

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR SCHEDULED HERITAGE BUILDING: FORMER QUEEN MARY MATERNITY HOSPITAL



Photograph: September 2020 (Google Street View)

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Temporary 2GP Scheduled Heritage Building Reference No:	BX059
Address:	310 Castle Street, Central Dunedin, Dunedin
Located within a Heritage Precinct:	No
HNZPT List Reference & Description:	N/A
Heritage Covenant:	No
Building Use at Time of Record:	Education
Condition of Property:	Building not known to be at risk due to condition

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

Historic/Social	Meets criteria
Spiritual/Cultural	Does not meet criteria
Design	Meets criteria
Technological/Scientific	Does not meet criteria
RECOMMENDATION:	
The building meets one or more of the significance criteria from Policy 2.4.2.1.b and is recommended for inclusion in Appendix A1.1 of the 2GP.	

RECOMMENDED PROTECTION

[Tick]	Features	Details
✓	Building envelope	Entire external building envelope
	External/ancillary elements	
	Internal elements and/or rooms	No
✓	Excluded elements	Roof plant, the north (north-east) wall of the c.1948 northwest wing (extension to the earlier component), steel framed windows on the internal elevations (overlooking the former obstetric theatre).

Proposed Wording for Heritage Schedule Entry:

Entire external building envelope excluding the north (north-east) wall of the c.1948 northwest wing, the roof plant, and steel framed windows on the internal elevations (overlooking the original obstetric theatre)



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former Queen Mary Maternity Hospital has heritage significance to Dunedin. The building was erected in mid-1930s to the design of local firm Mason & Wales in keeping with the classical styling of other hospital and medical school buildings. The former Queen Mary Maternity Hospital has historic and social significance for its association with the history of mother and baby care in Dunedin, as well as the training of maternity staff, and design significance as a Neoclassical building that retains a high level of exterior authenticity and integrity.

The former Queen Mary Maternity Hospital is comparable to scheduled heritage buildings within Dunedin of a similar history and period. When compared with other scheduled buildings, it meets the threshold to be included on the district plan heritage schedule.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Architectural Period	Interwar (1914-1939)
Style	Neoclassical
Era/Date of Construction	1936-37 + 1950 additions
Architect/Designer/Builder	Mason & Wales, architects; Messrs WH Naylor Ltd, contractors (1936-37)
Historic Use & Cultural Associations	Healthcare facility
Primary Construction Materials	Reinforced concrete, brick, render, steel-framed windows.
Notable Architectural Characteristics	Typical Neoclassical detailing. Central projecting bay. Symmetry. Commemorative foundation stone and opening tablet.

Previous site development

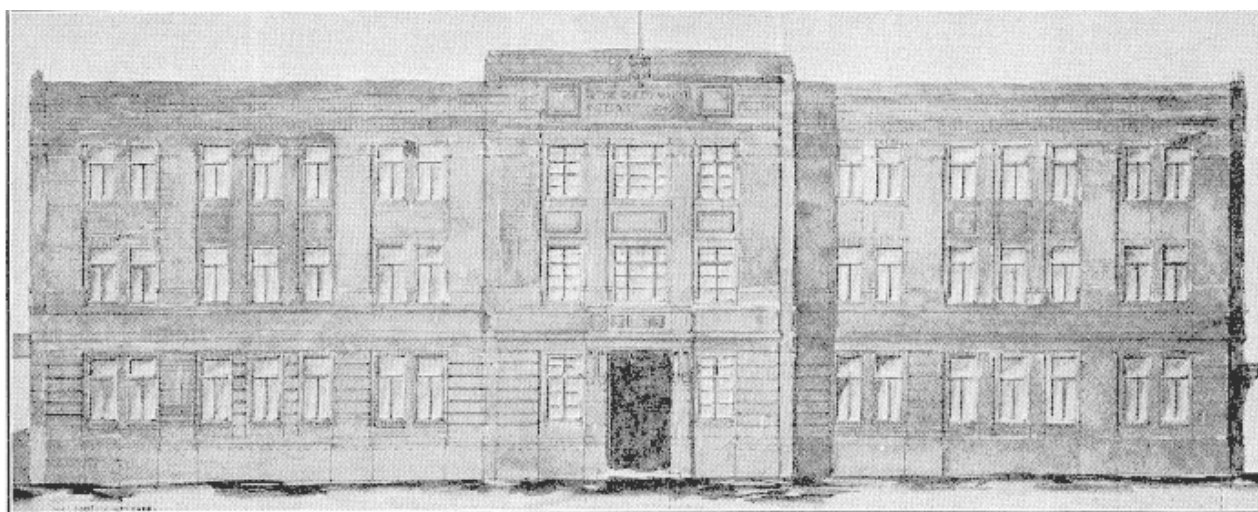
Historic survey plans show several residential buildings on the subject site before Queen Mary Maternity Hospital was erected in the mid-1930s. At the rear of the site, with access from Cumberland Street, was the Dunedin Bowling Club (est. 1872). The new hospital superseded St Helen's Hospital (1905) and the Batcheler Hospital of 1907, which were located on other sites.

