

Terrace House, 497 Brunswick St, Fitzroy North, VIC, Australia**Photographs:** None**List:** Register of the National Estate**Class:** Historic**Legal Status:** [Registered](#) (26/10/1999)**Place ID:** 15719**Place File No:** 2/11/020/0093**Statement of Significance:**

The building at 497 Brunswick Street Fitzroy was erected in 1886 and, with its corner position, intact shop front, ornate parapet and remnant original signs, it is significant as a good example of a nineteenth century shop and residence and is an important streetscape element (Criteria D.2 and E.1).

Official Values: Not Available**Description:**

This is a two-storey, partly rendered brick terrace house with a built-in shop front where there would normally be a verandah. The Brunswick Street facade includes a residence entrance on the right hand side, a central shuttered (or panelled) shop window and a shop entrance on the left. The upper balcony has intact cast iron with a fern pattern, which was registered by Cochrane and Scott on 5 August, 1884. The upper floor windows are flanked by cement pilasters (an elaborate treatment for this shop design) with debased Corinthian capitals, archivolts and elaborate voussoirs, all against a brick wall. Above there is a cornice supported by paired brackets, a balustraded parapet and a central decoration similar to a pediment. The lower storey has an interesting shop entrance door with two removable upper panels of the four panel door. These panels are bolted from the inside and when released can be lifted up and outwards. The shop window has intact shutters (six panels) locked in by a horizontal bar at the base. Below is a skirting board with three panels of bolection mouldings. Above is a two part transom light with curved corners and above the door another plain transom light with a flat segmental head. The residence door is elaborate with bolection mouldings and pyramidal mouldings, late coloured glass side lights and likewise side lights in the transom, but the central transom pane has been replaced. A flat timber segmental head of unusual character surmounts the transom light. Piers on either side of the building, and between the residence door and shop window, frame the composition and are in bluestone with tooled edges. The York Street side of the building (which is rendered) employs blind arcading to the shop wall on the ground floor with corresponding windows above. This street is also addressed by a metal fence and small pane sash lights above. The original sign (T J Pinsent Jr, Sign Writer) and an early street sign (York Street) are visible. Windows on this wall have label moulds, expressed keystones, bracketed sills (to the upper floor) and there is a cornice at impost level. Externally the interesting features of the building are the shop front with its joinery on Brunswick Street, the presentation of the York Street facade and fence and the Pinsent Signwriter sign. The rear view of the building also shows the three dimensionality of the design when compared to the rear elevations of other Brunswick Street terraces. The interior of the building appears to be not unlike other terrace houses, with a side hall, rear kitchen and laundry on the ground floor. The interior of the shop (the front room) has had the partitions removed from it and has a deal-boarded ceiling. The hall and the second room have intact doors, cornices and roses, but have otherwise been re-decorated. The banister, in very good condition, finishes in a spiral rather than a newel post. On the first floor are bedrooms, bathroom and lounge. The doors opening off the upper landing are in original condition with the mouldings in black and the rest varnished. The front landing has much of the original brown floral wallpaper intact. There is a wide stairwell light with intact etched blue and ruby glass.

The doors and moulding in original condition are more elaborate and are picked out in black and other stains. The upstairs front room has an intact marble fireplace (with one servant bell on either side) and a glass fronted bookshelf. The front windows can be raised for stepping out. It has a slate tile roof, bluestone foundations, and original chimneys. Facilities in the kitchen, laundry and bathroom have been upgraded in recent times, while in other areas decorative wallpapers and colour schemes have been removed or papered over. Ceiling roses and deep cove cornices in hallways and lounge rooms survive. The building's streetscape values are highlighted by its corner location.

History:

This building was constructed in 1886 for Thomas Pinsent Jr, signwriter. The house may have been designed by the architect Olaff Nichol Nicholson, who was born in Stockholm and emigrated from Sweden at the age of seventeen. He spent four or five years working for the architects Twentyman and Askew, and he also worked for the contractor James Moore. He is supposed to have established himself in practice in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, where he had an office at No 73. He then worked for the Public Works and Railways Departments for some years, then set up practice in Collins Street. He emigrated to Western Australia in 1893.

Condition and Integrity:

The building is in good condition. There are recent additions at rear, otherwise the place is substantially intact. (1978)

Generally in fair to poor condition and not maintained. Integrity good. The roof could not be seen from the street. The slate roof of the rear extension is intact. The galvanised iron roof of the skillion building to the side is intact. The painted timber doors, window frames and front facade are intact but aged and the paint surface cracked and weathered (>90%) and flaking in places (>50%). The brick wall (LH facade) viewed on York Street is intact but with some graffiti. The painted sign on this facade is worn but intact. Two windows on the York Street facade have been bricked up. The remaining windows are intact. The door at the corner is intact but aged. The other door on the Brunswick Street facade appears to be new. The leadlight side lights in this doorway are intact but the fan light has been altered. (1996)

Location:

497 Brunswick Street, corner York Street, Fitzroy North.

Bibliography:

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) FN 3439

Jacobs Lewis Vines, 1978. North Fitzroy Conservation Study.