

BRYANT & MAY FACTORY 560-570 Church Street

History and Description

In 1909, in response to the Australian Government's protection policy, the London match manufacturers Bryant & May negotiated a merger with R. Bell & Co., who were producing matches in Church Street, Richmond. The new company Bryant & May, Bell & Co. Pty. Ltd. had Clements Langford construct the present factory on the Church Street site in 1909. The factory was extended in 1910; and kitchen, dining rooms and recreation rooms were added in 1917. The factory was further extended in 1921 and included a clock tower. A boiler house and chimney stack were added in 1922; tennis courts and basketball courts in 1923; and a bowling green in 1928. A second storey was added to the office block in 1934. The peak work force was 800 and it was regarded as a 'model' factory. The Art Nouveau motifs are a feature of the facade.

Statement of Significance

An Edwardian style factory and office complex with additions up to 1934, recreation facilities and garden, all of rare quality and integrity.

References

History of Bryant & May in Richmond. H.G. Bleakley, technical manager (unpublished manuscript).

