

ROYAL ARCADE



ROYAL ARCADE SOHE
2008



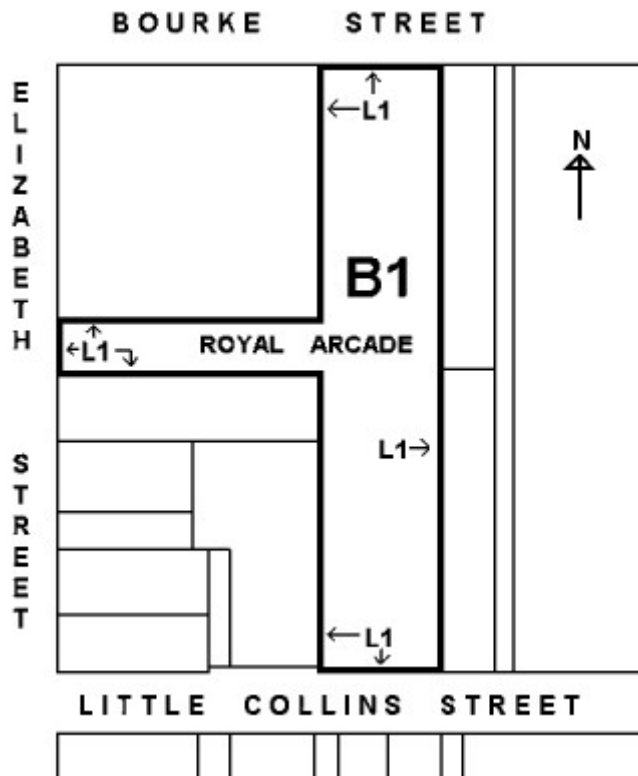
ROYAL ARCADE SOHE
2008



1 royal arcade melbourne
interior sw oct1999



ROYAL ARCADE July 2016



royal arcade plan

Location

331 - 339 BOURKE STREET AND 148 - 150 ELIZABETH STREET AND 308-316 LITTLE COLLINS STREET
MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0023

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO543

VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

Amendment to Registration

August 19, 1999

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 13, 2000

What is significant?

The Royal Arcade, which extends from Bourke Street through to Little Collins Street, was erected in 1869 for Messrs. Staughton and Spensley. Charles Webb was the architect and gained the commission through a design competition. It consisted of 29 shops of various trades. At the extreme end of the Arcade facing Little Collins Street there were two or three shops of larger dimensions. In this portion of the building at shop 27 there were contained the Turkish Baths. In 1902 an Annexe was built to Elizabeth Street to the designs of architects Hyndman and Bates and an arched verandah was added to the Bourke Street facade. Due to dilapidation caused by rats' tunnels, the original Castlemaine flag floor was replaced in 1934 by black and white concrete squares which, were later replaced by similarly coloured terrazzo tiles. In 1892 the figures of Gog and Magog were installed at the southern end of the main walkway. These were sculpted by Mortimer Godfrey and modelled on effigies in the Guildhall, London, which were built in 1708 to replace those lost in the Great Fire of 1666. They were thought to represent survivors of a race of giants destroyed by Brutus the Trojan, the legendary founder of London. Gaunts clock was also installed at about this time. In 1890 at least two of the original shopfronts to the Arcade were replaced with new bay windows, splayed entrances and mirrored pilasters between each shop entrance. The remainder were replaced in 1894 under the guidance of architect Nahum Barnett. A cantilevered verandah has been added to the Little Collins Street facade, probably in the 1950s. In 1980 restoration works

were undertaken which included the restoration of the Bourke Street facade, the reconstruction of the verandah and the internal gaslight fittings to the original designs. The Royal Arcade property is owned by Royal Arcade Pty Ltd, a company with 32 separate shareholders each holding a head lease over their respective shops which are variously owner-occupied or tenanted.

How is it significant?

