

Shop & Residence, 9 Buckingham Street, Footscray.

History

This corner lot was sold in 1854 by Samuel Merrick to Maurice Hennessey as lots 1 & 2, Block D of a typical post-gold subdivision of a Government Crown Section.¹ John Brown, the next owner, sold it to James Harris in 1888, for £98.²

James Harris owned land and a timber house in the street from 1886-7, but the first mention of a shop is when greengrocer, John Padley, leased a shop here from the County of Bourke Building Society around 1900.³ The society also owned a house at 7 Buckingham Street. Harris may have been linked with the local real estate firm of T W & A A Harris; Harris himself living in Cowper Street⁴.

From the early 1900s, Lydia and John Northam owned and ran a general store there until another long-term occupier, James L. Morris, held it in the 1930s and 1940s⁵. Then it was a 5-room wooden house and shop, both with an iron roof.⁶

More renowned shopkeepers in Buckingham Street were Amelia and William Weiland, whose timber shop and residence at the Victoria Street corner, resembled this one prior to its replacement in brick.⁷ Another similar timber shop still stands on the opposite corner to Weiland's.

Description

A weatherboarded, hipped roof shop and residence with the typical splayed corner plan and recessed entry. Shopfronts either side of this entrance are typical for the use and era.

External Integrity

Awnings have been added and a new but sympathetic shopfront on the Buckingham Street frontage.

Streetscape

Surrounded by similarly aged timber houses, representing a cohesive residential precinct, in this case complete with the traditional corner shop.

Significance

Historically a near complete (externally) example of the simple timber corner or neighbourhood shop, as distinct from these in main thoroughfares such as nearby Victoria Street.

Architecturally, it is typical of an uncommon type (timber corner shop) and possesses early entry and shopfront details which so often have been altered in other Footscray examples.

Recommended for individual planning protection.

Footscray Technical School (former), 1 Buckley Street, Footscray.

History

Following public agitation for technical training in what was then one of the State's major industrial areas, the Footscray Technical School was built for the Education Department under the direction of the Public Works Department, opening March, 1916. It offered training in the areas of science, engineering, art, commerce and trade. The renowned C.A. Hoadley was its first principal (q.v.) with F.A. Treyvaud as headmaster, initially teaching 194 day and 132 evening students.⁸

The first building (Junior Technical School) stood at the Nicholson/Buckley Streets' corner with a frontage to the former,⁹ and at a discreet distance from the Footscray Hall. It was of brick (and still exists behind the 1938 facade), with 3 classrooms on the ground and 4 on the upper floor. The adjacent timber Footscray Mission Hall was adapted for use as a carpentry workshop and a new timber building for sheet-metal and solid-modeling was erected between.¹⁰ This building was replaced in 1919 by brick 'additions' containing an engineering turning and fitting workshop (ground) and classrooms over, for maths, chemistry and engineering drawing.¹¹ The building must have just been started when the war-born influenza epidemic meant emergency conversion of the school to a hospital between January and June, 1919.

Additions in 1925 to the Buckley Street frontage, from Nicholson Street to the railway reserve, replaced the old hall and bridged the gap between the first school and the 1919 engineering workshops. Known as the carpenters' workshops, they also contained electrical engineering and physics laboratories and new administrative offices (formerly two rooms on the ground floor of the first building)¹².

Two-storey classrooms and laboratories were added over the facade of the old building along Nicholson Street, in 1937-8; the complex now illustrating designs from three Public Works Chief Architects,

1 SN23787

2 ibid.

3 RB1886, 1000; RB1887, 1458; RB1900, 2265

4 D1896

5 D1900-50

6 RB1931-2, N8

7 FFOY, p.50

8 V&R V3, p.252

9 MMBW PSP 74312, carried out Dec., 1916

10 D1914; MMBW loc.cit.

11 V & R, loc.cit.

12 ibid.