

Alton House School

16 Sefton Street / 9 Sarah Street

Christopher Templeton 2025

Alton House in 1904.
House on the far
right half obscured
by the left tree.



Alton House 1904

Photograph taken
from the new
Chalmers Church



Close up of Alton House with blinds fitted over classroom windows





Aerial View - late 1939



Latest aerial view



Close up on latest aerial view.



Alton House - east face, showing the existing ground floor schoolroom w

[C.T.Templeton 27 December 2020]



North face showing modern extension and blocked off road front (form

[C.T.Templeton 27 December 2020]

Alton House - North-west corner. Modern addition with original house.



Alton House - original Sarah Street frontage.



(Note the mixture of original sash windows, casement windows, and the additional external staircase.)



Alton House - South-west corner showing the extensions and modifications

Whare Nana Private Hospital [11]

32 Bidwill Street

Nurses Jessie Mary Stewart King (1874 - 1958) - Nurses registration number 110.

and

Lucy Georgina White (1878 - 1971)

- Nurse registration number 112.

circa 1912



Private Hospitals Act 1906

Enacted 1 January 1907

4.(5) *“The licence shall state whether it is in respect of a lying-in private hospital or a surgical and medical private hospital, and no lying-in patient shall be received in a private hospital unless it is licensed for such cases, and no patient other than a lying-in patient shall be received in a private hospital licensed for lying-in cases only: Provided that where the Minister is satisfied that the accommodation is suitable he may specially licence a private hospital for both purposes.”*

Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives 1911-1

“During the year since 1st April, 1910, the private hospitals, with a few exceptions in very distant place, have been visited and inspected.....

During the year forty new houses were licensed, thirty-one gave up their licences, and even were transferred to new holders.

Total number licensed218

For medical and surgical..... 52

For maternity only135

For medical, surgical, and midwifery.... 31

It is not desirable to have medical, surgical, and midwifery cases in the one house, and in the larger towns licenses are not granted for all case: but in the country it would be almost impossible to carry on a hospital for medical and surgical case only, and consideration has been given to this fact.”

Aerial view
Late 1939



Latest aerial view







New Zealand's first private maternity hospital in Bidwill Street.

Architect: William Dunning.

Timaru Herald 8 June 1961



Whare Nana Private Hospital - East wing showing a section of the original balustrades.



Whare Nana Private Hospital - view from the North-west.

[C.T.Templeton 22 May 2022]



Close up of the uncovered balustrades

[C.T.Templeton 22 May 2022]



[Left] Whare Nana Private Hospital - North-east verandah showing one of the remaining original French Doors out to the verandah. (Note that the original French doors were reused when the corner of the verandah was enclosed.)

[Right] One of the original French Door openings that had been closed up in the 1960's.

[C.T.Templeton 22 May 2022]





Foundations under the west wing, showing the tapered shape.



Whare Nana Private Hospital - East wing.



Whare Nana Maternity Home - Path from
the south-east corner towards the former
isolation wing.



Whare Nana Maternity Home - Former infectious wing and services block with the filled in doorways visible.



Alton House School and Whare Nana Private Hospital
were:

Conceived of by women.

Funded by women.

Run by women.

Solely for the benefit of South Canterbury women.