

Identification and location

Name of Place: **Wembly Dairy**

Other Name

Address 2 Stone Street

Yarraville

Place Identifier 8817

Heritage Significance city

Creation date(s): 1930 c.

Map (Melway) 41 K10

Boundary description The extent of the current allotment

Local Government Area: City of Maribyrnong

Ownership Type Private

Description

Site Type: dairy

Physical Description

Single story local dairy with two-storey building at rear - possibly a stable. Constructed in yellow dry-pressed brick with curved walls in a miniature form of the Modern Style factories common along Geelong Road.

Condition

In good condition apart from some flaking render and paint.

Integrity

Generally intact

Context

Located among residential properties

Threats

None evident.

History

The Wembley Park Estate and Wembley Estate were amongst a number of 1920s subdivisions of small residential allotments made by local developers for working people. The Wembley Park Estate, covering the area south of Somerville Road and west of Williamstown Road was subdivided by William Angliss. By 1925 "quite a number" of houses and a row of shops had been built, including an Angliss butcher's shop on the corner of Williamstown Road and Francis Street (Lack 1991:248-9; *Footscray Advertiser* 21.2.25).

It is not clear whether the pocket of Yarraville east of Williamstown Road and south of Francis Street was actually part of the Wembley Park Estate. Stone Street does not appear in the Sands & McDougall Directory until 1929. In that year the occupant of the property on the corner of Williamstown Road was listed as Frank Czempinski Dairy. From 1936 the property was listed as Wembley Dairy, with Czempinski as the proprietor into the 1940s (Sands & McDougall Directory). Obviously Wembley and Wembley Park Estates were included in Czempinski's milk round.

The daily delivery of fresh milk from small local dairies was part of suburban life into the 1970s (Preistly 1984:262). Wembley Dairy was one of several dairies distributing milk in Footscray and neighbouring suburbs from the 1920s, several dairies were advertised in the local Footscray press in the 1920s and 30s (*Footscray Advertiser*). In 1921 it was reported that 90% of the milk distributed in the district came from farms within a 5 mile radius of Footscray (*Yarraville Times*). This was typical of the suburban milk supply. Pasteurisation was then a thing of the future. Local dairies cooled the milk in ice chambers before distribution, and the milkmen ladled it into the waiting billy-cans of the customers on their rounds. Regulation of milk supply under the *Milk Board Act 1933* led to the setting up of pasteurising plants and the closure of many local dairies. Most of those remaining became distributors for the large pasteurising dairies. Wembley Dairy was still listed as a milk vendor at 2 Stone Street in 1974 (Sands & McDougall Melbourne Telephone Directories)

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme

PAHT Subtheme:

Local Theme

Cultural Significance

Wembly Dairy is of historical and architectural significance to the City of Maribyrnong as a representative early twentieth century model dairy which reflects the growing aspirations for convenient, hygienic, consumer products in a suburban setting.

This was a development which spread across Melbourne and other towns with local dairies delivering to suburban areas by horse cart and lorry for over fifty years, until supermarket and milkbar supplies and the increase in private car ownership brought about their demise. (Criterion A4)

This building form is a unique type of structure reflecting a past way of life which is now extinct. (Criterion B2)

Comparative Examples

While many such dairies survive in Melbourne, they are rarely documented. The Maidstone Dairy on Howard Street is one surviving local example, while another similarly elaborate dairy survives in Scotchmer Street North Fitzroy.

Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register

Register of the National Estate

Maribyrnong Heritage Review - Industrial Places

National Trust Register	<input type="text" value="Recommended"/>
Other Heritage Listings	<input type="text" value="WRIHS"/>
Planning Scheme Protection	<input type="text" value="Recommended"/>
External Paint Controls Apply?	<input type="text" value="Yes - retain original colour scheme"/>
Internal Alteration Controls Apply?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Tree Controls Apply?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Prohibited Uses may be Permitted?	<input type="text" value="No"/>

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 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.

The once ubiquitous local delivery dairies are now a thing of the past, with few of the buildings surviving in recognisable form.

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.

This building form is a unique type of structure reflecting a past way of life which is now extinct.

Documentation

References

Lack, John, *A History of Footscray*, North Melbourne, 1991
Footscray Advertiser, 21 February 1925.
Sands & McDougall, *Melbourne & Suburban Directories* various dates.
Priestley, Susan, *The Victorians: Making Their Mark*, McMahons Point, 1984
Yarraville Times, 13 August 1921.

Data recording

Assessed By

Assessed Date: