

**RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINATION ON A  
NOMINATION TO THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER**

**NAME:** FORMER RICHMOND AUSTRALIAN OFFICE

**VHR NO:** Not applicable

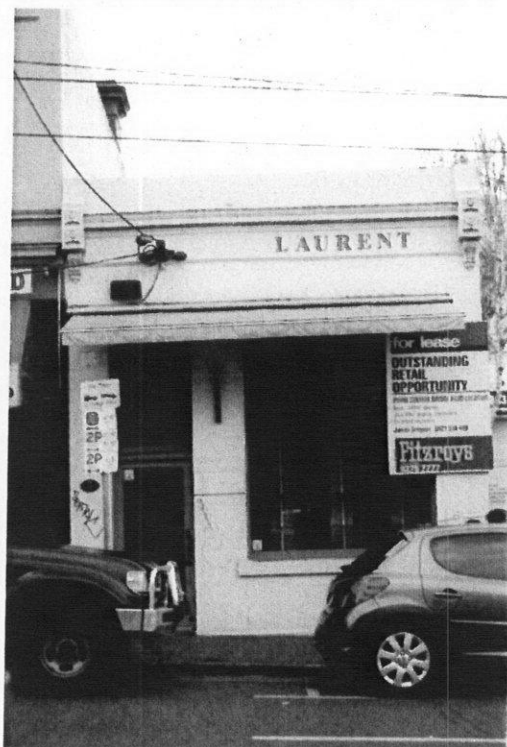
**LOCATION:** 241 BRIDGE ROAD RICHMOND, Yarra City

**CATEGORY:** Not applicable

**FILE NO:** 606868

**OFFICER/S REPORTING:** Libby Blamey

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**RECOMMENDATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register [Section 32(1)(b)]
- That the Place or object be referred to the relevant planning authority for inclusion in a planning scheme [Section 32(2)]

## Victorian Heritage Register



Manager Heritage Assessments	Date	Executive Director	Date
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### REASON:

Though it is of local historical and architectural significance, the Former *Richmond Australian* Office does not demonstrate sufficient cultural heritage significance to be added to the Victorian Heritage Register.

There are four newspaper buildings listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, three of which are from the nineteenth century. The Former Rushworth Chronicle Steam Printing Office (H0941) is a rare, relatively intact steam-printing printing office, which is of historical significance for its demonstration of the important role of local newspapers in Victorian country towns. The elaborate former Advertising Building, Williamstown (H0865), constructed in 1885-88, was the printery for the influential *Williamstown Advertiser*, and is associated with businessman and politician Alfred T Clark. The Bacchus Marsh Express Office and Printing Works (H0504) retains the majority of its original printing equipment and an almost complete set of the editions of the newspaper, making the building a unique record of the development of a country newspaper from the middle of the 19th century.

The above examples of newspaper offices and printerries, through the integrity of the remaining fabric, are better able to demonstrate the importance of newspapers to communities in Victoria than the office at 241 Bridge Road, Richmond.

It is recommended that Former *Richmond Australian* Office not be included in the Victorian Heritage Register. It is currently protected by the Yarra City planning scheme within the Bridge Road Precinct on the heritage overlay (HO310) and this is considered the appropriate level of protection.

### STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

This building was the former office and printery of the *Richmond Australian* newspaper, believed to have been built in 1870-1.

Printer Harvey Roulston, who had worked previously at The Argus, established the *Australian*, a suburban journal, in Richmond in 1858. Roulston also founded the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* in 1865. The newspaper office and printery was originally located opposite the Court House reserve on the south side of Bridge Road. In 1870-1, Harvey Roulston moved the business to the narrow premises at 241 Bridge Road, and in the early 1880s the paper was renamed the *Richmond Australian*. In the 1890s, George Whitehurst took over the paper and the family continued to operate a printery from this site into the 1980s. The *Richmond Australian* was published weekly until its last edition in the 1920s. The Former *Richmond Australian* Office is a single storey shop, situated on a long, narrow site. It is of simple design and decorations with a large arched window and arched doorway on the front facade, modest mouldings and a plain rectangular parapet. Though the site was used as a printery into the 1980s, it has more recently been converted for retail purposes.

## Victorian Heritage Register



The Former *Richmond Australian* Office is of local historical significance for its association with the important local newspaper for the Richmond community.

The Former *Richmond Australian* Office is of local architectural significance as a representative example of a simple mid-nineteenth century commercial building.

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