

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.

S.C. Brittingham (part), E. Evan Smith and Percy Everett. Each used a different stylistic approach but nevertheless by choice of materials and scale, the added wings provided some visual coherence along both frontages, albeit defacing the site's oldest building in 1938.

Now almost covered with buildings, the campus needed extending, achieving this on a former parkland reserve on the Ballarat Road, next to Footscray Park, in 1940. Building started there in the next year, again under Chief Architect Percy Everett, but have recently been rendered almost unrecognizable by additions. Enrollment was 2530 in 1943.

A sad loss to the school, Charles Hoadley died in 1947. He was followed briefly by J. Aberdeen and, for a longer period, C. Howard Beanland (1951-), who expanded the school to achieve college status in 1958.¹ Under W.J. Bassett the College became an Institute, in 1968.²

Description

The main public frontages of this red brick and stucco complex are Nicholson and Buckley Streets. The 1916 wing is barely discernible under the 1937-8 Nicholson Street wing (except for the rear wing and foundation stone), but subsequent stages are clear. Presumably following the 1916 lead, the 1919 Buckley Street wing takes on a medieval manner, with Tudoresque gabled wings framing the composition. Using some elements of the previous work, E. Evan Smith's hipped room classical design theme almost overrules any major medievalising. Instead, his favoured Georgian revival is employed on the west wing but the eastern wing repeats motifs of the 1919 design but at a lower level. Glimpses of the brick and rough-cast 1916 architecture may be gained from the rear, but other later wings have been obscured by new work, except for the 1938 wing. Inside little remains of any major period character, except for the Engineering School, where exposed steel framing (columns, beams) survives.

External Integrity

(Given staged construction to 1938)

Windows have been reglazed, a two-storey hall built over one of the eastern wing's gables (Buckley Street) with consequent stripping of the facade detail and openings altered or blocked. Internally most wings have been refitted.

Streetscape Contribution

Aligns with the austere red brick architecture of Polain's investment row houses opposite

(Mechanics Institute site) and the Mechanics Institute itself.

Significance

Historically altered (1916-25 wings) and thus symbolic (externally) only of the institution's beginnings with little known internal period character to provide a setting for the famous identities who worked or trained there.

Architecturally, apparently near to being a shell in all but the 1938 wing, but the Nicholson and Buckley Streets' facades possess some architectural interest as the work of three Public Works Chief Architects, showing each succeeding architect's architects respect or otherwise, for the early work. Recommended for individual planning protection.

United Friendly Societies Dispensary, 2 Albert Street, Footscray.

History

Legislation in 1855 regularized the Friendly Society activities in this colony, which had developed since settlement as either trade-related groups or offshoots to established groups in Britain.³ The first colonial branch of the Independent Order of Oddfellows was formed in Sydney in 1836 while the best known locally inspired society was the Australian Natives Association formed in Victoria in 1871.⁴

Disappearance of the Medieval merchant or craftsmen guilds and the generation of a salaried working class under the industrial revolution, had inspired a bid for financial security for the British working class.⁵ So popular were they that legislation was introduced in 1793 to control their activities in Britain.

An 1875 Royal Commission sought a review of Friendly Societies, which preceded the *Friendly Societies Act*, of 1877. Monitored member contributions and liabilities were the result, making the societies more attractive for members, but further legislation in 1907 and 1911 guaranteed official intervention if contributions could not cover liabilities. By that time 48 societies were registered and membership stood at 148,603. Benefits offered included sickness, funeral and medical benefits, plus a discounted dispensing fee negotiated through the society's own dispensary or on contract. Intra and inter-society social activity was an added and popular attraction. In this period the money paid out to Friendly Society subscribers was greater than the combined expenditure by government or private bodies on welfare in Australia.⁶

1 FFOY, p.108

2 V&R, loc.cit.

3 VYB 1973, p.362f; AE V3 p.120 started 17th cent.

4 ibid.

5 AE V3 p.120; A Briggs, *A Social History of Britain* pp80-1

6 AE loc. cit.