

**Richmond United Friendly Societies Dispensary, 294 Church St, Richmond, VIC, Australia**



**Photographs:**

**List:** Register of the National Estate

**Class:** Historic

**Legal Status:** [Registered](#) (21/10/1980)

**Place ID:** 15412

**Place File No:** 2/11/044/0019

**Nominator's Statement of Significance:**

Important from the fact that the building was a United Friendly Society Dispensary and is thus a record of nineteenth century Friendly Society activities. It is notable for being designed by J A B Koch.

**Official Values:** Not Available

**Description:**

**History:**

The Richmond United Friendly Society was registered in 1872 in Bridge Road. In 1886, land in Church Street was purchased for the erection of new premises. Mr J A B Koch, Richmond architect, submitted plans of the proposed building at an estimated cost of 1,075 pounds. The building would comprise a ground floor shop, passage to the dispensary quarters, laboratory, meeting room, dispensary quarters, ground floor, two rooms, a lean to, and two rooms on the first floor. Messrs Meredith and Pittard were the builders. The building was opened on 1 September 1887.

In July 1890 some alterations and additions were made to the building because of increase in membership.

In 1892, Mr Fritsch, architect of Collins Street, drew plans for one extra room and passage for new stairs and residence on the ground floor, with skillion wash house and two rooms above. The tender of Mr E J Halpin was accepted.

In 1908 the premises next door at 292 Church Street were purchased for extension of the building on the north side. Mr Peck, architect of Queen Street, drew plans, and the tender of Messrs Adams Bros was accepted. The entrance porch and oriel window were part of these extensions.

In c 1925, Lodge Room was renovated, with a new metal ceiling and walls repainted. Repairs and repainting were done in 1953.

The building continued to be used as a United Friendly Society Dispensary until recently.

**Description:**

A two storey, cement rendered asymmetrical building of 1887, with regularly placed arched windows and arched fanlights each door. The second floor windows have ornate protruding window ledges. To the left of the building, a narrow two storey portion extends out to the street by approximately 2m. This portion has an oriel over a recessed porch. The parapet pediments are intact, the building has lost two cast cement urns originally placed on either corner of the parapet. Foundations are bluestone. The lower storey windows which were originally two windows on each side of the door have been made into one large window on each side of the door, but the arched segments that were above the windows are retained.

**History:** Not Available

**Condition and Integrity:**

Though there have been some changes to the facade, the building still retains much of its character. (1986)

The exterior form, detail and general character of the building are reasonably intact. Some minor alterations including removal of original double bay shop windows, installations of canvas awnings over the shop windows and construction of a ramp to the north entry and addition of new light fittings have reduced the building's integrity at ground level. (1996)

**Location:**

294 Church Street, Richmond.

**Bibliography:**

O'Connor, J. and T., Coleman, R., Wright, H., 1985. Richmond Conservation Study. National Trust of Australia (Victoria) FN 2923