

4-7 113-115 Ballarat Road

Street which he had thoroughly renovated in the new (1920s) Bungalow style.¹ Andrew Brown's address was 119 Ballarat Road, adjoining the works.²

Description

Typically, the stylish brick front building hides at least two stages of development behind. One is of timber and may be the former livery stables while another is red brick, appearing from the 1920s. However from the street, the slick streamlined Moderne styled offices are understandably outstanding. The combination of one and two storey forms, rounded corners and patterned brickwork (Manganese salt glazed and creams) adds up to a proficient example of the type, particularly for a medium to small complex such as this one (ie. compare with the larger Geelong Road examples). Brick planter boxes and painted steel sign letters provide more accessories of the style.

External Integrity

Generally original

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1 | D1930,1935 |
| 2 | D1945 |

Streetscape

Isolated but not far from the similar Geelong Road examples.

Significance

A near original and accomplished Moderne style office-factory design which may conceal historically interesting prior uses at the rear. Otherwise representative of the growth of the Footscray engineering and metal trades around the Second War.

Shop & Residence

1-3 Ballarat Street

History

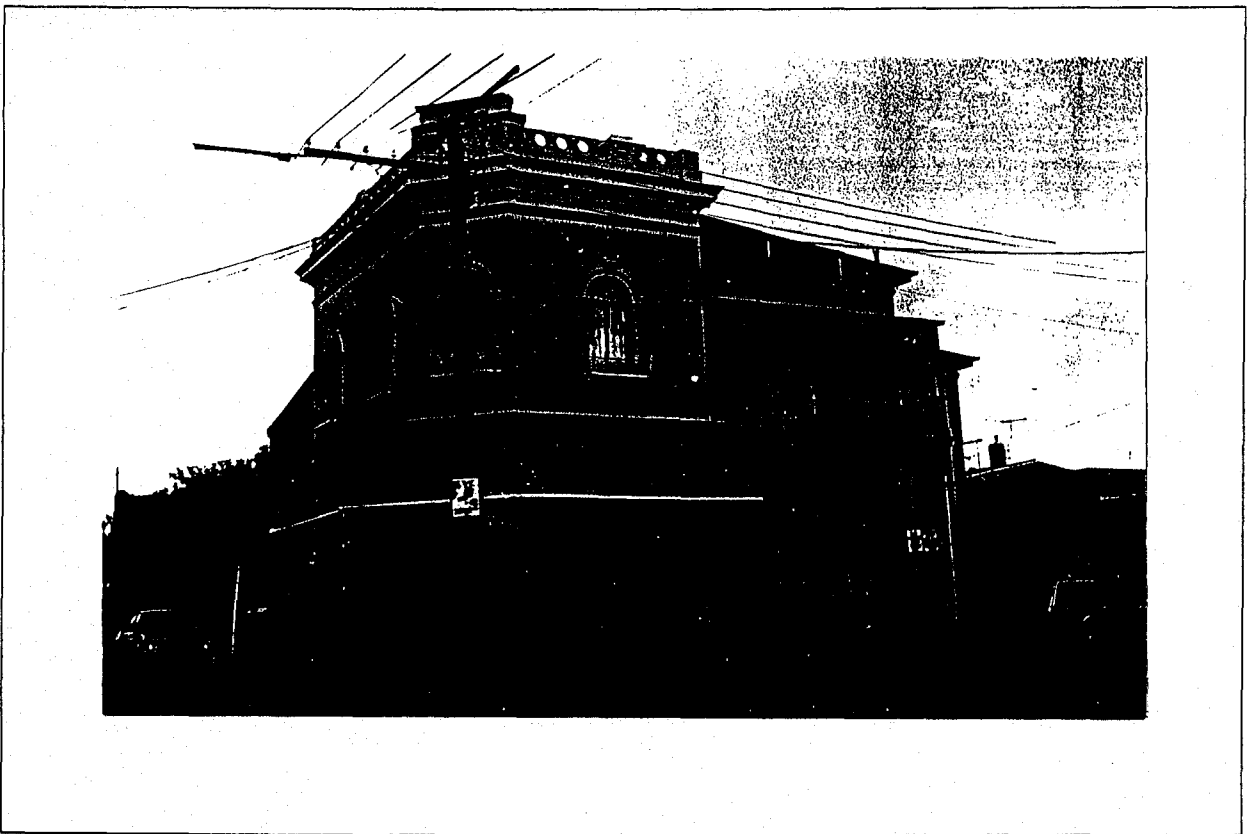
Evidently used in part as the Yarraville post & telegraph office and residence under Emma Dean by the 1880s (presumably an agency), the shop section was

at first leased as J.J. Coplestone's newsagency and eventually became Thomas Hepburn's grocery, early this century¹ However its first and long-term owner was J.C.C. Schild who commissioned its construction in 1886^{2,3}. The architect, Robert Adamson called tenders for a two-storey shop and dwelling at Yarraville in 1885: this may have been it⁴

John Coplestone traveled to Australia with his wife, Elizabeth, in 1852 and was reputedly part of a syndicate which helped commence the *Age* newspaper in 1856. The paper was first published by merchants John and Henry Cooke, Coplestone being presumably part of a co-operative made up mainly by the paper's printing staff who replaced the Cookes which in turn, was soon bought out by Ebenezer and David Syme⁵.

