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## Morley Johnson building (former)



Morley Johnson's, 23-29 Mitchell Street

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### Location

23, 25 and 27-29 Mitchell Street BENDIGO, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

### Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO192

### Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Architecturally, because of its size and the Romanesque revival 'Stylism,' the building is prominent and visually distinctive in the Bendigo commercial streetscape. As such it contributes to a commercial precinct and provides a near complete example of a style which is uncommon in Bendigo and other provincial cities.

Historically, it has a long association with Johnson Morely & Co. who, by their longevity in Bendigo alone and the size of this structure, were prominent among furniture retailers outside Melbourne.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk & Bendigo Heritage Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1993;
Construction dates	1910,
Other Names	Johnson Morley & Co, former (Toy World),
Hermes Number	34304
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

This is an almost fanciful red brick warehouse design, using the tall-arched Romanesque revival which had arisen from American precedents and been used in Melbourne from c1900, particularly by the Tompkins brothers and Nahum Barnet.

The cemented parapet is divided into three major bays with a raised arched entablature in the centre. The attic storey divides into four, which reflects the tall-arched openings on the two levels below, with their cemented architraves and foliated capitals. Shell motifs in the arched tops to the parapet and attic-level piers combine with panel borders and fluted pilaster shafts to provide the ornament on a design which relies more on its robust tall-arched fenestration than its detailing.

## Integrity

External - Generally original on upper levels, except for blocking of openings with unrelated signs. However, the ground level is new, as is the street canopy. The central recessed shopfront entry may reflect the original plan.

*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/>*