

black glazed terra-cotta faience and painted timber fascia. The suspended name sign is notable.

External Integrity

Generally original.

Streetscape

Isolated in the streetscape, relating only in part to the two-level rendered and parapeted facades adjoining.

Significance

Architecturally, a totally Modern but restrained shop design which embodies most of the philosophies of the 1950s rebirth in Australian architecture.

Historically, among the first group of major retail developments after the Second War in Footscray.

Barkly Theatre 281 Barkly Street

History

Among the new breed of picture theatres built in Australia, combining live and film facilities, the Barkly Theatre was erected in c1914 for the Barkly Picture Theatre Company, as designed by W.A.M. Blackett & Forster.¹ St. Georges in Yarraville was built in 1913²; hence this picture theatre and the Barkly are among the second oldest group of purpose-built cinemas known to survive in Victoria, after Northcote (1912)³.

The same company announced the installation of a 'talking apparatus' for a premier showing in September 1929, only a year after Melbourne's first 'talking' performance in the Athenaeum, Collins Street. The installation cost was estimated at between 4000 and 5000 pounds. Hoyts Theatres were the owners by 1934, the



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- 1 Lack, site notes; MUI; MMBW CF 90558 gives new building sewage connection planned in 1914 and carried out 1916
- 2 Yarraville News 14.6.13
- 3 Butler, Northcote Conservation Study, Vol.1, p.110

title passing to T.S. Carlyon & Co., by 1960 at the latest, for use as a reception centre.

Description (interior not inspected)

Essentially a decorated cemented box, the roofline of the theatre is nevertheless spectacular with its two mansard towers, either end of the highly ornamented parapet. Three deep, arched windows open onto square balconettes, each draped with cement swags or garlands which are used profusely elsewhere on the facade along with the segment arch motif and impressive leadlight lunettes at the parapet. Edwardian Baroque detailing is the decorative scheme but the towers are reminiscent of the William Pitt Second Empire theatre and hotel designs of the late 19th. century (cf. Princess Theatre).

External Integrity

Part of the ground level has been rebuilt as has the canopy, roof slates and the side-wall brickwork have been painted over and numerous signs added.

Significance

Externally near complete, the Barkly is among the earliest purpose-built cinemas in the State, is a successful Edwardian Baroque design and has been a public gathering place in the city for over 70 years.

Presbyterian Church 300 Barkly Street

History

Progressing from services in the Mechanics Institute (1866-) to their own bluestone church (later a hall) which opened a year later, Footscray Presbyterians eventually built a larger, grander stone church here in Barkly Street. It opened in 1886 at a cost of 3223 pounds.

The laying of the memorial stone was undertaken in poor weather by local member, Hon. James McBain, with the comforting knowledge of 1000 pounds in hand for the project, late in 1885. Twentyman & Askew were the architects and Footscray builder, Edward Hopkins, carried out the works. (Hopkins was a long-term councillor and Mayor, 1872).¹ Bluestone masonry and freestone dressings guaranteed (thought the press) 'a handsome structure' ... 'one of the finest edifices in the locality.'² Typically, a tower and transept were planned but never completed.³ Its opening occurred in June 1886, as conducted by the Rev. Professor McDonald and the new minister, Rev. John McConnell, who was later welcomed less formally at the Royal Hotel's Royal Hall.⁴

The Rev. James Gibb, who had motivated the project, had departed to New Zealand before his work materialized. Subsequent ministers at Footscray included the Revs. J. McConnell, Matthew Hart, J.S. Buntine and A. W. Butler, the longest serving up to the First War. During the tenure of the Rev. D. McKenzie (1871-8) a bluestone manse was built beside the church⁵ to be eventually replaced with the present building. A 'beautician scheme' was carried out in 1937 to the memory of a Mrs. Hodgkinson.⁶

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Description

Like other Footscray churches and particularly the Hyde Street Wesleyan Church, this is of coursed quarry-faced random basalt, with stone dressings (sandstone) and designed in the Early English Gothic Revival mode. However, its multiplicity of window groups (in an implied narthex), buttressing and gabled side-entrance porches, lend it a relatively more ornate quality within this typically restrained style. Diamond-pattern leadlight windows are used throughout. Other detailing includes the ornamental wrought-iron gates which close-off both sides of the church, presumably being contemporary with the adjoining hall (same gates) rather than the porches they abut. The gates are nevertheless Edwardian in character.

Beside the church are the Peter Fraser Memorial Hall and the clergyman's residence, both executed in a simple Tudor revival manner, using clinker brickwork. Concrete paving and planting around the church walls appear contemporary with their construction (late 1930s).

External Integrity

Stone dressings have been painted and the (presumed) picket fence removed from frontage.

- 1 *The Advertiser* 4/9/85, FST 29/8/85
- 2 *The Independent* 5/9/85
- 3 *ibid.*
- 4 *The Advertiser* 4/6/86
- 5 FFFY p.125, Lack
- 6 Memorial