THEME 6: GOVERNING DUNEDIN

6.1 POLITICAL

Many of the institutions of government have been associated with particular buildings, and even when these have been demolished it is likely that archaeological evidence survives beneath the ground. The well-known Stock Exchange building, erected as the Dunedin Post Office in 1867 for the Government, and demolished in 1969 to considerable local anguish, now exists only as a potential archaeological site beneath the Exchange.

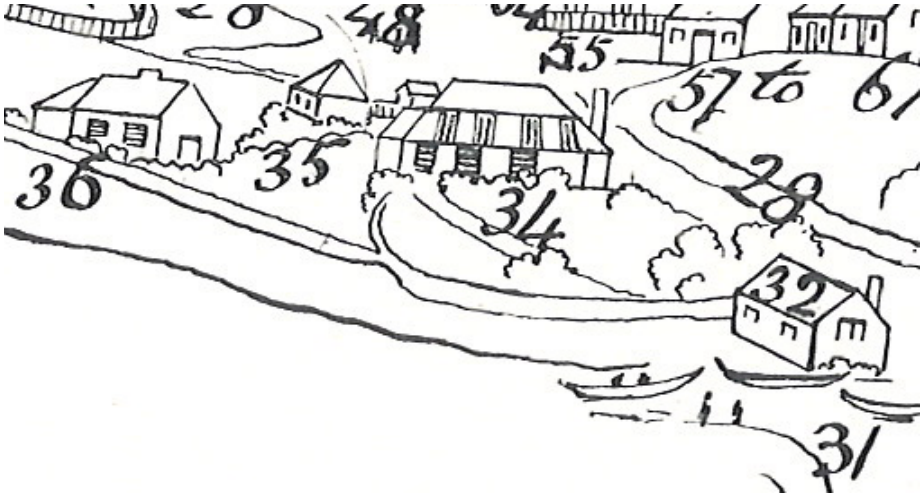

Figure 56: Detail of Hocken's key to Shaw 1851 showing the houses of Robert Park (36), Charles Kettle and the New Zealand Co. Survey Office (32)

Survey Office and early official buildings: The earliest official buildings for the settlement of Dunedin were set around the southern edge of the bay at the edge of Princes Street (Fig. 56). The principal building was the Survey Office, a gable roofed weatherboard cottage which contained not only the surveyor's equipment and plans of the settlement, but the legal titles of all land sold and purchased. This building was flanked by the houses of Charles Kettle and Robert Park. The Survey Office continued in its official function following the collapse of the New Zealand Company in 1851. The raising of Princes Street in 1858 brought the height of the road 1.8m above the roof of the Survey Office. The building was added to periodically, and the more important documents were stored in a fireproof safe. An 1860 *Otago Witness* account of the scene facing the arrivals of 1848 suggests that the

Survey Office was still on its site, along with Kettle's house, then in use as the Chief Constable's residence. Newly constructed Government offices on the site were added around these buildings, which in 1867 were finally superseded by the Provincial Buildings.

The Dunedin Town Board was established by the Otago Provincial Council through the Dunedin Town Board Ordinance 1855 with the first meeting of its nine members held on the 27th of August 1855. Its major responsibilities were to manage roads, streets, footpaths, drains and bridges in the town area and surrounding town belt, and to levy rates on property. It later became responsible for cemeteries and designated the Northern and Southern cemeteries at Little Paisley and on the site of the present Dunedin Botanic Garden in the Town Belt. The Town Board set aside sites for the first hospital and the public garden in the Octagon, the gaol and law courts site at the foot of Stuart St, the future site of First Church on Bell Hill, the school on Lower High Street, the Mechanics' Institute, Provincial Buildings, stores adjacent to the jetty and Reverend Burns' manse on the corner of Jetty and Princes Streets. The Town Board initially met in the Mechanics' Institute on Princes St. It functioned until 1865 when it was disestablished by the Provincial Council. The management of the city was temporarily passed to three commissioners appointed by the Superintendent.

Figure 57: The office of the **Provincial Engineer** was located in the large building on the left of this view of the Octagon. **1861**

Otago Provincial Council: The 1852 Act to Grant a Representative Constitution to the Colony of New Zealand provided New Zealand with a semi-federal system of government. New Zealand was divided into the six provinces of Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury and Otago based on the six original planned settlements. Each province had its own legislature that met in their respective towns while a General Assembly consisting of the Crown-nominated Legislative Council and a directly elected House of Representatives met in Wellington. This Constitution came into force on the 17th of January 1853. A Superintendent and a Provincial Council were elected by men aged 21 or over with freehold property worth £50. Elections were held every four years. The provincial system was ended in 1875 by the Abolition of Provinces Act. The provinces were replaced by the county system which prevailed for a further 110 years.

