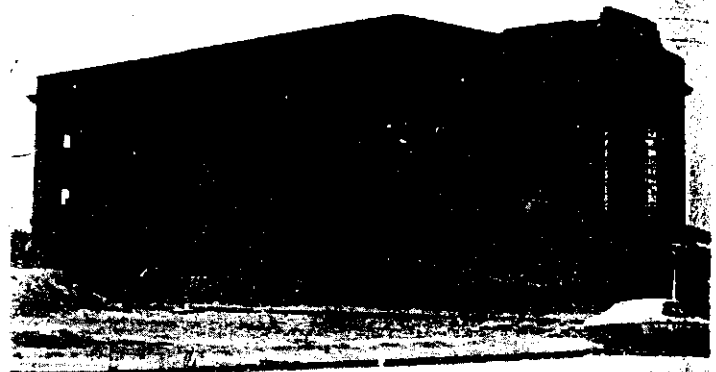


NAME: Railway Sub-Station

ADDRESS: Brunswick St (cnr. Park Street)

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1915  
BUILDER: Swanston Bros.  
FIRST OWNER: Victorian Railways  
PRESENT OWNER: Victorian Railways  
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: Red brick  
CONSERVATION AREA: B7



#### BUILDING CITATION

This monumental building of a Renaissance design was constructed in 1915. It is similar to many other substations which were built at this time in response to the electrification of the railway lines. Rectangular windows to the ground floor are topped by a main floor of arched windows linked by a continuous impost mould. A projecting cornice surmounts the building with a segmental pediment at one end surmounted by an abstracted parapet block.

Internally there is a dramatic use of space. The vertical windows with arched heads produce a cathedral effect and are of particular interest in the context of industrial architecture.

The building is of significance in that it can be viewed in its entirety from the adjacent Park Street reserve. It is an important streetscape component in the Park Street area.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this building be referred to the Government Building Advisory Council. It is also recommended for addition to the Register of the National Estate and for specification under Clause 8 of the Town & Country Planning Act (3rd Schedule).

#### BUILDING ANALYSIS:

When the railways were electrified there were many switching rooms and substations built at the same date to a similar design. The substations at Glenroy, Caulfield, Mentone, Seaford, East Camberwell and Deer Park are similar to the North Fitzroy station. However the relationship to the open space of Park Street makes it possible to view the North Fitzroy substation in its entirety. This building, constructed in 1915 by Swanson Bros.<sup>1</sup> has a strong impact on the surroundings and the monumental design can be appreciated in this location. This building is therefore considered of local and state wide significance.

In addition the design of Fitzroy is better emphasised because it combines brickwork and render - many other substations are completely rendered

Internally there is a dramatic use of space. The main hall, where heavy electrical equipment was brought in by a railway track with an overhead gentry, is vast and spectacular. It is brightly lit by a series of vertical windows. These are metal glazed with arched heads and are 6.4 metres by 2.1 metres wide. They produce a bright almost cathedral like effect and are of particular interest in the context of industrial architecture. The floor of this area is broken up into different bays and levels by concrete walls.

In contrast to the extravagant use of space in the main machine hall, the switch rooms on the south are a series of concrete cells served rather dangerously by a series of steel ladders. A recessed balcony on the first floor level with a simple cast iron baluster crossed with a circle motif provides an intriguing refinement for this extraordinary building.

1. Contract Book Vic. Rail lists 20 drawings of this substation. However only 6 were located and consulted. Contractor: Swanson Bros. signed 16.6.1915

NAME: House ADDRESS: 17 Delbridge Street

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1890  
ARCHITECT: unknown  
BUILDER: unknown  
FIRST OWNER: Mark Allen (photographer)  
PRESENT OWNER: A.T. Bebonis  
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: rendered brickwork  
CONSERVATION AREA: B9



BUILDING CITATION:

This two storey house was constructed in 1890 for Mark Allen<sup>1</sup>, a photographer. It has an arcaded front with the gable running out over the balcony level and the parapet at the front line. It is possibly the best example of this type in North Fitzroy, although the present paint colours are not appropriate. The most distinctive feature of the house is the frieze band of tiles surmounting the upper arcade. The parapet, supported on a dentillated cornice, consists of an interlocking balustrade, square name plate framed by large scrolls and balls. The composition is pleasing and the arcading at both levels is finely detailed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this building be added to the Register of the National Estate and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

1. Fitzroy Ratebook 1890: Brick house, 7 rooms £50. Mark Allen Photographer.