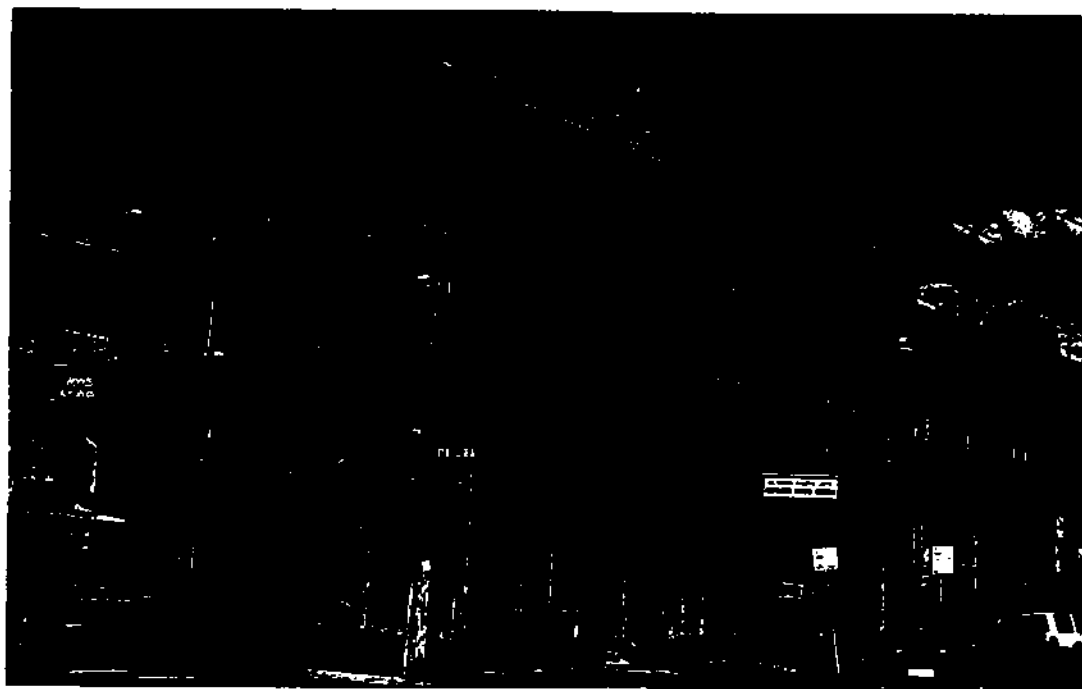


Building:

Former Free Medical Mission
Dispensary : "The Queens Jubilee
Buildings"
162 Wellington street



Allotment Reference:

68

National Trust Register:

Recorded

National Estate Register:

Registered

Historic Buildings Council Register:

Registered

Location within Precinct:

Collingwood Slope

Photograph Date:

12.6.87

Grantee:

S.A. Donaldson

Original Owner:

Free Medical Mission Dispensary

Present Owner:

Original Use:

Collingwood Education Centre -
Alternative School Section.

Present Use:

Post secondary education

Construction Date:

1887

Architect:

John Frederick Gibbins

Builder:

Description:

A two storeyed late Victorian stuccoed public building with trabeated facade, balustraded parapet and bracketted cornice with dentils and dentillated string course. The slightly projecting central bay has a pediment at first floor level surmounted by a window, now bricked up. Wrought iron double doors with John Singleton's initials and figures of an arm holding an arrow on shields remain at the south entrance. Inside, the original timber staircase is insitu but the remainder of the structure has been renovated.

Condition:

Good

Integrity:

Good, alterations as noted, along with removal of parapet decoration. Fire damage inside. Additions at rear on south side.

History:

In January 1869, Dr. Singleton opened his Collingwood Free Medical Dispensary on the site of the present building. He built a mission hall at the rear which was used also by the Salvation Army.

Singleton established other charitable centres in Collingwood, including his night shelter for destitute women in Islington Street (rebuilt and operating as ? today) and a refuge for fallen women in Oxford Street.

220

History:

The Wellington Street dispensary attended to 7176 applications for medical treatment of which 3468 were children in 1878. It undertook 300 home visitations in that year and was funded by the Ormiston Ladies' College, East Melbourne, the Collingwood City Council and by others.

Singleton advocated the non alcoholic principle of treatment and ran Bible classes, evangelistic services in the Mission Hall, a childrens' church and afternoon Sunday School. By 1882, significant contributors to the dispensary also included the Metropolitan Gas company, Messrs. Felton and Grimwade, and Beath Schiess and Co. (whose buildings remain in Sackville Street), and 8389 applications for treatment were received in that year.

On 22.6.1887 the foundation stone of the present building was laid and it was officially opened on 31.1.1889. By 1892 in the year of its founder's death, the dispensary received 13,422 applications for treatment.

The centre was later known as Dr. Singleton's dispensary and Welfare Centre and by 1977 was in use as the City of Collingwood Health Centre.

Significance:

This building is of great significance to the social history of Collingwood and Fitzroy and recalls the combination of practical help and christian teaching which typified the work of the churches and charitable institutions prior to the assumption of welfare responsibilities by the State. It is an important monument to one of this city's most noteworthy reformers and is associated also with the commencement of the Salvation Army in Collingwood. The building is an important element in the Collingwood slope precinct.

694

Recommendations:

Recommended for planning scheme protection.

References:

National Trust file
Free Medical Mission Dispensary
Annual Reports
Australian Building and Construction
News, 14.3.1891, p. 187.
State Library : H35761, H35762

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698