
MELBOURNE WIRE WORKS (FORMER)



CREMORNE CREMORNE
STREET 85.jpg

Location

85-99 CREMORNE STREET,, CREMORNE VIC 3121 - Property No 165395

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO463

Heritage Listing

Yarra City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The former Melbourne Wire Works factory, constructed c.1942, at 85-99 Cremorne Street, Cremorne is significant. This is a two storey late interwar factory and office complex constructed of brick with a sawtooth roof concealed by a parapet. The front section of the building, facing Cremorne Street, has a rendered parapet, which returns along part of the Kelso Street elevation. The entrance is marked by a vertical 'tower' with a rendered front, framed in brick, that sits slightly proud of the main wall, and steps up at the side. There are two deeply inset tall narrow windows above the entrance within the rendered section. The north corner of the tower is chamfered and

along the top at the front and north side there is a series of regularly spaced narrow inset slots. The secondary elevations to Kelso and Dover streets elevations are typically quite plain, with a lip of soldier course bricks along the top of the parapet and regularly spaced window banks beneath continuous concrete lintels. A distinctive feature is the very large original rainwater heads.

Non-original alterations and additions to the c.1942 factory and other buildings on the site are not significant.

How it is significant?

The former Melbourne Wire Works factory at 85-99 Cremorne Street, Cremorne is of local historic and architectural significance to the City of Yarra.

Why it is significant?

The former Melbourne Wire Works is historically significant as tangible evidence of the industrial development of Cremorne during the interwar period. In the twentieth century Richmond became one of the centres of manufacturing in Melbourne and Cremorne was one of three areas designated for industry within the municipality. The Melbourne Wire Works was one of the first industries established in Cremorne and this factory is associated with a major phase of development of the company in the interwar period when it became one of the largest industrial complexes in Cremorne. (Criterion A)

The former Melbourne Wire Works is a good example of the factory and office complexes of the late interwar period. Typically, it comprises a more architecturally adorned front section attached to a more utilitarian rear section. The use of Moderne detailing is characteristic of factories of the 1930s, which was intended to demonstrate a modern and forward looking image for companies. (Criterion D)

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	1942,
Other Names	Melbourne Wire Works Factory & Head Office, Batman Kangan TAFE complex,
Hermes Number	175634
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

This is a late interwar factory and office complex constructed of brick over two storeys, which is built to the street frontage occupying the whole of the site extending from Cremorne Street, along Kelso Street and returning along Dover Street. The front section of the building, facing Cremorne Street, has a rendered parapet, which returns along part of the Kelso Street elevation. The entrance bay is expressed as a vertical 'tower' with a rendered front, framed in brick, that sits slightly proud of the main wall, and steps up at the side. There are two deeply inset tall narrow windows above the entrance within the rendered section. The north corner of the tower is chamfered and along the top at the front and north side there is a series of regularly spaced narrow inset slots. The secondary elevations to Kelso and Dover streets elevations are typically quite plain, with a lip of soldier course bricks along the top of the parapet and regularly spaced window banks beneath continuous concrete lintels. A distinctive feature is the very large original rainwater heads.

The building has a moderate degree of external intactness - the ground level entry to Cremorne Street has been altered and all of the windows have been replaced and some openings changed. A single storey building has been constructed along the north side of the 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/>