

SHAUGHNESSY HOSPITAL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

REVISED 7 January 2009

FORMER SHAUGHNESSY HOSPITAL

4500 Oak Street, VANCOUVER

Note: this SOS is prepared for DYS Architecture for municipal heritage planning purposes. The consent of the owner must be secured for the SOS to be used for other purposes including possible listing on the provincial or federal registers of historic places.



Figure 1: Former main entry

SHAUGHNESSY HOSPITAL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORIC PLACE DESCRIPTION

The former Shaughnessy Hospital building, now part of Children's and Women's Hospital, is a sprawling complex of four storey concrete buildings wings surrounded by other institutional buildings on a large campus in the Oakridge area of Vancouver. The building is listed on the Recent Landmarks in the "A" Category, but is not listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register, nor is it designated. It was included in the City of Vancouver Heritage Interiors Project.

HERITAGE VALUE

The former Shaughnessy Hospital is of heritage value for its history in the evolution of the Children's and Women's hospital complex, as the work of an important architectural firm, for its distinctive architecture with expressive and integrally decorated concrete construction and for its integration of art in the building execution, especially evident at its original entranceway. (Figure 1).

The building of Shaughnessy Hospital was related to its original military purposes in 1940. With many extensions and newer wings the core of the building reflects the legacy of its military origins.

Designed by architects Mercer and Mercer in 1940, the building is a good example of late Art Moderne architectural style, including a particularly fine entranceway. Features of this style include strong horizontal massing with articulated wings, linear elements, corner windows with projecting concrete framing elements and horizontal banding of concrete with aligning window muntin bars, cast in place detailing such as lozenge motifs and chevron patterning (Figure 2 and 3). Stylized columns mark the entrances, the main entry having a bronze grill screen (Figure 4). Noted artist Beatrice Lennie created a pair of bar relief plaster murals depicting military and medical themes to flank the entrance (Figure 6).

The condition of much of the concrete detailing has suffered from deterioration (oxide jacking of reinforcing bars being a likely cause) and in many places the wood sash windows are in need of repair. Evidence of previous painting of the exterior can be found.

Little of value remains on the interior save for some plaster detailing in the original main foyer (Figure 7) and some aspects of the auditorium.

Additions and surrounding new buildings have compromised the setting and exposure of the building, particularly at the main entrance (Figure 8).

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Figures 2 and 3 Detail of concrete elements, corner window with damage concrete hood



Figure 4: Bronze screen

Figure 5: Former main entry

SHAUGHNESSY HOSPITAL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

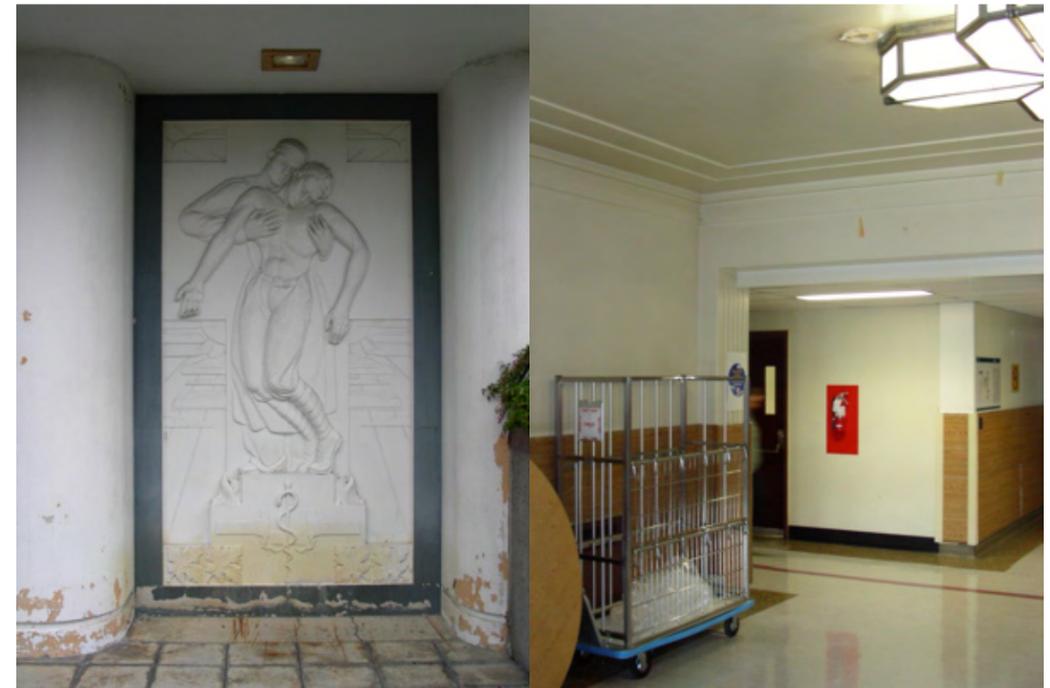


Figure 6: Beatrice Lennie panel (one of two)