A scheme for new quarters for the civil service, Provincial Council and General Assembly was proposed by the Provincial Engineer and Architect Charles Swyer in 1865. This was to be an Italianate building some 420 feet wide to be sited on Bell Hill in place of First Church. The project was costed at £60,000 at a time when the colony was flush with funds. However, the site remained with the Church Trustees and negotiations in the Provincial Council dragged on at the same time as available funds diminished. A site plan for Swyer's proposal is held by the Otago Settlers Museum but no drawings of the buildings appear to survive. [THE PROPOSED PROVINCIAL BUILDINGS: *Otago Witness*, Issue 642, 19 March 1864, Page 1]. Lack of a suitable building meant that the Council was meeting in Farley's Hall on Princes Street amidst concerns that the steep rock bank to the rear of the site was likely to collapse. The Council had earlier met in the original stone First Church building which was burnt out in 1865, the Supreme Court and Magistrate's Court and various public halls. Suggestions were made that the Council should take over the Dunedin Exhibition Building but this was instead converted into Dunedin Hospital.

In 1865 the Provincial Council invited submissions from architects for a building at a considerably reduced budget, receiving only six proposals and selecting Mason and Clayton's plan. Dealing with the rise in Princes

Street meant that the building was divided into bays housing different functions. The Provincial Council Hall faced Bond Street on a level above the Magistrate's Court. The Provincial Buildings continued in use by the central Government on the disestablishment of the Provincial Council system of government in 1875. This building was demolished to make way for the Dunedin Chief Post Office which, in its turn, also housed many Government departments.

Dunedin City Council: The Dunedin City Council was established by the Otago Provincial Council in 1865 through the Otago Municipal Corporations Ordinance that laid the way for the system of municipal government that extends into the present. The first mayoral election, held in 1865, was won by architect, William Mason. The council initially met in the offices of the old Town Board in Princes St, temporary premises in Rattray Street, part of the old Hospital building in the Octagon, the Dunedin Post Office and the old Athenaeum Building in Manse St. Attempts were made to purchase the Post Office from the University but tenders were finally called in 1874 for a permanent municipal chambers and town hall in the Octagon. The present building was constructed to the plans of R. A. Lawson and was opened in 1880. After undergoing many unsympathetic alterations, including the removal of parapets and truncation of the clock tower, the building was extensively restored by the City Council in 1990. [**B593** (Municipal Chambers)]

6.2 TOWN PLANNING

Town planning is a relatively recent facet of the management and development of cities. Despite the work of the Town Board and its successors, much of Dunedin can be said to have developed outside the influence of 'planners' as they are now understood. There were few restrictions placed on the owners of private property, or at least by the standards of the present.

At the national level, town planning legislation was first introduced in 1926, followed by the Town Planning Act 1953, 1977 Town and Country

Planning Act and, in 1991, the Resource Management Act (RMA). These Acts gave Councils the authority to list and protect historic buildings and other heritage items. The impetus for modern planning arose in the slum conditions and overcrowding seen during the rampant unplanned development during the industrial revolution in the United Kingdom. A better physical environment, it was believed, would improve the health and well-being of the population generally. The underlying philosophy in the New Zealand legislation was orderly and planned development, with a strong emphasis on the separation of incompatible activities or uses. In 2003 an amendment to the RMA made the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, a matter of national importance. Under these provisions many Territorial Authorities (TAs) have undertaken heritage strategies and thematic reviews which have informed and influenced revision of their District Plan lists. A Dunedin Heritage Strategy was completed in August 2007; one of the key recommendations in this strategy was the preparation of this thematic heritage study for Dunedin.

Planned residential developments in Dunedin include the Dunedin City Council's Palmyra project in Carroll St of the 1970s. Palmyra included a mix of medium density housing, flats and shops on an inner city site that was partially cleared of low-grade housing.

6.3 OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

The Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act of 1941 established catchment boards to provide advice and subsidies for improved management of high country runs.

The Otago Regional Council was established in 1989 when many special purpose local bodies, including the Otago Catchment Board, Otago Regional Water Board and pest destruction boards, noxious plants authorities and united councils were amalgamated. It now occupies the offices in Stafford St built for the Otago Catchment Board.

6.4 DUNEDIN AND LOCAL AUTHORITY AMALGAMATION

Organisations such as roads boards proliferated in the 1860s with almost 100 being created in Otago. Their numbers were reduced in 1871 and gathered together into larger districts. Around Dunedin itself these included North East Valley, Roslyn, Mornington, Halfway Bush, Kaikorai, Suburban, Caversham and Peninsula. Overlapping these official boundaries were townships created by private land speculation. Some of these remained distinct localities within their larger political territories while others disappeared. Areas such as St Kilda, Kensington and Darley in South Dunedin were formed from private subdivisions and named by their promoters.

Boroughs were established around St Kilda, South Dunedin, Maori Hill and Green Island in 1875 and 1876, which were then incorporated into West Harbour, Roslyn, Caversham, Mornington and North East Valley in the following year. Each borough elected its own Mayor and councillors and ran their own affairs more or less independently of the Dunedin City Council. This was soon seen as impractical and various forms of amalgamation were attempted. The differing states of development of the various boroughs caused much inconvenience, as even essential services such as water and footpaths, stopped and started arbitrarily on encountering borough boundaries. Caversham joined the City Council in 1904 with South Dunedin following a year later. Other local authorities held out. West Harbour remained independent until 1963 and others were finally amalgamated with the Dunedin City Council in 1989, with Port Chalmers resisting vigorously to the end.