Coplestone's death left his widow to remarry the well-known Hyde Street news and land agent J.C. Schild in the 1870s⁶; J.J. Coplestone may have been Elizabeth's son. She died in 1906⁷.

A permanent post office had been erected around World War One at the opposite corner by the Commonwealth Government (2 Ballarat Street) but 1-3 Ballarat Street's former official status was recommenced with a tenancy by the English Scottish & Australian Banking Company, while the residence was run as a dental surgery by Roy and later J.W. Pedley⁸. Somewhat later, the Bank of Australasia had also located a branch (see 28 Murray Street) at what had become established as the civic end of Ballarat Street, probably by the construction of this building. Like the



4-8 1-3 Ballarat Street

- 1 RB1892-3,6853- 4; RB1886, 3891; RB1887, 4620
- 2 RB1886,3891
- 3 *ibid.*
- 4 MUA *Argus* 15.5.85
- 5 VYB 1973 p.599f
- 6 FHS newsletter cites *Advertiser* 3.2.06
- 7 *ibid.*
- 8 D1915-39

Australasian, the E.S. & A. Bank gave away to lesser uses by the 1950s when Mrs. V. Shadbolt and later S.W. Noble ran a clothing workshop there.¹

Description

A two-storey conservative Italian Renaissance adaptation, with stuccoed walls and two-level cast-iron verandah on the residential half of the premises. Other domestic traits are the exposed hip roofs, the Palladian fenestration with its cement architraves and bracketed pediments (lower windows) also the cast-iron balconettes on the upper level and iron palisade fence. The commercial end is parapeted (altered) with a guilloche pattern balustrade. The raised entablature has 'Established 1860' in bas-relief, presumably indicating either the origin of Schild's or Copplestone's agency business in Melbourne (?)². The shopfronts have been replaced around 1920.

External Integrity

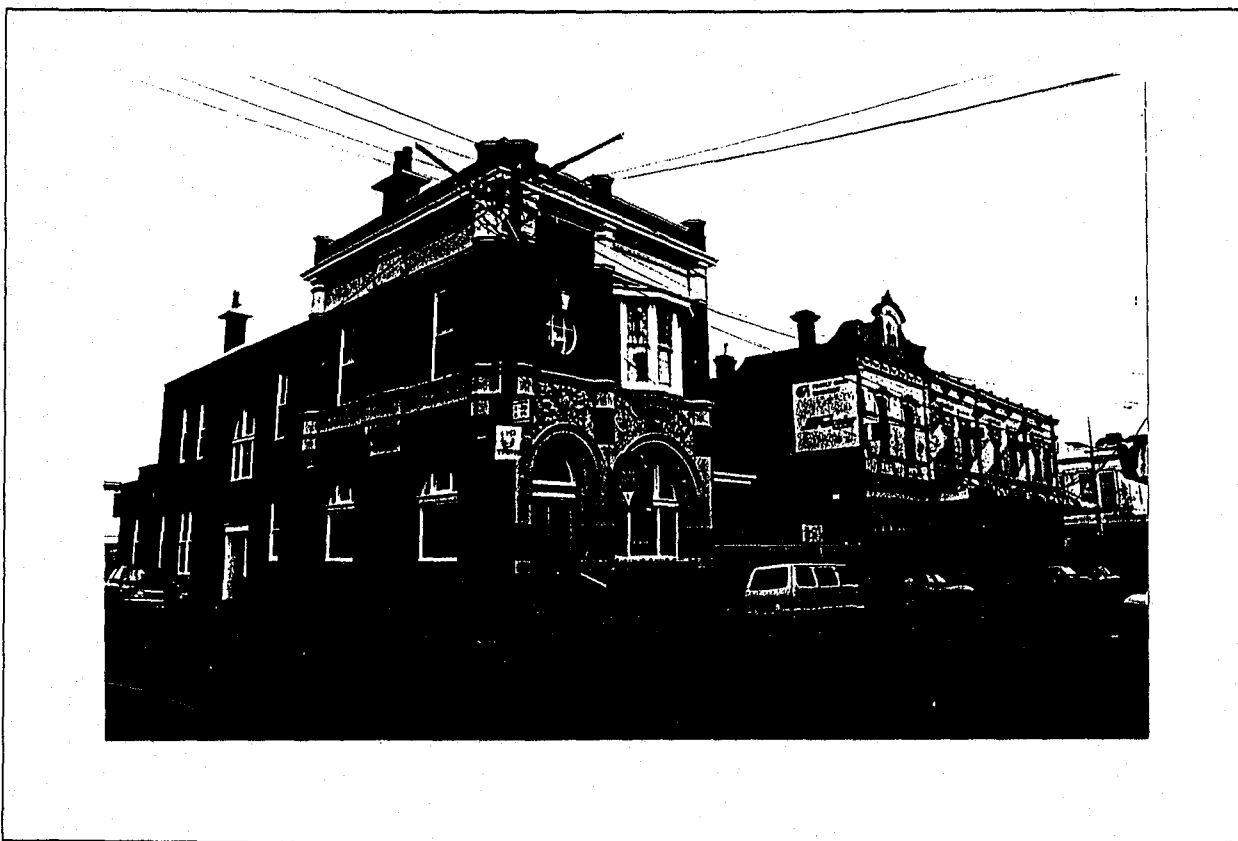
Shopfronts replaced, canopy added, corner window blocked (upper) and lower north (commercial) section upper window joinery replaced with aluminium. The parapet detail has been altered and part of the iron balustrade is gone but a recent colour scheme is sympathetic to the original. A two-storey brick addition has been made to the north-east (?) corner.

