

CHAPEL STREET DISTRICT CENTRE

The land which now forms this district centre was originally part of an aboriginal mission station. Surveyed by Robert Hoddle in 1837 the mission extended from Punt Road to Williams Road and from the line of High Street to the Yarra River. Stock routes crossed the mission in an east-west direction and it wasn't until the first Crown land sale in Prahran on 6 June 1840 that Chapel Street was created. It ran between allotments 6 and 7 and by the land sale of 15 May 1850 ran at least as far as Dandenong Road in the south. The Independent Chapel from which Chapel Street took its name, was erected in 1853 on the north east corner of Chapel Street and Commercial Road. From its earliest days Chapel Street was laid out on a 66ft width and it was this narrow carriageway which today determines much of the character of Chapel Street.

CHAPEL STREET (HIGH STREET TO COMMERCIAL ROAD)

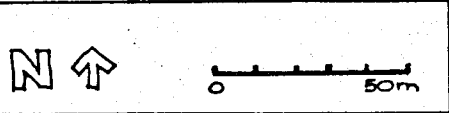
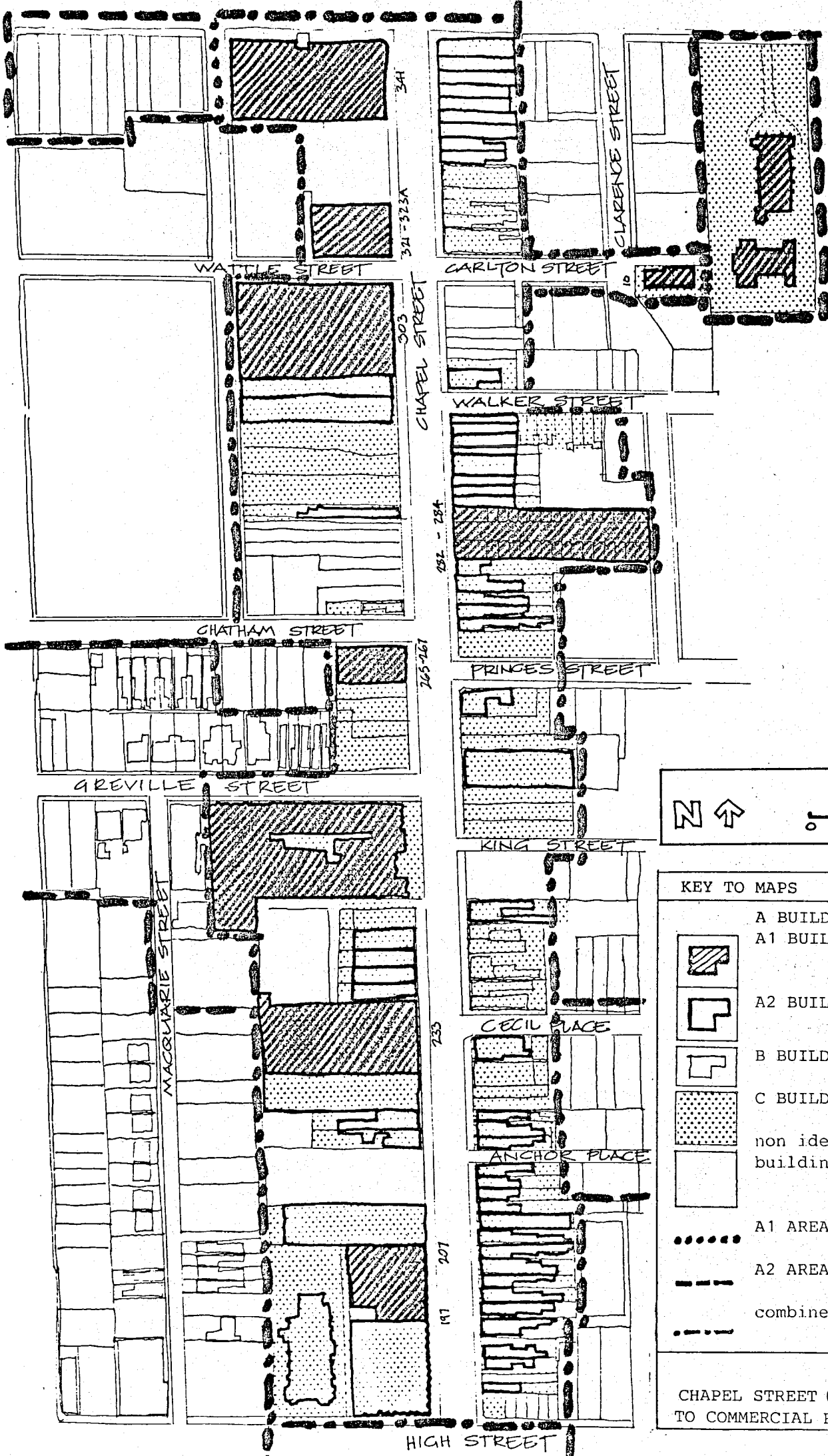
History and Significance Central Prahran along Chapel Street grew rapidly in the 1850s although it did not have the topographical and social advantages of South Yarra and Toorak. Much of it was flat and the lower lying areas became swampy in wet weather and indeed, at this stage, was considered much inferior to the Windsor area. The emerging commercial development along Chapel Street and especially the intersections of Commercial Road and High Street was dependent on the surrounding market gardens, brickworks, tanneries and firewood yards as well as the growing residential population along either side of Chapel Street. All this private development took place without the support of any public works improvements to roads and drainage, although in the mid 1850s public agitation eventually saw the creation of the Prahran municipality. After much debate the Prahran Town Hall was erected in Chapel Street at the corner of Greville Street and this did much to stimulate development in this area. A tower was added in 1863 and further enhanced the building as a local landmark. Photographs of Prahran taken from the Town Hall tower in 1867 show both how sparse development was. At that time and how small in scale each building was, however, by the 1880s all this had changed. The activities of local land boomers and the desire to replace earlier single storey development with impressive double storey buildings created a consistent development along much of Chapel Street. Impressive individual buildings such as The Arcade (282-284 Chapel Street), erected in 1889-90, epitomised the development of Chapel Street in the 1880s. This building comprised the Arcade Club Hotel, a restaurant and cafe, billiard rooms, Turkish baths and twenty nine shops along the interior with cellars and oakenouses under. A row of houses in Arcade Street to the rear of the building was also developed by the proprietess.










By the turn of the century development of Chapel Street was complete. No vacant allotments existed and the area was a thriving commercial centre. However, in the next 15 years this commercial centre was to see an even larger degree of commercial interest and redevelopment than the replacement of single storey shops by double storey premises in the 1870s and 80s. Several developers amalgamated large sites and one of the first emporiums was the Big Store, opened in 1902. Osment Buildings were erected in 1910-11 and Holt's Building (1912), Love and Lewis (1913) and Moore's, Conways' and The Colosseum were all erected in 1914. In 1910 one commentator observed Chapel Street as the 'shoppers paradise'.

