

HISTORIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION SHEET

Geelong Regional Commission

Sheet 197

PLACE NAME: RYRIE STREET MARKET (FORMER SALEYARDS)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: CITY OF GEELONG

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Edwardian Commercial

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN:
Reference:

BUILDER:
Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES
Reference:

TENDER NOTICE:
Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1915
Reference:

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

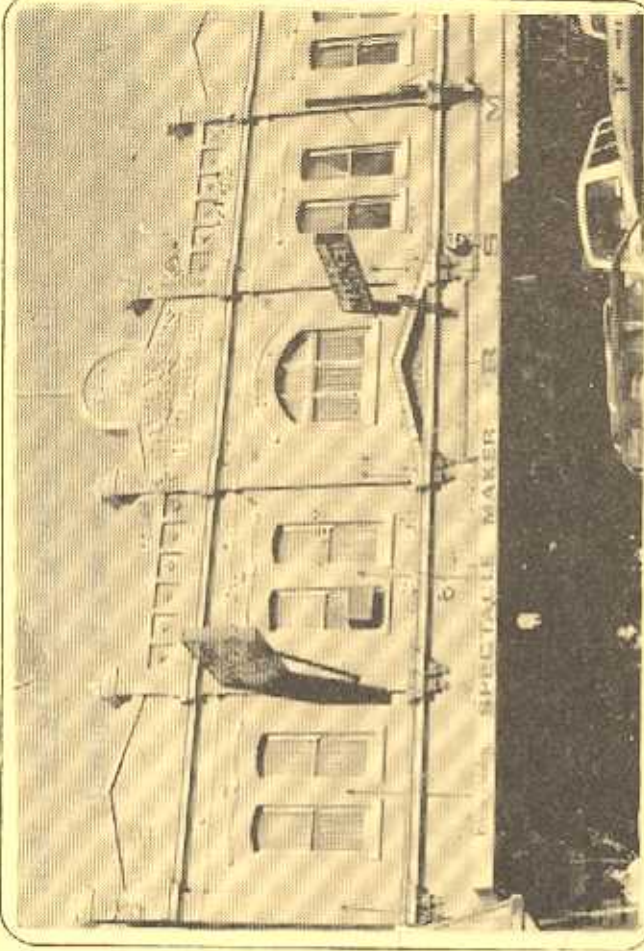
Painted green.

Shop fronts altered.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S) John Stephens occupied site as saleyards since 1849.

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS
Michael O'Farrell and Son bought property in 1853.

OTHER NOTES



NEGATIVE FILE:

☐ Australian Heritage Commission
Register of National Estate

☐ National Trust of Aust. (Vic)
Classified/Recorded
File No.

☐ Historic Buildings Preservation Council
Register No.
File No.

☒ Geelong Regional Commission
Register No. 218

IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME Ryrie Street Market (former Saleyards)
ADDRESS 100-108 Ryrie Street,
Geelong.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Geelong
TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE Shops
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE 100 Ryrie Street Pty. Ltd.,
ADDRESS 312-322 Melbourne Road, TELEPHONE
North Geelong.

PLACE NAME RYRIE STREET MARKET (FORMER SALEYARDS)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF GEELONG

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Brownhill, W.R., A History of Geelong and Corio Bay, 1955.
Further research work will be necessary to adequately document this building.

CITATION

A significant part of an Edwardian Streetscape on the southern side of Ryrie Street, which includes Griffiths and the Shop Cnr. Gheringhap Street of red brick with cement render string courses and mouldings, central bay with arch-headed window. Integrity decreased by paintwork.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

- ☐ Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
☐ Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised.
☒ In danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
☒ Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
☒ Its townscape and/or landscape value.
☐ Its scarcity value.

SIGNIFICANCE

☒ LOCAL ☐ REGIONAL ☐ STATE ☐ NATIONAL ☐ WORLD

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☒ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ DETERIORATED ☐ RUINS

INTEGRITY

☐ HIGH ☐ LOW ☒ ALTERED ☐ DAMAGED

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register

DOCUMENTATION - Louise Honman, Architect, 1 Summer St.,
East Geelong, 3219. Tel: 052-217784

SIGNATURE

DATE



Burns & Sparrow's Geelong Market, later Burns' Market 100-108 Ryrie Street

History

This site transformed from a single-storey shop, some brick offices, sheds and covered yards, in 1905, to the following by 1906: a brick shop, brick office stables and saleyards (Burns & Sparrow, auctioneers); a second brick office (J. Brownhill, printer and publisher); two upper-level offices (William Cleverdon, architect and surveyor); three more upper-level offices (Joseph Henry Grey, a public notary and general agent); and a sixth first-floor office (John Fairbairn, inspector of Public Works).¹

The local press noted that Robinson Burns & Sparrow were engaged in providing a new front to their Ryrie Street premises in 1905. When the building was connected to the sewer in 1916, the 'agent' for the work was William Cleverdon, making it highly probable that he was the architect for this building, as well as the former Harvey Dann & Co. building adjoining.²

The firm Burns & Sparrow had evolved from Robinson Burns & Sparrow (formed in 1881-2) who, in turn, had

come from Robinson & Cullen, with offices in Ryrie Street.³ The parapet suggests an 1850s start for this firm. After Burns (J.J.) & Sparrow (E.R.), the building remained with J.J. Burns well into the 1940s (at 102 Ryrie Street), eventually becoming H. Jacobs' property in the 1950s.⁴ The following quote from the *Geelong Advertiser* 11 May 1889 describes one of the early upgrades of the premises:

Messrs. Robinson, Burns and Sparrow who, since they have become the sole owners of the old established sale yards in Ryrie Street have effected very great improvements, have recently incurred an expenditure of £500 in making their premises very attractive to the farming classes and traders.