Figure 7: Former main entry foyer



Figure 8: Additions and connector detract from original setting

SHAUGHNESSY HOSPITAL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Exterior

- building's location at the heart of the hospital campus
- cast in place concrete construction, now painted
- horizontal banding, corner windows
- integrally cast decorative elements
- stylized columns at entrance
- bronzed grill screen at entrance
- Beatrice Lennie bas-relief panels at former main entry

Interior

- plaster detailing in original lobby
- Art Moderne style light fixtures in original lobby

RESEARCH NOTES

Luxton Donald, ed. Building the West: The Early Architects of British Columbia. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2003

Kalman, Phillips and Ward. Exploring Vancouver. Vancouver UBC Press, 1993

F.G. Consultants. "Take a Look Inside: The City of Vancouver Heritage Interiors Project"; unpublished, 1996

City of Vancouver heritage files

ACUTE CARE WING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

19 October 2009

NEW WING (ACUTE CARE WING)

**Children's & Women's Health Care Centre
4500 Oak Street, VANCOUVER**

For dysarchitecture

Note: this SOS is prepared for DYS Architecture for municipal heritage planning purposes. The consent of the owner must be secured for the SOS to be used for other purposes including possible listing on the provincial or federal registers of historic places.



Figure 1: Main entry

HISTORIC PLACE DESCRIPTION

The New Wing, now the Acute Care Wing, is a five storey hospital structure part of Children's and Women's Hospital, a sprawling complex of institutional buildings on a large campus in the Oakridge area of Vancouver. The building is listed on the Recent Landmarks in the "B" Category, but is not listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register, nor is it designated.

ACUTE CARE WING STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HERITAGE VALUE

The New Wing is of heritage value for its history in the evolution of the Children's and Women's hospital complex from its origins as Shaughnessy Military Hospital, as the work of an important architectural firm and for its expressive architectural design.

From 1940 there was rapid growth in the development of Shaughnessy Military Hospital including the main hospital building (1940), the Jean Matheson Memorial Pavilion (1946) and the New Boiler House (1957), all designed by architects Mercer and Mercer. In 1960, the same firm designed the New Wing as an extension of the main Shaughnessy Hospital building.

By 1960, Mercer and Mercer's work at the Shaughnessy site had evolved from the earlier Art Moderne style through the International Style. Evident at the New Wing, design aspect of the International Style include a strictly organized pattern of simple fenestration with horizontal banding, complemented by a distinctive egg-crate type grid of windows at marking the main entrance. The entrance is further emphasized by a row of slender concrete columns and a projecting copper-trimmed canopy with distinctive lozenge-shaped openings.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Exterior

- building's location at the heart of the hospital campus
- cast in place concrete construction, now painted
- extension of main hospital building
- regular pattern of windows
- horizontal banding,
- central gridded window system
- slender columns at entry
- projecting canopy with copper trim and lozenge shaped openings

RESEARCH NOTES

Luxton Donald, ed. Building the West: The Early Architects of British Columbia. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2003

Kalman, Phillips and Ward. Exploring Vancouver. Vancouver UBC Press, 1993

City of Vancouver heritage files

JEAN MATHESON PAVILION STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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19 October 2009

JEAN MATHESON MEMORIAL PAVILION

Children's & Women's Health Care Centre

For dysarchitecture

4500 Oak Street, VANCOUVER
(also 4555 Heather Street)

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Figure 1: Main Entry

HISTORIC PLACE DESCRIPTION

The Jean Matheson Memorial Pavilion, now the Mental Health building, is a large four storey hospital building at Children's and Women's Hospital, a sprawling complex of institutional buildings on a large campus in the Oakridge area of Vancouver. The building was included in the Recent Landmarks survey in the "A" Category, but is not listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register, nor is it designated.

