

employed. The roof line is typically composed of broad overlapping and over-sailing gables, one main gable nested between two minor ones, and possesses the heavy Japanese-inspired verandah form and detailing. Red bricks and Marseilles pattern terra-cotta tiles match the original earthy tone of the external materials but the once stained cedar gable shingling has been painted over and much of the rich joinery colouring converted to white. Some intricate leadlight glazing is evident.

External Integrity

Shingles painted over, porch glazed in and fence replaced.

Streetscape

Adjoins mainly Edwardian housing but is related by period detail and terra-cotta materials.

Significance

Architecturally, a skillfully articulated Bungalow design employing bold juxta-positioning of forms and distinctive detailing. Historically, the home of a locally prominent councillor and solicitor.

Mneme, House and office 49 Nicholson Street

History

Arthur Secomb, a solicitor, first owned and occupied this house in 1913, after acquiring the land from Charles Webster a year earlier.¹

Cited in *Footscray's First One Hundred Years* as the 'Doyen of local legal men' Secomb started in Footscray and district courts as the clerk of courts in 1897. Around 1904 he purchased a Footscray legal practice, practising from his home in Buckley Street. After his move to Nicholson Street, Secomb began a 49 year role as the municipality's solicitor (Secomb & Woodfull).² This house remained with the family until the 1980s.³

Description

A distinctive design in rough-cast, red brick and terra-cotta, it portrays the transition between the Queen Anne villa style and the Californian Bungalow, here adopting a form more akin to the Indian or Chinese British Colonial Bungalow. A high-hip 'tea-house' roof is the dominant feature of the house, sailing out beyond the wall-line to create a return verandah, and providing a backdrop for major and minor gabled wings. Extensive shingling is used in the major (west) gable with fine slatting supporting deep eaves brackets here and at the side (business) entrance porch. Typical Edwardian leadlight bowed and flat window groups are used throughout. Reputedly a large billiard room survives in the house.⁴

External Integrity

Trellis screens and sympathetic colours to the period have been used in a recent redecoration but the fence has been replaced unsympathetically.

Streetscape

The design addresses both street frontages highly successfully, and relates to the generally Edwardian housing adjacent.

Significance

Architecturally, a successful proto-Bungalow style design which is near complete and addresses two street frontages well. Historically, the house of a locally prominent solicitor.

Maples Furniture Warehouse 111-113 Nicholson Street

History

Frederick Thomas, Benjamin and Joseph Nathan comprised the management of Maples Furniture Warehouse in 1913, when they leased these new premises from J.N. Williams (grocer?). The corner had once held a modest (timber?) verandahed shop emblazoned (in old photographs) with the noble sign,

