

Enquiries to: David Manzini, A/Director, Infrastructure and Assets
Infrastructure Management Division
Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Our Ref: 004-24

Date: 11 January 2024



Wide Bay
Hospital and Health Service

Mr B Carson
Manager
Heritage Branch
Department of Environment and Science
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane QLD 4001

Email: heritage@des.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Carson

Thank you for your letter dated 6 November 2023, regarding the application proposing entry of the Former Nurses' Quarters – Bundaberg Hospital in the Queensland Heritage Register.

I am advised, based on the criteria in the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992, Section 35*, the proposed listing of the Former Nurses' Quarters at Bundaberg Hospital does satisfy the specified requirements for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.

The Former Nurses' Quarters building is currently fully occupied by a range of hospital services and departments including overnight staff accommodation, education and training, and administration services. However, with the opening of the New Bundaberg Hospital expected to occur within the next five years, the future use of the Nurses' Quarters building is yet to be determined, therefore Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (WBHHS) has reservations about the heritage listing which may restrict or prevent future alterations or refurbishment.

As such WBHHS proposes a heritage boundary around the external building fabric only and only of the sections of the building constructed in 1914 and 1937, and also excluding the northern wing built in 1963. This segregation will assist in ensuring that compliance with building codes and standards can be achieved for any future redevelopments, as well as allowing any ongoing general maintenance to be undertaken without the requirement to seek heritage approval on the less significant sections of the building.

Should you require further information, please contact Mr David Manzini, A/Director, Infrastructure and Assets, Infrastructure Management Division, on telephone [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Debbie Carroll
Chief Executive
Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service

6 December 2023

Heritage
Department of Environment and Science
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email: heritage@des.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr. Ben Carson,

Application proposing entry of Former Nurses' Quarters – Bundaberg Base Hospital in the Queensland Heritage Register

Thank you for your correspondence dated 6 November 2023 inviting Council to make a written submission in relation to the application proposing entry of the Former Nurses' Quarters – Bundaberg Base Hospital at 273 Bourbong Street, Bundaberg West within the Queensland Heritage Register.

Council does not object to the proposed entry of the Former Nurses' Quarters within the Queensland Heritage Register. It is generally supported that the premises displays merit against relevant Criterion A (demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's history), Criterion E (aesthetic significance), and Criterion G (strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group).

As general feedback, the description could provide further information about the interior of the building consistent with other listings for buildings within the Queensland Heritage Register. Further, noting the history of alterations to the building and to provide clarity for future development works, it would be beneficial for the listing to specify features of the building that are considered to be of state – level cultural heritage significance, as well as identifying features that do not meet this threshold.

As you may be aware, the premises forms a component of the Bundaberg Hospital Complex which is identified as a local heritage place under the Bundaberg Regional Council Planning Scheme. The *Housing Availability and Affordability (Planning and Other Legislation Amendment) Bill 2023* proposes changes to remove the duplication of State and local government assessment of Queensland heritage places.

In this regard, Council seeks clarification regarding the proposed heritage boundaries of the premises and assessment responsibilities should this application for entry within the Queensland Heritage Register be granted by the Department of Environment and Science. This includes what opportunities Council may have in assessing or providing advice to DES on matters of local heritage significance where there is a duplicate state and local heritage listing (including in the event the State passes the HAAPOLA Bill).

Further to the above, I advise that Council has no record of any application for development approval on the place made but not decided under the *Planning Act 2016*. In terms of existing development approvals, I note the site is subject to an infrastructure designation made by the Minister for Health in November 2008 for the Bundaberg Hospital. A search of development approvals issued before this date, or any building approvals, has not been undertaken at this time.

Should you have any questions in relation to Council's submission, please contact Council's Senior Strategic Planner, [REDACTED] or Council's Strategic Planning Section on [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully

Evan Fritz
Manager Strategic Planning

Encl. Local Heritage Place Card - Bundaberg Hospital Complex

Other Names	Bundaberg Base Hospital, Bundaberg General Hospital.	
Street Address	273 Bourbong Street	Bundaberg
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	80B158103	

Historical Context

Bundaberg was established in the late 1860s. The Burnett River was identified by John Charles Burnett (after which was it named) during his exploration of the Wide Bay and Burnett regions in 1847. Pastoral stations were established throughout the Wide Bay and Burnett in the late 1840s through to the 1860s, including stations such as Gin Gin, Walla, Bingera, Electra, Monduran and Tantitha. The stations were initially stocked with sheep, but progressively were replaced with cattle. When prices were low, or there was an oversupply of stock (particularly in the 1860s), the cattle were rendered to produce tallow. A boiling down works was established in Baffle Creek to render the stock from the stations. John and Gavin Steuart secured a contract to provide the works with timber for tallow casks. The Steuarts established a camp in North Bundaberg in 1866 and erected a sawmill in the following year. Interest in the settlement grew rapidly and a town was surveyed on the southern bank of the Burnett River in 1868 on the site of the present day city.