So popular has the street become as a shopping centre that extensive alterations and buildings are being carried out by many firms. The Big Store is being made bigger by the erection of a building at the rear which will cover a floor space of 6,000 sq. yards and employ another 200 hands. This will bring its total floor space to 20,000 sq. yards with 750 employees. The other stores are

about to rebuild the whole of their premises extending to Commercial Road and adding to the 375 hands already employed. Messrs Love and Lewis (400 hands) are also about to begin rebuilding operations; the Colosseum (330 hands) has a floor space of 4,500 sq. yards, and the greater number of important business houses find it imperative to make alterations to accommodate increasing trade. The London Stores have just opened tailoring business, and Miller's feather factory is to take possession of the whole of the first and second floors of a fine three storey brick shop they are building. The future of the 'shoppers paradise' is made all the more secure by the ease and time with which shoppers can come and go on the electric cars.
(source)

Today it is the development of the 1880s and the emporium development of the period 1900-15 which characterise Chapel Street South. Many of the large buildings are intact, and the continuous rows of facades form a most important streetscape. Individual buildings such as The Arcade, Moore's Store and the Reclabite Hall in Clarence Street all add to the architectural significance of this area. By the time of the first World War Chapel Street rivalled Melbourne's central business district as a shopping centre and the development of the large emporiums in this section of Chapel Street was without rival elsewhere in Melbourne making this an area of considerable historical significance. No other area in Melbourne so clearly demonstrates this pre First World War retail boom and the buildings on the west side of Chapel Street between High Street and Commercial Road are an intact and evocative reminder of this phase of Melbourne's development. The immense size of the emporiums is still a powerful physical force on the area, as it was at their date of construction.



| KEY TO MAPS | |
|---|-------------------------|
|  | A BUILDINGS |
|  | A1 BUILDING |
|  | A2 BUILDING |
|  | B BUILDING |
|  | C BUILDING |
|  | non identified building |
|  | A1 AREA |
|  | A2 AREA |
|  | combined boundary |

CHAPEL STREET (HIGH ST TO COMMERCIAL ROAD)

OSMENT BUILDINGS
197-207 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).

History and Description The Osment Buildings were erected in 1910-11 by the descendants of Henry Osment, who once owned the Prahran Telegraph and was a local councillor from 1887 to 1898 and Mayor of Prahran in 1888-89. The three storey, symmetrical facade of red brick and cement render, incorporates original elements in an overall standard composition. Flanking bays contain oriel bay windows with sinuously curved parapets and prominent arches over. The arched openings are accentuated by exaggerated voussoirs. Elliptical parapet elements over these bays feature lattice work and piers are decorated with florid motifs. Small Ionic columns of green faience work divide the fenestration of central facade in a repetitive manner and a central, decorated pediment contains the name 'Osment Buildings' in relief lettering.

Significance The facade of the Osment Buildings is highly original in its use of particular elements such as the green faience columns, giant lattice work and elliptical motifs. The facade above street level is particularly intact retaining its original exposed brickwork, and, together with many other such large commercial buildings in Chapel Street, provides an important continuity to the streetscape.

Intactness Although the original verandah has been replaced and shop fronts altered, the facade is intact above the street level and retains its original finishes.

References

City of Prahran, Annual Report, 1929-30, facing p. 38.

Cooper, J. E., The History of Prahran, 1836-1924. Melbourne 1924,
facing p. 192, p.215.

Davison, G. (ed), Melbourne on Foot, Melbourne, 1980, p. 150.

THE COLOSSEUM
Chapel Street, Prahran



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

History and Description The present Colosseum building in Chapel Street, Prahran, was designed by H. W. and F. B. Tompkins for Mrs Treadway and erected by Clements Langford after fire destroyed the previous building in January 1914. The fire which started in the Colosseum building, also destroyed the adjoining Conway shops, the City Hall and damaged several other buildings. The new Colosseum buildings sports an imposing facade with the repetitive use of oversized classical motifs such as Ionic pilasters and columns, garlands, bosses and balustrading. Fenestration and alternating columns provide the otherwisw horizontal emphasis of the facade with a a feeling of verticality.

Significance The Colosseum building, together with many other large commercial buildings in Chapel Street, is intact and provides an important character continuity to Chapel Street retail area.

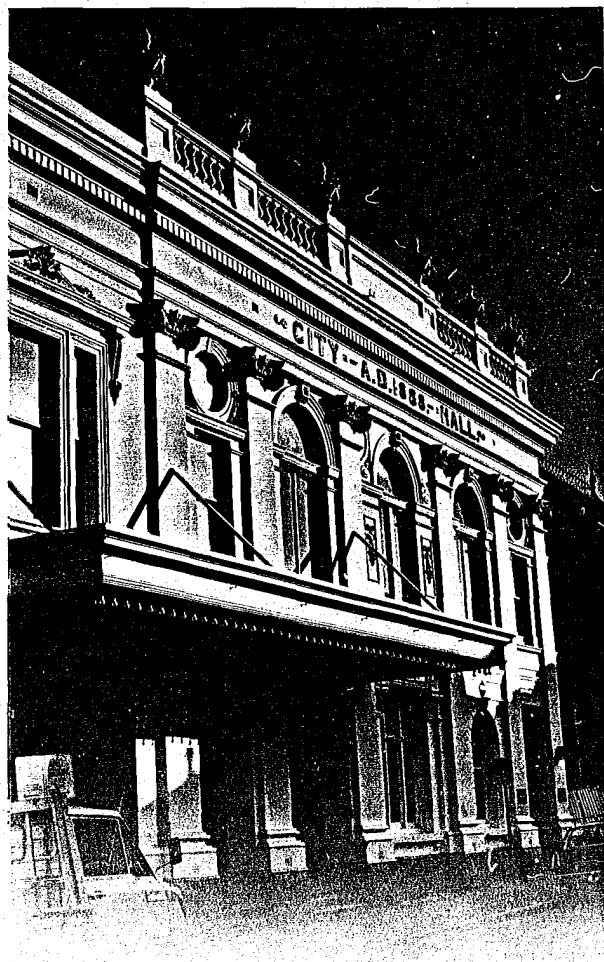
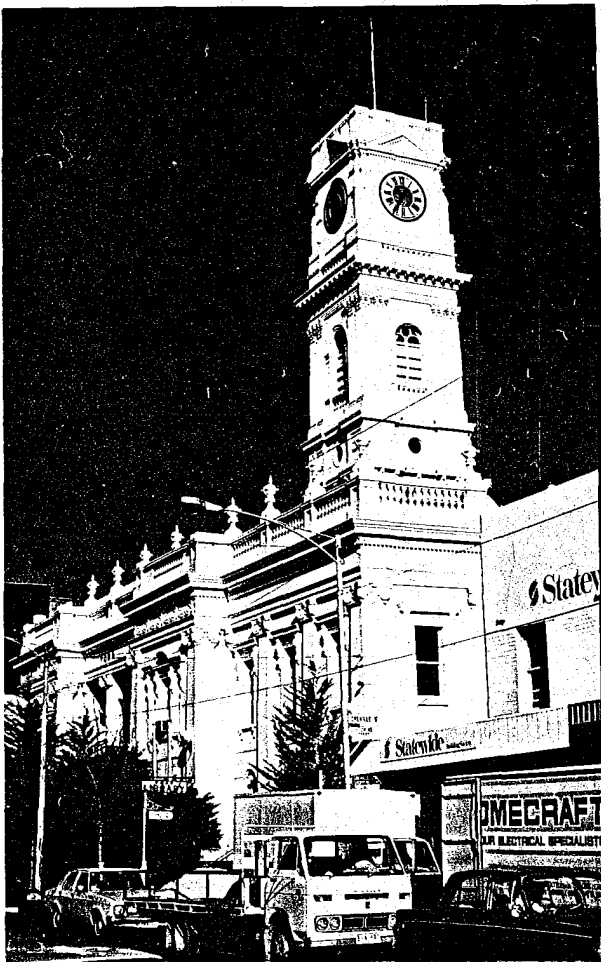
Intactness The building is substantially intact although the original verandah has been replaced and sections of the facade painted and signs added. A section of the rendered facade has been painted white producing an unfortunatę visual division in the facade.