The entrance to the yards from Ryrie Street for a distance of 120ft. by a width of 40ft. has been covered over by an arched roof of corrugated iron, and it forms now an ornamental approach to the premises, where the broken and unbroken horses are kept for sale. This affords splendid shelter for every person having to visit the yards during all kinds of weather, and the sheds are well lighted and ventilated.

The old pens or sties used for the pig department of the yard have been removed and in their place 22 substantial pig pens have been constructed. These are of large dimensions, the flooring asphalted throughout, water laid on to each pen, and a complete system of effective drainage adopted.

Everything about the place is new, and Messrs. Trevena and Gubby, the contractors have justly earned the terms of commendation passed on their work by persons who have considerable business transactions at the yards. The salesmen and proprietors of the yards have in con-

1 RB1905, 231f; RB1906, 1231f; D1905.1910

2 GW&ST DP306

3 INV. 3.82, p.3

4 *ibid.*

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study

Significant Sites

temptation the picking up of the present metal roadway leading up the yard to Little Ryrie Street and having a tan track made, an improvement the advantage of which will be admitted by all interested in the business.

At present there is a cottage in the centre of the yards, which obscures the cattle pens from persons approaching from the Ryrie Street entrance. It is intended at no distant date to remove this obstruction and to continue the covered-in archway from Ryrie Street to Little Ryrie Street, and when that is effected the yards will be found to be the most complete of their kind in the colony.

Typical 1930s ground-level shopfront/office tenants included A Devine & Co. estate agents (100), James H Palmer, house agent (104), Benjamin Thomas tailor (106) and, upstairs in Sale Yard Chambers, Fred Suffield an accountant, King & Wellington, undertakers, and H T Nicholls, a manufacturing jeweller¹. Nearer 1940, the Bank of New South Wales were in 100, a sharebroker J H Palmer in 104 and, in the offices, the British Ex-Service Legion, among others².

Constructed in the 19th century manner of auctioneers offices and saleyards combined and allowing all types of produce to be dispatched under the one roof, the obvious problems of the presence of stockyards (including horse and pig pens) in a developing commercial centre appear to have determined their eventual end as saleyards. However, they remain an unusual surviving use, the Melbourne Meat Market being another large private market hall, (cf. municipal market halls).

An unusual part of the Burns' Market operations was the ship's bell (*Lightning*) used to attract buyers' attention after being salvaged in 1870.³ The other bell served to summons the faithful at Romsey Presbyterian Church.

The architect, Cleverdon's work centred on Geelong and Melbourne, the latter area dominating where his adaptation of the English Queen Anne is often impressive, (see former house pair, corner Wellington and Berry Streets, East Melbourne).

Description

Pictured in 1918, the market has changed little by comparison, since its erection: changes being predictably at ground level.⁴ Composed, like Harvey Dann, as two red brick pedimented bays either side of the main entrance bay, this building, because of its function, had a more dramatic ground-level than Harvey Dann, with a tall carriage-way (adorned with decorative iron gates) providing the main axis of the composition. However, the mixed shop, office and market use also provided for an unusually diverse ground-level, with a timber-framed shopfront at its eastern end (equipped with an iron street verandah), the carriage-way main entrance, a typical office section (with architraved window openings), and finally, another timber-framed shopfront which, because of Brownhill's printing business, had painted glass.

Segment-arch windows at first floor level differ in width to lend a central emphasis, each pair centred on a gabled or 'balustraded' parapet bay above. Of particular note is the central raised entablature and its pressed cement 'SALEYARDS RYRIE STREET' message, also the glazed tiles used to augment the facade's emphasis on natural finishes, (brick, cement and terra-cotta) after the

prevailing Arts & Crafts manner. Internally, iron trusses support an impressive vaulted space, created in the 1880s, over the former stockyards.

External Integrity

The shopfronts and verandah have been replaced in part or totally. However, sufficient remains of the shopfront framing and plinth to allow their restoration. Similarly, photographic documentation supports reconstruction of the street verandah. Recent sand blasting has damaged the glazed tiles, roughened the brick surface and caused total mortar joint replacement.

Streetscape

Similar to the Harvey Dann building (by the same architect), the two provide the core of a valuable mainly Edwardian commercial streetscape and Geelong's best commercial architectural group which commences at Gheringhap Street with Leggo's Building, (see precinct 5.3).

Significance

Historically, as a market place it has the prominence of a public building frequented by many over its many years of operation and as a use-type (privately owned market hall) it has become rare.

Architecturally, it is individually significant and one of a significant pair by the architect, William Cleverdon, also part of the city's best period commercial streetscape.

1 D1930
2 D1939)
3 INV. 8.69, p.184
4 NOW 13/6/18