Australian Paper Mills Boiler House

APM Boiler House

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APM prior to construction

APM - 1930's

APM - October 1964

Location

626 Heidelberg Road, ALPHINGTON VIC 3078 - Property No 270870

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO70

Heritage Listing

Yarra City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The following wording is from the Allom and Lovell Building Citation, 1998 for the property. Please note that this is a "Building Citation", not a "Statement of Significance". For further information refer to the Building Citation held by the City of Yarra.

History:

The Australian Paper Mills Co. (APM) was established in 1895, originally located on the site of what is now Southbank. The company expanded, with its main mills in Melbourne and Geelong. In August 1918 land for a new board mill was purchased in Fairfield, comprising 23 acres (9.3 hectares), which had the advantages of river frontage and proximity to the railway line. The site, previously a part of the Woodlands Estate, cost ?14,800. Construction on the building began in 1919, taking two years and using 1,200,000 bricks. The building was opened by the Chief Justice of Victoria, Sir William Irvine, on 31 August 1921.

The General Manager of APM, Robert Gray, travelled to America to purchase equipment for the new factory, which was able to manufacture paperboard of 244cm in width at a speed of 150 feet (460 metres) a minute. The completed factory manufactured container board, ticket board, manila, chip board and varieties of wood pulp board.

The Boiler House-built to contain boilers and turbines-was constructed in 1954. The building was designed by Mussen, Mackay & Potter: Mackay was the architect, whilst Mussen and Potter were the engineers. Norman Mussen was the son of Gerald Mussen, a financial journalist and a consultant to Amalgamated Zinc (Development Bavays) Ltd (AZ Ltd), who was involved in APM's moves to establish eucalyptus plantations for pulp in Tasmania in the 1930s.

The curtain walling cladding the five-storey building is one of the earliest examples of the technique known in Victoria. The earliest buildings incorporating curtain walling were the Cheseborough building in Clayton (Hugh Peck & Associates; 1953), which had a curtain walled staircase; the Shell Refinery, Corio (Buchan Laird & Buchan; 1953), which had a two storey curtain wall; Wilson Hall at the University of Melbourne (Bates Smart & McCutcheon; 1953); the administration block for Kirstall-Repco at Clayton (Hassell & McConnell; 1954); and the Coring Implements factory (Frank Heath; 1954).

Description:

The APM Boiler House is a large curtain-walled building approximately square in plan, rising to a height of five storeys. The panes of glass are vertical in proportion, and have metal frames. At the upper level of the west facade are a pair of loading doors beneath a cantilevered block and tackle hoisting beam. Rising above the building is a large circular flue, attached to the building at the south end is a cream brick services core.

Significance:

The Australian Paper Mills Boiler House is of state technological and architectural significance. The building employs one of earliest known examples of curtain walling in Melbourne, and is distinguished by the extent of the curtain walling, which is equivalent in height to a four or five storey building.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Northcote Urban Conservation Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1982; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1998; Yarra - City of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Construction dates	1954,
Hermes Number	103746
Property Number	

Physical Description 2

RAIA 20th century register

Physical Description 1

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Integrity

Good

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/