

Building: Former Denton Mills Hat Factory
Company Limited.

Address: 48-60 Nicholson Street



<u>Allotment Reference:</u>	Lot 58
<u>National Estate Register:</u>	Recommended
<u>Historic Buildings Council Register:</u>	Registered
<u>National Trust Register:</u>	-
<u>Location within Precinct:</u>	Collingwood Flat Precinct
<u>Photo Date</u>	August, 1988
<u>Grantee:</u>	W. Bradley, 13-2-1839
<u>Original Owner:</u>	James Turner
<u>Present Owner:</u>	
<u>Original Use:</u>	Hat factory
<u>Present Use:</u>	Knitting mill and dye house Brush Fabrics, Warp Knitting Mills
<u>Construction Date:</u>	1874

Architect:

Builder:

Description:

A substantial three storeyed late Victorian factory with main Italianate polychrome facade to Nicholson Street and secondary red brick facade to Mollison Street. The main entrance off Nicholson Street has dressed bluestone dressings with rusticated and incised ornamentation. Sills are bluestone, vent face to window spandrels cast iron. The lower level windows have segmental heads and the upper level round arched. The main facade is subdivided into smaller elements by means of five slightly projecting break front bays with tri-partite windows. The parapet has stuccoed ornamentation with brackets and lions heads.

Inside, the main building has bluestone stair with iron railings, part removed, cast iron columns with decorated brackets and iron roof trusses with Baltic pine linings. Fire door are solid rivetted iron plate. Two lantern roofs are situated in a single storeyed section to the south end. The boilers are gas fired exhausting to a round chimney stack.

Condition:

Good

Integrity:

Good. Parapet ornamentation part removed, chimney stack lowered.

History:

In 1873, Cr. James Hobson Turner owned land in Mollison Street on the north-west corner of Nicholson Street, on which he built a hat factory in 1874 (1873-1876 RB).

By 1877 Thomas Shelmerdine, Thomas Davison and Robert Simon operated the factory which Turner continued to own, (1877 RB).

By 1883 George and Leader Stevenson had purchased the property which they operated. By then, the factory had a Nicholson Street address and was known as the Denton Hat Mills, (1883 RB).

By 1891 the directors of the Denton Hat Mills Coy. owned the mill with John and George Bruce and George Stephenson operating it, (1891 RB).

344

Ownership remained the same in 1900 at which time Edward Shaw was manager, (1901, RB). By this time, the earlier north wing along Mollison Street remained as a two storeyed building but the balance of the Nicholson Street wing had been completed. In August 1988 a portion of the east facade was being rebuilt.

Significance:

The former Denton Mills hat factory is important at the State and National levels as one of the largest and Australia's first steam powered hat factory. It is of architectural importance for its intact state and the facade treatment which is a sophisticated expression of the Italianate style applied to a large industrial building. It is also important at this level for its link with William Pitt (1855-1918) eminent Melbourne architect, Collingwood councillor and Mayor, MLC, and architect for the Foy and Gibson's buildings in Collingwood and Fitzroy. It is important at the local level for its links with James H. Turner, former mayor of Collingwood, and Thomas Shelmerdine, a local industrialist who spent his early career at the mills.

Recommendations:

Recommended for inclusion on the National Estate Register and for Planning Scheme protection.

References:

Rate Books
City of Collingwood, litho No. 00380
National Trust file
Barrett, B., "The Making of an Industrial Environment: Collingwood, Victoria, 1851-1891"
M.A. Thesis, (Univ. of Melbourne), pp.210-211.

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