Timber was the industry that acted as a catalyst for the creation of a European settlement. However, it was sugar that came to define the history of Bundaberg and the surrounding region. Sugar cane was planted in the 1870s and the first commercial sugar mill, located at Millbank (west of the city on the southern bank of the Burnett), began operating in 1872. The industry was thriving by the 1880s, with major mills such as Millaquin, Bingera and Fairymead processing cane juice from cane plantations and farms throughout the region, particularly in land formerly occupied by the Woongarra, Bingera and Gooburrum scrubs. From its early years, the industry relied on South Sea Islander labour (referred to as 'Kanakas' at the time). The importance of Bundaberg was further strengthened when it became the port for the Mount Perry copper mine, with a railway from Mount Perry to North Bundaberg constructed in 1884 (although a rudimentary road existed from the early 1870s). A rum distillery was established at Millaquin sugar mill in 1888, later known as the Bundaberg Rum Distillery. Bundaberg also developed a foundry and engineering industry to support the sugar and juice mills, and the copper mines at Mount Perry. The first local government, the Bundaberg Divisional Board, was gazetted in 1880.

The first Bundaberg Hospital was a simple timber building constructed in 1881. The building was referred to as the 'Cottage Hospital', reflecting its humble design. It also had a separate ward for South Sea Islanders, who were heavily employed in the sugar plantations in the region. The population of Bundaberg steadily increased and by the late 1890s it was becoming clear that the hospital was not sufficient for the city. However, it was not until 1910 that planning for the new hospital began. The Hospital Committee that oversaw the operations of the hospital secured seven acres of land excised from Queen's Park and the new hospital, designed by the prominent Bundaberg architect FH Faircloth and built by NC Steffensen, one of Bundaberg's most prominent builders in this period, was completed in 1914. Funding for the hospital was heavily supported by the local community; the Queensland government matching every pound raised with £2. The Bundaberg community eventually raised over £5,000.

The new hospital was two storeys high and divided into three wings. The eastern and western wings were comprised of female and male wards respectively. The central building was more diverse, including the Executive offices, a private ward, surgery, operating theatre, dispensary, dining rooms and a kitchen. The central building also included two lifts. The grounds were enclosed in a brick fence with cast iron gates. A nurses' quarters was also constructed, although it was completed after the hospital had been finished.

The hospital has continued to expand over time as the population has increased and medical technology and hospital design has changed. The female and male wings of the hospital were replaced in the c1950s. Buildings have been continuously added to the site since then, and the original landscaped grounds have also been altered. The central building has remained, although it too has been altered internally to varying degrees to accommodate new uses. Nonetheless, major elements of the original hospital remain relatively intact, including the central building and nurses' quarters, sections of the original fence and possibly other features, including a laundry and morgue. The buildings that replaced the female and male wards are located in generally the same configuration as the original wards. The other buildings in the complex reflect different attitudes and approaches to hospital care over time.

Physical Description

The Bundaberg Hospital complex occupies over 10 hectares on the southern bank of the Burnett River. The site is bounded by Queens Park to the north, Hinkler Avenue to the east, Bourbong Street to the south and Hope Street to the west. The main hospital complex is located in the eastern half the site, with a specialist clinic, staff accommodation and car parking located to the immediate west. The majority of the western part of the site contains remnant bushland, grassed areas and a recent university facility with associated car parking on its northern boundary. A number of sealed roads and walkways provide access to the complex and individual buildings and there are also some designated car parking areas. The site shows evidence of varying levels of landscaping throughout, with a recently completed garden in the south eastern corner being a major focus.