Maternity Hospitals

In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, most Pākehā women gave birth at home supported by midwives, family, or neighbours. Small private maternity hospitals provided an alternative to home care. In the 1920s, New Zealand had the second-highest maternal mortality rate in the Western world. Procedures emphasising infection control led to birth being medicalised, managed by doctors in hospitals. From 1939, free maternity care was available in public hospitals. Queen Mary Maternity Hospital illustrates the trend toward public maternity care. The hospital provided obstetric training for medical students and allowed for the training of more midwives.¹

Building design and construction

The decision was made to name the new maternity hospital in Castle Street the Queen Mary Maternity Hospital in July 1935. The architects, Mason & Wales, presented their drawings to the Otago Hospital Board in late October 1935. Tenders were called in February 1936 and construction was under way by June of the same year.



Otago Daily Times 26 October 1935, p. 5. PapersPast.

In August 1936 Walter and Susannah Scott endowed a bed in the hospital to mark their golden wedding anniversary; at their request the bed was to be known as the 'Alma Scott' after their daughter, who was a science teacher before her marriage to John McCrae in October 1937. In addition to government funding and private support from the Scott family and others, the Dunedin Savings Bank also made a large donation to the hospital, which was recognised by the installation of a tablet in the entrance hall.

¹ Department Of Health. Annual Report of the Director-General of Health. *Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1938 Session I, H-31p.5.*

THE FINANCIAL SIDE.

In a container under the foundation stone was placed a sheet of vellum bearing the following record:—

“The foundation stone of this building was laid by His Excellency the Right Honourable Viscount Galway, G.C.M.G., D.S.O., O.B.E., Governor-General of New Zealand, in the presence of the chairman and members of

the Otago Hospital Board and representatives of local bodies and other societies in the Otago Hospital District. The purchase of the ground and the erection of this building is made possible by the following financial arrangements and gracious gifts:—Grant from New Zealand Government, £20,000; levy on local authorities, £2,000.

Donations.—Dunedin Savings Bank, £6,000; Miss Annie Peters, £1,000.

