

NAME: Johnston Street Cable
Tram Engine House.

ADDRESS: 95-105 Johnston Street.

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1886-1887.

ALTERATNS./ADDTNS: New entrance door;
facade painted.

ARCHITECT: Twentyman & Askew.

FIRST OWNER: Melbourne Tramway and
Omnibus Company.

FIRST OCC./USE: Ditto/Engine House.

PRESENT OWNER: Westgarth Properties
Pty. Ltd.

PRESENT OCC./USE: G. Moraitis.

CONSTRUCTION
MATERIALS: Brick, cement dressings.

INTACTNESS/
CONDITION: Partially intact/good condition.

AREA/STREETSCAPE: Part of recommended area A7.



IMPORTANCE:

This building, designed by Twentyman & Askew, architects, was built in 1887, and was the fifth engine house built for the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company. The facade of the building has been altered, but the combination of decorative cement dressings and the use of stilted gothic arches, results in an important streetscape component. The Nicholson Street Engine House provides a better example of this building type.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This building due to its local importance, is recommended for addition to the Register of the National Estate and for specification under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (3rd Schedule).

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND INVESTIGATION:

This building was the fifth Engine house to open for the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company. It was opened on the 21st December 1887¹ (twelve months after the land was bought) and is the first example where the site is not a corner one. This is because it was a small Engine House pulling only two cables, both of them in Johnston Street (compare the three cables of the Nicholson Street Engine house). The cost of the building alone was £12,791.4.5, (with machinery was £38,384.19.6²) and the architects were Twentyman & Askew³.

The facade of this building has been altered; the face brickwork has been painted, and a new carriage entrance inserted in the west bay. However, the cement detailing with foliated capitals, string course at impost height, corbels at cornice line and trefoil motif capping the pilasters (a motif used on other engine houses) provide a decorative and pleasing facade. The elevation is broken into five bays by projecting pilasters and the use of

1. L.J. Harding "Development of Tram Engine Houses", B.Arch. University of Melbourne (undated) p.35-37.
2. op cit p.37
3. "Twentyman & Askew Day Book", La Trobe Library. Manuscripts Collection: October 1886. Car house in Johnston Street, Collingwood. Contract price £2,949.0.0. Bruvir Bros. Final Price £2,922.18.7.

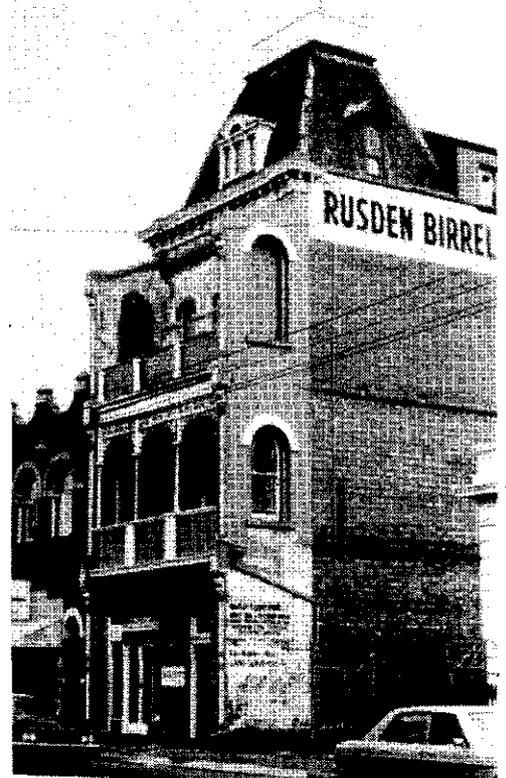
BUILDING ANALYSIS AND INVESTIGATION (cont'd)

stilted gothic arches with raised decoration is unusual on an industrial building.

Internally some original cast iron columns and fittings survive.

After 52 years of service, the Johnston Street Engine House was closed on 15th April, 1939. The building is an important streetscape component to the Johnston Street/Brunswick Street precinct. It is considered by the consultants, that the Nicholson Street Engine House provides a superior example of this building type.

NAME: -
ADDRESS: 120-122 Johnston St.
CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1886
ALTERATNS./ADDITNS: ground floor and verandah altered.
ARCHITECT: Unknown
BUILDER: Unknown
FIRST OWNER: Samuel Peacock
FIRST OCC./USE: Ditto/Doctors residence and possibly surgery.
PRESENT OWNER: Various.
PRESENT OCC./USE: Various offices
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: Rendered brick, scalloped slate roof.
INTACTNESS/CONDITION: Verandah altered, upper floor facade intact/good condition.
AREA/STREETScape: Part of recommended area A7



IMPORTANCE AND EVIDENCE:

This building was constructed in 1886 for Samuel Peacock, a doctor.¹

The building is very grand and provides a landmark for the area. It is of an unusual, possibly unique, three storey single terrace house design with a steep mansard roof and windows walk. The original gas fittings survive to the facade.

Unfortunately the building has been substantially altered at the ground floor, with the verandah infilled to the street frontage. The original balustrading to the upper floors and the verandah roof have been removed. An early photo survives of the original facade² showing the original verandah and cast iron balustrading.

1. First ratebook entry: Samuel Peacock (owner/occupier), doctor, Brick house 12 R X120.
2. La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria H36145 Meade Collection c1930.