Each of these small territorial authorities left a legacy of buildings, projects and structures to the larger body, many of which were disposed of in the rationalisation of city assets which followed the reorganisation of 1989 and the Local Government Act 2002. Some significant buildings, such as the Port Chalmers Municipal and Government Building, were retained in Council ownership, while many other halls and borough buildings were sold off. Highly notable is the Green Island Civic Centre designed by John Allingham in modernist style (Fig. 58).

This complex incorporated a public hall, cinema and council offices arranged on a prominent corner site.

Figure 58: Green Island Civic Centre [Architect: John D Allingham] **1960**

6.5 JUSTICE

Alfred Chetham Strode was appointed as the first resident magistrate for Otago in 1850, two years after arriving as head of a detachment of police in 1848. Strode was not a popular choice with the Scots settlement founders and he was soon relegated to the class of 'Little Enemy' and seen as a mouthpiece for the Colonial government.
A building to house the Supreme Court was opened in 1851, although it was at first little used, the Dunedin newspapers mocking the pretensions of gowned and wigged officials residing over an empty room. [*Otago Witness*, Issue 29, 6 December 1851, Page 2]

Figure 59: 1920s view of the Dunedin Supreme Court and central police station.

There was so little Supreme Court business that all sittings in Otago were cancelled in 1852. The Supreme Court was set alongside the gaol in the late 1850s. Constructed in timber with a classical portico, it was one of the most substantial buildings in the early town. Early photographs show both the Supreme Court and the gaol buildings barely clear of the high tide mark.

A Magistrates courthouse was constructed within the Otago Provincial Buildings and the current Dunedin Law Courts [**B560**] were built in 1902 on the site of the old gaol (Fig. 59). This was designed by the Government Architect, John Campbell, in a simplified Gothic style and was part of a major complex of government buildings which included the Dunedin Railway Station, Prison and Departmental offices built in this area.

Rural courthouses were constructed throughout the area now included in present day Dunedin, alongside police stations and local gaols. The Port Chalmers Police Station [**B673**] which was opened in 1941, was designed by the Government Architects Office under John T. Mair.

Figure 60: Old Dunedin gaol wall section revealed in archaeological investigation of the Dunedin Supreme Court site.

Dunedin Prison: The Dunedin gaol was under the control of Constable Johnny Barr until the appointment of Henry Monson in 1851. His inmates were “sailors who disobeyed lawful commands, petty thieves, drunks, debtors, and occasional ‘lunatics’ who lacked any other place for safe keeping.” The gaol itself measured approximately 21 by 15 feet,

opening into a small yard. It was situated close to the water's edge where High Street skirted the base of Bell Hill at the foot of Stuart Street. Described as being built from "strong pole", it was destroyed in 1855 by a fire caused when Monson attempted to sanitise the privy with hot embers. The old building was replaced in 1858 by a new, far more substantial gaol, which served until 1898 when it was demolished and the present Law Courts building [**B560**] was erected in its place. A long description of this gaol is contained in the *Otago Witness*, 23 July 1870, where its dimensions are given as 184 x 112 feet. At this time it housed 176 inmates, both male and female. The footings of the gaol wall were in fact under water. Archaeological investigations on the site in 2001 (Fig. 60) found evidence of the exercise yard and foundations for one cellblock from the gaol (Petchey 2002). Of particular note was a small piece of sawn greenstone (pounamu) found in the exercise yard. This was possibly dropped by Maori prisoners from Taranaki who were imprisoned in Dunedin between 1869 and 1873 and who were known to have worked greenstone while in prison (Chapman 1891: 497; Petchey 2002). These structures were replaced by the present prison building [**B269**], designed by Government Architect, John Campbell, in 1896. (Fig. 61)

Figure 61: Dunedin Prison in 2009

Figure 62: ***Pride of Dunedin*** **Fire Engine (1862) and first motorised Fire Engine (1909).**

6.6 FIRE BRIGADES AND AMBULANCE SERVICES

The need for a fire brigade in Dunedin came to the fore in 1852 when concerns were raised about the potential for fire spread amongst the timber framed and shingle roofed houses in the Princes Street area. [ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE: *Otago Witness*, Issue 60, 10 July 1852, Page 3.] This responsibility was passed to the Town Board who agreed, in 1858, to form a brigade along the lines of one set up in Sydney. They were encouraged by the Otago office of the Liverpool and London Fire and Life Insurance Co. which had organised the supply of a fire bell and fire fighting apparatus, including a horse drawn pump (Fig. 62). Typically, the decision over what authority should establish a brigade to use the equipment dragged on into 1860, with the Town Board attempting to shift the role onto the Government. The Dunedin Improvement Ordinance 1862 provided for an Inspector of Fire Engines and firemen, and the first Brigade was formally set up in August 1862.

