

No. 112 Maling Road hosted a greater variety of businesses, beginning as a ladies drapers shop, becoming a boot shop from the early 1920s until the late 1920s, with Alfred William Broderick as proprietor, and was then leased by Layland Brothers, the cycle manufacturers.¹ Miss M. Rubeli ran a ladies drapery on the premises from the early 1930s until the early 1940s, after which Miss R. Roberts had a gift shop there for a time.² In the 1950s and 1960s, 112 Maling Road was a library.³

Description

Following his successful commission of the Canterbury Hall (q.v.), further west along Maling Road, Carleton designed another Edwardian Baroque styled brick and stuccoed building in the form of this shop row. Each shop's distinctive ox-brow shaped parapet undulates between raised parapet piers, with half-cylinder tops resembling pepper pots. Each residence (upper-level) has a generous verandah, flanked by coupled piers holding leaded light panels. Above the verandah is a row of bold stylized brackets, supporting the cornice moulding, and, below, is the hit-and-miss brickwork of the balustrade. Another strong moulding divides off the upper-level, resting on half-cushion 'capitals' or brackets engaged into the piers. Stylized cement detailing draws from Medieval and other sources one device bifocating a smooth-rusticated pier with a foliated rosette placed above it. Above the timber post-supported verandah are typical obscured glass transom lights. The metal-framed and tiled shopfronts are original and the stucco colour is sympathetic.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

756-768, BURKE ROAD, 1905c
770-792, BURKE ROAD, 1909-10
108-112, MALING ROAD, 1915c
123-125, MALING ROAD, 1915c
1-5, THEATRE PLACE, 1910c
351-353, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1915c

External Integrity

Generally original.

Streetscape

A major, visually distinctive, contributor to an important Edwardian commercial streetscape.

Significance

Architecturally, important because of its distinctive detailing and overall design, as executed by the noted architect, A.E. Carleton, also a major contributor to an important Edwardian precinct and close to its original external condition: of regional importance.

Historically it supports the strong Edwardian character of one of the two Canterbury commercial sub-precincts, being distinct from the older centre in Canterbury Road: of local importance.

Canterbury Hall, later Canterbury Theatre, 111-119 Maling Road.



Study Grading: A

Precinct: 22.00 Streetscape: 1

Construction Date: 1912

First Owner: Canterbury Hall Co.

Architect: Ward & Carleton

Builder: Green, Frederick

History

The Canterbury Hall Company commissioned architects Ward & Carleton and the Camberwell builder, F.R. Green, (q.v.) to erect a brick two-storey 'Public Hall, etc.' in c1912.⁴ A building permit was sought in June, 1912,⁵ and presumably completion was reached by the end of that year, although drainage works were not approved as completed until mid-1913.⁶ Despite its hall description, early directory listings cite it as the Canterbury Theatre, along with the associated retail tenancies of Albert Dyson (watchmaker, 119), Miss Charlotte Wilkinson who ran the Theatre Cafe

1 RB1922-23, I1007; D1920; D1925; D1930
2 D1935; D1940; D1944-5
3 D1950; D1962
4 BA1843, I1/6/1912; MMBW DRP 83489; RB1912-13, 1533; RB1913014, 2006f
5 *ibid.*
6 MMBW DRP 83489

(115), a milliner, Miss Ethel Clay (113) and McMillan & Co., estate agents (111).¹

Ten years later, Green once again carried out works on the theatre for the company, presumably erecting the shops at 4-8 Theatre Place.² Early tenants included Reginald Henry (hairdresser, 8 Theatre Place), Harry P. Simms (mercier, 6) and Robert Ross (a draper in 4 Theatre Place). A billiard room, conducted by George J. Miller at 2 Theatre Place,³ may have been part of the first building stage.³

By 1950, Miller's saloon was shared by Atom Party Products, bon-bon makers.⁴ The same 1922 alterations and additions may also account for the name change: Canterbury Hall to the Canterbury Theatre, presumably converting the building to a cinema. Electrification of the railway route and redevelopment of the station, including grade-separation, probably inspired both the theatre conversion and the new shops in Theatre Place.

In Maling Road, Miss Phelan's emergence in the late 1920s at 119 as a dressmaker, in place of the preceding watchmakers, was to continue into the 1940s.⁵ By 1950 Miss Jemmeson had taken the business. Another change in that year was the theatre's replacement by Flexible Plastics P/L (plastic makers), possibly as a result of competition from the new Maling Theatre opposite (q.v.).

In Theatre Place only some shop-types remained static, with tenants changing frequently; i.e., 8 Theatre Place was always a hairdresser in the 1920s-30s and 6 was a dress shop.⁶ During World War Two, 4-6 Theatre Place was an opportunity shop.⁷

In the Camberwell context, 1909 is recorded as one of the first picture shows in the city, conducted by Alex Gunn in the town hall: a 'Bioscope Concert'.⁸ Bowman's Pictures were shown there in 1914, accompanied by live performances. By 1915 the Canterbury Theatre was joined by Holland's Picture Theatre, in Burke Road; Surrey Hall in Union Road; and the Burwood Mechanics Institute and Rechabites Halls.⁹ Holland's Theatre had opened in September, 1914, to a 'bumper' house, on the site where Coles stores later stood.¹⁰ Of the architects, A.D. Carleton designed 26-28 Moorhouse Street in 1890 and the firm designed other distinguished buildings such as 1 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne.¹¹

The Canterbury Hall is the oldest purpose-built theatre in Camberwell and among the earliest group in the metropolitan area (see Princess and Her Majesty's theatres).

