
JOHN WELSH FACTORY (FORMER)

Location

12-20 MILLER STREET,, BRUNSWICK EAST VIC 3057 - Property No 2514

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO114

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The John Welsh factory is of local architectural and historical significance. The building still houses the engineering and gear cutting works which served brickmaking and other industries from c. 1910, relocating in 1941 into this purpose built building. Architecturally, the factory is a good example of an intact streamlined, Moderne facade.

Heritage Study/Consultant Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999;
Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990; Moreland - Northern Suburbs Factory Study, Vines, G and M, Churchward, 1992;

Construction dates 1940,

Hermes Number 59065

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The John Welsh factory is a single storey cream brick building. In form it is in three sections, two end pavilions linked to a central recessed section by two sections of curved wall. The end pavilions are of cream brick, with dark brown manganese brick at the base and forming two narrow string course nearer the parapet. An entrance of stepped manganese brick penetrates the east pavilion; a narrow horizontal window of glass bricks sits to the eastern end. The central section has a deep cream brick stepped parapet with partial brown brick string courses. This sits above a shallow concrete canopy which shelters two vehicle entrances. Small windows sit between the underside of the canopy and a manganese brick dado. Original manganese brick and concrete curbing defines the vehicle entrances. Beyond the facade, the building red brick side walls and a galvanised iron saw-tooth roof. Some extensions have apparently been made at the rear of the site. The original company name in shaped steel lettering has been replaced during the 1990s.

Key Architectural Elements: long, low bichrome Moderne facade
manganese brick stepped entrances
glass brick panels

Conservation Guidelines: reinstate original signage

Comparative Examples: Tip Top Bakery, 170 Edward Street, Brunswick

Context: Located in a residential zone somewhat removed from the manufacturing district of Brunswick. Appears to be the result of an originally backyard workshop expanding to a major works.

Comparative analysis: The use of large brick planes and curves detailed in contrasting brick appears in a number of factories from this period, the most prominent being Olympic tyre and Rubber in west Footscray. The Steel Company of Australia in Frith Street, Brunswick is also comparable.

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/>