
219-223 Johnston Street



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Location

219-223 JOHNSTON STREET ABBOTSFORD AND 219-223 JOHNSTON STREET ABBOTSFORD, YARRA CITY

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO409

Heritage Listing

Yarra City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

Nos 219-223 Johnston Street, Abbotsford, is a terrace group of three, two storey masonry shops and combined residences constructed in c.1890. The buildings have overpainted brick and stuccoed external walls; separate hipped roof forms clad in corrugated steel; and chimneys. The centre bay of the first floor facade has a scroll bracket bearing the construction date '1890', scroll consoles and a broad floral swag. The three shops are divided at first floor level by heavy rusticated piers with coffered panels at the top, under a prominent moulded cornice capped above by a gabled finial pedestal. Other details of the first floor include windows placed within shallow breakfronts, and window architraves supported on a stringcourse set above breakfront piers. The central dating panel breaks through the parapet line with a triangular pediment, supported in the flanking bays by a simpler corbel with coffered frieze and smaller breakfront entablatures holding a small swag. The clerestories to no. 221-223 have been covered over or infilled, although no. 219's clerestory panes remain intact. The ground floor shopfronts have been remodeled although no. 219's shopfront is of quite long standing.

How is it significant?

Nos 219-223 Johnston Street, Abbotsford, is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.

Why is it significant?

Nos 219-223 Johnston Street, Abbotsford, is of local historical significance, as a trio of two storey masonry shops and combined residences constructed in c.1890. This was the period following the introduction of the cable tram service to Johnston Street in 1887, and the opening of the nearby railway station in 1888. The south side of Johnston Street was established as a retail precinct by the early 1880s, with these buildings coming after that period, but consistent with the consolidation of commercial development on the north side of the street, near Hoddle Street. The buildings were subsequently occupied by a range of retailers and commercial operations typical of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century main street, including a hairdresser, stationers, and a tailor; the association with hairdressing was long-standing. Thorold Merrett, a famed Collingwood footballer, also opened his first sports store at no. 223 in the 1960s, the start of an early but successful sports store chain.

Nos 219-223 Johnston Street, Abbotsford, is also of local aesthetic/architectural significance. The trio is a well-preserved group of Victorian two storey masonry shops and residences. Although broadly consistent with many nineteenth century two-storey shop and house combinations, in inner suburban main road locations, including the modified ground floor shopfronts, the buildings are nevertheless distinguished by the Victorian Mannerist first floor facade. Characteristics of the style, as seen here, include the 'free' use of the classical system (classical orders) in terms of the placing and application of details, and also proportion. The detail of the first floor facade is particularly well preserved, and comparatively understated in comparison with similar commercial buildings in Melbourne of the same period. No. 219 retains an older shop front and its original clerestory.

Theme

5. Building Victoria's industries and workforce

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Heritage Gap Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Gaps Study 2012 (Heritage Gaps Amendment two), Lovell Chen, 2012;
Other Names	Shops & residences,
Hermes Number	176205
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The properties at 219-223 on the south side of Johnston Street, Abbotsford are a terrace group of three, two storey Victorian shops with combined residences. The buildings have overpainted brick and stuccoed external walls, and separate hipped roof forms clad in corrugated steel. A stuccoed and corniced chimney on the west wall of no.219 is visible from the street and aerial photographs suggest there is another chimney to the wall dividing no. 221-223, and additional chimneys to the rear of the properties.

The centre bay of the first floor facade to Johnston Street has a scroll bracket bearing the construction date '1890'. The scroll consoles are linked across the central panel by a broad floral swag. The three shops are divided by heavy rusticated piers with coffered panels at the top of each, under a prominent moulded cornice. The piers are capped above the cornice by a gabled finial pedestal. Of these, three of the four original orb finials are still in place. The windows on each first floor bay are placed within a shallow breakfront, with the window architraves being supported in the centre bay on a string course set above three further breakfront piers. Two of these breakfront piers resurface at the frieze level, to each side of the corbel supporting the dating panel. This is simplified in the flanking bays to a single apron sill. The central dating panel breaks through the parapet line with a triangular pediment, steeply pitched in the customary early 1890s manner. This is supported in the flanking bays by a simpler corbel with coffered frieze and a smaller breakfront entablature, each of these flanking entablatures holding a small swag. The tops of the outer piers on nos 219 and 223 each have small replicas of the linked scroll consoles, as a kind of capital.

At shopfront clerestory level, below the stringcourse but above the shop canopy, the piers have moulded entablatures flanking the centre bay. The entablatures at each end wall carry other swags, although that to no.223 is missing. The clerestories to no. 221-223 have been covered over or infilled, although no. 219's clerestory panes remain intact. The awnings are all later structures, connected to the first floor facade with tie rods.

On the ground floor, the shop fronts have both been remodeled in recent years and largely overpainted although 219's shopfront is of quite long standing. It comprises bevelled glass and arched door tracery indicating a date of the 1920s, if not 1890.

The rears of the properties were not inspected.

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/>