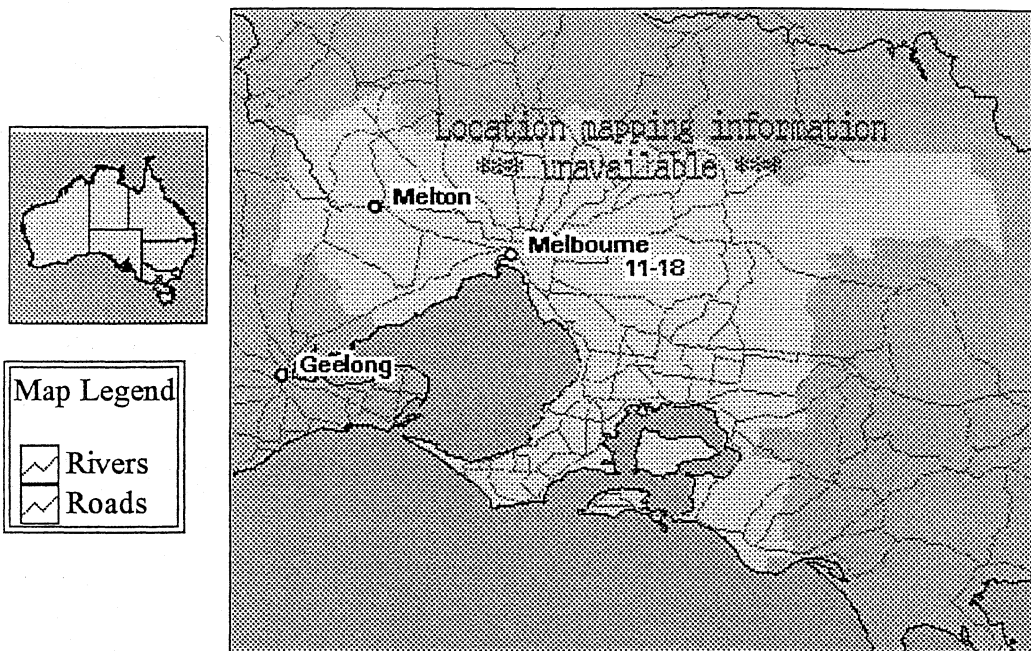




Register of the National Estate Database

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Location of Prahran Arcade , Prahran VIC



Class: Historic

Legal Status: Registered

Database Number: 005969

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Statement of Significance: The Prahran Arcade, 282-284 Chapel Street, is significant as an uncommon survivor of a small number of large, arcade buildings constructed in central Melbourne and the suburbs during the 1880's (Criterion B.2). Since opening, the arcade has housed a very wide cross-section of shops and community services and continues to be used as a commercial building. Internally, the three storey arcade is mainly as originally designed, although there has been some loss of integrity through the removal of the shopfronts. Original features of particular note, include the partly glazed roof supported on arched trusses with decorative spandrels, semi-circular feature windows at each end of the building and the upper arcade walls which are decorated to resemble an external facade (Criterion F.1). The external facade of the arcade is unusually elaborate and includes arcades to both upper storeys, spread-winged birds, acroteria, pediment and rich mouldings. These decorative motifs combine to create a visually striking facade and, despite the loss of the original mansard roof, the arcade remains a significant focal element in the streetscape (Criteria E.1 And F.1).

Description : In the late 1880's several arcade buildings were built in central Melbourne and the suburbs, each having a different facade design. The Prahran arcade, block arcade in central Melbourne and queens arcade at Armadale are among the best surviving examples. The old Prahran arcade at 282-284 chapel street was designed as the Prahran arcade in 1889 by George mcmullen, a local

prominent architect, and built by James mcmullen. This substantial but elegant arcade incorporated about 30 shops along with turkish baths, The arcade Club hotel billiard rooms, a restaurant, a bakehouse and capacious cellars. The arcade was opened on July 31st 1890 with a grand banquet in the hotel attended by the Mayor and local dignitaries and organised by the first owner, Mrs Elizabeth delaney. By 1891 the arcade was recorded as being owned by the caledonian and Australian finance agency co. The many varied tenants covered a wide cross-section of the community and included estate agents, the register of births, deaths and marriages, the independent workers' Union, the theosophical society an oyster saloon, Prahran school of art, centreway disposals co. And wine merchant. The old arcade is a face brick building with stucco facade, comprising a three Storey front block and two Storey, main block to the rear. The facade has an arcade to both upper storeys, with projecting, wide central bay and narrow end Bays. The recessed sections are faced with arches supported on columns. The end bay originally had pointed roofs, capped by flagpoles and widow's walk. The whole facade is richly decorated and features spread winged birds, acroteria, elaborate pediment, rich mouldings, balustrades and cast-iron work to the balconies. The arcade runs through the centre of the building for its full depth. This interior space is two storeys high, roofed by a partly glazed roof supported on arched iron trusses which have decorative spandrels. The upper arcade walls are designed as a facade and are stuccoed and faced with pilasters at each shop division. Half way along the length of the arcade on the north side are stairs which divide into two upper flights at the landing, giving access to the first floor above the shops. Along the South End of the front block is a passage leading to the stair which serves that section. The third floor facade arch has a half circle window behind and this motif is repeated at each end of the facade. The basic structure of the bakehouse oven survives in the cellar. The very elaborately detailed front elevation has not changed much except for a few alterations to the pavement entrance area, but the removal of the high mansard roof has significantly affected the Overall appearance of the building. The shopfronts inside the arcade which were built of brick and cement following the front design have also been removed. Prahran arcade forms a notable part of the chapel streetscape, it is a Well known Prahran landmark and its occupiers have played a significant role in the history of the locality. This section of chapel street, one of Melbourne's longest suburban shopping streets, contains a number of landmark buildings, including the Town Hall (1960-1915). Old love and Lewis store (1913) and the domed Moores Store (1914).

Condition and Integrity : There has been Little change to the exterior with the exception of the removal of the high mansard roof which has significantly affected the Overall appearance of the building and a few alterations to the pavement entrance area. Internal alterations include The removal of internal shop fronts.

Location : 282-284 Chapel Street, Prahran.

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