

NAME: Joseph Lyddy Polish
Manufacturing Co.
ADDRESS: 167-169 Fitzroy Street
CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1922-23
ALTERATNS./ADDITNS: -
ARCHITECT: Walter Burley Griffin?
BUILDER: W.H. Cooper
FIRST OWNER: Joseph Lyddy
FIRST OCC./USE: Ditto
PRESENT OWNER: Estate of Fred Day
PRESENT OCC/USE: Silvers Manufact. Co.
Pty. Ltd.
CONSTRUCTION
MATERIALS: Red Brick, cement render
decoration.
INTACTNESS/
CONDITION: Substantially intact
AREA/STREETScape: -



IMPORTANCE AND EVIDENCE:

This building was constructed in 1922-23¹ and was reputedly designed by Walter Burley Griffin.² However no evidence of this claim has been substantiated throughout this study.³ The builder was W.H. Cooper.⁴

The factory itself was designed in two parts, one for the polish manufacturing the other half for rental. It has been suggested that Eric Nicholls may have designed the building in association with Griffin (Nicholls worked in Griffin's office and was a close friend of the Lyddy family)⁵

The austere red brick facade is broken by a recessed entrance, above which is a decorative iron lintol, and the name plate "Joseph Lyddy: O.B.B. Polish Manufr" in raised cement lettering.⁶ The facade is decorated by a delicate relief cement stringcourse which continues around the side lane - this detailing is typical of Griffin's work, in particular some of his Sydney incinerators.

Internally, this building has little of note apart from the unusual timber trusses spaced at approximately 4 metre intervals.

This building is of significance locally, but additional investigation is required to verify it as a work of Griffin and establish its importance in relation to his other work.

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 (3rd Schedule).

1. Fitzroy Council Building Permit Book. 3.1.1923, No. 2616, W.H. Cooper (builder) Jos. Lyddy (owner) Brick factory. Fee £2.0.0. 169 Fitzroy Street.
2. Refer D.L. Johnson *Walter Burley Griffin* Griffin Press 1977 p.156- Johnson lists this building as worthy of further investigation as a possible Walter Burley Griffin Building.
3. Contact was made with Mr. Edward F. Billson and Mr. Leslie Grant who worked with Griffin, but they had no knowledge of the building.
4. See 1 above.
5. Information per John Kenny, architect, who contacted Miss Day, the daughter of Fred Day. Mr. Day bought out Joseph Liddy.
6. O.B.B. stands for Lyddy's trade slogan "Oily Black and Brilliant"