

LANGDON BUILDING



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2008



1 langdon building king street
melbourne front view



langdon building king street
melbourne front entrance



langdon building king street
melbourne front window



langdon building king street
melbourne street view



LANGDON BUILDING
October 2016

Location

351 - 355 KING STREET WEST MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0527

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO477

VHR Registration

May 5, 1982

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 22, 2000

What is significant?

The Langdon Building at 351-355 King Street was built as three terrace houses by the owner-builder Robert Kidd. He built them in stages as follows: No.351 in 1863, No.353 in 1865 and No.355 in 1869. Kidd lived at No.353. The middle house of the three was a shop from 1870 but has now had its shopfront removed. All three terrace houses are two storeys, constructed in brick with coursed bluestone facades. Access was directly off the street in the manner of English town houses. Each house has quoins, a motif which is repeated around the front door and windows. Whilst all three buildings are constructed on the street alignment the

parapet and string course is not continuous, reflecting the differing stages of construction. The Langdon Building was used as an early clothing factory and was later combined with the adjoining the Fenwick Brothers Phoenix Clothing building. These early factories share a party wall and were once linked via twin archways.

How is it significant?

The Langdon Building is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Langdon Building is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the use of Victoria's ubiquitous bluestone as a construction material. Spanning three periods of construction, the Langdon Building has a consistent use of facing bluestone. There is a contrast between the fine ashlar finishes of the architraves, quoins and string courses and the rougher finish of the wall areas.

The Langdon Building is historically significant as a rare complex of three residential buildings amalgamated for industrial use. It is a rare example of a surviving clothing factory in the central business district. From 1870 the Langdon Building was a clothing factory and had a close relationship to the notable Phoenix Clothing Factory buildings to the south. It demonstrates the adaptation and adjustment of owners to changing economic conditions in Melbourne.

Construction dates	1856,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	766
Property Number	

History

History of Place:

In 1953 considerable alterations were undertaken to the Langdon Building. The original architraves were replaced by new work, all with a consistent profile. "All other panelling, built-in counters, office partitions, architraves, skirtings, cornices, marble and cedar fireplaces, doors were introduced from other places, including many

elements from a demolished mansion on the corner of Orrong and Toorak Roads - known as Leura. Other sources include the original Goldsbrough and Mort building, and the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce. Concrete floors were also installed. The cellar under no.351 King Street, the only one of the three buildings to have a cellar, was rebuilt to improve drainage of water seeping down the hill from Flagstaff Gardens, and a bomb shelter was installed at the time to safeguard employees from the threat of the Cold War." (Historical Assessment of Langdon Buildings, Diane Halas Routt, December 1989, p.7. For submission by Gas & Fuel Corporation Superannuation Fund)

Associated People:

Extent of Registration

Historic Building No.527 - Langdon Building, 351-355 King Street, Melbourne.
[Victoria Government Gazette No. 43 5 May 1982 p.1283]

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>