
Building:	Former Griffiths Boot Factory	Significance:	B
Address:	79 Coppin Street, Richmond	Melway Map Ref:	2H C7

Building Type:	Factory	Construction Date:	1887
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:
 G[x] F[] P[]

Condition:
 G[x] F[] P[]

Existing Heritage Listings:

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

Recommended Heritage Listings:

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

History

The factory at 79 Coppin Street, Richmond, was constructed in 1887 for Henry Griffiths, a bootmaker, formerly of Collingwood. In 1888, the Rate Books list Henry Griffiths as the owner and occupier of a brick factory, valued at £74. Its value had risen to £110 by 1889. Griffiths occupied the factory until 1891, when the Rate Books list it as vacant. It remained vacant for several years. In 1900, the occupier was another boot manufacturer, G & R Blackham, and in 1911, Delmo Bros. macaroni manufacturers, were the occupants. By 1920, the building had reverted to use as a boot factory, and was occupied by McPherson Shoe Factory. After 1930, the building was occupied by a number of furniture makers.¹

Description

The Griffiths Building is a three-storey symmetrical brick building. It has face brown brick walls, with cream brick shallow segmental-arched window lintels and a cream brick string course at first floor level. An unpainted rendered cornice exists at second floor level and across the parapet, which has a central triangular pediment, also rendered, flanked by scrolls and bearing the building's name in faded (painted?) lettering. Each floor has seven symmetrically placed openings; all but the front door are timber-framed double-hung sash windows. The side walls of the front section have triangular pediment parapets, each with a central circular opening.

Significance

The Griffiths Building is of local architectural significance. It is a particularly notable example of a late 19th century brick industrial building. The composition of its symmetrical facade, which includes cream brick arched windows lintels and string courses and an unpainted rendered parapet, is of note, and distinguishes it from many much plainer contemporaneous buildings of its type.

¹ Richmond Rate Books, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1891, 1892, 1893. Sands & McDougall Directory, 1890, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1900, 1911, 1915, 1940, 1920, 1930.