References

City of Prahran, Annual Reports, 1913-14, p. 18, 22; 1929-30, facing p. 38.
Drawings, Tomokins Shaw and Evans, 1914.

PRAHRAN TOWN HALL COMPLEX

Chapel Street, corner Greville Street, Prahran



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be retained on the Register of Historic Buildings and the Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause B of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

Current Assessments Prahran Town Hall is included on the Register of the National Estate. The Town Hall offices, 'Small Hall', and Council Chamber (interior) are classified and the facade of the Town Hall library recorded by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). The 'Small Hall' and Council Chamber are included on the Historic Buildings Register.

History and Description The Prahran Town Hall complex was erected in stages over the period 1860-1915 on a corner site in Chapel Street, Prahran. The development includes the original Town Hall and offices of 1861, the enhanced clock tower of 1863 and the Post Office, Police Station and Library of 1878, all consistently executed in a restrained Italianate style by architects Crouch and Wilson. Later 'boom style' classicism Town Hall additions of 1888 by Charles D'Ebro are in contrast.

Significance Prahran Town Hall complex, which includes the original court house relocated in 1869 as the first Council Chamber, is of local historical importance as the centre of the Prahran municipality since 1860. The clocktower is a prominent

and distinct landmark. The original complex, although of interest as an early and disciplined work of architects Crouch and Wilson and a restrained Italianate design, is eclipsed for architectural importance in Victoria by other notable contemporary municipal complexes at North Melbourne, Geelong and South Melbourne.

Intactness The Prahran Town Hall complex, systematically enhanced and adapted to changing administration and community requirements and partially reconstructed after the 1914 fire, survives in a recognisably intact form externally, although inappropriately painted. Major renovations are currently (1982) taking place.

References

City of Prahran, Original Drawings by Crouch and Wilson.

Arcus, Melbourne, 13 September, 1860.

Australasian Builder and Contractors News, Sydney, 18 February 1888.

Building, Engineering and Mining Journal, Sydney, 9 March 1889.

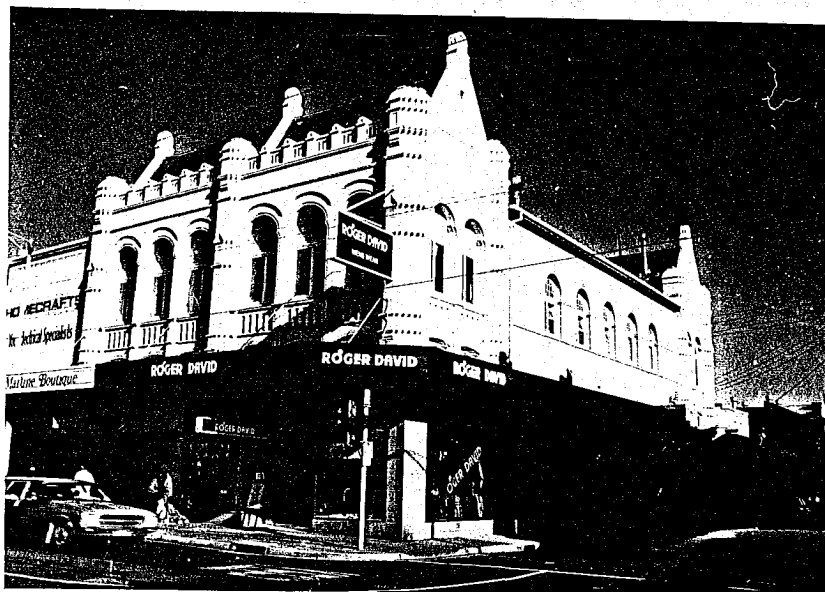
Cooper, John B. The History of Prahran, Melbourne, 1912.

Fust, L and Weinstock, L. 'Prahran Town Hall'. History and Research Essay, Department of Architecture and Building, University of Melbourne, 1968 - detailed history, illustrations and bibliography.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 556.

(National Estate citation reprinted with permission of the Australian Heritage Commission)

FORMER BROWN, CORKE AND COMPANY BUILDING
265-267 Chapel Street, Prahran



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

History and Description The commercial premises at 265-267 Chapel Street, Prahran were erected for the drapers and mercers, Brown, Corke and Company in 1895, who were previously located on the opposite side of Chapel Street. In 1912 the building became London Stores and today is occupied by Roger David, mens wear, and therefore has a long association with the retail clothing field. The two storey corner building is Gothic in character with a high pitched gable roof, clustered piers and horseshoe arch headed window openings. The side facade is symmetrical at first floor level with the gable end and flanking clustered piers repeated at either end and a row of arch headed windows in between. The Chapel Street elevation composed of two identical facades.

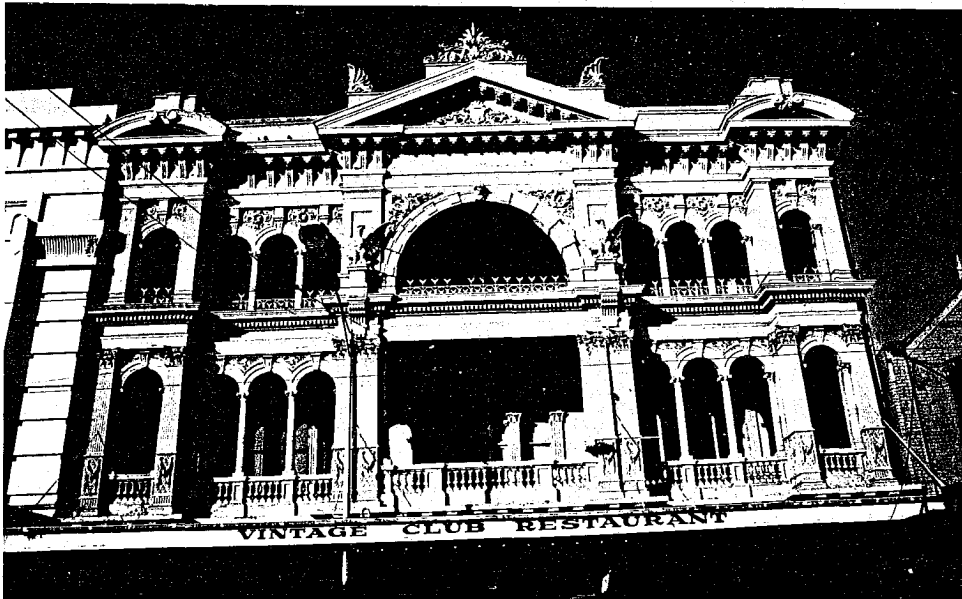
Significance Exaggerated piers and the unusual form of the window head are important elements of this building.