This Brigade faced its first major test in November 1862 in George Street where the livery stables of the Royal George Hotel caught fire and spread to other timber buildings in the block. The lack of a water supply made the Brigade's efforts futile and the buildings were lost.

[FIRE IN GEORGE-STREET: *Otago Witness*, Issue 574, 28 November 1862, Page 6]. Further destructive fires had the same result with the only option being the demolition of buildings on the spot to prevent fire from spreading. Another large warehouse fire in Stafford Street in 1864 also burned for three days. The 1865 fire in Princes Street began in the Exchange Hotel near the corner of Dowling Street and swept down towards the harbour, destroying the Bank of Otago and the original stone Presbyterian church, which was in use as a wool store. The newly built timber Presbyterian church on Dowling Street was saved with the aid of a small steam-powered fire pump, and the fire was narrowly prevented from jumping Princes Street to the timber Oriental Hotel.

Under the Municipal Corporation Act 1867, borough councils were granted the authority to take measures for fire protection, appoint Fire Inspectors and set up Fire Brigades. The Fire Service operated under this legislation until 1900. The Fire Brigades Act 1906 set up fire boards in metropolitan areas, levied costs on Government, local authorities and insurance companies, and established the role of 'Inspector of Fire Brigades'.

Figure 63: Dunedin's interim Central Fire Station, Cumberland Street, 1910.

A new site was required in Princes Street in 1865 when the Town Board offices were demolished to make way for the Provincial Buildings and, during the same year, management of the Brigade was passed over to the newly formed Dunedin City Corporation. The Brigade finally moved into a new purpose-built firehouse in Harrop Street in 1879. This stood on the site of the present wedge shaped car park below St Pauls Cathedral and beside the Dunedin Town Hall. Harrop Street itself was laid out along the boundary in 1911. This building was replaced by a new Central Fire Station in Cumberland Street in 1910 (Fig. 63). The present Central Dunedin Fire Station [**B029**] on Cumberland Street was designed by Mandeno and Fraser and opened in 1929. It was joined by further suburban station buildings in Roslyn and Lookout Point which were built in the post-WWII period.

Figure 64: Port Chalmers Fire Brigade assembled on George Street.
circa **1880**

The United Fire Brigades of New Zealand was established in Christchurch in 1878 with Dunedin, Mornington and Port Chalmers brigades being founding members. Dunedin's various municipal authorities maintained their own volunteer brigades. The brigade at Port Chalmers (Fig. 64) was particularly significant due to the risk of loss of goods stored at the port. Its brigade was housed in the combined Port Chalmers Municipal and Government Building built to the design of the Port Chalmers Borough Engineer.

St John Ambulance Brigade: In 1892 the Dunedin volunteer fire and ambulance brigade was formed into the first Division, in New Zealand, of the St John Ambulance Brigade, to provide first aid services based on the training received at Association courses. The Brigade was also established to be medical reservists for the armed forces. The organisation's Dunedin headquarters [**B622]** in lower York Place (Fig. 65) were designed by Miller and White and opened in 1937.

The first Nursing Division in New Zealand was established in Dunedin in 1895 -only the second outside the United Kingdom. Nursing Guilds were later established in many centres and provided nursing in homes; an important function, since hospitals provided only limited charitable services.

Figure 65: Order of St John Building, York Place.
[designed by Miller and White, 1937]

6.7 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS

The first doctor in Otago was most likely to have been Joshua Crocome who arrived in Otago in 1838 to treat whalers and sealers around the Otago coast. Dunedin's first hospital was established in a single storey timber building on the Octagon in 1851, close to the site of the present Municipal Chambers. At this point the Octagon was somewhat removed from the centre of the town and the hospital was one the earliest

permanent structures in the area north of Bell Hill. It was initially funded by the New Zealand Government through the Governor. The hospital was initially staffed on a voluntary basis by Dunedin practitioners along the lines of hospitals in the United Kingdom. A description of the buildings in 1862 identified three distinct parts. First was the original hospital, built of brick and timber at around 80 by 20 feet in size. This housed the surgery, waiting rooms, doctors' rooms and four small wards which also included a cell for lunatics. Adjoining this was a stone ward block containing 15 beds and a three storey timber structure containing six wards. Adding to this complex were numerous out-buildings including kitchens and laundries. Conditions were reported as squalid with a large open cesspit adjoining the hospital site on the lower side.

