

Malvern Road Urban Conservation Area - Extension along Malvern Road [Area 10.3]

Extent

This is a small group of shops on the north side of Malvern Road which abuts the Malvern Road Urban Conservation Area.

History

This small area on the corner of Williams and Malvern Roads south of May Street, near the old Bush Inn site, is an historic site associated with the earliest period of development in Prahran. As early as 1855, the Bush Inn, an important community meeting place, was located on this corner with the Hawksburn Hotel opposite.¹⁶²

Allotments at the corner of Commercial (now Malvern) and Williams Roads were auctioned on 12 April 1871. Later, in 1882, the Bush Inn Estate (Evelina Road, May Road and Williams Road) were offered for sale. Later still, in 1887, plans were prepared by the architect, C. E. Connor, for an enormous coffee palace to replace the Bush Inn. This venture never eventuated.¹⁶³

This corner remained one of the areas where the most modest buildings were located. In an 1895 MMBW drainage plan, a small terrace facing Malvern Road stands next to the Bush Inn property.¹⁶⁴ These one and two-storey Victorian shop premises were erected c1890. A description of the character of this corner, comments that this area 'focused around the Bush Inn saw the most modest buildings although those facing Williams Road and Evelina Road were very substantial terraces and villas'.¹⁶⁵

Description

This group of single and two storey brick shops are from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. They form a logical extension to the abutting Malvern Road Urban Conservation Area (Precinct 6 in the *Prahran Character and Conservation Study 1992* with a detailed description on p. 5-2 of *Prahran Conservation Study*, 1982.)

Heritage characteristics

The key heritage characteristics of the Malvern Road Urban Conservation Area, of which this extension forms a logical part, are described in the *Prahran Conservation Study* (1982), p. 5-2.

162. James Kearney. *Map of Melbourne and Its Suburbs*, 1855.

163. Nigel Lewis & Associates, *Prahran Character and Conservation Study 1992*, p.28.

164. MMBW 1895 drainage plan.

165. Nigel Lewis & Associates, *Prahran Character and Conservation Study 1992*, p.38.

Analysis

The area forms a logical extension to the Malvern Road Urban Conservation Area.

Significance

The significance of the Malvern Road Urban Conservation Area, of which this extension forms a logical part, is described in the *Prahran Conservation Study* (1982), p. 5-2.

Sources

Kearney, James, *Map of Melbourne and its Suburbs*, 1855.

Nigel Lewis & Associates, *Prahran Character and Conservation Study* 1992, pp. 28, 38.

MMBW 1895 drainage plan.

Recommendations

1. Adopt the UC1 Area as exhibited as an extension to the Malvern Road Urban Conservation Area.