

Identification and location

Name of Place: Henderson's Piggery

Other Name Henderson's Bacon Curing Factory,

Address 43 -45 Moreland Street
Footscray

Place Identifier 8795

Heritage Significance state

Creation date(s): 1872 -3

Map (Melway) 42 E5

Boundary description The extent of the current allotment including modern landscaped grounds between Moreland and Wingfield Streets.

Local Government Area: City of Maribyrnong

Ownership Type Council

Description

Site Type: factory and residence

Physical Description

The curing works, 2 storey residence, stables and factory buildings were originally built around a courtyard but now only the bluestone east wing survives (residence and curing house). Featuring hipped iron roof over typical of the era coursed rubble bluestone with cream hand made brick quoins to window and door openings. Verandahs are modern approximations to the original cast iron concave roofed varieties.

The west and north wing, apparently of bluestone, brick and timber, were demolished 1969. Archaeological remains may survive particularly along the west and north side of the rear yard. The downstairs area is said to have had an intact barrel run and elevator in the south end and when renovations occurred, some of these fitting were covered over. An elaborate garden was maintained on the east side. The demolished wings contained the slaughter house on the north, the boiler house in the north west corner and stables on the south of the courtyard.

Condition

In good condition with recent restoration work

Integrity

Only a small part of the original complex survives and that has been altered but does retain much of its original appearance.

Context

Located in the distinctive urban context of the former residential/industrial zone in the earliest settled part of Footscray.

Threats

Management of the site has not always respected its historical significance. eg an assessment of archaeological potential would be desirable.

History

William Smith established a bacon curing business at 100 Victoria St. and the Saltwater River in 1867 which was taken over by Henderson in 1870. The buildings at 45 Moreland St. date from at least 1872 (first rate book entry) In the 1880s and 90s Robert Binney was a manufacturer probably of margarine. The Norton family lived there and managed the margarine works for Swallow & Ariel Biscuits from the 1920s. In 1958 Lempriere & Co. took over the buildings and the contract with Swallow & Ariel demolishing the stables and boiler house c.1970

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme Manufacturing and Processing

PAHT Subtheme: Manufacturing and Processing

Local Theme Industry by the River: Early

Cultural Significance

Of State historical and architectural significance. The site is not only a particularly early example of industrial development in Footscray and one of the first buildings to be constructed in this area, but also demonstrates a once common but now unusual association of industrial and residential functions. (Criterion A3) The buildings are among the oldest in the state where this association is preserved. In most other cases the residences have been replaced due to the owners prosperity of the expansion of the factory they served. Those that have survived have always been detached from the factory. The manufacture associated with the site was typical of the meat processing industries common on the Maribyrnong, evidence of which could still be seen in the salt encrusted basement just prior to renovations carried out in 1986-7. (Criterion A4)

The site demonstrates the process of bacon curing which is rarely seen in an urban context now, the live in industrial entrepreneur is also a vanished race.(Criterion B2) and is part of the industrial, and especially noxious industry heritage of Footscray. (Criterion C2). Because of its continuing association with community activity and relationship to the river it is now an important aesthetic contribution to the aesthetic character of the regenerated Maribyrnong riverscape. (Criterion E1) The site is also associated with Samuel Henderson and so gains local fame as much for the survival of this complex as for his own activities. (Criterion H1)

Comparative Examples

While typical of construction or the period, few examples of house factory associated in this manner are known.

Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register Yes

Register of the National Estate Yes

National Trust Register Yes FN1604

Other Heritage Listings Footscray Conservation study

Planning Scheme Protection Yes

External Paint Controls Apply? Yes

Internal Alteration Controls Apply? Yes

Tree Controls Apply? No

Maribyrnong Heritage Review - Industrial Places

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act

Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?

Prohibited Uses may be Permitted?

Recommendations

Significance and the cited fabric or contributory elements.
To conserve and enhance the significant elements of the place.
To conserve and enhance the public view of these elements.
To conserve and enhance the visual relationships between the contributory elements.
To ensure that new or altered elements within the place are visually recessive and related to the contributory elements.
To prepare a conservation management plan which embodies the above objectives in order to inform future planning and development, including an archaeological investigation of the area of the former boiler house and scalding vats which should be undertaken prior to any future redevelopment or new construction work.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

A3 Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscape or cultural features.

An unusual association of house factory which represents the characteristic of the area

A4 Importance for their association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, state, region or community.

Associated with development of meat industry and connections to gold rushes and shipping.

B2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

Bacon curing is rarely seen in an urban context now, the live in industrial entrepreneur is also a vanished race.

C2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

part of the industrial, and especially noxious industry heritage of Footscray

E1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

Now an important aesthetic contribution to the Maribyrnong riverscape.

H1 Importance for their close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, state or region.

Samuel Henderson gains local fame as much for the survival of this complex as for his own activities.

Documentation

References

Butler 1989,
National Trust File 1604
Illustrated Aust. News 15.7.73
John Lack, History of Footscray.

Data recording

Assessed By

Assessed Date: