



**Kwazulu-Natal Children's Hospital : Phase 2C  
External Façade & Roof Repairs : Nurses' Home.**

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## 1.0 OVERVIEW

“Addington Hospital Nurses Home, Beach Wing” was designed in 1929 by JS Cleland, Chief Architect for the Department of Public Works. The building is a U shape, constructed on three levels with the main colonnaded veranda façade facing east towards the beach. The Children’s Home was constructed prior to the Nurses’ Home which is far more utilitarian in comparison.

From the publication “Durban’s Addington Hospital” 1879 – 1979, the only reference to the Nurses’ Home is the following :

“Facing Hospital Road is the huge New Nurses’ Home consisting of 636 bedrooms which all face north. Each bedroom has built in furniture.”



View from Hospital Road.

The original drawings do not indicate any veranda facing north to Hospital Road. This could have been added when 110 Hospital Road was constructed as the verandas are identical. Later the north facing verandas on the first and second floor were enclosed.

The original drawings do not indicate a roof over the second floor veranda. It is clear from examining the building that the roof was a later addition as was the enclosure of the verandas on both the first and second floors.



Verandas without enclosures.

## 2.0 LISTED STATUS AND CONSERVATION PRINCIPALS

2.1 The Nurses' Home is not a listed building. However 110 Hospital Road has been listed in Professor Brian Kearney's "A Revised Listing of the Important Places and Buildings in Durban" as "A three storied, institutional building of the Union period with Classical features and pavilion forms, arcades, rusticated base to central lower floor and hipped tiled roofs. Makes a streetscape along Hospital Road."

The building has value as being part of a group with 110 Hospital Road as well as the very architecturally dominant Children's Hospital.

## 2.2 Icomos Burra Charter

### Article 3. Cautious approach

3.1 *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric, use, associations and meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.

3.2 Changes to a place should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

## 2.3 Icomos ISCARSAH Principals

3.14 The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided whenever possible.

3.15 Deteriorated structures whenever possible should be repaired rather than replaced.

## 3.0 CONDITION OF THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING

The Building has been unoccupied for approximately two decades. It is imperative that the outer façade including the roof is repaired as portions of the roof have already collapsed causing water ingress. Vagrants continually breaking the fire main for water is causing extensive damage.

Most of the glass in the windows has been smashed causing more water ingress.





### 3.1 Walls

The walls have been constructed in English bond brickwork. The plaster is crazed in many places and is loose. It will be necessary to remove much of the plaster but where possible, such as protected areas in the courtyard, it may be possible to save some areas of plaster. The plinth to the building is face brick which will be re-grouted where necessary.



English bond brickwork.



Damage to walls caused by water ingress.

### 3.2 Mouldings and plaques.

Where possible, the loose plaster will be removed but the mouldings around the windows will be retained. The plaques to the north façade will be retained. The missing plaques will be re-instated from photographic evidence.



### 3.3 Windows

The original windows are teak sliding sash timber windows, 12 over 12. There is evidence that they were painted. Due to lack of maintenance and being exposed to extreme weather conditions so close to the sea, most of the windows have been badly damaged. These windows will be replaced with painted iroko windows to match the existing. It is hoped that the windows facing the courtyard and therefore more sheltered will be able to be retained and repaired.

There are concerns that the lintels have been compromised due to the spalling and the reinforcing being corroded. Where this has happened the lintels will be replaced.

Where verandas have been enclosed, the casement windows will be removed and the cills repaired. Damaged quarry tile cills will be replaced with recycled tiles.



### 3.4 External Doors

The external doors are painted teak. Many of the external doors are glazed. The doors to the verandas are double stable doors to allow for toddlers. Doors are to be repaired where possible. Where this is not possible, they will be replaced with painted iroko doors to match existing.

Ironmongery and door furniture is to be replaced.



Original front door to Hospital Road.



East facing front door to veranda.



French teak glazed door to veranda, to be repaired where possible.



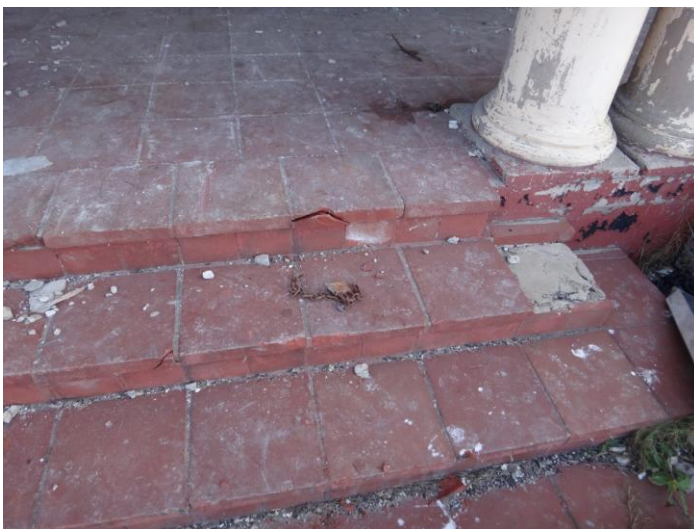
### 3.5 Verandas

Paired Tuscan Doric columns and arches add significance to the east facing veranda. The floors are quarry tiles which are damaged in places. These will be replaced with recycled tiles.

The reinforcing of the floor slabs on the east balcony has been badly corroded and cannot be repaired. The slabs are to be carefully removed and replaced without damaging the outer veranda walls and columns.

The first and second floor east facing verandas have been enclosed and timber floors added to the interior spaces. A roof has been added to the second floor. The roof is to be removed as are the windows to all the enclosed verandas.

The windows are also to be removed from the first and second floor verandas on the north elevation.



Chipped quarry tile floor to veranda.



Timber infill floor to enclosed veranda.



Corroded reinforcing to veranda floors. Floors are to be replaced.



Roof over second floor veranda to be removed.



Infill enclosure butting up original material. This is to be removed.



North facing veranda, infill windows to be removed as well as infill to balustrades.



String courses to be replaced where rotten or where they have fallen off.



Damaged and chipped Tuscan Doric columns to be repaired.

### 3.6 Eaves and Gutters

The ring beam to the building is to be replaced as it is too badly damaged to be repaired. Eaves are to be closed to match existing with aluminium ogee profile gutters.



Corroded ring beams and lintels.



### 3.7 Roof

The roof has Marseilles clay roof tiles. For some years the building has been standing with portion of the east facing roof structure collapsed. This is an extreme safety issue. The building is to be reroofed (see separate report). New trusses are to be erected .It is hoped that the majority of the roof can be reroofed with the existing roof tiles. Any shortfall will be sourced using recycled tiles.



Collapsed roof allowing water ingress and consequential damage.



### 3.8 EXTERNAL WORKS

The courtyard has been neglected with shoddy outbuildings being erected and the surface having been asphalted. The outbuilding and walkway are to be removed and the external fabric of the building is to be reinstated. The asphalt will be removed.



### 4.0 SUMMARY

There is extreme urgency that this building be restored to avoid any further deterioration. The building is also a health and safety hazard. It should be restored so that it is a worthy neighbour to the Children's Hospital, currently being restored.

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