

Organ Factory (former), 6-10 Page St, Clifton Hill, VIC, Australia**Photographs:****List:** Register of the National Estate**Class:** Historic**Legal Status:** [Registered](#) (30/06/1992)**Place ID:** 15282**Place File No:** 2/11/012/0014**Statement of Significance:**

The building, constructed in 1884, was associated with the area's commercial and manufacturing history over an extensive period. Additionally it is significant as the premises over a long period of the major organ-building firm of Hill, Norman and Beard (Criteria A.4 and H.1).

This structure is an example of a late nineteenth century Melbourne factory building (Criterion D.2).

Official Values: Not Available**Description:**

This large two-storey structure with its various outbuildings has played an important role in the history of the Collingwood district from the 1880s. Known locally as the Organ Factory this factory building was constructed in about 1884 as William Yates' Boot Factory. In 1927 it was bought by the well known Victorian organ-building firm of Hill, Norman and Beard, which was the Australian subsidiary of an English company of the same name. The firm occupied the building through to 1974. Hill, Norman and Beard secured the contract for building the new Melbourne Town Hall organ in 1928-29. Part of the flooring of the first storey was removed to enable parts of the large organ to be erected in the factory. The company carried out work on a number of other notable organs for Churches throughout Australia. Following the completion of the Melbourne Town Hall Organ, the organ at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, was rebuilt with a few additional stops, and a new four manual organ was constructed for St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide. A number of Christie theatre organs were completed at this time. For many years the firm was regarded as the largest organ manufacturing business in the country. Among the company's large number of notable organs and rebuilds were those for Christ Church South Yarra, St John's Church Toorak, St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney and St John's Cathedral in Brisbane. The ground floor housed the offices, a voicing room and a wood-working plant, in addition to an erecting area more than thirty feet high. On the upper floor there were located a drawing office, store, lunch-room and areas for wiring and console and wind chest construction. To the rear was the pipe-making plant and there was additionally a shed for the storage of seasoned timber. The firm wound up its operations in Australia in 1974 and the building was sold to the Education Department and was subsequently used as a Community Centre for Clifton Hill; groups using the building included the adjacent Gold Street Primary School and the New Theatre Workshop. The symmetrical building is of two storeys and is constructed of dichrome brick. It rests on a bluestone base and has brick arched windows with bluestone sills. Set well back from Page Street, in a remnant 1920s garden (pepper tree, palm, privet), the only ornamentation on the very plain elevations consists of contrasting coloured brick quoins and voussoirs in the front elevation and a small unobtrusive central pediment. One and two-storey brick outbuildings at the front and rear appear to have been added after 1927. Some basalt

pitched paving survives.

History: Not Available

Condition and Integrity:

Part of the first storey floor was removed in the late 1920s to enable construction of the Melbourne Town Hall organ. Most of the other areas devoted to various aspects of organ building remain intact but new internal subdivision and ceilings obscure the original spaces. (1990)

Location:

6-10 Page Street, Clifton Hill.

Bibliography:

"COLLINGWOOD AND FITZROY SKETCH BOOK", 1978, PP 52-53

COLLINGWOOD RATE BOOKS (PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE)

MELBOURNE/VICTORIAN DIRECTORIES

MMBW PLAN COLLINGWOOD NO 1216, 1901

"VICTORIAN ORGAN JOURNAL", VOL 3, PP 6-7