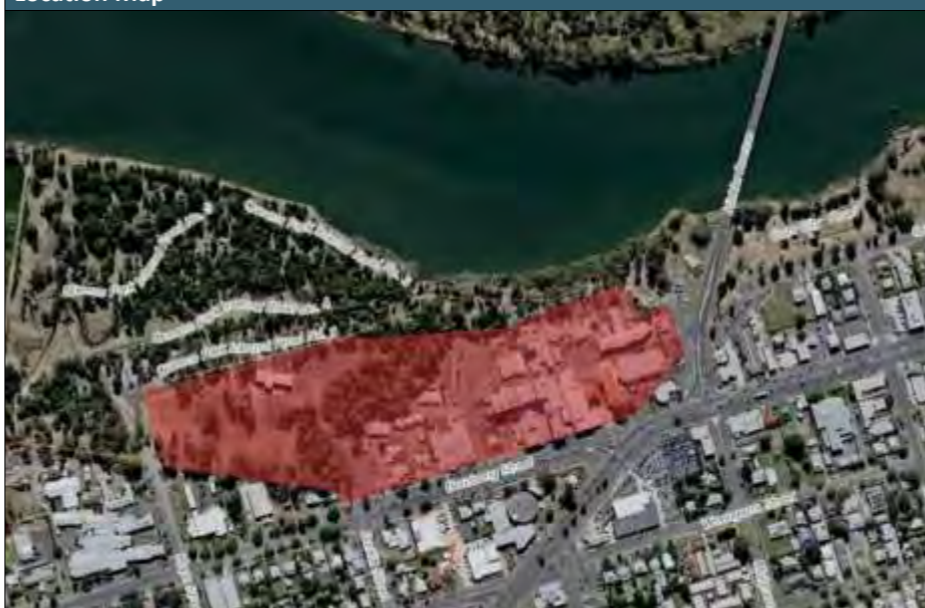
The complex comprises a large number of structures illustrating the progressive development of the hospital over time.

Heritage Significance	
Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	The Bundaberg Hospital complex is important in demonstrating the evolution of the region's history. The 1914 hospital replaced the first hospital in the district, known as the 'Cottage Hospital'. The substantial masonry building was substantially larger than the original, single storey timber hospital, reflecting the increasing population and prosperity of the Bundaberg district in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century (largely as a result of the growth of the sugar industry). The continuing changes to the hospital complex over time also reflect the evolution of the region's history as the region has continued to grow over time and technological and architectural changes to medical practice are applied.

E	<i>The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance</i>
Statement	The Bundaberg Hospital complex is important to the region for its aesthetic significance. Although visually circumscribed, the original central building, built to the design of the prominent Bundaberg architect FH Faircloth, retains key architectural features that reflect its period of construction and remain aesthetically significant. The remnants of the fence and landscaped grounds (although the latter have been altered over time) contribute to this significance. Later structures also contribute aesthetically to the complex, in particular the former nurses' quarters constructed in 1914 and the c1950s buildings that replaced the female and male ward wings of the original hospital - these are excellent examples of architectural influences of the 1950s period including extensive use of tiles, rounded external mouldings and glass.

G	<i>The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons important to the region.</i>
Statement	The Bundaberg Hospital complex has a special association with the prominent Bundaberg architect, FH Faircloth, and the builder NC Steffensen, both of who were responsible for the design and construction respectively of numerous buildings and structures in Bundaberg in the early twentieth century.

Location Map



Southern elevation of Centre-Block.



Southern elevation of Old Quarters.



South-western corner of E-Block.

Significant heritage elements are:

- Centre – Block
- Remnants of original fence
- Old quarters
- 'E' – Block
- Breast screen clinic

And, to a lesser degree:

- Main Block
- 'F' – Block
- Morgue (former)

Centre – Block (1914)

This building addresses Bourbong Street and is the only remaining part of the 1914 opened hospital that consisted of three connected buildings. Centre – Block consists of a double storey, partially rendered, masonry structure (originally face brick) with a corrugated iron clad, Dutch gable roof fronted by two protruding gable sections on the corners and an enclosed balcony in the centre. The core building features a verandah with separate roof on the sides and rear. The façade shows a number of classical decorative elements, including pilasters on the corners supporting entablatures and pediments in the gables, moulded string courses, moulded architraves with keystones at the windows and round columns and decorative wrought iron panels at the balcony. The main entrance is via a large, moulded arch leading through a portico into a hall containing an ornate timber staircase and some pressed metal coverings. A tall structure with hipped roof joins onto the core building on the north-eastern corner, followed by an L-shaped two storey rendered (ashlar) masonry structure with Dutch gable joining onto the rear. The windows are sash and casement configuration with accentuated sills. Access is via French doors on ground level and there are stairs leading to the upper level. A single storey extension adjoins the rear of the building.