Intactness This building is substantially intact above street level, retaining its original fenestration and decoration. Both the verandah and shop front have been substantially altered and original polychromatic brickwork painted.

References

- Sands and McDougall Directories, various dates.
Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, Detail Plan no. 37, City of Prahran, 1895.
Table Talk, 4 June 1908, p.17, 'Suburban Melbourne. Round and About Prahran and District', photograph of building from north east.

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.

References

- National Trust of Australia (Victoria), research notes.
Building, Engineering and Mining Journal, 30 March 1889, s.p. 6;
31 August 1889, p. 175-6; 31 July 1890.
Prahran Chronicle, 4 January 1890, p.4.
Bennets, D., Melbourne's Yesterdays, South Australia, 1976, p.
46.
Davison, G., (ed), Melbourne on Foot, Melbourne, 1980, p. 151.
Jubilee History of the City of Prahran and Illustrated Handbook
1856-1906, Melbourne, 1906, p. 159.
Rudd, C., Collection of Photographs, Prahran Arcade, La Trobe
Library Picture Collection.
Table Talk, 4 June 1908, p.17, 'Suburban Melbourne; Round and
About Prahran and District', sketch of facade in advertisement.

THE BIG STORE
303 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).

History and Description Opened in 1902, the Big Store in Chapel Street, Prahran was immediately successful under the management of John Maclellan, the nephew of Gibson, of Foy and Gibson. It was not until 1931 that the store was incorporated with the widely known firm of Foy and Gibson. The recreation grounds at the rear of the Big Store were erected for Maclellan and featured highly decorative wrought iron gates and fence thought to be the present gates in Izett Street. The Chapel and Wattle Street facades of the Big Store are elaborately conceived and massive in scale. Pilasters and vertical strips of windows alleviate the horizontality of the composition which results from the lines of rustication, string courses and parapet line of the three storey building. Arched window heads and pediments emphasize the monumental nature of this commercial edifice.

Significance The Big Store, together with many other large commercial premises establish the retail character of Chapel Street and provide it with an important streetscape. The affiliated recreation grounds, provided for Maclellan's employers are worthy of particular note as a local example of the late nineteenth century English model of an employer providing employees with recreation facilities.

Intactness The Chapel Street and Wattle Street facades of the Big Store are intact above street level, while alterations have been made to the shop front and verandah.

References

Cooper, J. B., The History of Prahran, 1836-1924, Melbourne, 1924, p. 300.

Jubilee History of the City of Prahran, 1856-1906, Melbourne, 1906, p. 57.

Prahran Centenary Celebrations Souvenir Guide, One hundred Years
of Progress, Melbourne, 1955, p. 41.

Prahran City Council, Annual Report, 1917-18, p. 6.

Chuck, T. N., Wire Fence and Gate Co. Ltd., [Catalogue] n.d. c.
1925, p. 9.

Meade, Collection of Postcards, Album, No. 10, p. 3, View of
Chapel Street, La Trobe Library Picture Collection.

LOVE AND LEWIS STORE
321-323A Chapel Street, Prahran, 3181



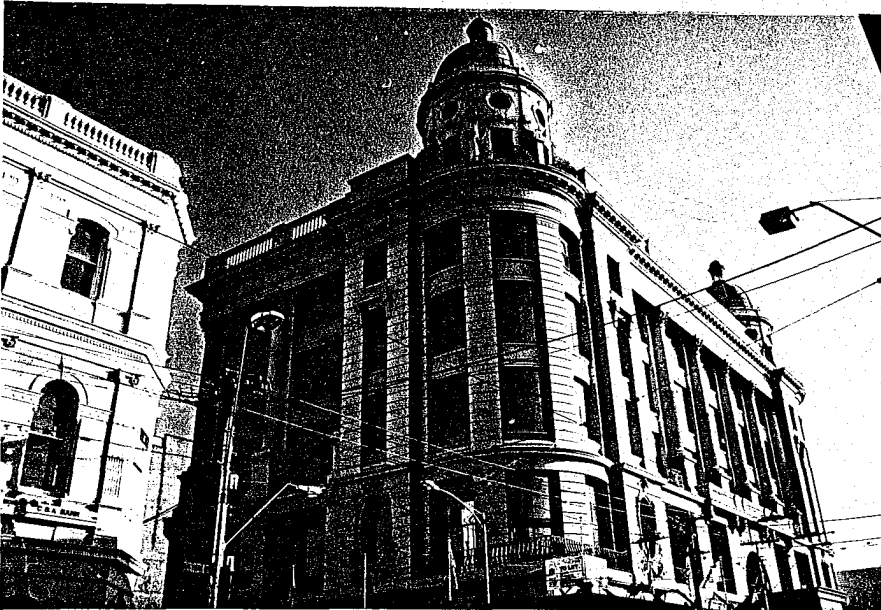
Recommendations It is recommended that this building be added to the Register of Historic Buildings, Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

History and Description The firm of drapers, Love and Lewis, first occupied premises in Prahran in 1897, and in 1913 rebuilt on the same site at 321-323A Chapel Street. They replaced their original three-storey premises with a larger five-storey building, in scale with the surrounding commercial premises erected from the beginning of this century. The resulting 1913 building is distinctive in its style, which is reminiscent of the Chicago School, commercial architecture developed in the U.S.A. at the end of the nineteenth century. Distinctive lettering appears in spandrels, which alternate with strips of windows and provide the horizontal emphasis to the building. Offsetting this are vertical piers which are emphasized by red and cream striped brickwork and are crowned with exaggerated pairs of consoles. The top floor of the building features arched window openings with terracotta patterned panels to the spandrels.

Significance The highly original facades of this corner building, together with those of surrounding commercial buildings, provide Chapel Street with its important retail character. The facade is almost completely intact.

MOORE'S STORE

341 Chapel Street, corner Commercial Road, 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 recorded by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

History and Significance Adelaide business man Charles Moore purchased this site at the corner of Commercial Street and Chapel Street over the period 1910-13 and the five storey store was erected during 1914. Architects Sydney Smith and Ogg produced a number of alternative designs and the one chosen was unfortunately never fully completed. The building has two circular corner bays capped by domes which stand on elaborate drums. The main facade (only partially completed along Chapel Street) is divided by massive Corinthian columns supported by pedestals and at the corners by banded piers all of which support a heavy cornice and balustraded parapet. Large areas of glass light the floor while on the first floor huge oval windows (replete with scroll decoration) alternate with rectangular fenestration and an arched opening over the main Commercial Road entrance. This opening is reflected in the elaborate verandah, which although cantilevered elsewhere, is supported on columns and raised to add prominence to the entrance.

Significance Moore's Store, although never completed and later extensively modified remains the most dominant of the large emporiums along Chapel Street, erected at a time when Prahran rivalled the Central Business District for trade. The twin domes are especially prominent elements and the massive columns and piers of the facade contribute to the imposing appearance of the building. The verandah remains intact and is important component of the building, especially when verandahs on such large commercial premises have generally been placed by more modern awnings.

