

FORMER SUTHERLAND'S DISTILLERY Cnr. Wellington and Blanche Streets

History and Description

This building was a distillery belonging to John Sutherland & Sons' vinegar factory, built c. 1889.

John Sutherland began his career in Australia as an employee of James Dickson of Richmond, a manufacturer of wines, spirits and vinegar. The wines and spirits business did not prosper as the tastes of drinkers tended towards rum. It is thought that Sutherland's influence led the business into the area of cordials and boot blacking (which incorporated vinegar in its manufacture).

In 1885 John Sutherland left Dickson's and established the John Sutherland Vinegar Factory on the south corner of Cremorne and Blanche Streets. He died in 1889 and his two sons expanded the business which continued until the late 1970's when it was taken over and closed by R.M. Gow & Co.

Beer was pumped from the distillery down Blanche Street to the Cremorne Street factory by means of a large underground pipe laid during the 1930's by the Richmond City Council (pure malt vinegar is made from beer).

The factory also manufactured pickles and cordials.

Statement of Significance

A nicely detailed late 19th century distillery of excellent integrity and forming an important termination to Wellington Street.

References

Notes by Bridget Everet from interview with Jack Sutherland, 1984.
Richmond Guardian, 28th February, 1885, p.2.
R.M. Gow Newsletter, Sept.-Nov., 1980.