

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 146

Richard Peterson Architect & Conservation Consultant. Daniel Catrice Historian 1994.

NAME: Bacchus Marsh Farm Supplies Pty. Ltd.

PREVIOUS NAME: P.S. Carey Motors.

ADDRESS: 4-6 Grant Street.

TITLE DETAILS:

USE: Warehouse.

PREVIOUS USE: Motor garage. Workshops. Wheelwright & blacksmith.

SIGNIFICANT DATE: 1938-80 **CONSTRUCTION DATE:** 1911 **SOURCE:** 1,2

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: **DATE:** 1938-1948 **SOURCE:** 2,3.

SOURCE:

CRITERIA: H2,3,5.

HISTORIC THEME: Townships

DESCRIPTION: **STORIES:** 1 **DETACHED.**

MATERIALS: WALLS Brick **ROOF** Iron **STRUCTURE** Lb, truss.

CONDITION: Good **INTACTNESS:** Very good **THREATS:** -

SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:

FORM. FACADE. USE. ?

CONTEXT. 147

SIGNIFICANCE:

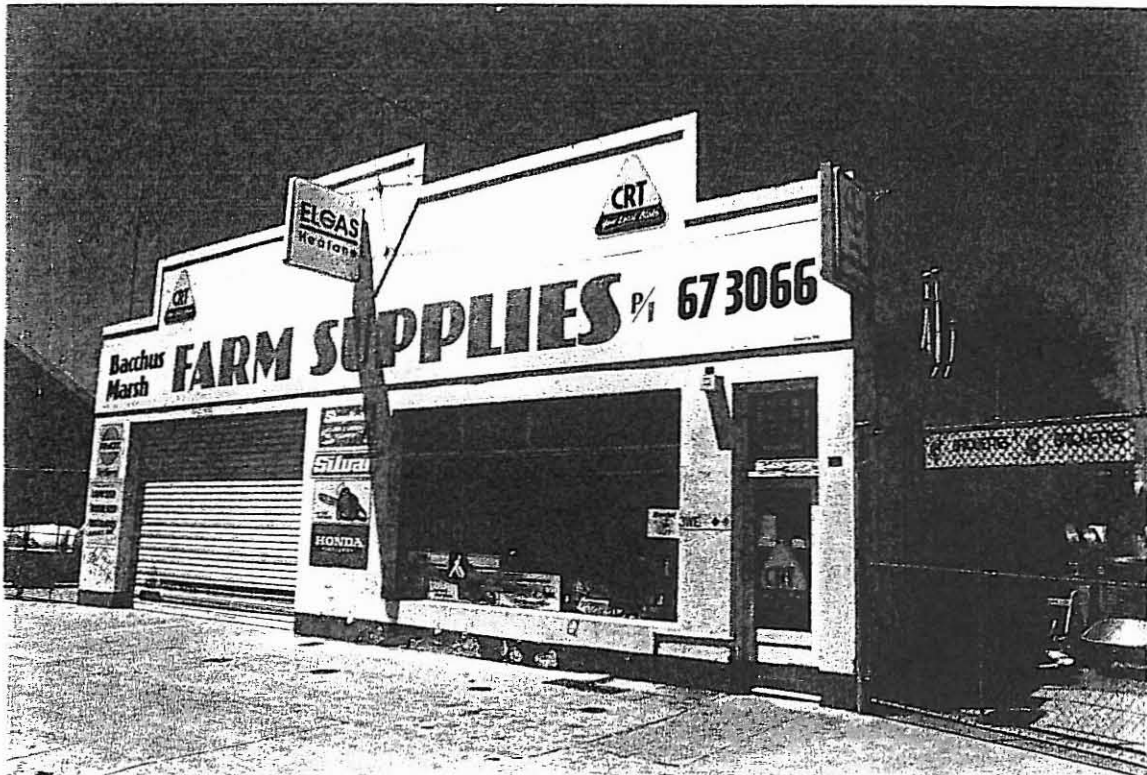
TYPE: HISTORICAL.

LEVEL: LOCAL.

DESIGNATION EXISTING: Nil

RECOMMENDED CONTROL: PLANNING SCHEME. AREA 1.

MAP NO: U4.07 **SURVEY:** DC & RP **DATE:** 15.1.94 **NEGS:** 11.25



HISTORY: This building, originally two stories, was erected in 1911, for a wheelwright and blacksmith, W.D. Hogan.¹ In 1938, the building was acquired by P.S. Carey and converted for use as a motor garage and General Motors dealership.² The upper storey was removed and the facade remodelled, for a modern appearance was more in keeping with the new technology of motorised transport. The business prospered, and in 1948 Carey purchased Simon's Garage at the corner of Main Street (ref: 147). Thereafter, the Grant Street premises were used as workshops. The ground floor became a showroom for new vehicles. The first storey of the corner building was converted to an apartment for the Carey family. This was the childhood home of Peter Carey, the Booker Prize-winning novelist. The business and Bacchus Marsh itself were the source material for several novels and short stories.³ The garage closed after 1980.⁴

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: A large brick warehouse building with a gabled roof facing Grant Street. This front has a staggered parapet with a V-shaped moulding. The roof line is three timber trusses with both king posts, and collar ties and struts. In front of the building, the service apron still has bluestone kerbs and pitchers, petrol tank access lids in the pavement.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: Four former garages are identified in the shire, also: Simon Bros (1913, ref: 147), Muir & Robb's Garage (1921, ref: 190) and Jack Barton's Panel Works (no date, ref: 159). The other writer produced by the town is Frank Hardy (ref: 246). Ref: 160 is associated with the writer Joan Lindsay.

SIGNIFICANCE: A large brick warehouse building built in 1911 as a wheelwright and blacksmith then altered for P.S. Carey Motors in 1938 until 1980 as a motor garage, then workshop. In this period it was the childhood environment of the Careys' son, Peter, the internationally renowned Booker Prize-winning novelist.

It is locally historically significant for its association with developments in the automotive business in Bacchus Marsh, with which it demonstrates a changing pattern of occupancy. It is also significant historically for its association with Peter Carey.

INTACTNESS: Very good. The parapet has been repainted and internally illuminated cantilevered dealership signs erected.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Good. Road widening?

¹ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 17 June 1911.

² Moore and Oomes, *Bacchus Marsh: A Pictorial Chronicle*, p.116.

³ "Home and Away", *The Sunday Age*, 29 January 1995, "Agenda", p.5 and "American Dreams", Peter Carey, *The Fat Man in History*, Faber and Faber, London 1980.

⁴ Personal communication with Gwyn Moore, BMDHS.