

Building:	Former Bryant and May	Significance:	A
Address:	560-570 Church Street, Richmond	Melway Map Ref:	2L K1
Building Type:	Factory	Construction Date:	1909-34
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Clements Langford



Intactness:

G[x] F[] P[]

Condition:

G[x] F[] P[]

Existing Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register [x]
 Register of the National Estate []
 National Trust [x]

Recommended Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register [x]
 Register of the National Estate [x]
 Heritage Overlay Controls [x]

History

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, engaged Clements Langford to construct the present factory in Church Street 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.

Description

The Bryant and May complex at 560 Church Street, Richmond, comprises a series of factory buildings constructed of red brick with rendered dressings. The building facing Church street is three storeys high, divided into 5 bays separated by red brick piers which rise through the first and second floors. At ground floor level, the pilasters have rendered foliated capitals supporting a rendered dentillated cornice. The central entrance archway has alternating red brick and rendered voussoirs. The timber-framed windows have rendered sills and heads, and the spandrels between the first and second floor windows are embellished with Art Nouveau style decoration. A modillioned cornice runs across the building above the second floor, above which is a rendered parapet surmounted by a semi-circular arched pediment in the centre. The side elevations are similarly articulated, and extend almost the full depth of the site.

The other buildings on the site constructed in the 1910s, 20s and 30s, are designed in a similar style. Located at the rear (west) of the site is a tall red brick clock tower, also of red brick construction. The upper level containing the clock is rendered, and the clock face bears the name BRYANT AND MAY in place of numbers.

Significance

The Bryant and May complex is of state architectural and historical significance. Until recently, the factory has been continuously occupied by the Bryant and May company since its construction in 1909. The factory is an important element in the Church Street streetscape, notable for its art nouveau decoration and enhanced by its impressive scale. The clock tower is a local landmark in Richmond.