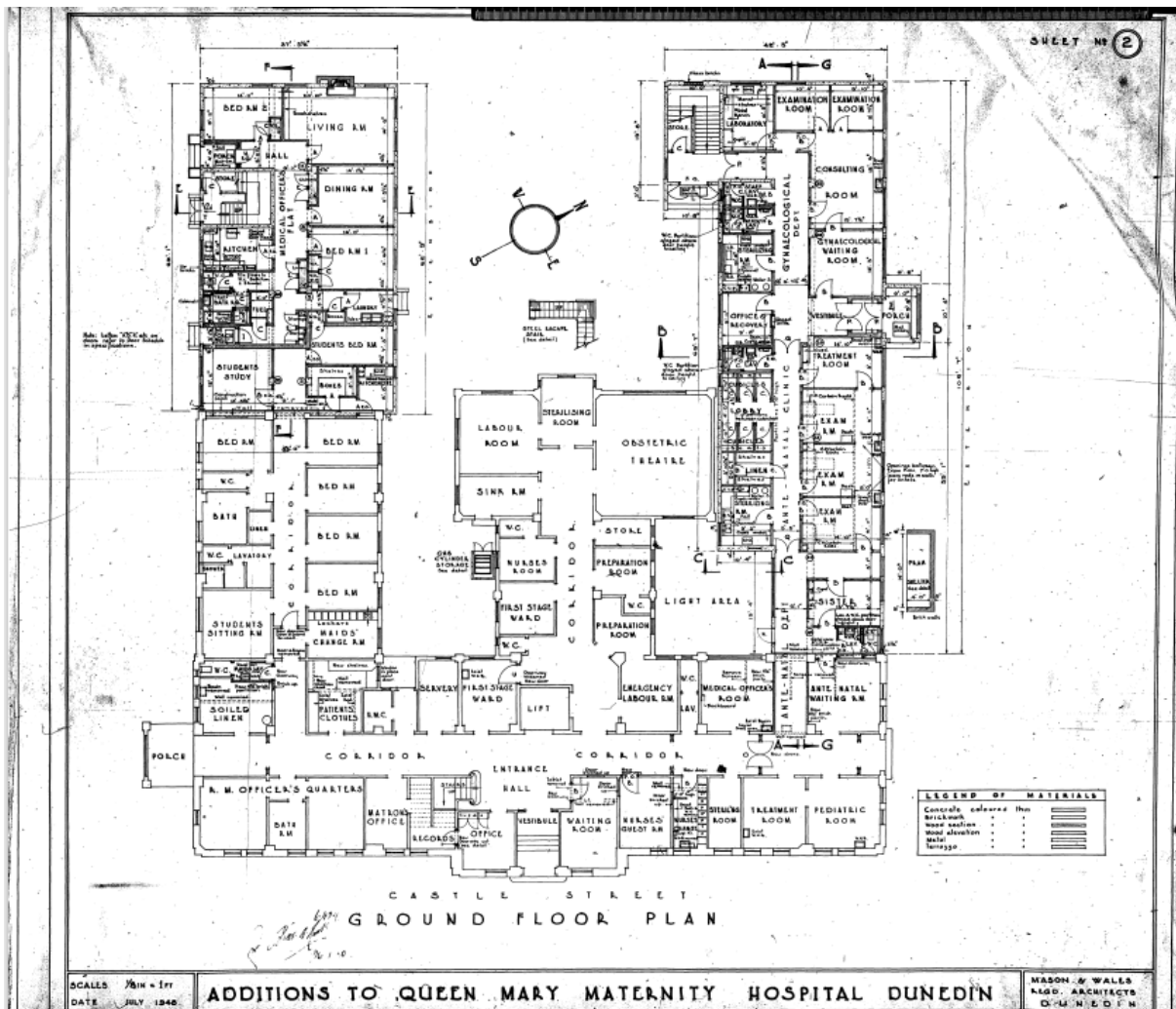
Bequests.—James Powell, £3,800; Chas. Surtick, £800; Mrs Jessy Stark, £500; Isabella Fraser, £200; William Tayles, £120; A. Montgomery, £100; Miss Jessie Fish, £100; Mrs S. S. Shacklock, £100; total, £34,800.

“Deposited herein are:—One set of the New Zealand coinage donated by Mr M. Silverstone, chairman of the Works Committee; ‘Evening Star’ of November 25, 1936; ‘Otago Daily Times’ of November 25, 1936. A balance sheet of the board for the year ended March 31, 1936 (the latest printed copy available), which contains the names of the members of the board and its professional staff and honorary visiting staff for that year.”

Evening Star 27 November 1936, p. 13. PapersPast.

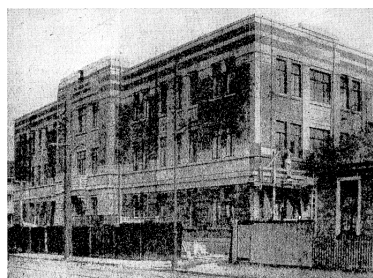
The Governor-General Viscount Galway laid the foundation stone of the new hospital on 26 November 1936 and the building was officially opened by the Hon Peter Fraser, the Minister of Health, on 8 November 1937. Fraser noted at the opening ceremony that it appeared Dunedin could boast the first public maternity service in New Zealand because it opened a two-ward annexe in 1882.

The new maternity hospital accommodated 26 beds and was named after Queen Mary, the wife of King George V. It was in use by early 1937, having still required furnishing at the time of its official opening. A commission into the provision of maternity services considered the thirty-bed hospital incorporated features, which might with advantage be studied when the erection of other maternity hospitals is under consideration.’ The hospital was designed to accommodate more patients, with the theatre, nursery and clinic allowing for expansion. The hospital included on the ground floor offices, an antenatal clinic, a theatre, and residential quarters for the house surgeon and six students. The lying-in wards and nursery were on the first floor, while the quarters for the nursing staff were on the top floor. The commission report described the facilities as a ‘compact unit admirably adapted to the purposes of modern obstetric practice and teaching.’ Queen Mary, the commission found, ‘embodied the principles which the Committee has recommended for adoption in the development of a main obstetric centre in each of the large cities.’



1948 plans for additions to Queen Mary Maternity Hospital (DCC Property Files: 1950 9082)

By 1988 the 1936-37 maternity hospital was in use as registrars' flats; the building now houses the School of Surveying and the Department of Marine Science. The second Queen Mary's was converted into Hayward College in c.1991 and then extended in c.1993. Cumberland College occupies the neighbouring former Nurses' Home.



