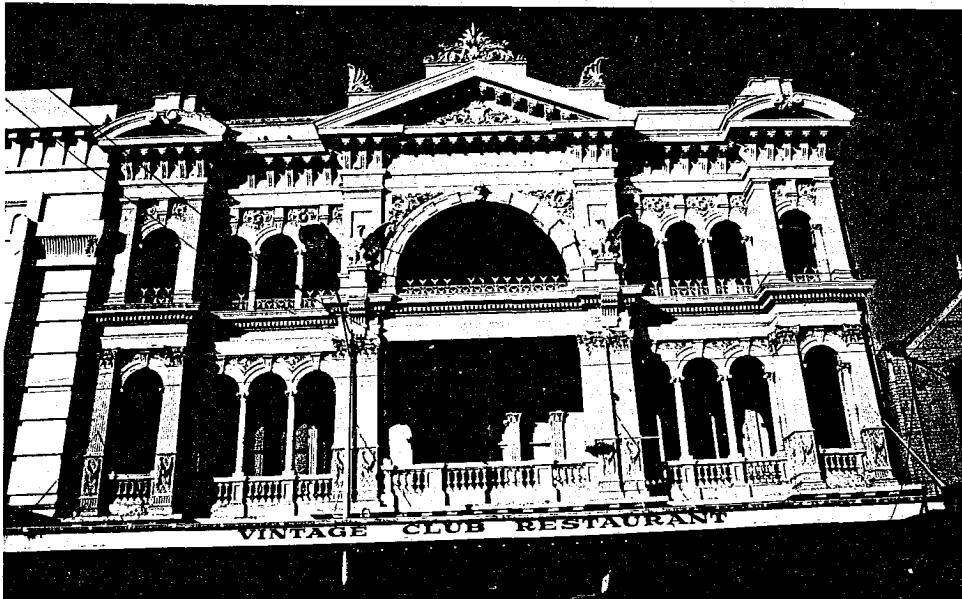


THE ARCADE
282-284 Chapel Street, Prahran



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be added to the Register of Historic Buildings, Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule)

Current Assessments This building is classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

History and Description The Arcade building, when erected in 1889-1890, comprised the Arcade Club Hotel, a restaurant and cafe, billiard rooms, Turkish baths and twenty nine shops along the interior with cellars and bakehouses under. The Prahran architect George W. McMullen designed the building for Mrs Elizabeth Delaney and the builder was James McMullen. At the same time as the building was erected, a row of houses in Arcade Street (to the east behind the main arcade) was also developed by the same proprietess. The ornate Chapel Street facade displays the opulence of the boom years in Melbourne, with excessive applied surface decoration and mouldings including two prominent eagle statues. Both the first and the second floors comprise arcaded balconies and the central mass of the symmetrical facade features a large arch and pediment over. Exaggerated consoles support the parapet and pediments while prominent fluted composite pilasters support them at second floor level. Internally, wrought iron trusses with decorative soandrels support a glazed roof and brick shop fronts line the walls of the arcade.

Significance When opened in July 1890, the Arcade buildings were considered one of the most important buildings in the city and the building today is a distinctive landmark of the opulent boom years. The decorations of the facade epitomises the excesses of late nineteenth century architecture in Victoria. The intact interior is a notable example of an arcade in Melbourne.

Intactness This building is substantially intact internally and externally. The building formerly had a tall mansard roof and at ground level a superb entrance flanked by large statues led to

the arcade. A cantilevered awning and new shopfront have now destroyed this feature.

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