'E' – Block (c1950s)

'E' – block is located to the east of Centre – Block (replacing the former female ward) and consists of an elongated, double storey, face brick structure with tiled roof, hipped at the front (south) and Dutch gable at the rear. A narrow, two storey protrusion with gable roof spans extending from the main façade spans the central portion of the southern elevation and contains the main entrance. The building features Art Deco style elements, including geometrical building composition and window configuration. A verandah with separate roof extends about a quarter of the length of the building from the southern corners on both side and features rounded corners, decorative pillars and accentuated trims. The balconies join onto bold rectangular rendered segments that extend beyond the roof line. A tall structure with hipped corrugated iron clad roof and a two storey building with hip and valley corrugated iron clad roof are attached on the western elevation towards the north. On the eastern elevation, the building is joined via a connecting element to 'F'-Block.

Remnants of original fence (1914)

Sections of the original fence are located on the southern perimeter, along the periphery of a recent garden and consist of decorative, rendered brick pillars. Two larger pillars, former gate posts, are more elaborately decorated and each topped with an orb shaped element. Originally, the pillars were face brick and only the capping was rendered.

Old Quarters (1915 – Nurses' Quarters)

The Old Quarters are a short distance from 'E'-Block to the north and consist of an elongated, rectangular, two storey, face brick structure with a number of wings extending to the north and an extension joining at an obtuse angle on the eastern side. The building has a rib (trim) deck clad iron roof in a combination of Dutch gable and hip configuration, with three gables at the façade (southern elevation). The building is fronted by a wide verandah with separate roof supported by waist height brick piers and timber posts and arches on the upper level at the front and sides. The verandah has a simple, timber slat balustrade. Access is via several French doors. On ground level the building is dominated by an arcade spanning the entire front and featuring an accentuated keystone in each arch and simple timber balustrades. A number of brick steps lead into the arcade. Several French doors provide access into the building on ground floor. The main entrance is via a two storey protruding section covered by a wide gable. This section features quoining.

Breast Screen Clinic

The Breast Screen Clinic is located to the west of the Old Quarters and comprise the original building and a recent extension (1995) partially mirroring the layout and style of the original structure. The building consists of a single storey, face brick structure with complex hip and valley roof, clad with rib (trim) deck sheeting. Significant features of the original building include rounded front section with pentagonal roof, portico with brick arches, and what appears to be original metal balustrades, doors and windows. The architectural style reflects a combination of Bauhaus/minimalist and late Art Deco elements.

'F'- Block and Main Block (c1960s)

The external elevations of 'F' – Block and Main Block are representative of the modernist, minimalist architecture with "brutalist" overtones, and featuring cubic composition, face brick walls with rendered concrete window frames (main block) and banks of windows.

Former Morgue
 The former morgue is located on the northern boundary and consists of a single storey, face brick building with a corrugated iron clad, hipped roof. The building, currently used for storage, has been altered significantly with windows and some doors closed in with bricks of a different colour.

Statutory Listings	No statutory listings
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings
Inspection Date	4/12/2015

References

Janette Nolan, Bundaberg: History and people, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press, 1978.

JY Walker, History of Bundaberg: Typical Queensland agricultural settlement, Bundaberg, WC Aiken, 1890.

Neville Rackemann, Bundaberg: From pioneers to prosperity, Bundaberg, Bundaberg City Council, 1992.

Sue Gammon, Local History Feature 'Bundaberg Base Hospital', Bundaberg, Bundaberg Libraries, n.d., http://library.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/Base_Hospital_story.pdf, accessed February 2016.

From: Jane Darcy [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:15 AM
To: Heritage
Subject: ID 650281 Nurses' Quarters Bundaberg.

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You have not previously corresponded with this sender. Be careful clicking any link or attachment.

I am writing in support of the application for the Nurses' Quarters to be added to the heritage register.

