

Building:

Former Yorkshire Brewery, 88 Wellington Street.



Allotment Reference:

53

National Trust Register:

Recorded

National Estate Register:

Recommended

Historic Buildings Council Register:

Registered

Location within Precinct:

Collingwood Slope

Photograph Date:

9.6.87

684

Owner: S.A. Donaldson
Original Owner: John Wood and Son
Current Owner: Carlton and United Breweries Ltd
Original Use: Brewery
Current Use: Workshops, stores, part unused
Construction Date: 1876
Architect: James Wood

Description: A substantially intact large mid Victorian brewery complex in polychrome work consisting of brew tower, brewery cellars and former stables, with additions to west, north and elsewhere.

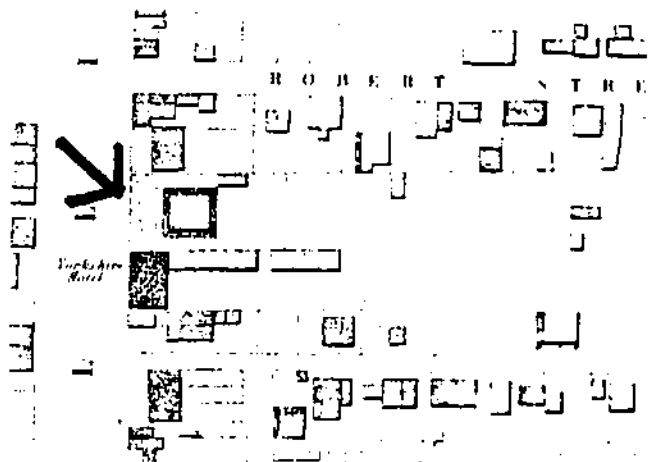
Inside, the tower, the upper level is formed within the slated roof section and is steel/iron (?) framed with chamfered timber purlins carrying beaded lining boards forming the inner surface of the external linings. A central timber member made up of 2 posts bracketted together forms the lampost base whilst a narrow timber stairway ascends through four flights to the roof. The upper floor level coincides with the base of the roof section which is braced with heavy timber sections. Some Robert Boby Ltd (England) grain handling equipment is situated on this level. It is carried on massive rivetted built up I beams, which are original. The lower portions of the tower have been rebuilt internally with steel platforms, stairs and metal grain bins, this work having involved the bricking up of some external openings. Five steel platform levels have been provided, the Boby equipment and steel bins being typical of the present installations. Below the platforms are two more levels, including ground level, which adjoins the largely vacated engine room. Here, a Ruston (Lincoln - England) oil fueled 8 cylinder engine is in situ and derelict.

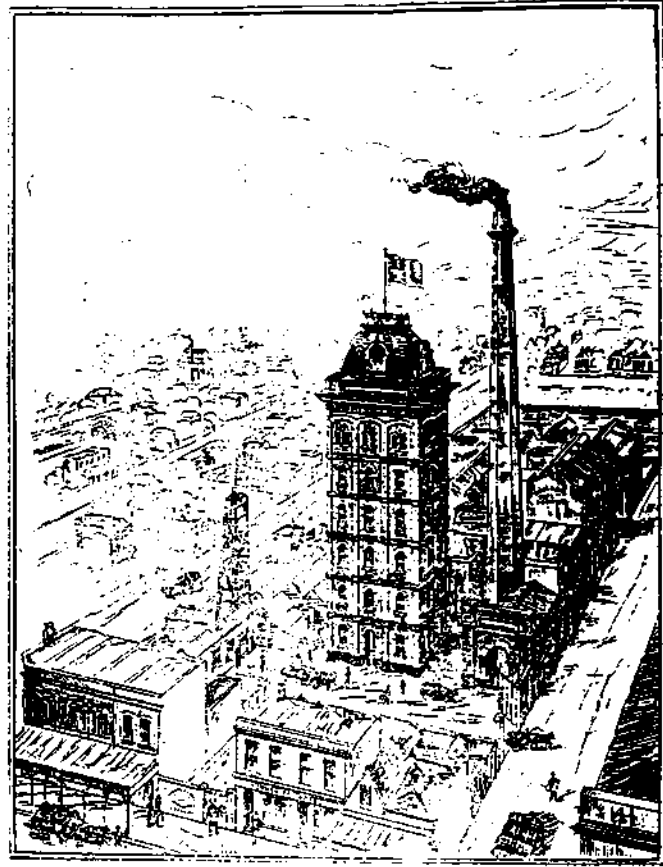
The former brew tower has six levels expressed in the external towered facades with the roof section forming a seventh. It is a polychrome brick structure with dark brown body bricks relieved with creams and sparsely used reds. The creams and reds form string courses at floor levels, whilst the pilasters of the four facades are accentuated with creams. The openings are generally round arched, although the sixth level openings are segmentally arched. A heavy cream brick cornice with some reds forms a base for a parapet wall and fish scale shingled French neo classical roof with round ventilators and wrought and cast iron railing above.