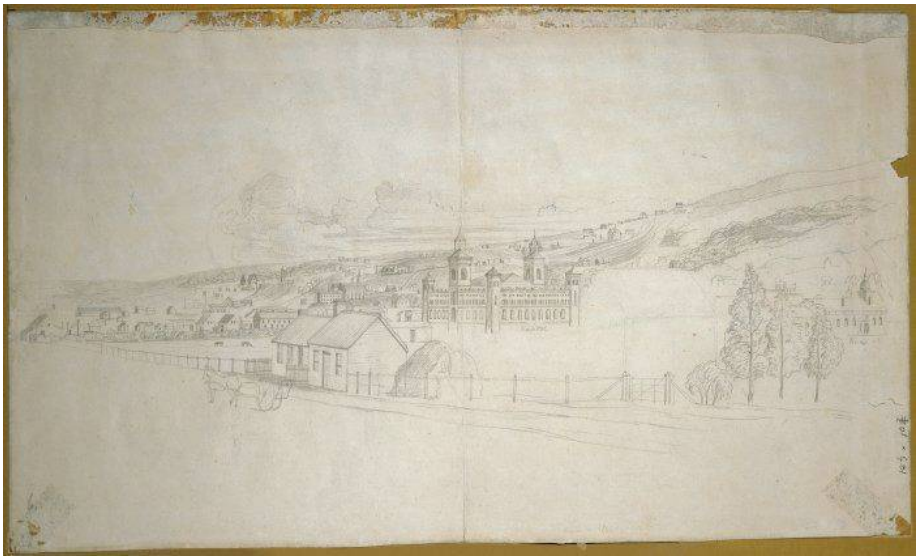

Fig 66: [Nicholas Chevelier] **Dunedin hospital and environs** *circa* **1865**

The hospital was moved to the main pavilion of the New Zealand Exhibition on Great King Street following the Exhibition's closure in 1865 (Fig. 66). One of the conditions of the competition for the exhibition building was that it should serve a public function afterwards but the layout of the exhibition galleries was not ideal for a hospital and the building was considered gloomy. Despite the scale of the new hospital, admission numbers were similar to those of the earlier building and beds were available for around 140 patients. Unlike other similar institutions, patients did not need a referral and could present themselves at the hospital for assessment and treatment.
[THE DUNEDIN HOSPITAL: *Otago Witness*, Issue 568,18 October 1862, Page 3.]

Figure 67: Dunedin Nurses' Home. *circa* **1910**

The Dunedin Hospital grew around the Dunedin Exhibition Pavilion with later buildings designed by Mason and Wales becoming linked to the expanding Medical School. A major rebuilding programme in the 1930s saw the building of the Queen Mary Maternity Hospital (1936) and Children's Pavilion (1938), as well as a replacement for the earlier Nurses' Home (Fig. 67), now housed in a modernist high-rise slab block that looked ahead to post-war developments. The current surgical blocks were designed by Stephenson and Turner, whose previous Hospital Laundry and Boilerhouse complex (1960) on Cumberland Street was an important early example of curtain-walled modernism in the city.

Figure 68: View of the sanatorium at Wakari, Dunedin. 1926

Wakari Hospital: From 1915 the site of Wakari Hospital was developed as an infectious diseases centre and later as the Wakari Sanatorium (Fig. 68). In 1957 it was extensively redeveloped as a general hospital with a large nurses' home. The complex was later converted to a geriatric and psychiatric care facility.

The Dunedin Fever Hospital was established in 1877 to contain patients with infectious diseases. It was situated on Butts Road in the Town Belt, overlooking Lake Pelichet.

Mercy Hospital (previously **Mater Hospital**) [**B525]** was founded by the Roman Catholic Church through the Sisters of Mercy order. The first Sisters arrived in Dunedin from Australia in 1897, originally working amongst poor families in South Dunedin. The Mater Misericordiae Hospital was opened in 1936 in Royal Terrace with 24 medical and surgical beds. In November 1969 the hospital was relocated to the grounds of Sir Percy Sargood's house *Marinoto* [**B748]** in Newington Avenue.

St Helen's Hospital for Women: From 1905, Dunedin working-class women, whose family income was less than £3 a week, could go to the state-funded St Helen's Hospital in Regent Road (Fig. 69). The St Helen's Hospitals were founded and named by Prime Minister Richard Seddon, who was born in the English town of the same name. The hospitals were established to provide quality maternity care to the wives of working men and for the training of midwives. The first of the St Helen's Hospitals opened in 1905 in Wellington and Dunedin, followed by one in Auckland in the following year. Truby King consulted the matron of St. Helen's Hospital, Alice Holford, who had success with treating premature babies. New Zealand's first woman medical graduate, Dr Emily Hancock Siedeberg-McKinnon was appointed Medical Superintendent at St. Helen's Hospital, Dunedin, and served from 1905- 938. Dr. Siedeberg was also active in community and welfare work. A founding member of the Dunedin branch of the New Zealand Society for the Protection of Women and Children in 1899, she was president of the Dunedin branch, 1933-1948 and became honorary life president in 1949.

Figure 69: St Helen's Hospital for Women, Regent Road, Dunedin.
circa **1923**

New Zealand had the lowest infant mortality rate in the world in the 1930s, largely due to the St. Helen's Hospitals, where midwives were trained and where mothers were instructed in the care and feeding of babies.