We are relatively new to Bundaberg (2015) and one of the first buildings we saw was this. My family are medical and my mother-in-law was a nurse trained in the 1950s. Having buildings like this to go with stories develops strong ties with the past which enhances nurses' love of their profession. I would imagine that many Bundaberg families have even stronger ties with this building and there are many memories of those whose footsteps were laid down inside. This building is a place that has a strong or special association with nurses and the Bundaberg community and is important in demonstrating the evolution of nursing in Queensland's history.

It is also aesthetically significant and displays an example of architecture drawn up for a specific purpose. It blends with some fine Queenslander houses in the area which private owners are taking the time and spending money to preserve.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Jane Darcy

Heritage

From: Christine [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 19 November 2023 3:05 PM
To: Heritage
Subject: Heritage Register Place ID # 650281
Attachments: Nurses Quarters.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Please find attached a submission from the Bundaberg & District Historical & Museum Society Inc. in support of the Heritage registration of the Bundaberg General Hospital's Nurses' Quarters. Place ID # 650281.

Kind regards
Christine Spence
Coordinator

Before the new brick Bundaberg General Hospital was officially opened on the 9th July 1914, the Board had let a tender of 1,944 pounds, 7 shillings and 6 pence to Anderson and Pomfret for the construction of a new brick nurses quarters.

The Nursing Quarters were built in a style to serve the purpose for which they would be used. They are of Brick and cement tuckpointed, and the inside walls finished in cement. The roof is Bungalow style and the verandah is carried on solid wooden columns on brick pedestals. The building was constructed with 11 bedrooms, 7 for day nurses and four for those on night duty, the latter rooms being isolated from the main building for quietness. The verandah was fitted with louvered blinds to allow the Nurses to sleep in the day time on the Verandah if they wanted to, and to further darken the rooms. There is a sitting room, 19 x 14 foot, dressing rooms and bathrooms. The toilets etc. were located at the back of the building.

The old Nursing Quarters is a significant reminder of how the evolution of Nurses' training has evolved. The building has a special association with Nursing training and how it has changed significantly over the years from the construction of the Nurses' Quarters. In the beginning Nurses had to live-in, work 12 hours a day and actual nursing training was minimal.

Comparisons of some of the nursing conditions are:

1915 On duty at 6 am, working a 12 hour day one day, 11 hours the next. Nurses were allowed one full day off each month, also a day when they would start at 6 am but finish at 10 am once a month. Nurses were required to go to the kitchen at mealtimes to bring the patients meals back to them.

1955 Nurses were allowed 2 days off a week, but were expected to work broken shifts. Nurses were expected to be in bed in the Nurses' Quarters by 10 pm each night. They were permitted one late night each month when they were allowed up until midnight. Lectures had to be attended in their own time, either on days off or in the middle of broken shifts. Nurses were still expected to collect Patients meals from the kitchen, preparing special diets and supper in the ward.

1970 2 days off a week, with shift work of 8 hours per day over a 12 hour period.

2000 Nursing education is now through University. Advances have been made in the use of mechanical monitoring devices and most equipment is a single use only.

From: R & J Edwards [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:08 AM
To: Heritage
Subject: HRN 650271

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Executive Officer, Heritage Branch,
Department of Environment and Science

2 December, 2023

I am writing to express strong support for the heritage listing of the Nurses' Quarters at the Base Hospital, Bundaberg.

For many years, the Nurses' Quarters have provided much needed on site accommodation for nursing staff, in particular those from out of town, as they underwent their training to become certified nurses, contributing to the provision of health care in Queensland. Enabling nurses to train at the Bundaberg Base Hospital whilst living at the nurses' quarters, provided a valuable service to the Bundaberg and surrounding community.

The building itself is a prominent local landmark, and as such, must be preserved as an important part of the history and heritage of Queensland.

Jilda Edwards

From: Nick Page [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 11:17 AM
To: Heritage
Subject: HRN 650281 Former Nurses' Quarters - Bundaberg Base Hospital

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To whom it may concern

I have read in detail the above Heritage Application and fully endorse all the criteria listed.

In particular

- that the building has a special association with our community via the nursing profession and demonstrates the evolution of nursing and associated training within Queensland
- that the building is architecturally appealing
- that the building could be at risk as a result of future development, due to the construction of the new Bundaberg Base Hospital facilities on the edge of the town.