JEAN MATHESON PAVILION STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



Figure 2: South elevation

HERITAGE VALUE

The Jean Matheson Memorial Pavilion is of heritage value for its history in the evolution of the Children's and Women's hospital complex from its origins as Shaughnessy Military Hospital, for its commemoration of an important figure in the nursing profession, as the work of an important architectural firm and for its strong architectural expression (Figure 1).

The building of Shaughnessy Hospital was related to its original military purposes in 1940, with the Jean Matheson pavilion being completed at the end of World War II. Designed as the Chest Unit, its original use was for the treatment of tuberculosis for war veterans. The building was named for Jean Matheson who was the matron (director of nursing) of Shaughnessy Military Hospital from 1919-1937. Prior to that Ms. Matheson was the "Matron of World War I's No. 5 General Hospital (B.C.'s contribution to the war effort), in England, Egypt and Salonika" (source: Rumen, Nina "Vancouver's Monuments to Nurses").

Designed by architects Mercer and Mercer in 1946, the building is a good example of the International Style of architectural design, which evolved from the earlier Art Moderne style of Shaughnessy Hospital. Features of this style include strong horizontal lines, linear and stepped massing. Vestiges of Art Moderne can be found in the main entrance (Figure 1) and the central bay of park side façade (Figure 2), where vertical framing and fenestration mark the entrance.

Sunlight and fresh air were considered important aspect of the treatment of tuberculosis. The building is expressive of these qualities by having extensive glazing and access to balconies from most rooms. The building was subject to rehabilitation and additions in 2004/05 by Henriquez Architects for its conversion to the Mental Health unit.

JEAN MATHESON PAVILION STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Exterior

- building's location at the edge of the hospital campus
- park like setting
- stepped, linear massing
- horizontal banding
- extensive glazing including outline of former balcony doors
- vertical framing and detailing of entrance bay
- vertical articulation of central park side bay

RESEARCH NOTES

Luxton Donald, ed. Building the West: The Early Architects of British Columbia. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2003

Kalman, Phillips and Ward. Exploring Vancouver. Vancouver UBC Press, 1993

Rumen, Nina. "Vancouver's Monuments to Nurses", RNABC History of Nursing Group, web posting revised 2008

City of Vancouver heritage files

STEAM PLANT STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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19 October 2009

NEW BOILER HOUSE (STEAM PLANT)

**Children's & Women's Health Care Centre
4500 Oak Street, VANCOUVER**

For dysarchitecture

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Figure 1: Main elevation

HISTORIC PLACE DESCRIPTION

The New Boiler House, now known as the Steam Plant, is a large concrete and glass industrial building with landmark chimney at Children's and Women's Hospital, a sprawling complex of institutional buildings on a large campus in the Oakridge area of Vancouver. The building is listed on the Recent Landmarks in the "B" Category, but is not listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register, nor is it designated.

STEAM PLANT STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



Figure 2: rear elevation

HERITAGE VALUE

The New Boiler House is of heritage value for its history in the evolution of the Children's and Women's hospital complex from its origins as Shaughnessy Military Hospital, for its role in the operations of the hospital complex, as the work of an important architectural firm, for its distinctive architecture and the expression and visibility of its industrial function.

From 1940 there was rapid growth in the development of Shaughnessy Military Hospital including the main hospital building (1940) and the Jean Matheson Memorial Pavilion (1946). The New Boiler House was added in 1957 to serve the needs of the expanding campus and its eventual evolution to the Children's and Women's Health Care Centre. Commonly known as the Steam Plant, the building was critical to the demands for energy on the site.

At present, the building still provides energy to areas within the Vancouver General Hospital.

Designed by architects Mercer and Mercer in 1957, who had designed other buildings on

STEAM PLANT STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

campus, the building is a good example of International Style architectural style. The building expresses and celebrates its function with large areas of glass (some coloured) and a landmark chimney. Like its institution neighbours, it is made of concrete with a painted finish.

CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS

Exterior

- building's location at the edge of the hospital campus
- cast in place concrete construction, now painted
- large rectangular window openings with coloured glazing
- prominent location and slender shape of chimney

RESEARCH NOTES

Luxton Donald, ed. Building the West: The Early Architects of British Columbia. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2003

Kalman, Phillips and Ward. Exploring Vancouver. Vancouver UBC Press, 1993

City of Vancouver heritage files