Streetscape

Good corner building, relating in period to the Murray Street former shop row (q.v.) and completing the block as a late Victorian match to the southern corner with Anderson Street.

Significance

Architecturally, a typical shop and residence of the period but located in a valuable civic-commercial precinct. Historically, a focus of the early commercial



4-9 13 Ballarat Street

- 1 D1950-5
- 2 BD1875

development in Ballarat Street and linked with the renowned J.C. Schild and tenuously to the lesser known John Copplestone.

State Savings Bank of Victoria 13 Ballarat Street, Yarraville

History

Commissioners of the State Savings Bank of Victoria engaged architects Sydney Smith & Ogg to design this branch bank in 1909. The contract price was 1966 pounds. Smith & Ogg designed other S.S.B. banks at Moonee Ponds (1905), Elsternwick (1907), Camberwell (c1907) and Numurkah (1913): all in a period when they employed the 'architectural expert', author and academic, Robert Haddon, as a contract designer. Haddon's *Australian Architecture* illustrates similar structures, as bank or office designs.¹

Description

Parapeted face-red brickwork, foliated pressed cement detail and fanciful wrought iron were typical ingredients of the Edwardian Freestyle which used British and Italian Medieval sources for its inspiration.

More regular in composition on its main facade than on the asymmetrically treated north elevation, the walls are divided by piers and considerably enlivened by a variety of openings set between them. Round, bayed and segment-arched windows of different sizes are used on the Ballarat Street front, while a combination of freely arranged arched and rectangular ones are used to the north. Moulded terra-cotta tiles separate an intricate leadlight from the residential entrance and moulded terra-cotta outlines the prominent voussoirs to the arches. Queen Anne scrolls mark the change in width of the chimney shaft in its path down the north wall. The corrugated iron fence to Ballarat Street is original.

Massive elements and diverse openings, provide a free and highly successful design.

External Integrity

New bank entrance, window glazing and interior; basalt painted.

Streetscape

Contributes to 19th and early 20th century streetscape on this side of Ballarat Street.

Significance

Architecturally, a highly successful bank design in the Edwardian Freestyle manner which exhibits skill in both massing and application of detail also part of a late 19th early 20th century streetscape. Historically, among the surge of Savings Bank construction during the Edwardian period and still functioning as one of Yarraville's major public buildings.

Sun Theatre, 6-12 Ballarat Road

History

Purpose-built cinemas were scarce in the West, the suburbs of Footscray, Williamstown and Newport containing only six built between 1911 and 1922. In Yarraville there were only the McFarlane family's early St. Georges cinema (1913)² which survives in Birmingham Street and the converted Yarraville Hall (Lyric) in Stephen Street, prior to the arrival of the Sun³. Competition from the Sun meant the closing of the Lyric in the 1940s and the cessation of remodeling plans for St. Georges: it was always the first choice of cinema-goers in their rounds of Saturday night's entertainment and hence is the venue most remembered by today's Yarraville community⁴.

Opened in April 1938 with the Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy film *Maytime*, the Sun replaced a Commercial Bank, a fishmonger's shop and was sited on land formerly owned by the Mount Lyall company⁵. It was the owner, Ernest Charles Yeomans, fourth cinema (see also Footscray Grand) and was managed by his son, W.J. Yeomans, remaining among the small number of privately owned cinemas of the post-war period. What impressed local patrons most was that the

- 1 Trethowan
- 2 *Yarraville News* 14.6.13
- 3 Hanson, 'The Sun Yarraville' in *Kino* 10.8.2, p.7f, cites *Film Weekly* 2.6.38
- 4 verbal
- 5 R Cocks