

Building:

Former premises of Smalley and Harkness, boot manufacturers, Islington Street



Allotment Reference:

55

National Estate Reference:

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National Trust Reference:

-

Historic Buildings Council Register:

-

Location within Precinct:

-

Photograph Date:

12.6.87

Grantee:

J.D.L. Campbell

Original Owner:

Smalley and Harkness

Present Owner:

**Original Use:** Shoe factory

**Present Use:** Printing

**Construction Date:** 1898 and following

**Architect:**

**Builder:**

**Description:** A large two storeyed Edwardian factory complex in red brick construction with gabled corrugated iron clad roofs, formerly the premises of Harkness Shoes Pty Ltd. A courtyard configuration is oriented towards Hoddle Street. The main facade, to Islington Street is two storeyed with a bluestone plinth and sills, the windows being barred and the roof line consisting of five gable ends, varied in size and punctuated with chimney stacks.

Faded lettering on the building reads: R. Johnston and Co. Pty Ltd. Footwear Manufacturers", "Harkness Shoes Pty Ltd

**Condition:** Good

**Integrity:** Exterior: good

**History:** William Smalley, boot manufacturer, commenced business as Smalley Pitman and Yates at 76 Wellington Street in 1878 (no entry S & M dir. 1877 or earlier). By 1879 he was trading as Smalley and Yates in Smith Street, and from 1880 to 1882 as Smalley and Mair, Smith Street (S & M dir.). By 1884 the long standing Smalley and Harkness partnership had been formed, trading at 7-9 (5, 3-5 other entries) Wellington Street. In 1898 they moved to new premises at 11 Hoddle Street (S & M

dir). The new brick premises faced Hoddle Street and extended partway to Islington Street, (The Australian Leather Journal and Boot and Shoe Recorder, 15.9.99). By 1903 (S & M dir; houses 1902), this building had been extended to the Islington Street frontage. Since that time it has been enlarged along Islington Street and part demolished since widening of Hoddle Street.

As early as 1891, the firm was ordering the first welt machines and outsole stitchers from the Goodyear Shoe Machinery Co. of Boston, enabling it to undertake in 90 seconds the same work which had previously taken two and a half hours (Canon, p.196). By 1899, The Australian Leather Journal was claiming that "no firm in Victoria is better known for the excellence of its work" (15.9.99) and listed the innovative machinery in the machine, stuffing and finishing rooms.

In 1928, the firm's name changed to Harkness Shoes Pty Ltd (S & M Dir, 1927 dir not sighted, 1926: Smalley and Harkness) and it remained at 11-19 Hoddle Street until 1967 (S & M dir., 1968 "not available"). In 1969, the premises were taken over by York Press Ltd, printers.

**Significance:**

This substantial Edwardian brick factory is of local importance as the home of one of Collingwood's largest and most innovative boot manufacturing businesses. The firm's long association with the municipality extending with some changes from 1878-1967 is noteworthy.

Recommendations:

Recommended for planning scheme protection.

References:

The Australian Leather Journal and Boot and Shoe Recorder, 15.9.1899.  
Sands and McDougall Dir.  
Cannon, M., Life in the Cities - Australia in the Victorian Age 3, Currey O'Neill, 1983, p.196

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