
CHARLES STEELE & CO. FACTORY (FORMER)

Location

9-27 MICHAEL STREET,, BRUNSWICK VIC 3056 - Property No 5900

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO386

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The former Charles Steele & Co. Factory at 21 Michael Street, Brunswick, is of local historical and architectural significance. Historically, it provides evidence of the industrial development of Brunswick during the inter-War period. Aesthetically, the building is a fine example of a industrial/commercial complex in the Streamlined Moderne style, characterised by a strong horizontal emphasis in both composition and decorative detailing. It remains as a prominent element in the streetscape.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990; Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review. Additional Building Citations, Allen Lovell and Associates, 2001; Moreland - Northern Suburbs Factory Study, Vines, G and M, Churchward, 1992; Moreland - Moreland City Council: Local Heritage Places Review, Context Pty Ltd, 2004;
Other Names	Pioneer Crucible Steel Works, Sheffield Steel Works,
Hermes Number	58961
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The building at 21 Michael Street is a double-storey brick factory in the Streamlined Moderne style. The roof behind the parapet of the two storey portion is low pitched corrugated steel, while the single-storey section has a corrugated steel sawtooth form which continues over the factory behind. The elongated asymmetrical facade is divided by a vertical "skyscraper" element to the stair and entry. This vertical element is rendered concrete and has vertical fin mouldings, a long narrow window to the stair, a flagpole and a cantilevered canopy over the entry. Bays of aluminium-framed fixed and awning sashes have replaced the original steel-framed windows. The clinker brickwork is delineated by banding of recessed red and cream brick.

The aluminium-framed front entry doors have a decorative steel security grille door with Art Deco motifs. The entry steps and foyer are terrazzo. The building has been altered at the north-east corner where there is a change in the colour of the brickwork and a different arrangement of windows. A row of large piers and an external wall are located internally at the point where the building may have once finished, further evidence of alterations. A saw tooth roof single storey factory space extends behind the office.

Context:

One of a number of factories adjacent to the Upfield railway line.

Condition and integrity:

In good condition and substantially intact to the 1940s remodeling of the works.

Key Architectural Elements:

Asymmetrical massing of strong horizontal and vertical elements

Ribbon banding of windows and polychromatic brick coursing

Emphasis of entry and stair with vertical skyscraper form with Art Deco motifs

Conservation Guidelines:

Remove intrusive signage banners from facade

Comparative Examples:

Tip Top Bakery, 170 Edward Street, Brunswick (c.1940)

former Lincoln Knitting Mills, 82-92 Gaffney Street, Coburg (c.1940)

former Lincoln Knitting Mills, 37-43 Munro Street, Coburg (1936)

former Spicer Paper Mills, 1-9 Moreland Road, Coburg (1940)

It is also stylistically similar to the Union Mills in Coburg and similar in terms of an old industrial complex remodeled for a new use, it compares with Latoof and Calil in Brunswick Road.

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/>