Otago Daily Times 14 July 1937, p. 5. PapersPast.

Notable people/Themes

Public provision of maternity care

From 1939, free maternity care was available in public hospitals. Queen Mary Maternity Hospital illustrates the trend toward public maternity care. By 1938, some 87% of New Zealand gave birth in

hospitals, almost a decade before hospital births became the norm in the United States of American, and almost two decades before such births became the norm in Britain. Queen Mary Maternity Hospital was considered a model for other main centre maternity hospitals.

Significant Staff Members

Staff positions for the new hospital, including that of matron and several nursing sisters, were advertised by the Otago Hospital Board in September 1937. Phyllis Clifford (1902-76) was appointed as the first matron in October 1937; she had trained at Dunedin and Auckland hospitals and was working at the former at the time of her appointment.

Dr Doris Gordon (1890-1956)

The former hospital is also associated with Dr Doris Gordon (1890-1956). Gordon was the honorary chair of the New Zealand Obstetrical Society. As chair she organised a successful public campaign for the establishment of a chair in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Otago Medical School, and the building of the new Queen Mary Maternity Hospital, at which students could gain practical experience.

Mason & Wales

Mason & Wales Architects is New Zealand's oldest architectural practice. The firm was established in 1863 by William Mason after a brief partnership with David Ross, which commenced in September 1862 and was dissolved in February 1863. Known as Mason & Clayton from 1864 and Mason & Wales since 1871, the firm has designed the full gamut of architectural commissions, from churches and commercial buildings to private houses and industrial structures and garnered numerous architectural awards.

WH Naylor

Clyde-born Hugh Naylor was apprenticed as a carpenter before moving to Dunedin. He built his first house in Portobello in 1901. Naylor initially specialised in house building and repairs but extended his work into commercial construction. He built the Bank of New Zealand in Mosgiel in 1917, the University of Otago Dental School in 1925, the Evening Star Building in 1927, and Mater (Mercy) Hospital in 1969. His son Ben joined the company in 1948, heading WH Naylor, then Naylor Love from 1957-1987, remaining on the Board after his retirement.²

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORIC/SOCIAL

The building demonstrates heritage values within this criterion. The former Queen Mary Maternity Hospital has significance under this criterion for its association with the provision of maternity services to the women of Dunedin and the close working relationship between the public hospital and Otago Medical School.

SPIRITUAL/CULTURAL

The building does not demonstrate heritage values within this criterion.

² <https://www.naylorlove.co.nz/about-us/our-history/>; <https://www.naylorlove.co.nz/about-us/timeline/> accessed 31 July 2024.

DESIGN

The building demonstrates heritage values within this criterion. The exterior of this Mason & Wales-designed building has maintained a high level of authenticity and the building has added design significance for the way in which it continues the classical architectural vocabulary that was established by the city's earlier 20th century hospital and medical school buildings.

TECHNOLOGICAL/SCIENTIFIC

The building does not demonstrate heritage values within this criterion.

REFERENCES

Otago Daily Times 25 October 1935, p. 4; 26 October 1935, p. 5; 28 February 1936, p. 8; 6 February 1937, p. 9; 14 July 1937, p. 5; 31 August 1937, p. 1; 29 October 1937, p. 9; 7 February 1950, p. 4; 1 April 1950, p. 8; 30 September 1950, p. 9.

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Horowhenua Chronicle 26 June 1936, p. 6.

Northern Advocate 26 November 1936, p. 3.

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Press 22 June 1962, p. 14.

Report of Committee of Inquiry into Maternity Services, *Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives*, 1938 SESSION I, H-31A

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Philippa Mein Smith, *Maternity in Dispute New Zealand, 1920-1939*, Wellington, New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs, Historical Branch, 1986

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<https://otago150years.wordpress.com/2017/03/13/building-a-medical-campus/>

Mason & Wales:

https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/pdf/hoc_fr_bulletins/Bull_60_Architects.pdf

Date Initial Assessment Completed	7 February 2023	Author	AM
Date Peer Reviewed	13 April 2023	Reviewer	HB
Date Peer Reviewed	5 July 2024	Reviewer	MM
Date Confirmed Complete	31 July 2024		
Revised 'Recommended Protection' (R1)	26 August 2024		
Date Revised (R2)	15 April 2025, following submissions for Plan Change 1 to clarify the recommended protection.		



Google Streetview (2020)



Google Streetview (2020)