Intactness Verandahs and shop fronts have been removed and replaced at street level while the remainder of the facades appear substantially intact.

References

- 'Sands and McDougall Directories', from 1896.
- Pranran City Council, Annual Report, 1917-18, photograph facing p. 8.
- 'Jubilee History of the City of Prahran and Illustrated Handbook', 1856-1906, Melbourne, 1906. p.57.

Intactness Moore's Store had a three storey section (in Chapel Street adjacent to the premises of Love and Lewis) demolished when extensive alterations were undertaken in the late 1970s. At this date internal modifications took place with the conversion to specialty shops and offices. Apart from the south elevation the facades are substantially intact as is the verandah.

References

Zuzowski, Halina, 'Moore's Store', report to the Historic Buildings Preservation Council, November 1977.

Prahran Telegraph, 9 January 1915.

Building, 12 September 1910, p. 42; 12 May 1915, pp. 64, 65.

RECHABITE HALL
10 Clarence Street, Prahran

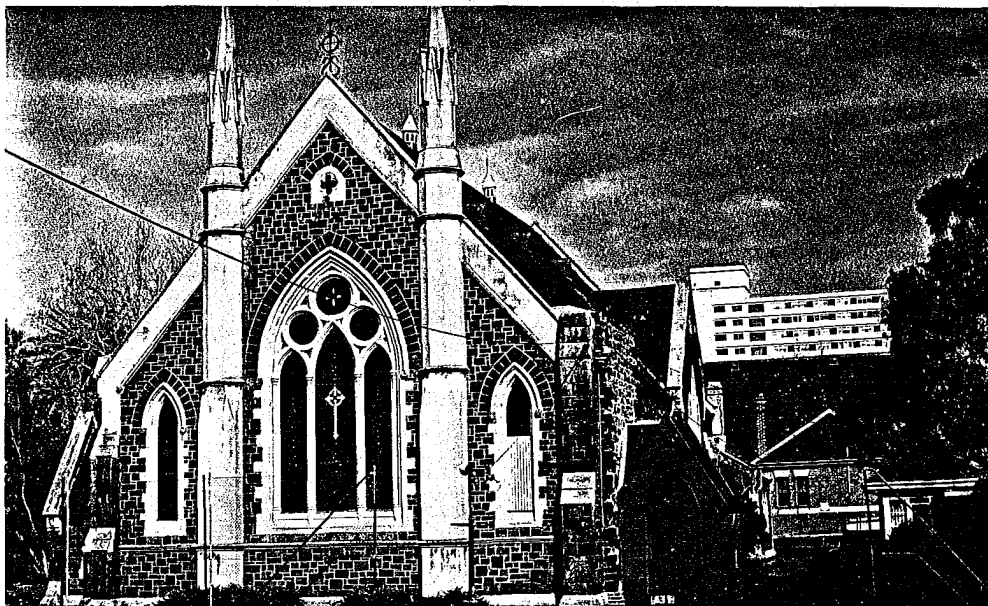


Recommendations It is recommended that this building be retained on the Register of Historic Buildings, Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

History and Description The foundation stone for this hall of Perseverance Tent No.34 of the Independent Order of Rechabites was laid on 6 October 1888. Architect Colin Campbell reflected prevailing architectural trends by embellishing this modest sized building with a large mansard tower and typical elements such as heavily drafted render on the ground floor (resembling stone), an elaborate tripartite window on the upper floor, decorative elements such as consoles, pilasters and festoons and balustraded parapets broken by eclectic pediments. The facade of the hall is emphasised by use of cement render finished with a yellow wash, while the side walls are unpainted render. Bluestone is used for the base courses and prominence is given to the entrance by a pair of highly polished Harcourt granite columns.

Significance This building is superbly intact and represents the archetypal small Victorian hall. The granite columns provide a discreet contrast to the use of rusticated bluestone and cement render, and the composition of the facade, especially when seen as the closing vista of Carlton Street is most notable. Early painted signs still remain and the building is enhanced by its intact iron palisade fence.

FORMER INDEPENDENT CHURCH AND HALL
246 Malvern Road, Prahran, 3181



Recommendations It is recommended that these buildings 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).

History and Description The second Independent Church in Prahran was erected in Commercial Road by the builder John Young, to designs by the eminent Melbourne architects, Crouch and Wilson. The foundation stone of this church, which replaced the original chapel of 1852 after which Chapel Street was named, was laid on 22 November 1858 by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Barkly. The bluestone building, subsequently erected, is of squat proportions and adopts gothic motifs. The symmetrical front facade features a central pointed arch window flanked by rendered octagonal piers, which terminate in pinnacles above, and Lancet windows. The steep slate roof features an elaborate iron finial, small gable vents and small fleches. At the rear of the church building, a small bluestone addition features cream brick quoining which accentuate the chimney breast, corners and sharply angled window heads. The foundation stone of the hall, located at the rear of the church, was laid on 15 September, 1883.

Significance This bluestone church, situated on a large site near the corner of Malvern Road and Chapel Street, is an important early work of the architects Crouch and Wilson, who continued to execute many ecclesiastical works in Melbourne.

Intactness This church remains incomplete although an early timber porch on the west entrance substitutes for the intended stone construction.

References

- Cooper, J. The History of Prahran, Melbourne, 1924.
p. 42 and 211.
Photographs, South Yarra Library, c. 1880's.
Independent Church, Prahran, Jubilee Memento, 1902.
Independent Church, Prahran, Centenary Memento, 1952.

CHAPEL STREET (COMMERCIAL ROAD TO RAILWAY)