Figure 70: The Benevolent Institute, Caversham.
circa **1910**

The Benevolent Institute: The aim of the Benevolent Institute (Fig. 70) when it was established in 1862 was to provide a refuge for the "aged and infirm, disabled and destitute of all creeds and nations". However,

its focus became the welfare of abandoned and destitute women and children, as men left Dunedin for the West Coast gold diggings. Cases in 1865 included “a mother and eight children, quite destitute, not a particle of furniture in house. Mother is in confinement. Father in gaol for debt.” The construction of an asylum was funded by a combination of Government and local subscriptions. Over £4,000 was raised from the public prior to the construction of the first section of the building at Parkside on Caversham Road (now Hillside Road), which began in 1865. The Government’s contribution was a similar amount and the left wing of the four storey structure was extended in 1868. Designed by R. A. Lawson and described as ‘domestic Tudor style’, the building housed a dining room, master’s and matron’s quarters, classrooms and dormitories. A small cottage hospital (Fig. 71) was built at the rear of the main building to accommodate the long-term ill who could not be treated at Dunedin Hospital. Dr Thomas Hocken was the honorary surgeon for much of the Institution’s early history from 1864 to 1887.

Figure 71: The Benevolent Institute complex,1925 Photograph shows the cottage hospital at the rear of the site.

The annual reports of the Benevolent Institute revealed troubling social issues in what was a relatively affluent and balanced community. Drunkenness and the abandoning of families by husbands was a common cause of destitution and the Institute committee struggled with the problem of caring for mothers and infants of illegitimate birth.

The long depression of the 1880s stretched the Institute's finances to the limit and its expenditure on 'outdoor relief'. Support was extended to those facing hardship through lack of employment and there was considerable public debate on whether giving aid on this basis reduced people's will to seek work.

The Dunedin Refuge was an institution for 'fallen women' established in 1872 in a converted house on Forth Street, overlooking Pelichet Bay. It was overseen by Mrs Snadden, an experienced nurse from Dunedin Hospital, and took up to eight women at one time. Attendance was voluntary and women received "guidance, not compulsion". Inmates were free to leave, whenever they wished, with the permission of the Matron. Women were employed at laundry and needlework with their earnings going to support the institution. This timber cottage in Forth Street was later rebuilt in brick which still stands as a student rental property.

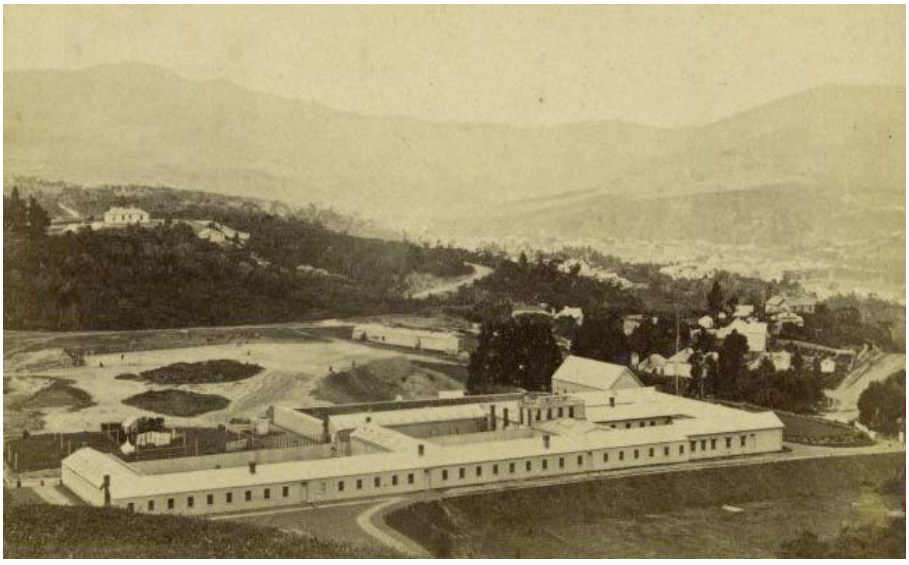

Figure 72: The Dunedin Lunatic Asylum in 1874. Photograph shows the work carried out by inmates to develop the site.

Dunedin Lunatic Asylum: The mentally ill were initially confined in the first Dunedin Hospital in the Octagon or in the gaol, neither option being regarded as humane or good practice. A purpose built asylum was constructed on Arthur Street in 1863 to house 35 patients but was extended to provide 60 beds in 1865 (Fig. 72). This was soon overcrowded and wings were built to provide day rooms and recreation facilities. The Asylum was overseen by the Provincial Surgeon, Doctor

James Hulme, and superintendent, James Hume. Unusually, Hume allowed an amount of patient freedom. A large garden was cultivated and patients were encouraged to work in the grounds or in the hospital. Produce from the garden and the raising of pigs and chickens defrayed some of the costs of treatment and the Asylum was considered advanced in its efforts towards being self-supporting. Patient and staff labour was used to build the hospital extensions, including a bowling green, sports ground and a large new ward block in 1873. Shoemaking and tinware were added to the list of industries and this work was carried out together by staff and patients. A bakery was constructed which also supplied bread to the Dunedin Hospital. Staff members were encouraged to make use of their previous trade experience and to give instruction to inmates.

