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# MERCHANT'S AERATED WATERS & CORDIALS PTY LTD (FORMER)



RICHMOND YORK STREET  
21.jpg

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## Location

21-27 YORK STREET and 1-7/31 YORK STREET and 14 GARFIELD STREET RICHMOND, YARRA CITY

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO407

## Heritage Listing

Yarra City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1915

### What is significant?

The former Marchant's building at 21-31 York Street, Richmond is significant. It was built for Marchants Aerated Waters & Cordials Pty Ltd in 1925, who occupied the site from the late 19th century, until at least the 1950s. The building is a major and distinctive element of the streetscape. Fronting the street is a two-storey, parapeted

section of red brick. Bays are articulated with shallow engaged brick piers, and raised pavilions at either end of the facade. Ground-floor openings are set below a continuous concrete lintel (broken only by the brick piers), while there is smooth cement render between the piers above the first-floor openings. The three central openings are segmentally arched, adding interest to this austere industrial building.

A gable-roofed building sits behind the parapeted building. It has undergone more extensive alterations in the flats conversion, but still retains red-brick walls with continuous concrete lintels.

Edwardian stables that pre-date the Marchants building are located to the rear of the site, at 14 Garfield Street. The stables display an unusual use of the Egyptian Revival style.

The building has been converted to flats. Additions and alterations resulting from the conversion are not significant.

#### **How is it significant?**

The former Marchant's building at 21-31 York Street, Richmond is aesthetically and historically significant to Richmond and the City of Yarra.

#### **Why is it significant?**

The former Marchant's building at 21-31 York Street, Richmond is aesthetically significant (Criterion E) as a large well-preserved and distinctive industrial building, which is a local landmark, and for the stables at 14 Garfield Street which display an unusual use of the Egyptian Revival style - seen in the battered pilasters to the pediment - in an industrial building.

The former Marchant's building at 21-31 York Street, Richmond is historically significant (Criterion A & H) for its associations with the nationally prominent company Marchants Aerated Waters & Cordials Pty Ltd, for the Garfield Street stables, representative of the transition from horse drawn to motor transport distribution of their products, and as a characteristic interwar factory, which provides tangible evidence of how Richmond became a centre of manufacturing in the twentieth century.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Heritage Gaps Study: Review of remaining 17 heritage precincts from the 2009 Gaps report, Context Pty Ltd, 2013; Yarra - Heritage Gap Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Construction dates	1915,
Other Names	Marchants Aerated Waters & Cordials Pty Ltd, Factory,
Hermes Number	167940
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

The former Marchant's building at 21-31 York Street is a major and distinctive element of the streetscape. Fronting the street is a two-storey, parapeted section of red brick. Bays are articulated with shallow engaged brick piers, and raised pavilions at either end of the facade. The date '1925' was at the top of the east pavilion in raised numbers, but has since been removed (though the scar is still clearly visible).

Ground-floor openings are set below a continuous concrete lintel (broken only by the brick piers), while there is smooth cement render between the piers above the first-floor openings. The three central openings are segmentally arched, adding interest to this austere industrial building.

At ground floor level there are two original doorways, each with a decorative hipped-roof hood resting on curved concrete corbels. The western doorway retains its original ledged door with strap hinges. The ground floor window openings are quite large, stretching down to the plinth. Four of the five openings retain steel multi-light highlights, while the western window has a roller door.

Other alterations that have resulted from the recent conversion to flats are the removal of the first-floor windows to create internal balconies, and the creation of an additional floor (which is hidden by the front parapet). The brick has been sandblasted at an unknown date.

A gable-roofed building sits behind the parapeted building. It has undergone more extensive alterations in the flats conversion, but still retains red-brick walls with continuous concrete lintels.

Set behind 21-31 York Street are the Marchant's stables building, which predates the 1925 building. The stables are at 14 Garfield Street and display an unusual use of the Egyptian Revival style - seen in the battered pilasters to the pediment - in an industrial building.

*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/>*