

Building: Former Clifton Hill Saw Mills and Box
Factory

Address: 19-27 Grant Street



Allotment Reference: Section 13, Lots 3-5

National Estate Register: -

Historic Buildings Council Register: -

National Trust Register: -

Location within Precinct: Clifton Hill Eastern Residential Precinct

Photo Date: August, 1988

Grantee: Lot 3, J. Ryan, 22.8.1871
Lot 4, D. Henry, 22.8.1871
Lot 5, M. Moss, 22.8.1871

Original Owner: William Brewer

Present Owner:

Original Use: Box Factory

Present Use: Printing Factory

Construction Date:

Architect:

Builder:

Description:

A substantial predominantly two storey factory with stuccoed facades to Grant a John Streets and to northern r.o. incorporating Art Deco/Spanish Missi ornamentation along the parapet wall.

A square section brick chimney stack with corbelled cornice and wrought iron decorative is of interest.

Condition:

Good

Integrity:

Good

History:

In 1901 William Brewer owned a saw mill timber yard which occupied much of the area between Spensley and Ramsden Streets, west side. Brewer also owned a brick house, no. 25, which was on the northern border of the mill, and like the mill, backed onto John Street. By 1907 Brewer had purchased no. 25 Grant Street, a wood house that was possibly demolished in 1908, (1901, 1908, 1909, RB). In 1909 Brewer purchased Nos 29-35 Grant Street from Joseph Bulling. Brewer already owned nos 1-4 John Street, four brick houses backing on the timber yard. This meant that by 1910 Brewer owned the block Grant Street through to John Street between no. 3 Grant Street and the right of way south of Spensley Street.

The S. & M. Directory first records the existence of Brewer's box factory in 1901 and is therefore presumed that it was built in 1901.

Significance:

The former box factory is an important (and always was probably the most substantial) portion of Brewer's plant in Clifton Hill. Brewer's business was responsible for importing products for the building industry, sawmilling, box making, painting, paper hanging and handling ironmongery. Premises exist also in Elizabeth Street (Melbourne) and W. Brewer's organisation was described as "extensive" in the 1904 Cyclopedia of Victoria.

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The former box factory is the most substantial remnant directly relevant to these activities in Collingwood. The Brewers lived locally and invested locally in property (24-30 Spensely Street q.v.). Although the premises are utilitarian and almost totally devoid of applied ornamentation, the chimney stack is a local landmark and considerably embellished.

Recommendations:

Recommended for planning scheme protection.

References:

Rate Books

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