1 RB 1914,p.91; RB 1913,p.90

2 FFOY p.68; MD1925

3 R Cocks

4 R Cocks



4-86 111-113 Nicholson Street



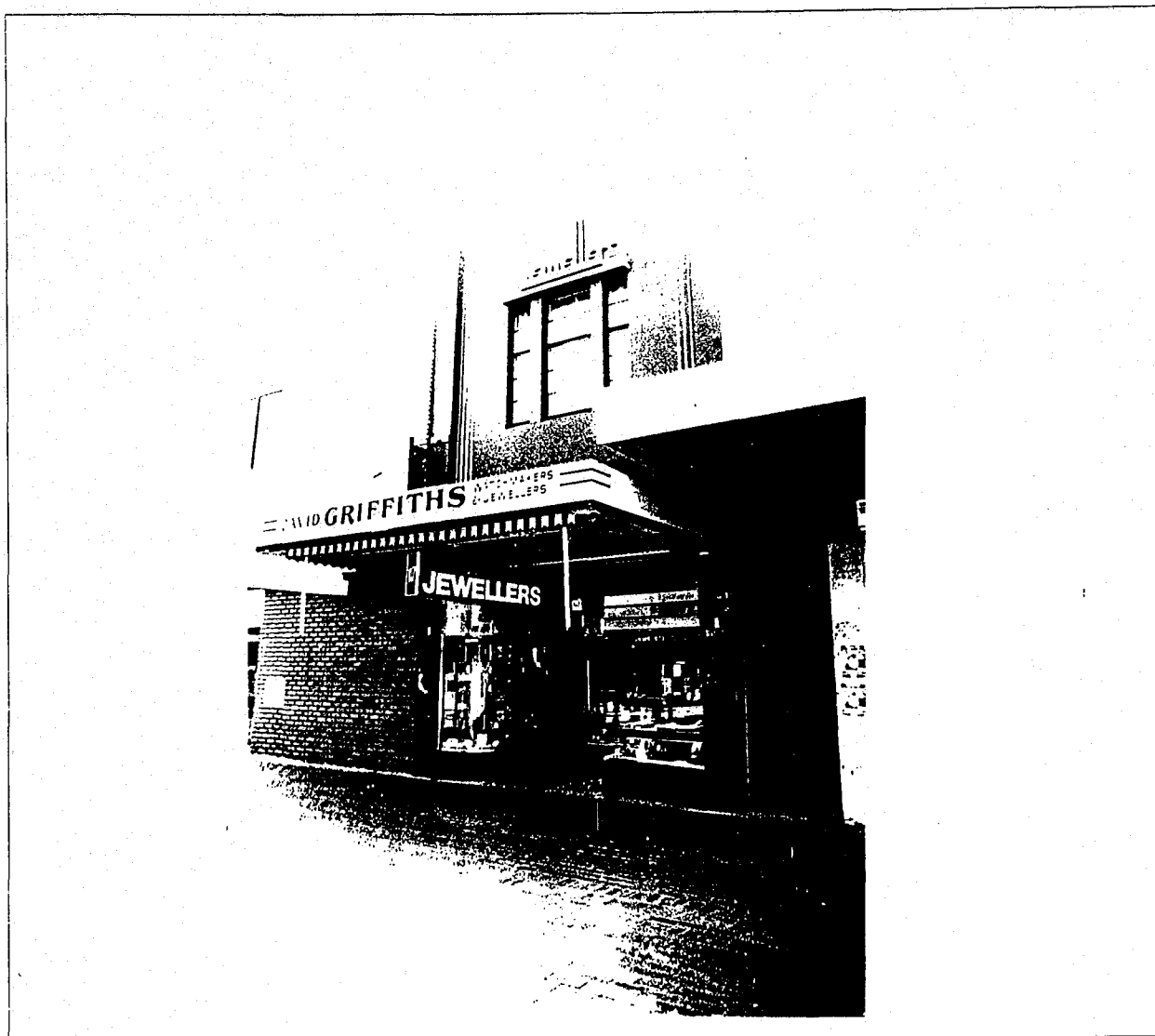
4-87 111-113 Nicholson Street

'The Working Man's Boot Palace.'¹ Its three-storey replacement remained as Maples until at least the 1960s.²

It is probable that the Nathans involved in Maples were connected with Maurice Nathan, later a major force behind the larger Patersons Pty. Ltd. empire. However, Maples adopted a lower profile than Patersons, having suburban branches here and in South Melbourne and in some rural towns.³

Description

A three-storey face brick stucco and stone (basalt) former corner store: the main upper fenestration is segment-arched with third level windows adopting a rectangular shape, divided into six lights. Most of the facade ornament is at the parapet, which is articulated between the nine facade bays in the form of an ox-bow scallop. The piers protrude above with cement balls and dentillated caps, in the frequently used manner of architects, the Tompkins Brothers.



4-88 117 Nicholson Street

- 1 FFOY p.152
- 2 D1915-65
- 3 D1962; branch also in Prahran?

External Integrity

Stone, glazing and bricks painted, the cantilever canopy and most shopfronts new. The upper wall played corner is assumed to have possessed openings once.

Streetscape

Major corner element (one of few three-storey buildings) with ornamentation which relates to the earlier commercial core of the centre.

Significance

Architecturally, of only intermediate worth but dominant and contributory to the commercial precinct with its bulk and period detail. Historically, one of the

early large tenancies forming part of a retail centre which held metropolitan status.

Shop

117 Nicholson Street

History

David Griffiths, jeweller, opened a shop next to this site in Nicholson Street around 1892, having just arrived from Maryborough. His early demise, in 1923, left his elder son, Reginald, to continue the already prosperous business.¹ His brother, Ronald, and their sister, Myrtle, expanded the business to include optician services and a new shop image, designed by architects H.W. & F.B. Tompkins in 1936.²



4-89 134-136 Nicholson Street

1 FFOY p.149f
2 *ibid.*: MMBW CF385399