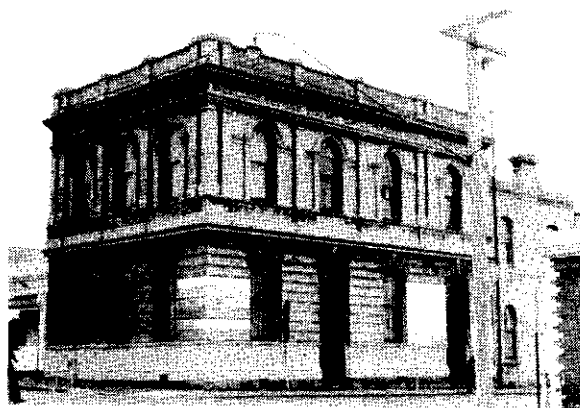


NAME: Russian House  
ADDRESS: 287 Gore Street  
CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1883  
ALTERATNS./ADDITNS: -  
ARCHITECT: Unknown  
BUILDER: Unknown  
FIRST OWNER: Trustees of Friendly Societies  
FIRST OCC./USE: James Kieran/Chemist  
PRESENT OWNER: Russian Cultural Society  
 4 Diss Crt. St.Albans  
PRESENT OCC./USE: Ronald Hopkinson/  
 Society Headquarters  
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: Cement rendered masonry  
INTACTNESS/CONDITION: Intact, good condition  
AREA/STREETSCAPE: Part of recommended area B10.



#### IMPORTANCE AND EVIDENCE:

This building was constructed in 1883 for the Trustees of Friendly Societies.<sup>1</sup>  
 This Society was one of the Clubs which grew up as a method of Health insurance for wealthy subscribers who paid a set fee for the services of a qualified suburban practitioner.<sup>2</sup>

It is superbly executed in unpainted cement render (apart from the painted plinth up to the window sills) with bluestone footings, and is intact apart from the removal of balls from the parapet.

The design is almost identical with the building on the corner of Dorcas and Ferrars Street South Melbourne of 1878 which was originally a dispensary building but is now a freemasons Hall. However the Fitzroy building is more intact with drafted masonry bands to the ground floor and intact joinery to doors and windows.

This building is a superb example of a Renaissance classical boom building with incised pilasters and arcuated first floor windows. It is considered of importance on a Statewide basis and forms an extremely important corner streetscape element.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this building be added to the Historic Buildings Register, the Register of the National Estate, and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (3rd Schedule).

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1. First Ratebook entry 1884 Trustees of Friendly Societies (owner), James Kieran (owner) Dispensary #130.
  2. Refer Davison G. *The Rise and Fall of Marvellous Melbourne* M.U.P. 1978 p. 106