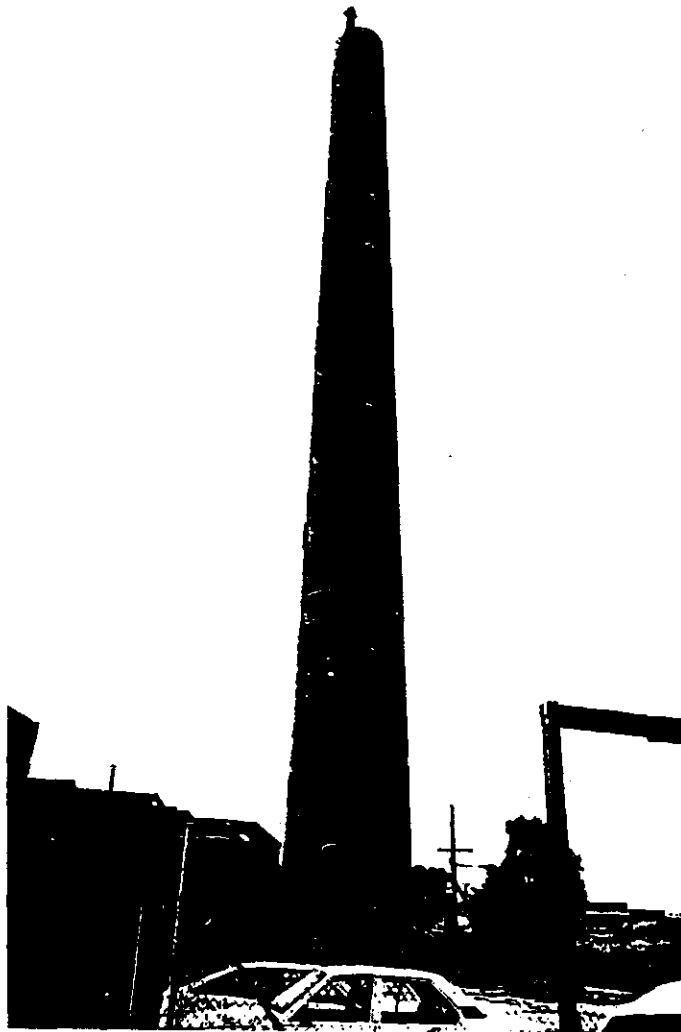


Building:

Shot Tower

Address:

94-124 Alexandra Parade



Allotment Reference:

Section 10, Lot 2

National Estate Register:

Registered

Historic Buildings Council Register:

Registered

National Trust Register:

Recommended

Location within Precinct:

Clifton Hill Western Residential Precinct

Photo Date:

June, 1988

Grantee: Samual Ramsden

Original Owner: Richard Hodgson

Present Owner:

Original Use: Shot Tower

Present Use: Store

Construction Date: 1882

Architect:

Builder:

Description: A large 6 metre at base bi-chromatic brick shot tower built in red body bricks and white decoration. Windows have bluestone sills and white voussoirs to round heads whilst three rows of chequerboard (red and white) banding are defined by courses of white and blackened bricks. At the top of the tower, which has chequerboard banding, a bichrome chimney stack is in situ. At the base, a gable roofed attached building has been removed.

Condition: Good

Integrity: Good, (Shot tower). Original surrounding buildings removed, substation and wall at base. Bluestone pitcher r.o.w. at base.

History: From the late 1860's Richard Hodgson owned land in Noone Street occupied by Simon Hughes and Abraham Preston whose Smelting and Antimony Works were on Lot 2, Section 10, (RB). Hodgson's Antimony and Smelting Works remained there throughout the 1870's (RB) and the shot tower is listed on the site for the first time in 1882 (RB). In 1887, Alfred Barber is recorded as the owner of the shot tower property with Simon Hughes as manager. In 1896, Walter Coop, owner of a second shot tower in Knox's Lane, City of Melbourne, became the owner, the structure remaining in the Coop family's possession for more than 90 years.

The Sands and McDougall Directories show that the site was occupied by J.H. Halliburton & Co., Woolworks in 1902 and in 1904 by The City Metal Works of Baker and Cawsey, shot manufacturers. By 1907, John McIlwraith operated the Melbourne leadworks at this site (also, 1910, 1919).

Significance:

The significance of the shot tower is summarised as follows:

1. It is probably the largest shot tower in Australia and is certainly taller than the Knox Place tower.
2. It is the earliest of the two surviving Victorian shot towers.
3. The tower provides an interesting illustration of an early industrial process and recalls the long association of the Coop family with shot manufacture and smelting.
4. The tower is a fine example of a rare and distinctive building type.
5. It has been a local landmark for more than a century and has been associated with one family, the Coops, for over 90 years.
6. The Shot Tower is generally intact.

Furthermore, it forms a prominent element in the Clifton Hill Eastern Precinct and as a local landmark, forms an element in the industrial vista of Collingwood obtained from Studley Park Road. Within the precinct, it is associated with other earlier industries along Alexandra (formerly Relfly Street) Parade including the former Clifton Wheel Company factory - corner Gold Street (q.v.) and Williams Murray and Co's Woolworks - corner Hoddle Street (q.v.). As such it relates directly to the early industrial development attracted to Relfly Street by the Council drain which ran along its length and as a result recalls this important phase in the development of the municipality. The shot tower is a key element in the surprisingly intact nineteenth century industrial landscape extending from Wellington Street to Hoddle Street along the north side of Alexandra Parade.

Recommendations:

Recommended for Planning Scheme protection.

References:

- Rate Books
 - MPE Heritage Unit research notes
 - National Trust file
- July, 1988

Issue No. 1:

Issue No. 2:

May, 1995