All was not ideal, however, and the overcrowding and poor sanitation at the Asylum caused the authorities to look for a larger site, more remote from the city. Patients were unable to be categorised for treatment due to the overcrowded wards and there was no foreseeable decline in the number of admissions. 238 patients were being cared for in 1877 on a site that originally housed 36 and conditions were becoming impossible for the staff to manage.

Plans were announced for a major new asylum complex at Seacliff, north of Dunedin on the main north railway. The Seacliff reserve contained over 1,000 acres of woodland with good farming potential. It was envisaged that the operations of the Benevolent Society and the Industrial School would be centralised there along with the new asylum. Temporary timber buildings to accommodate 60 patients were built with asylum labour in 1879 and land cleared for cultivation. These patients were supervised by Hume but a change in legislation compelled him to stand down in 1882, when it was decided asylums were to be run by doctors.

Seacliff Lunatic Asylum: The Seacliff Lunatic Asylum (Fig. 73) was built in stages from 1879 and the final patients transferred from the Arthur Street buildings in 1884. Based on the Norwich County Asylum, Lawson's massive Scots Baronial building was a narrow, linear

structure some 225 metres long, which extended across the site and was planned for observation from a central tower.

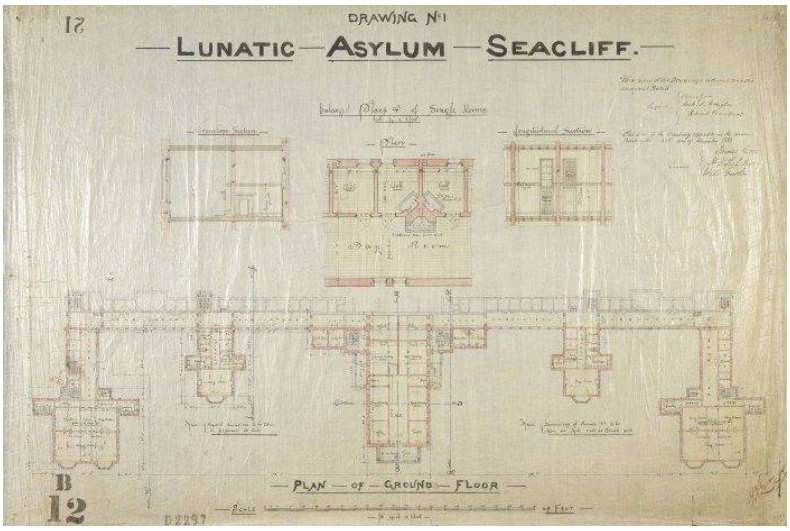

Figure 73: [Robert Arthur Lawson, 1833-1902]**: Lunatic Asylum, Seacliff. Plan of ground floor. Drawing No. 1. 1881.**

The rear of the structure was set on top of a deep basement which quickly became damp. Cracks became evident in the concrete floors and land movement was observed. Deficiencies in the building became evident during construction and by 1887 subsidence and serious structural failures made parts of the female ward block unsafe. Efforts were made to stabilise the building by filling in open arches with brick and making temporary repairs. As early as 1888, thought was given to the demolition of the damaged portion. An official enquiry found the Public Works Department Architect, R. A. Lawson, and the contractor more or less equally responsible for the building's failure. The Public Works Department had chosen the site and ignored warnings about its stability but Lawson was held most accountable for the embarrassing failure of a major public building.

Figure 74: Seacliff Hospital. *circa* **1910**

A visitor to the site at the Truby King Reserve at Seacliff can enjoy the superb gardens (an archaeological site in their own right), but the massive building is now represented only by a low concrete wall at one end and the concrete retaining wall at the rear of the site. However, beneath the smooth grass there is almost certainly a great deal of archaeological information about the building itself.

Figure 75: Demolition in progress at Seacliff Hospital, mid-1960s.

Figure 76: Cherry Farm Hospital Administration Block, 2009

Cherry Farm: The replacement for Seacliff, Cherry Farm Hospital, was completed in stages from 1952-4 (Fig. 76). Cherry Farm was planned as a village with its modernist buildings set in a landscaped park with many of the attributes of a small town. Villas were interposed with taller tower blocks and single storey houses along curving roadways. There were shops, a post office, library, swimming pool, school and a chapel. Psychiatric institutions in New Zealand began developing new kinds of psychiatric services in the 1960s and community care started to replace institutional care from the 1980s. Cherry Farm was restructured and its funding cut so that by 1987 its remaining handicapped patients were 'resettled' in a 'pilot scheme'. The hospital was closed in 1992 and patients transferred to community facilities and to Wakari Hospital. While some of the complex has been developed and sold as housing, large parts of the hospital are unused.

