

## **Joseph Lyddy Polish Manufacturers factory, 167-169 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy**

Heritage overlay: HO334

City of Yarra Property Number: 255400

### **What is significant?**

The Joseph Lyddy Polish Manufacturers factory at 167-169 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy was created in 1923 for George William and Frederick Day and has historical associations with persons such as Leslie George Arnott, Alfred Pendennis Reynolds and Joseph Lyddy. The place has a high integrity to its creation date.

Fabric from the creation date at the Joseph Lyddy Polish Manufacturers factory is locally significant within the City of Yarra, compared to other similar places from a similar era.

### **How is it significant?**

The Joseph Lyddy Polish Manufacturers factory at 167-169 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy is historically and architecturally significant to the locality of Fitzroy and the City of Yarra.

### **Why is it significant?**

The Joseph Lyddy Polish Manufacturers factory is significant as a highly significant Eric M. Nicholls brick factory design with distinctive pressed concrete detailing along the parapet and at the doorway. Nicholls was a senior architect in the office of the great 20<sup>th</sup> century designer, Walter Burley Griffin, and inherited his stylistic and architectural skills.

'Unusual and interesting commercial building ... characterised by high level or clerestory windows surmounted by a simple decorated cornice which runs round the building below a brick parapet. Stylistically suggestive of the Prairie style' (Wight 2001).

## **References:**

### **Municipal rate books:**

VPRS 4301/P/0001

City of Fitzroy/West Ward

Rate year/Rate no./Occupier/Owner/Description /NAV

1944/45; 807; Arnott Leslie George and Reynolds Alfred Pendennis, Chair makers; Day George Wm, 401 Lt Bourke St; 169 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory; 60

808; Day George William and Day Frederick, Manufacturers; Day George Wm, 401 Lt Bourke St; 167 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory; 60

1940/41; 823; Arnott Leslie George and Reynolds Alfred Pendennis, Chair makers; Day George Wm and Day Frederick John, 401 Lt Bourke St; 169 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 2 flats; 60

824; Day George William and Day Frederick; Day George Wm and Day Frederick John, 401 Lt Bourke St; 167 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 2 flats; 60

1935/36; 801; Arnott Leslie George and Reynolds Alfred Pendennis, Chair makers; Day George Wm and Day Frederick John, 167 Fitzroy St; 169 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 1 flats; 60

802; Day George William and Day Frederick, Saddlers Ironmonger Manufacturers; Day George William, Walpole St, Kew and Day Frederick, 2 Great Valley Rd, Gardiner; 167 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 1 flats; 60

## City of Yarra Review of Heritage Precincts 2007

### Appendix 7

1930/31; 808; Arnott Leslie George and Reynolds Alfred Pendennis, Chair makers; Day George Wm and Day Frederick John  
167 Fitzroy St; 169 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 1 room; 80  
809; Day George William and Day Frederick, Saddlers Ironmonger Manufacturers; Day George William, Walpole St, Kew and Day Frederick, 2 Great Valley Rd, Gardiner; 167 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 1 room; 80  
1925/26; 811; Vacant; Day George Wm and Day Frederick John  
167 Fitzroy St; 169 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 1 flat; 140  
; 812; Day George William and Day Frederick, Saddlers Ironmonger Manufacturers; Day George William, Hunter St, East Kew and Day Frederick John, 42 Walpole St, Kew; 167 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 1 flat; 140  
1924-25; 817; St Clair Ivan, Manufacturer; Day G W and F J; 169 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 1 flat; 140  
; 818; Day George William and Day Frederick, Saddlers Ironmonger Manufacturers; Day George William, Hunter St, East Kew and Day Frederick John, 42 Walpole St, Kew; 167 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 1 flat; 140  
1923-24; 817; Vacant to St Clair Ivan; Day G W and F J; 169 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 2 flats; 120  
; 818; Day George William and Day Frederick, Saddlers Ironmonger Manufacturers; Day George William, Hunter St, East Kew and Day Frederick John, 42 Walpole St, Kew; 167 Fitzroy St, Brick Factory, 2 flats; 140  
1922-23; 818; Barnett crossed out; Barnett crossed out to Day George William, Hunter St, East Kew and Day Frederick John, 42 Walpole St, Kew; Land 25 x 114; 13  
; 819; Land; Barnett crossed out to Day George William, Hunter St, East Kew and Day Frederick John, 42 Walpole St, Kew; Land 25 x 114; 13  
1920/21; 823; Barnett Edward and Percy, Manufactures; Barnett Miriam, Robe St. St Kilda, Barnett Edward Southey St. St Kilda, Barnett Percy Dalgety St. St Kilda; Land 25 x 100; 10  
; 824; Land; " ; Land 25 x 114; 11

### Melbourne or Victorian directories:

West Side 1922-23  
1930; 167-169 Lyddy, Jos polish mnfrs  
169 Arnott and Reynolds, art furniture mnfrs  
1925; 167-169 Lyddy, Jos polish mnfrs  
1924; 167-169 Lyddy, Jos Polish mnfr  
1923; No listing

### Other references:

MMBW Detail Plan shows earlier buildings; corner site.  
Lewis: 118  
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 (sic).  
6. O.B.B. stands for Lyddy's trade slogan "Oily Black and Brilliant"  
7. SLV: Wille, Peter collection- image  
Factory for Joseph Lyddy Polish Manufacturers 169 Fitzroy St. Fitzroy. Walter Burley Griffin. 1925. ERIC M. NICHOLLS architect in the office of W. B. Griffin [picture]  
Date of creation: [ca. 1950-ca. 1973]  
transparency : colour slide ; 35 mm.  
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### Appendix 7

Image Number: a20882

[www.josephlyddy.com.au/](http://www.josephlyddy.com.au/): `Joseph Lyddy was registered as a business in 1893. This takes us back to when Australia was still a group of independent colonies...The 1914-18 war for many was simply "blood 'n' guts". For those in the Light Horse Regiment much of the early action was "spit 'n' polish" and their introduction to the charms of Joseph Lyddy products was to shine and clean their tack and gear. The parade ground shine on leather boots and leggings, the gloss on a Sam Brown belt or the well-kept look of a trusted saddle more often than not came from a Joseph Lyddy product.

By the time of the early 1920's it was opportune for a new factory to be built to expand with increasing demand. An architect was commissioned; Walter Burley Griffin was his name. The same Walter Burley Griffin who was to become famous with his design for the Capital Theatre for Canberra. His Joseph Lyddy building at 167 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy, still stands as the only Melbourne example of a Griffin-designed manufacturing plant'.

Wight 2001: ` Unusual and interesting commercial building probably dating from the late 1920's, characterised by high level or clearstory windows surmounted by a simple decorated cornice which runs round the building below a brick parapet. Stylistically suggestive of the Prairie style.'