At ground level substantial portions of the former brewery buildings remain including the stables at the rear. At the South west, a single storeyed projecting "pavilion" in polychrome work with pilastered west facing parapetted facade on a bluestone plinth forms the south alignment along Waterloo Road and is terminated at the east end by the former stables.

History:

The Yorkshire Brewery was established in 1858 by John Wood, (ABJ, 20.8.'90) who commenced operations in a timber building on a two acre site shown, possibly, in the 1858 Hodgkinson map:





THE YORKSHIRE BREWERY, COLLINGWOOD, MELBOURNE

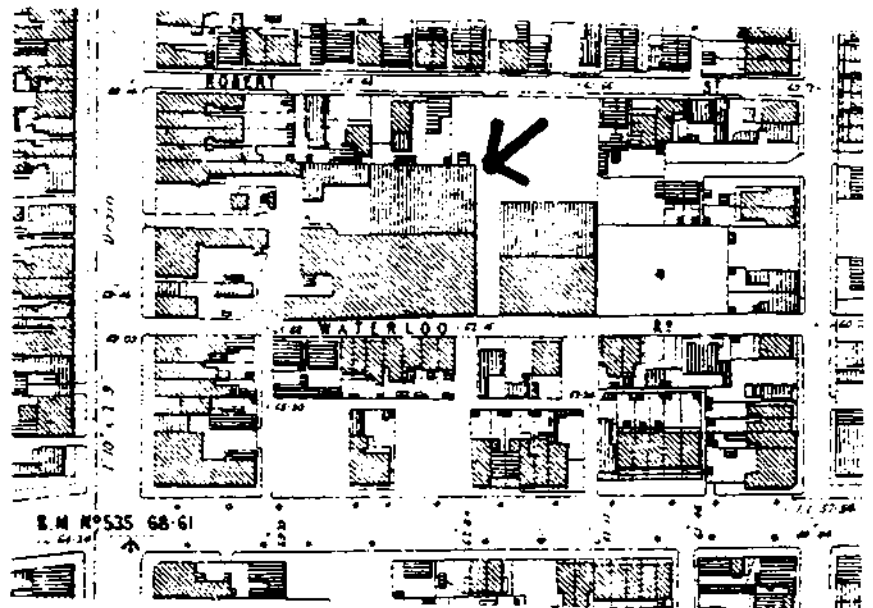


At this time the Yorkshire hotel occupied the Wellington Street frontage of the Waterloo Road site. In 1865, Wood's eldest son, A.E. Wood, was admitted as a partner, and in 1875 the engineer/architect James Wood, another son, prepared drawings for the present complex, the foundation stone being laid in 1876. Access up the tower was facilitated by a lift manufactured by Messrs Johns and Co., now removed, and water was supplied from Yan Yean. A large cellar was built to the rear of the tower, 70ft x 120ft, with a capacity of 1000 hogs heads. Cornish boilers by Johnson & Co., Tyne Foundry, Yarra Bank supplied steam and a former 205 ft high stack was described as one of the most handsome in the Colony (ABJ, Vol VIII, 20.8.1890).

In 1887 the business was sold by the younger sons, the directors of the Yorkshire Brewery Co. Ltd being C. Burstall, R. Dickens, R. Virgoe, T.J. Nankivell, G. Crespin and G.H. Jamison. Prizes were obtained for ale and porter at the Melbourne Centennial International Exhibition of 1888.

By 1898, the "Yorkshire Brewery had closed down and the premises were rented by the "Triple Alliance", Carlton Brewery, McCracken's City Brewery and the Castlemaine Brewery.

In 1908 Colonel Ballenger, head brewer for the Carlton and United Breweries Pty Ltd resigned to become managing director of the former Yorkshire Brewery Co. Ltd, trading as the Ballenger Brewery Co. Pty Ltd. His beer was considered too sweet for public taste (CUB History) resulting in closure of the business and purchase late in 1909 by the CUB. Known again as the "Yorkshire", it was later to serve as a stand by plant and later again as a cooperage. In 1954 it was rebuilt into a malthouse known as "Yorkshire Maltings".



MMBW litho 1897

Significance:

The former Yorkshire Brewery has profound architectural and historic significance at the State level. In architectural terms it is the earliest substantially intact complex of its type in the state, being eclipsed in terms of the equipment within it by the former Victoria Brewery, in Victoria Parade. Its flamboyant polychromatic tower is the tallest and most decorated in the State, whilst the Yorkshire Brewery itself was one of Melbourne's earliest breweries. At the local level, this complex is highly visible from many portions of the municipality and especially so from the Collingwood Slope. Its remarkable survival is strengthened by the nearby brew and distillery towers of Thomas Aitken. The Yorkshire Brewery is dramatically expressive of the municipality's long established brewing industry, which as early as 1875 included the Star Brewery (Bedford Street), Gruenet Oscar and Ball (Cambridge Street), and the Crown Brewery (Clarke Street).

Recommendations:

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

References:

Sands and McDougall Directories
 History of the D.O.B., unpub manuscript
Australian Brewers Journal, vol VIII,
 1907-1908
 National Trust File