Yours

Nicholas Page



From: George Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:29 AM
To: Heritage
Subject: Submission - Former Nurses' Quarters - Bundaberg Base Hospital - Queensland Heritage Register application

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Reference - (HRN): 650281

The Chief Executive, Heritage Branch
Department of Environment and Science

This is a submission in support of the current application to include the Former Nurses' Quarters on the State Heritage Register.

The building is historically significant to current and future people of the Bundaberg region and, in fact, all Queenslanders. It provides a poignant reminder of the progress of maternal and child welfare services - both service provision and nurse training - in Australia, within a local context.

Architecturally, the Bundaberg region has a poorly-preserved record. This aesthetically pleasing building in its nearby-river setting highlights the brick and timber style of the period. There are few other preserved local examples and the eventual closure of the Bundaberg Base Hospital poses a significant risk to the building's longevity.

I commend the application to you and encourage you to include the Former Nurses' Quarters on the State Heritage Register.

Yours sincerely,

George Martin

[REDACTED]

From: leigh petersen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 7:54 PM
To: Heritage
Subject: Nurses quarters Bundaberg. HRN 650281.

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To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to support the old Nurses' Quarters at Bundaberg Base Hospital to be added to the State Heritage REGISTER.

This building represents the architectural style of the era and served as 'home' for many thousand of nurses trained at the hospital.

Many of those nurses gather annually and reminisce about the years spent in those rooms.

The red brick was the only brick available at that time. Sadly, many government buildings of that era have been demolished. It is important that young people today can actually see the design of accommodation, the restrictions and lack of amenities expected to be used by professional women.

It is also important for architectural students to be able to actually see buildings from the years of Bundaberg development.

Thanking you,
Leigh Petersen

[REDACTED]

From: Heritage
Sent: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 8:26 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: FW: Submission on the application to enter the Former Nurses Quarters - Bundaberg Base Hospital into the Queensland Heritage Register - HRN 650281

From: Carl Moller
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 5:27 PM
To: Heritage
Subject: Submission on the application to enter the Former Nurses Quarters - Bundaberg Base Hospital into the Queensland Heritage Register - HRN 650281

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As a proud Queenslander, I strongly support this application. In particular, I believe that the building has a strong association with the community of the Bundaberg region and contributes to the identity of a provincial Queensland city.

Like many Nurses' Quarters built in Queensland, the building was necessary to meet the needs of the Bundaberg Hospital. Put simply, hospitals cannot operate without trained nurses. I therefore argue that the deep connections that many Queensland residents have with their local hospital and nursing staff extends to the nurses' quarters.

With a new hospital being constructed at another site in Bundaberg, it is possible that many buildings at the current hospital complex will eventually be sold or demolished. The Heritage Council may wish to consider this timeframe if an important part of Queensland's heritage is to be properly protected.

I would like to give an example of the very strong association that the community has with the Bundaberg Hospital. Twenty years ago, I was working for a politician who was involved in an issue surrounding the Hospital. The issue related to a surgeon at the Hospital and led to sustained, negative media attention right across Australia. Over a period of at least 12 months, I spoke to hundreds of ordinary members of the public who were very upset because they wanted to support the hardworking nurses who were caught up in all the negative publicity. They all wanted to tell me stories about the professionalism they had received and the kindness of the staff. Some people even wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper - the first time they had ever done so.

On a personal level, I have strong connections to the Bundaberg Hospital and its staff, and therefore to the Nurses Quarters. I was born there, as were my siblings. I have been a patient there, and a few years ago thought I was going to die there. It is possible that I owe my life due to a nurse who once lived in the Nurses' Quarters. I watched my mother-in-law take her final breaths in the ward closest to the Nurses' Quarters. My uncle died there, and I have visited countless friends and other family members while they have been treated there. My wife is a Clinical Nurse at the Hospital and prior to that she worked there as an Administration Officer. As a nurse she has attended training courses in the old Nurses Quarters. She has utilised the building's small library which was owned by the University of Queensland. One of her colleagues who lived over 50km from town has stayed overnight in the building. Before we got married, my wife and I used to regularly meet after work at the pool in the Nurses' Quarters. It was at the pool that I suggested we get engaged.

Without the Nurses' Quarters, Bundaberg Base Hospital as a whole would not have operated and grown to become a very important part of the identify of Bundaberg. It is a beautiful building which should be protected at a State level through entry into the Queensland Heritage Register.

Carl Moller