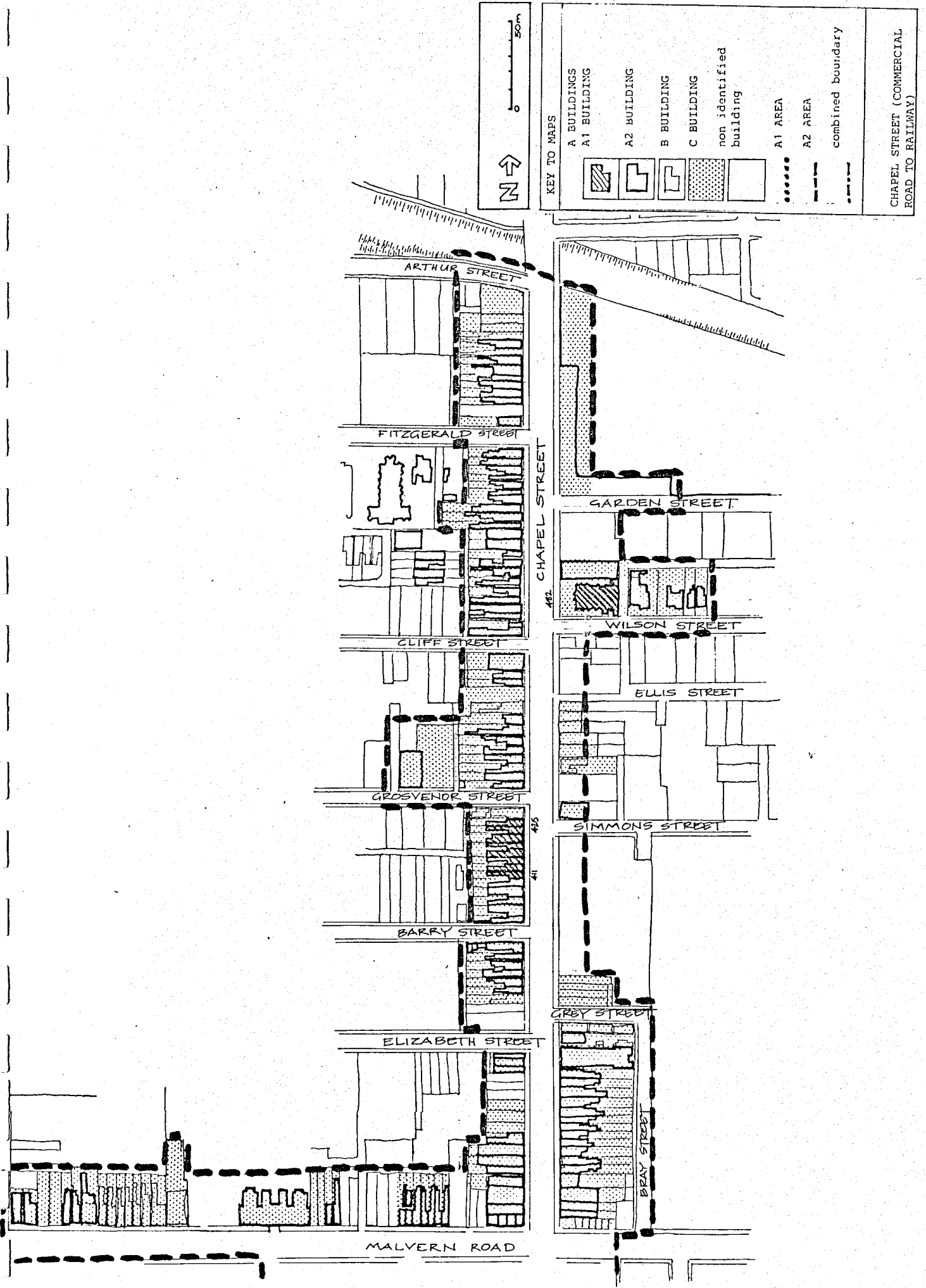
History and Significance A major boost to Chapel Street came in 1857 when a bridge that had been fabricated for the Crimean War was built across the Yarra to connect Chapel Street with Church Street, Richmond. The opening of the Church Street bridge had the effect of causing traffic to flow northward along Chapel Street rather than continuing further westwards to Punt Road or St Kilda Road. This change in the route of traffic led to Chapel Street becoming the dominant commercial thoroughfare over that of Commercial Road. While the Town Hall, erected in 1860-61, had consolidated the commercial future of Chapel Street south, the stretch between Commercial Road and Toorak Road was developed as a commercial centre largely to service the industries to the north and in the surrounding area. In 1866 the Baptist Church (482 Chapel Street) was erected in Chapel Street north and some years later the Roman Catholics erected their church in Fitzgerald Street.

The Prahran Market came into existence in 1867 and was first located in Grattan Gardens before being established on its present site in 1881. This stimulated development along Commercial Road and served the closely settled residential area between Chapel Street and the railway. The railway, opened in 1860, and then the tram routes along Chapel Street, Toorak Road, High Street and Commercial Road stimulated the ribbon of commercial development along each of these roads. Chapel Street in particular became an imposing architectural entity of substantial and varied designs and its commercial vitality was the result of the densely developed residential areas which came with success of the railway and much later, the trams. Like Chapel Street south of Commercial Road, the section to the north saw the replacement in the 1880s of smaller scale early developments with new and more imposing buildings with flamboyant facades.

The small scale industries which served the local demand gave an early boost to Chapel Street as a shopping centre although it was not until the first world war that larger scale industries such as the IXL Jam Factory were established in Prahran. The physical boundary to this section of Chapel Street was created in 1879 with the excavation of a large cutting for the new railway to Gippsland, the final link of which was the section between South Yarra and Oakleigh. Local agitation pressed for a railway station to be located near the site of the IXL Jam Factory although this never eventuated due to the short distance between South Yarra and Hawksburn railway stations.

Today the most evocative reminder of the importance of Chapel Street as a retail centre is Conways Building and its neighboring development to the south between Elizabeth Street and Barry Street. This section of Chapel Street (between Commercial Road and the railway) is also notable for its almost continuous streetscape of double-storey Victorian shops interspersed by corner hotels and such buildings as the early Baptist Church.

The facade of the IXL Jam factory has been retained as part of the new Jam factory redevelopment complementing the area and with the execution of the large vacant allotment (now Homestead) this stretch of Chapel Street is significant as an intact commercial area.



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KEY TO MAPS

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| | A BUILDINGS |
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| | B BUILDING |
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| | non identified building |
| | A1 AREA |
| | A2 AREA |
| | combined boundary |

CHAPEL STREET (COMMERCIAL ROAD TO RAILWAY)

'CONWAY'S BUILDING'

411-425 Chapel Street, South Yarra



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).

History and Description This group of eight two-storey commercial premises were erected in 1890 and form a continuous symmetrical facade to the west side of Chapel Street. Two of the individual facades feature crowning pediments with excessive decoration and rectangular windows framed by flanking columns, an entablature over and festooned pedestal below. These bays are defined by engaged Corinthian columns and are used to divide the overall facade. These pairs feature arch headed windows, an arched balustraded parapet and fluted Corinthian pilasters which divide the facades. Overall continuity is achieved by the horizontal lines created by consoles, window heads and sills.

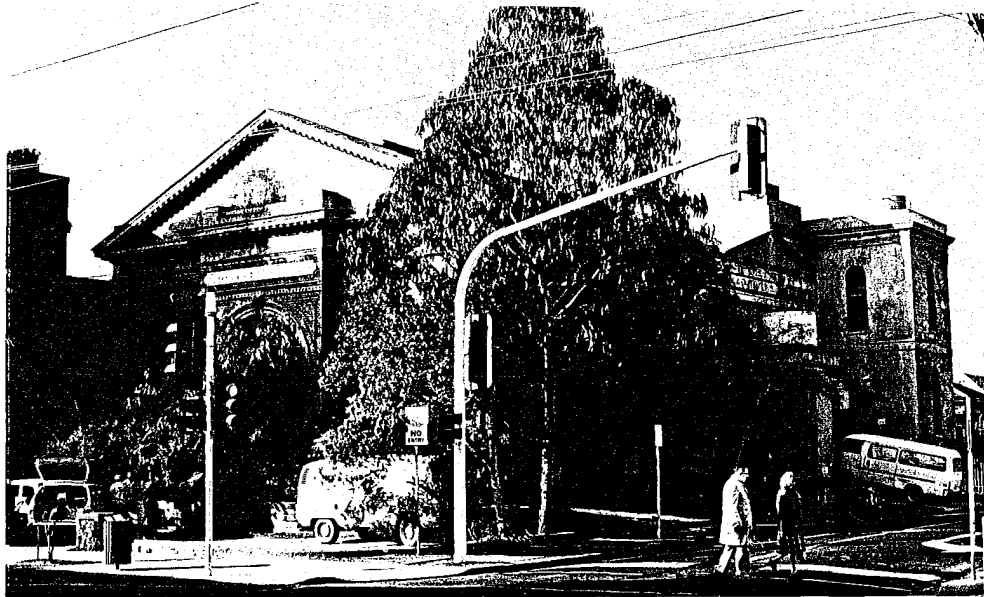
Significance The intactness of this facade is of importance and provides a continuity of scale to Chapel Street.

