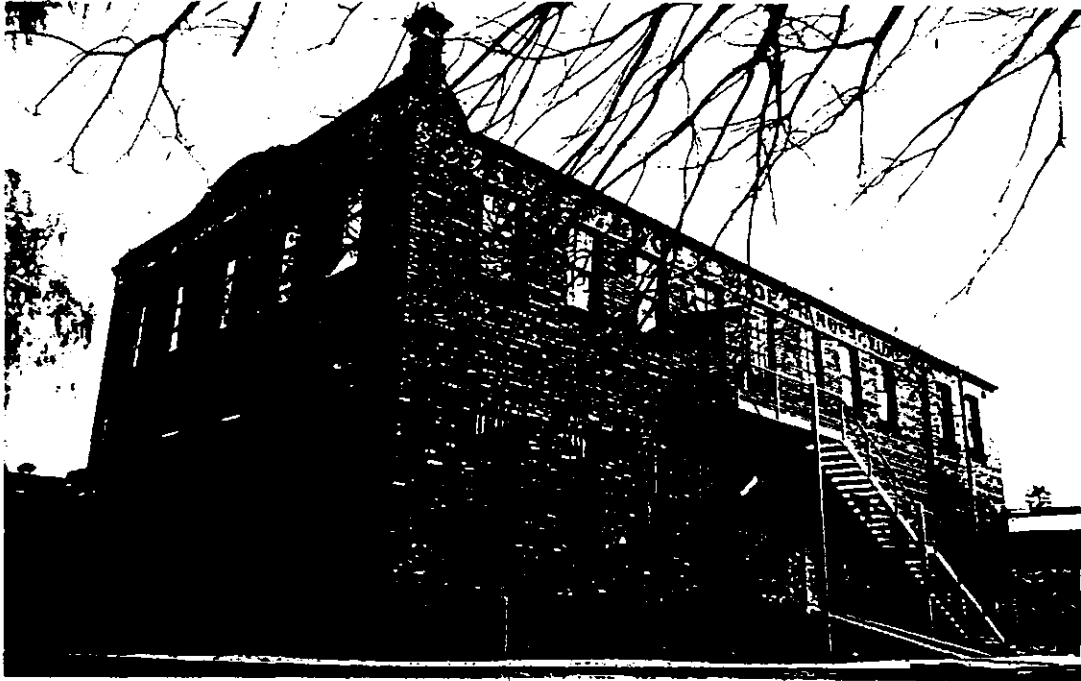


Building: Former Yates Boot Factory, later Hill Norman and Beard, organ factory

Address: 6-10 Page Street



<u>Allotment Reference:</u>	Section 7, Lot 12
<u>National Estate Register:</u>	Registered
<u>Historic Buildings Council Register:</u>	Recommended
<u>National Trust Register:</u>	Recorded
<u>Location within Precinct:</u>	Clifton Hill Western Residential Precinct
<u>Photo Date:</u>	July, 1988
<u>Grantee:</u>	John Wood, 1.6.1864
<u>Original Owner:</u>	William Yates
<u>Present Owner:</u>	Ministry of Education Western Metro Region 12 Pascoe Vale Road, Moonees Ponds
<u>Original Use:</u>	Boot factory, later organ factory
<u>Present Use:</u>	Theatre

Construction Date: 1884

Architect: -

Builder: -

Description: A two storeyed brick warehouse with bi-chrome main elevation consisting of red body bricks white dressings. The south-east corner has chimney stack to an otherwise symmetrical facade with curved pediment and cyma volutes. A bluestone plinth forms a base to the original structure (south portion) only.

Inside, the upper level timber lined ceiling and posts are in situ, the remaining original elements not being readily visible.

Condition: Good

Integrity: Good. Red brick addition at rear is early and sympathetic. Bluestone pavement, rear stable and walling are also important secondary elements.

History: In 1883 the land on the north side of Peel Street between Gold and Wellington Streets was vacant, William Yates owning the 99' section nearest Wellington Street, (1883 RB).

In 1884, Yates, a boot manufacturer, built brick factory on the north end of this land (1884 RB). Yates continued to own the property in 1897. However by 1900, it had passed to Charlotte Yates, (1898, 1901 RB).

In 1927, Hill, Norman and Beard, a subsidiary of the English firm of the same name, took over the building for the purpose of organ manufacture as a result of securing the contract for the new Melbourne Town Hall organ in 1928. The firm was regarded as the largest of its type in the country, rebuilding organs for St. Paul's Cathedral, Christ Church, St. Yarra, St. John's Toorak, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney and St. John's Cathedral, Brisbane. It closed down in 1974 and the building was sold to the Education Department for the use of the adjacent Primary School, No. 1360. No longer required for this purpose, it remains in use as a theatre.

Significance:

The former Yates boot factory is noteworthy at the regional level as a prominent early boot factory, representative of an industry for which Collingwood was noted. Its secondary role as an organ factory is also important for its indirect contribution to the Churches with whom Hill Norman and Beard contracted and for its enhancement of contemporary perceptions of the organ industry in this country. It compares with the following remaining nineteenth century Collingwood boot factories:

- 15-17 Bedford Street (McGan and Fowler)
- Islington Street (Smalley and Harkness)

Recommendations:

Recommended for inclusion on the Historic Buildings Council Register and for Planning Scheme protection.

References:

- Rate Books
- National Trust file
- The Melbourne Times, 30.7.1986.

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