The Royal Arcade is of social, historical, aesthetic and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Royal Arcade is of historical significance as one of the earliest arcades constructed in this country and Australia's oldest extant shopping arcade. Royal Arcade is one of approximately 18 surviving pre-1870 arcades worldwide. The Arcade's automata, Gog and Magog, and Father Time are icons in the psyche of Melbourne. They are well known to visitors, sought out by tourists and are unique in Australia. The ownership of the Arcade by the Staughton and Spensley families for 103 years from 1855 to 1958 is of considerable significance and has left an enduring mark upon the building. Socially the Arcade is significant as containing the premises of John Nicholas Caire and Thomas Chuck, notable Melbourne nineteenth century photographers, Catanch's the jewellers, the Doll Hospital, the Turkish Baths and Gaunt's watchmaking workshop and shop, all of whom are Melbourne 'institutions'.

The Royal Arcade is of architectural significance as one of the few commercial works of notable Melbourne architect Charles Webb. Designed in the Italianate style, it compares well with many nineteenth century European examples and is certainly outstanding within the Australian context. It draws on early and influential French and English models and as such is outstanding in its ability to demonstrate the essential and typical qualities of those designs and the continuity of the tradition of covered shopping streets. This is the oldest surviving arcade in Melbourne and despite its many alterations still maintains its elegant and unique appearance. It is a landmark of the central shopping area.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions:

1. All alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the

registered place or object.

2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.

4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

* No permits are required for works which are in accordance with the Conservation Policy contained in Royal Arcade, Melbourne, Conservation Management Plan, prepared by Allom Lovell & Associates Pty Ltd for Royal Arcade Pty Ltd, June 1995. General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.

Construction dates	1869,
Architect/Designer	Webb, Charles,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	1569
Property Number	

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion A

The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.

The Royal Arcade was erected in 1869. It was one of the earliest arcades constructed in this country, is Australia's oldest extant shopping arcade and one of approximately 18 surviving pre-1870 arcades world wide. Historically the Arcade is significant as containing the premises of John Nicholas Caire and Thomas Chuck, notable Melbourne nineteenth century photographers, Catanch's the jewellers, the Doll Hospital, the Turkish Baths and Gaunt's watchmaking workshop and shop, all of whom are Melbourne 'institutions'.

Criterion B

The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.

Royal Arcade is Australia's oldest extant shopping arcade and one of approximately 18 surviving pre-1870 arcades world wide.

Criterion C

The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.

Criterion D

The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.

The design of Royal Arcade draws on early and influential French and English models and as such is outstanding in its ability to demonstrate the essential and typical qualities of those designs and the continuity of the tradition of covered shopping streets.

Criterion E

The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

Royal Arcade was one of the few commercial works of notable Melbourne architect Charles Webb. Designed in the Italianate style, it compares well with many nineteenth century European examples and is certainly outstanding within the Australian context. It draws on early and influential French and English models and as such is outstanding in its ability to demonstrate the essential and typical qualities of those designs and the continuity of the tradition of covered shopping streets.

Criterion F

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.

Criterion G

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.

The Arcade's automata, Gog and Magog, and Father Time are icons in the psyche of Melbourne. They are well known to visitors, sought out by tourists and are unique in Australia. The ownership of the Arcade by Staughton and Spensley families for 103 years from 1855 to 1958 is of considerable significance and has left an enduring mark upon the building. The Arcade is significant as containing the premises of John Nicholas Caire and Thomas Chuck, notable Melbourne nineteenth century photographers, Catanch's the jewellers, the Doll Hospital, the Turkish Baths and Gaunt's watchmaking workshop and shop, all of whom are Melbourne 'institutions'.

Criterion H

Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 23 in the category described as a Heritage Place is now described as:

Royal Arcade, 331-337 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Melbourne City Council.

EXTENT:

1. All the building known as Royal Arcade including verandahs marked B1 on Diagram 23 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 23 held by the Executive Director, being the land described in Certificate of Title Vol. 10022 Fol. 456-498, strata plan SP 35729.
3. All the objects held within Royal Arcade as listed below:

*Gog and Magog Sculptures
*Gaunts Clock

Dated 5 August 1999.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 33 19 August 1999 p.1917]

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/>