Intactness The facades at first floor level are substantially intact and five of the individual premises retain their cement render finish unpainted. Verandahs have been removed at street level and signs have been added to the otherwise largely intact shoofront.

References

Date on parapet.

FORMER BAPTIST CHURCH
482 Chapel Street, South Yarra, 3141



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).

History and Description This Baptist Church was erected in Chapel Street, Prahran in 1866, replacing a wooden chapel which had been erected in 1857 on a site donated by the pastor Mr. Joseph Wilson. In March 1865 a building committee was formed under the Rev. David Rees, and as a result the architect Mr. T. Watts was instructed to prepare plans for a larger church building. The foundation stone for this was laid 22 May 1866 and a builder by the name of Brown was commissioned to complete the work. Although not erected in complete accordance with the architect's original design, the church building is simple in form with a gable roof atop a basically rectangular building. Classical in appearance, the building features a large pediment which terminates the gable roof and a central arched porch which projects from the symmetrical iron facade. Arch headed windows alternate with pilasters along the side facades and between 1875 and 1882 the building was enlarged and improved.

Significance This early church is an important building which has been retained amongst later buildings, in Chapel Street. It is a significant landmark, and an early building in this important location in Prahran.

Intactness This Baptist Church has been retained largely in its original condition and form and its cement render finish remains unpainted. At the rear, substantial and sympathetic additions have occurred at an early date.

References

Cooper, J.B. The History of Prahran, Melbourne, 1924. p. 80.
Wilkin, F.J. Baptists in Victoria, Our First Century, 1838-1938
Melbourne, 1939.

Illustrated Australian News, 27 June 1866, p. 13, illustration
and description of new church building.

GREVILLE STREET COMMERCIAL AREA

History and Significance Greville Street was formed around 1852 when the crown allotment was subdivided into a number of small allotments in this vicinity. The new purchaser, Dr. Arthur O'Mullane and his neighbour T.B. Payne, agreed to the formation of Greville Street, the road cutting jointly through their property and each person contributing half. The street was named after Charles C. Fulke Greville, an Irish patriot. Nearby Grattan Street was also named after another patriot. By 1855, Greville Street ran west as far as Charles Street where its width of 40 feet narrowed to only 14 feet and changed its name to become Foundry Lane.

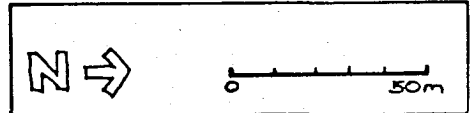
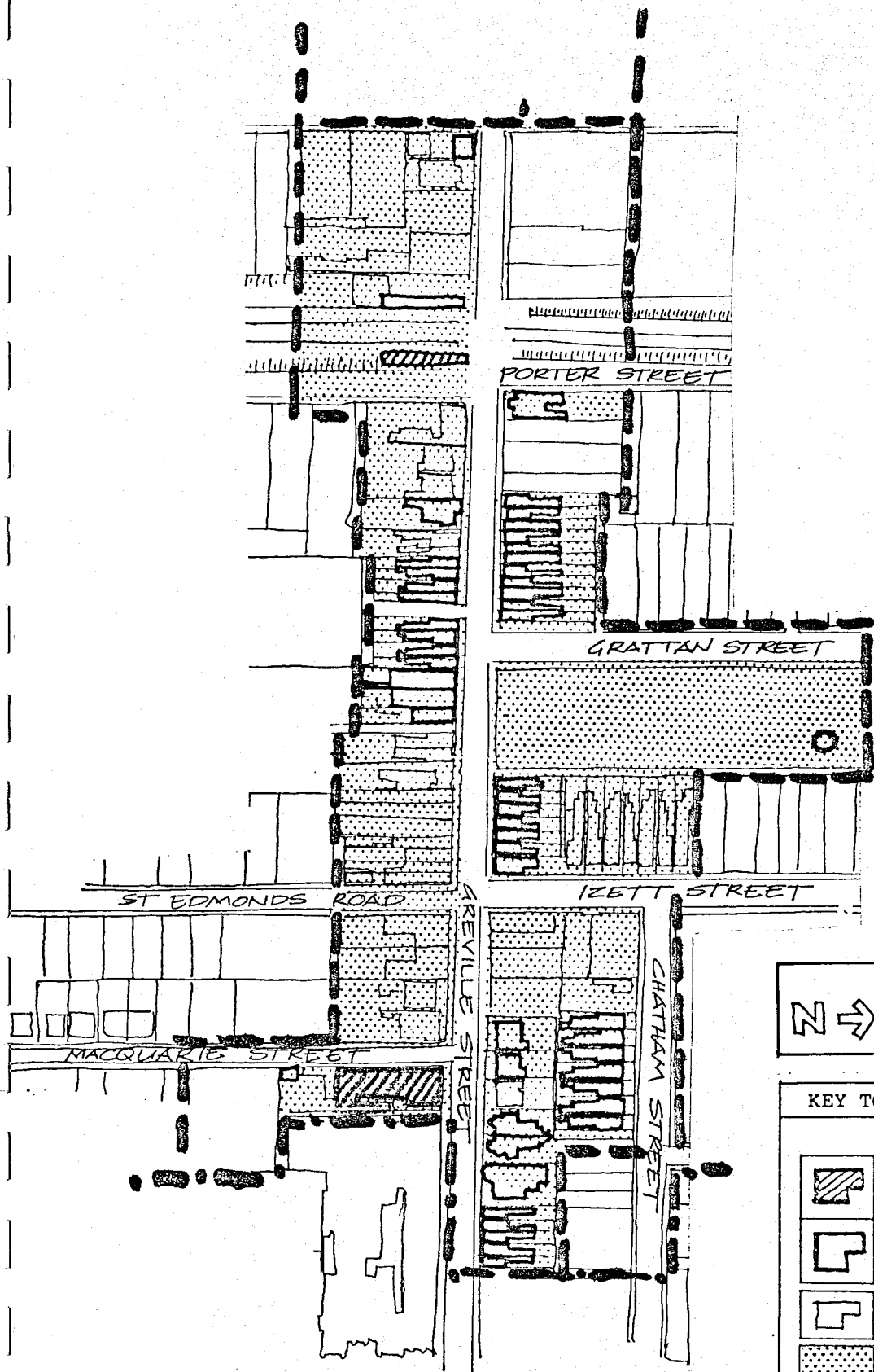
The railway cutting was formed in 1860 with the arrival of the railway line direct from Melbourne. Although the present railway station in Porter Street dates from 1895 it is a building of particular significance, especially for the standard boom style verandah which extends around both ends of the building. Other public buildings form an important part of Greville Street's character, the most notable of these being the former Prahran Courthouse and Police Station which was erected at the corner of Macquarie Street around 1886. It is possibly the finest Gothic revival building of its type in Victoria and an outstanding work of prominent and inventive public works department architect, Mr. C.R. Gilchrist. These larger public buildings, and the consistent streetscape of two storey commercial buildings contrast with the open space of the Prahran Reserve (now Grattan Gardens). This Reserve formerly had a layout of curved paths enclosed by extensive flower bedding displays and scattered trees. To the north a small rotunda was erected (probably in the 1890's) and this is a typical example of many nineteenth century examples which once existed in municipal parks and gardens, although comparatively few now survive. The unusual cast iron decoration is of particular significance.










