

Identification and location

Name of Place: **Barnett Gallant & Co. Warehouse**

Other Name Hooper's Clothing Factory, Cosmos Knitting Mills

Address 232 Nicholson Street
Footscray

Place Identifier 8803

Heritage Significance regional

Creation date(s): 1888 **Map (Melway)** 42 C5

Boundary description The extent of the current allotment

Local Government Area: City of Maribyrnong

Ownership Type Private

Description

Site Type: commerce

Physical Description

A substantial three story building of typical cement rendered brick austere detailed with a balustrade parapet, moulded window label moulds, and string course terminated by vermiculated blocks at each floor line. The originally warm coloured brick work in colonial bond (headers in every sixth course) is now mostly painted over. Right of way loading access on the southern side is overlooked by timber balconies with evidence of goods hoists and is closed off by iron gates at the street alignment.

Condition

In good condition

Integrity

The shop front and canopy are new, brickwork painted over and post verandah and parapet urns have been removed.

Context

In an industrial/commercial area of generally later small factories and warehouses

Threats

none apparent.

History

Auctioneers and agents Barnett Gallant & Co. commissioned this large warehouse and showroom in 1888, built on the site of John Meagres brick and timber furniture shop. Local Architect, C.J. Polain accepted tenders for the 'Auction Rooms' at Footscray in 1888. The builder was G. Matthews. Both David T. Barnett and William Gallant were active in the Baptist Church and Barnett was Footscray Town Clerk from 1898 until his death in 1916.

By 1910, J.H. Hooper who had a large retail premises in Barkley St. Footscray (part surviving), occupied the building as a clothing factory. Hooper's firm employed nearly 50% of Footscray's female factory workers in 1901, providing the largest mail order drapery business in Victoria. *Footscray's First Fifty Years* refers to the "commodious three storied factory", which was operated in conjunction with another tailoring and dressmaking factory behind their Barkly Street stores which was subsequently demolished. In 1909 Hoopers also had stores in Williamstown and Sydney Rd. Brunswick, the latter building surviving.

This was followed by Cosmos Knitting Mills in the late 1920s and the Central Methodist Goodwill industries in the 1930s. O'Halloran's funeral parlour has been a tenant of the building from at least 1930 to 1955.

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme

PAHT Subtheme:

Local Theme

Cultural Significance

The Barnett Gallant & Co warehouse is of significance to the City of Maribyrnong; architecturally as typical of the austere ornamented suburban warehouses of the 1880s but also retaining an unusual functionally related enclosed loading right-of-way and balconies. A distinctive building related to a specialised function and process (shop based clothing manufacture) which characterised Suburban commercial centres in the decades either side of the turn of the century. (Criterion D2) Historically it is associated with two major local businesses one of which (Hoopers) (Criterion H1) achieved state-wide prominence for their retailing and implementation of standard working condition for their employees and in relation to the commercial development of Footscray as a regional manufacturing and retailing centre. (Criterion A4) The small shop-based clothing factories of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are now an obsolete form of manufacture with very few related buildings surviving. (Criterion B2)

Comparative Examples

Compares with the other warehouse in the street at 111 Nicholson Street.

Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register

Register of the National Estate

National Trust Register

Other Heritage Listings

Planning Scheme Protection

External Paint Controls Apply?

Internal Alteration Controls Apply?

Tree Controls Apply?

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act

Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?

Prohibited Uses may be Permitted?

Recommendations

The following objectives relate to the Statement of 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.
To encourage continuation of the original use of the place.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

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.

In its association with Hoopers stores and factories, the building reflects the development of Footscray's major retail store and its entrepreneur. J.H. Hooper.

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.

The small shop-based clothing factories of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are now an obsolete form of manufacture with very few related buildings surviving.

D2 Importance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique).

A distinctive building related to a specialised function and process (shop based clothing manufacture) which characterised Suburban commercial centres in the decades either side of the turn of the century.

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

The Building's association with a number of Footscray identities and business entrepreneurs, not the least of whom was J.H. Hooper, affords it particular significance.

Documentation

References

Butler 1989:4-115,
Footscray's First Fifty Years

Data recording

Assessed By

Assessed Date: