
BRUNSWICK PLASTER MILLS PTY LTD SILOS (FORMER)



Silos - 20-24 Tinning Street
(part of), Brunswick



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Location

20-24 TINNING STREET, BRUNSWICK, MORELAND CITY

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO388

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The concrete structure at the edge of 20-24 Tinning Street comprises an attached pair of cylindrical silos (each about 10 metres diameter by 25 metres tall), an attached rectilinear chute containing the materials handling equipment, and a roof-mounted head house. The silos were built in 1952 by Brunswick Plaster Mills Pty Ltd,

manufacturers of Plaster of Paris and other building products, which had occupied the original building factory on the property (a large galvanised iron shed, now no longer extant) since 1926.

How is it significant?

The silos are of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the silos are significant for associations with the expansion of industry in Brunswick in the post-war period (AHC Criterion A.4). As such, they demonstrate the ongoing development of a theme that has played a significant part in Brunswick (and, more broadly, in the entire City of Moreland) since the mid-nineteenth century. More specifically, the silos provide evidence of the local presence of the building product industry, which, apart from the celebrated brick kilns and chimneys, is not well demonstrated by surviving built fabric in Brunswick (AHC Criterion B.2). They also stand as the last surviving remnant of a plaster factory that operated from this site (under various proprietors) between 1917 and 1966. At that time, the complex was one of only a few nonfibrous plaster factories in the metropolitan area. Although there was a number of fibrous plaster factories in Brunswick and Coburg, most have since been demolished, leaving these silos as a rare (and readily interpreted) evidence of this specific industry within the City of Moreland (AHC Criterion B.2).

Aesthetically, the silos are significant for their distinctive form and appearance. A unique surviving example of its type in the City of Moreland (AHC Criterion B.2), the structure exhibits almost sculptural qualities in its massive scale, its bold cylindrical form and its stark concrete finish (AHC Criterion F.1). The silos are a prominent local landmark that is visible from many parts of the area, and also forms an important element along the major vista of the Upfield railway line (AHC Criterion E.1).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Brunswick MAC Heritage Analysis and Review, Context Pty Ltd, 2007;
Other Names	Brunswick Plaster Mills Pty Ltd (non-fibrous plaster works), Factory,
Hermes Number	104671
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Set back from the property's Tinning Street frontage, this prominent reinforced concrete landmark comprises an attached pair of cylindrical silos, each about 10 metres in diameter and 25 metres in height. The equipment for loading the silos is contained in a rectilinear tower-like element on the north side, which extends up to the head house (a discrete cube-like room at the top of the structure) and returns thence along the top of the two silos. The head house is slightly cantilevered on two sides and has a flat concrete slab roof, small windows to the north and south sides, and a small double door to the west with a hoist beam above. The tower also has a row of small windows along its north frontage and, at the base, a large doorway (now bricked up) and a smaller opening with a rusty iron hatch. On the western side of the tower is a smaller pedestrian doorway (also bricked up) and a slit-like opening that reveals part of the hoisting machinery within.

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/>