

<b>Building:</b>	Australian Paper Mills Boiler House	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	626 Heidelberg Road, Alphington	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	31 B12
<b>Building Type:</b>	Paper Mill	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1954
<b>Architect:</b>	Mussen, Mackay & Potter	<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown



<b>Intactness:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
G[x] F[ ] 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

The Australian Paper Mills Co. (APM) was established in 1895, originally located on the site of what is now Southbank.<sup>1</sup> The company expanded, with its main mills in Melbourne and Geelong. In August 1918 land for a new board mill was purchased in Fairfield, comprising 23 acres (9.3 hectares), which had the advantages of river frontage and proximity to the railway line.<sup>2</sup> The site, previously a part of the Woodlands Estate, cost £14,800. Construction on the building began in 1919, taking two years and using 1,200,000 bricks.<sup>3</sup> The building was opened by the Chief Justice of Victoria, Sir William Irvine, on 31 August 1921.

The General Manager of APM, Robert Gray, travelled to America to purchase equipment for the new factory, which was able to manufacture paperboard of 244cm in width at a speed of 150 feet (460 metres) a minute. The completed factory manufactured container board, ticket board, manila, chip board and varieties of woodpulp board.<sup>4</sup>

The Boiler House—built to contain boilers and turbines—was constructed in 1954. The building was designed by Mussen, Mackay & Potter: Mackay was the architect, whilst Mussen and Potter were the engineers. Norman Mussen was the son of Gerald Mussen, a financial journalist and a consultant to Amalgamated Zinc (De Bavays) Ltd (AZ Ltd), who was involved in APM's moves to establish eucalyptus plantations for pulp in Tasmania in the 1930s.<sup>5</sup>

The curtain walling cladding the five-storey building is one of the earliest examples of the technique known in Victoria. The earliest buildings incorporating curtain walling were the Cheseborough building in Clayton (Hugh Peck & Associates; 1953), which had a curtain walled staircase<sup>6</sup>; the Shell Refinery, Corio (Buchan Laird & Buchan; 1953), which had a two-storey curtain wall<sup>7</sup>; Wilson Hall at the University of Melbourne (Bates Smart & McCutcheon; 1953)<sup>8</sup>; the administration block for Kirstall-Repco at Clayton (Hassell & McConnell; 1954)<sup>9</sup>; and the Doring Implements factory (Frank Heath; 1954).

## Description

The APM Boiler House is a large curtain-walled building approximately square in plan, rising to a height of five storeys. The panes of glass are vertical in proportion, and have metal frames. At the upper level of the west facade are a pair of loading doors beneath a cantilevered block and tackle hoisting beam. Rising above the building is a large circular flue, attached to the building at the south end is a cream brick services core.

## Significance

The Australian Paper Mills Boiler House is of state technological and architectural significance. The building employs one of earliest known examples of curtain walling in Melbourne, and is distinguished by the extent of the curtain walling, which is equivalent in height to a four or five storey building.<sup>10</sup>

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- 1 E Sinclair, *The Spreading Tree: A History of APM and AMCOR*, 1844-1989, North Sydney 1990, p. 26.
  - 2 E Sinclair, *The Spreading Tree: A History of APM and AMCOR*, 1844-1989, North Sydney 1990, pp. 52-53.
  - 3 E Sinclair, *The Spreading Tree: A History of APM and AMCOR*, 1844-1989, North Sydney 1990, p. 60.
  - 4 E Sinclair, *The Spreading Tree: A History of APM and AMCOR*, 1844-1989, North Sydney 1990, pp. 60-61.
  - 5 E Sinclair, *The Spreading Tree: A History of APM and AMCOR*, 1844-1989, North Sydney 1990, pp. 84-86, 90.
  - 6 Cross-Section, 9 (1 July 1953), p. 4.
  - 7 D C Ward et al, *Guide to Victorian Architecture* (Melbourne 1956), p. 28.
  - 8 Cross-Section, 51 (1 January 1957); p. 1; 33 (1 July 1955); p. 2; 53 (1 March 1957), p. 4.
  - 9 Cross-Section, 17 (March 1954), p. 1.
  - 10 Cross-Section, 24 (1 October 1954), p. 1; Ward, *Guide to Victorian Architecture*, p. 29.
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