Kiosk.<sup>70</sup>

The footprint of Building 2 (the Daisy Turner BEM Kiosk), with the former kiosk location, is marked with a dotted line on the 1961 Site Plan.<sup>71</sup> The Daisy Turner BEM Kiosk was opened on 13 March 1964.<sup>72</sup>

66 Department of Finance and Services, P109/37: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - Block Plan Showing Drainage*, 1937.

67 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

68 Riggs, P. A. *Century of Caring: A History of the Kempsey District Hospital*.

69 Department of Finance and Services, P109/15: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - Additions*, 1946

70 Department of Finance and Services, P109/15: *Macleay District Hospital Kempsey - Additions*, 1946

71 Department of Finance and Services, *New Main & Kitchen Blocks etc*, PH109/47, 1961.

72 Anonymous, *New Hospital Kiosk*, 13 March 1964.