Description

Typical of early theatres, Canterbury Hall's frontage is devoted to shopfronts rather than the large foyers used for theatres built after World War One.¹² These shops glow with the lustre of green glazed tiles and polished brass window frames while, upstairs, the Edwardian Baroque styling, achieved in stucco, encompasses the lead-light oriels, typical of theatres like the old Hoyts De Luxe, in Bourke Street, (demolished). Resembling the coloured glazing of the Princess Theatre's 'winter-garden' gallery, the Canterbury Theatre's Dress Circle foyer windows were probably all lead-light, rather than the clear-glazed lower panes which exist today. The cantilever metal-framed canopy is both ornamental and a well-preserved example of a rare building element.

Comparative Examples

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770-792, BURKE ROAD, 1909-10

108-112, MALING ROAD, 1915c

123-125, MALING ROAD, 1915c

1-5, THEATRE PLACE, 1910c

351-353, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1915c

Surviving theatres are as follows: Yarraville St Georges* (1914), Footscray Barkly Theatre (1914), Northcote Theatre (1912) and the St Kilda Victory Theatre* (1921) where an asterisk denotes major alterations.

External Integrity

Bricks have been painted at ground-level, presumed glass replacement in upper-level casements and addition of an air unit to the canopy roof.

Streetscape

A major corner element in an important, mainly Edwardian and First War era, commercial streetscape.

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| 1 | D1915; RB1913-14, 2006f |
| 2 | BA2590, 8/8/1922 |
| 3 | D1925-40 |
| 4 | D1950 |
| 5 | D193 |
| 6 | D1920-50 |
| 7 | D1944-5 |
| 8 | Allan, p.216 |
| 9 | CCC? |
| 10 | ibid. |
| 11 | BEMJ 7-90 |
| 12 | See former Victory Theatre, Carlisle Street, St. Kilda |

Significance

Architecturally a skillfully designed, well-preserved and extensive early theatre and shops complex in the Edwardian Baroque manner which is a major corner element in an important Edwardian commercial strip. It is also linked with the Theatre Place shops which provide an unusual urban space compared to the typical Edwardian strips elsewhere in the state: of state importance.

Historically it is linked with the Camberwell builder and entrepreneur, F R Green but more important is the role it played in local life as a public hall and for the interesting combination of shopfronts and hall (rather than theatre) and the creation of a 'Theatre Place'. The theatre and its later cinema role predate many of the surviving purpose-designed cinemas of the 1920s and 1930s: of regional importance.

Shops, 123-125 Maling Road.



Study Grading: B
Precinct: 22.00 Streetscape: 1
Construction Date: 1911
First Owner: Yinder, Rose

History

Rose Yinder, of Great Davis Avenue, South Yarra, owned part of Crown Allotment 11, Maling Road in 1911.¹ In that year Yinder commissioned builder, D. Swan and Company, to construct two shops with dwellings on Allotment 11.² The two-storey shops were of brick with iron roofs and

were completed in 1912.³ No. 123 had six rooms and No. 125 seven rooms.⁴ Yinder had sold both shops by the early 1920s.⁵ By 1919 Walter Gathercole had purchased 125 Maling Road, where he ran a butchers shop and E.E. Le Lievre purchased 123 Maling Road in 1923.⁶ Both properties were owned by Walter Gathercole of Bon Beach by 1945.⁷

A variety of businesses were initially conducted at 123 Maling Road, first by James Jackson, a tailor, in 1912, then by George Williams, a grocer, in 1913, and by 1919 it had become a dress-making college run by Misses O. and S. Freeman.⁸ By 1925 the shop was the site of Robert Williams dairy produce business.⁹ During the 1930s and 1940s W.H. Prider continued to conduct the dairy produce business here.¹⁰ T.R. Mulvaney had purchased the business by 1950.¹¹ By 1962, K. & J. Appel occupied the site, running a delicatessen.¹²

No. 125 Maling Road began as a butchers shop in 1912 and was still a butchers shop in the 1960s.¹³ Apart from a time in the early 1920s, it always had a Gathercole as proprietor; Walter Gathercole from 1912 until the early 1920s and J. Gathercole from the late 1920s until at least 1962.¹⁴

Description

Two-storey, rough-cast stucco and red brick shops and residences, this pair has unusual oriels and segment-arched parapet motifs. The parapet cornice is more conservative, matching the string-mould below, but the balls, set on pedestals which survive on the parapet, indicate unusually high integrity to construction period.

The metal-framed shopfronts are original, together with the white glazed tiling, and the post-supported verandahs are also near intact, given missing ornament. Colours are empathetic to the period.

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- 1 RB1911-12, 1518; MMBW DPR 79456
- 2 BR1911, 1573; RB1912-13, 1530, 1531
- 3 *ibid.*; MMBW DPR 79456
- 4 RB1912-13, 1530, 1531
- 5 RB1922-23, 10888, 10889
- 6 RB1919-20, 2257; RB1922-23, 10889
- 7 MMBW DPR 79456
- 8 RB1912-13, 1531; RB1913-14, 2004; RB1919-20, 2258; D1920
- 9 RB1925-26, 17308
- 10 D1930; D1935; D1940; D1944-5
- 11 D1950
- 12 D1962
- 13 RB1912-13, 1530; D1962
- 14 *ibid.*; RB1912-13, 1530; RB1919-20, 2257; RB1922-23, 10888; D1925; D1930; D1940; D1950; D1962