Figure 77: [Isabel Hodgkins 1867-1950]: **Ashburn Hall, Dunedin** *circa* **1890**

Ashburn Hall (Fig. 77) is a private hospital in North Taieri Road, Wakari, founded by the ex-superintendent of Dunedin Lunatic Asylum, James Hume, and opened in 1882. Originally designed to accommodate 40 patients, Ashburn Hall was the only institution of its kind in New Zealand. Ashburn Hall allowed Hume to extend his liberal

ideas on patient treatment and rehabilitation. All patients had single rooms, where spaces were differentiated and there was a good water supply to facilitate hygiene. The proximity of Ashburn Hall to the City was convenient for visitors and for inmates alike. Hume's reputation was damaged by an enquiry into a patient suicide in 1896 but Ashburn Hall was regarded as an improvement over public asylums, particularly the fated Seacliff. Ashburn Hall continues in operation today.

The Plunket Society was founded in 1907 in Dunedin by Sir Frederick Truby King, who had contributed an article on child welfare to the *Otago Daily Times* while employed as Medical Superintendent at Seacliff Mental Hospital. A public meeting was held at the Dunedin Town Hall and the Royal New Zealand Society for the Promotion of the Health of Women and Children was founded as a result. Its name was changed to the Plunket Society in honour of its original patron, Lady Victoria Plunket, wife of the Governor-General. King's belief was that scientifically formulated doctrines on nutrition and infant care would reduce the growing mortality rate among babies and children and improve the future health of the nation.

Figure 78: Karitane Hospital, Andersons Bay, Dunedin. 1907

The first Truby King-Harris Karitane Hospital was opened in 1908 in Andersons Bay, Dunedin (Fig. 78). King and his wife cared for malnourished babies at their home in Karitane until a six roomed villa house leased from Wolf Harris in Andersons Bay was converted. Up to 150 sick infants were taken in per year. When the lease expired the land and house were donated to the Plunket Society. Branches of the new society had been formed in each of the four main centres in 1908 and by 1914 there were more than 20 Plunket branches throughout New Zealand and 27 nurses at work. In 1935, 65% of all non-Maori infants were under the care of a Plunket nurse. By 1962 there were 106 branches and about 500 sub-branches nationally, employing 220 Plunket nurses. Mothers' clubs were formed and their members met regularly at local Plunket Rooms. Dunedin's Karitane Hospital was the national training centre for Plunket nurses until 1979. A specialised modernist hospital designed by Salmond and Salmond was opened on the Andersons Bay site in 1938. Funding difficulties prompted the nationwide closure of Karitane hospitals in the late 1970s and their replacement by Plunket Karitane family centres. The Andersons Bay Karitane Hospital ceased operating in 1978 and was converted into a geriatric home until its subsequent closure in 2004. The building has since been used for short-term budget accommodation under the name *Every Street Lodge*.

6.8 MILITARY AND DEFENCE

The defence of New Zealand was a significant issue from the start of colonisation with the Kororareka Association for Self-Defence being formed in 1834. The Militia Ordinance came into force in 1845 followed by the Militia Act in 1858. The first Volunteer regiment was formed in Otago in 1860 but it was the Volunteer Act of 1865 that created an official framework for voluntary military service. This system prevailed until the Defence Act replaced the Volunteer Force with a Territorial Force from 28 February, 1910. Many local volunteer corps were founded in Otago and Dunedin. They drew their members from the better paid trades, artisans, clerks, business and professional men who

were able to pay for the time and equipment required. As the possibility of war with Russia grew towards the end of the 19th century, the numbers joining volunteer regiments also swelled. Construction on Dunedin's Garrison Hall (Fig.79) started in 1878 and the New Zealand Government purchased 22 RML defence guns which were placed in batteries around the coast.

Figure 79: Detail of Garrison Hall, Dowling Street, Dunedin

Another Russian scare in 1885 saw the volunteer movement almost double in strength. The threat ended in 1904 with the defeat of the Russians and the sinking of the *Vladivostok Squadron* by Japan's Admiral Togo. Germany instead became the rising threat.

Coastal fortifications were built from British designs, adapted to New Zealand conditions. These installations typically included gun emplacements, pill boxes, fire command or observation posts, camouflage strategies, underground bunkers, sometimes with interconnected tunnels, containing magazines, supply and plotting rooms and protected engine rooms supplying power to the gun turrets and searchlights. There were also kitchens, barracks, and officer and NCO quarters. In 1885 the New Zealand Government bought ten Armstrong BL 8-inch and thirteen Armstrong BL 6-inch guns on disappearing carriages. The 'disappearing gun' [**B529]** was the very latest in military technology in the 1880s. It was 'disappearing' because, as it fired, the recoil pushed the gun back underground where it could

be reloaded under cover. The total costs of this artillery, plus the costs of installation including land, emplacements, magazines and barracks was about £160,000. In 1885, batteries were installed at Eastern Ocean Beach, Dunedin South; St Clair on a spur of Forbury Hill above Second Beach, Dunedin, and at Taiaroa Head, where an Armstrong Disappearing Gun was installed in May 1889 [**B579**]. This gun was recommissioned during World War II. It is the only one of its kind working and is still in its original gun pit.

World War II defences were placed at Rerewahine on the Otago Peninsula, Tomahawk and at Harrington Point.