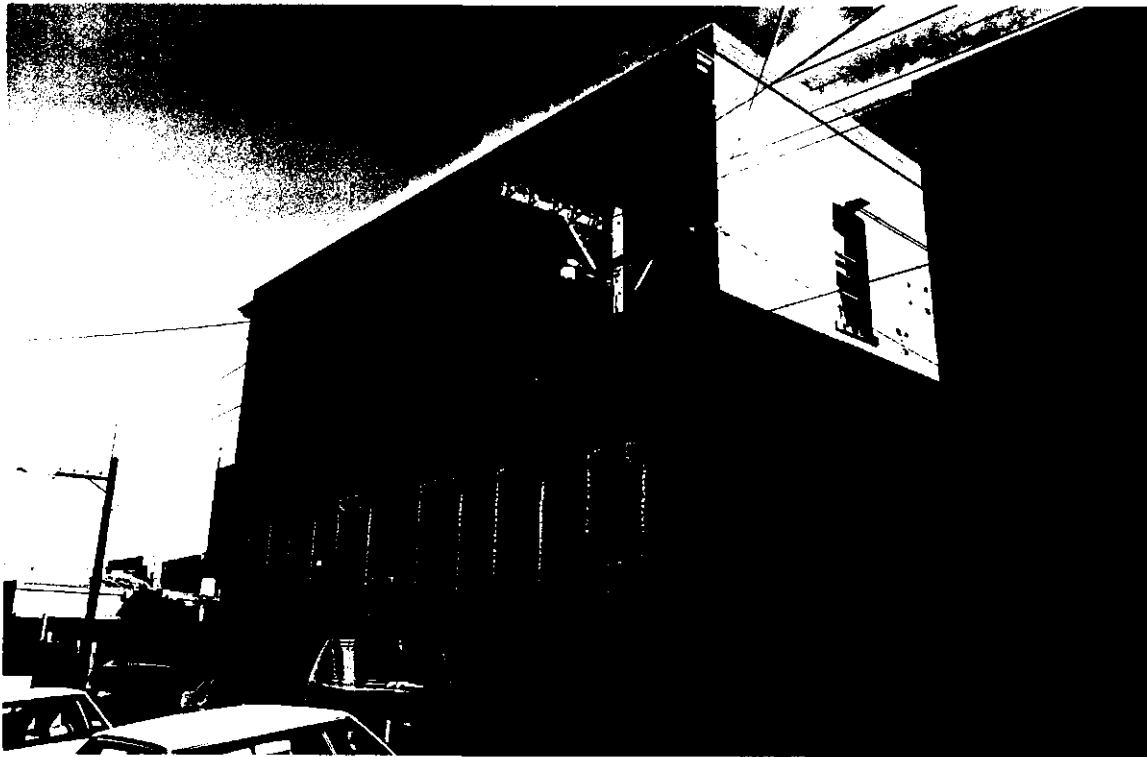


<b>Building:</b>	Former Boot Factory	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	15-17 Bedford Street, Collingwood	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	2C E8
<b>Building Type:</b>	Factory	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1886
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown	<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown



<b>Intactness:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
G[ ] F[x] P[ ]		G[ ] F[x] P[ ]	
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>		<b>Recommended Heritage Listings:</b>	
Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]	Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]
Register of the National Estate	[ ]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[ ]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

## **History**

Thomas Kelly built two factories on this site in 1886.<sup>1</sup> The factories were a speculative development, and the first tenant was Henry Bloomfield, a manufacturer. Kelly retained ownership at least until 1892, when the tenants were Richard McGan, and Frederick Fowler, boot manufacturers, who traded as McGan & Fowler. Richard McGan was a Collingwood-born boot manufacturer and major employer at his earlier Hoddle Street factory during the 1884 bootmaking trade dispute. As treasurer of the manufacturers' association, McGan successfully held out against the Bootmakers Union and W Trenwith, general agent for the Union, in a dispute over wages which lasted for nearly three months.

Andrew Ward. *Collingwood Conservation Study*. 1995.

## **Description**

The factory at 15-17 Bedford Street, Collingwood, is a two-storey brick industrial building. The walls are of red face brick with an unpainted rendered string course at first floor level and cornice at parapet level. The front elevation is symmetrical, with two doorways, suggesting separate tenancies, flanked by pairs of segmental arched and iron barred windows. The first floor has six similar window openings. The windows return along the north elevation, facing a right-of-way. The words MEIK BROS. PTY LTD JASON STROPS appear in faded lettering on the north and south elevations.

The ground floor facade has been painted.

## **Comparative Examples**

Former William Peatt Boot Factory, 55 Langridge Street, Collingwood

Former United Tannery and Boot Factory, 112A Rokeby Street, Collingwood

## **Significance**

The factory building at 15-17 Bedford Street, Collingwood, is of local historical and architectural significance. Although boot factories proliferated in Collingwood in the 19th century, this building is a rare remaining example of a speculative industrial development, not built for any specific company. The building remains substantially intact. Its association with Richard McGan, a local bootmaker, is also of historical interest.

## **Original Source**

Andrew Ward. *Collingwood Conservation Study*. 1995.

---

<sup>1</sup> Rate Book 1885- no entry.