The commercial buildings in Greville Street are mainly the result of one speculative builder, Thomas Kilpatrick, among whom was a prolific developer around the period 1885-89. Kilpatrick's buildings are characterized by an identical plan form and consistent with details in the window shapes, pilasters, capitols and lady's head stuccoed keystones. On the north side stand Kilpatrick's Terrace (nos. 107-119) and Anne's Terrace, named after his wife (nos. 143-155). These shops contrast with the two storey polychrome brick residence adjacent to Grattan Reserve, which was built for local Councillor Thomas Arkle in 1884-85.

The individual architectural significance of a number of buildings including the former Courthouse and Police Station and railway station combines with the generally intact building stock in Greville Street to form one of Prahran's most distinctive areas. The consistent two storey shops, many with intact early shopfronts, provide a uniformity not found in modern developments and the retention of the early building stock should be vigorously encouraged. That the building stock can be

successfully incorporated as part of a larger development is amply demonstrated by the new Leggetts complex.

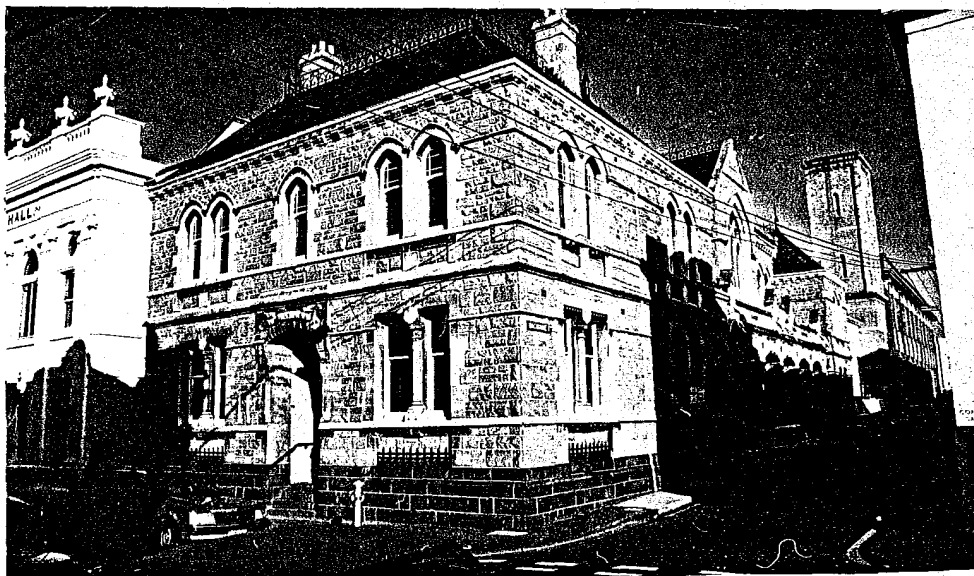
The change in scale from the large bulk of the Town Hall in Chapel Street to the humble cottages further west and the relationship of the open space of Grattan Park with the uniform two storey Victorian and Edwardian shops provide an interesting contrast, and today the retail area from the railway to Chapel Street with its diverse book, clothing and food shops forms part of the ethos of modern Prahran.



| KEY TO MAPS | |
|---|-------------------------|
| | A BUILDINGS |
|  | A1 BUILDING |
|  | A2 BUILDING |
|  | B BUILDING |
|  | C BUILDING |
|  | non identified building |
|  | |
|  | A1 AREA |
|  | A2 AREA |
|  | combined boundary |

GREVILLE STREET
COMMERCIAL AREA

FORMER PRAHRAN COURT HOUSE AND POLICE STATION
Greville Street, Prahran.



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be retained on the Register of Historic Buildings, retained on the 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 Prahran Court House and Police Station is included on the Register of the National Estate and classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

History and Description The Prahran Court House and Police Station located adjacent to the Town Hall and on a corner site in Greville Street, was erected c. 1886 to the design of P.W.D. Architect Charles Gilchrist, the contractors being Furneau, Besly and Angel. The Gothic revival structure of brick fabric clad with Barrabool stone and Wauru Ponds limestone and further enhanced by ornamental ironwork, is a traditionally planned and unusually intergrated public utilities complex.

Significance The Prahran Court House and Police Station is of architectural importance as perhaps the finest Gothic revival building of this type in Victoria, and as an outstanding work of the prominent and innovative PWD architect C R Gilchrist. The finely detailed and well proportioned building is a rare combination of public utilities and being situated on a dominant corner position is of streetscape importance in the Prahran Town Hall precinct.

Intactness This building is now part of the Prahran Town Hall complex and has been renovated internally. The finely crafted exterior masonry is in reasonable although deterioration of the notoriously unpredictable Barrabool stone is evident.

References

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 2437.
Public Record Office, Victoria, Public Works Department Drawing Collection, Plans of Prahran Court House and Police Station.

Cooper, J. B., The History of Prahran, Melbourne 1924, pp 276-277.

Trethowen, B., 'The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900', Department of Architecture, University of Melbourne 1975.

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PRAHRAN RAILWAY STATION
Porter Street, Prahran



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

History and Description The contract for the Prahran Railway Station in Porter Street was signed in October 1895. The building used dark brown brickwork relieved by moulded red bricks and bluestone sills with a large bullnose verandah supported by cast iron columns. The builders involved being Bulte and McPherson. Substantial additions were carried out two years later in a consistent style and today the original office is in use as a general waiting room.

Significance This intact station building is an important one of a group of Victorian stations on the Brighton Beach line. Of particular note is standard boom style verandah which extends around both ends of the building.

Intactness The Prahran Railway Station is substantially intact and only minor works have been undertaken. The station has recently had minor repainting in appropriate paint colours.

References

Ward, A., and Donnelly, A., 'Victoria's Railway Stations', Vol. 3., March, 1981.

CECIL PLACE AREA

History and Significance Land in this area was auctioned on 15 May 1850. Cecil Street (as it was then known) was formed by the early 1850s and gradually subdivided into small allotments. The Protestant Hall at the end of Cecil Place was erected as the Congregational Schoolroom in 1868-69 and remodelled for its present purpose in 1879. The two timber residences at 12 and 14 Cecil Place date from this period and typify the small workmens' houses which were erected in this vicinity. No fire protected party wall separated the residences and today this pair are highly important remnants, as most similar dwellings have long since been demolished. The Prahran United Friendly Society Dispensary was erected in 1888 and today this two-storey building contrasts with the smaller single-storey buildings in the rest of this area.

The significance of the Cecil Place area derives mainly from the early dates of the buildings and their individual architectural significance. The intimate scale of the area is reflected in the humble dwellings, and vistas east to the Protestant Hall and west to the large Colosseum Emporium in Chapel Street provide great contrast.

