
DOWNNS & SONS ROPE & CORDAGE WORKS (FORMER)

Location

64-72 TINNING STREET, 7-9 CASSELS ROAD, 13 & 15 LA ROSE STREET, and 1-19 & 2-16 ROPE WALK, BRUNSWICK, MORELAND CITY

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO177

HO46

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The Downs and Sons Rope and Cordage Works is of state historical and technological significance. It is one of few such remaining works in Melbourne. The buildings on the site date from 1907, but the use dates from 1888 or earlier, and as such demonstrate a long continuity of use on the site by a specialised industry. Whilst the architecture itself is of little significance, the incorporation of industry-specific built, elements such as the long rope walk, are of note.

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, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999; Moreland - Northern Suburbs Factory Study, Vines, G and M, Churchward, 1992;
Other Names	Sampson Cordage Works,

Hermes Number 59120

Property Number

Physical Description 1

64-72 Tinning Street is a two storey bichrome building with a simple gabled roof. The plain facade is of face red brick, relieved by two cream brick string courses and cream brick diamond patterns along the south facade. The ground floor windows are arranged singly, whilst those on the upper floor (apparently later additions) are arranged in pairs. All are timber-framed with double-hung sashes and rendered sills. The long gabled roof is parapeted on all sides except the east, where it terminates in a simple timber bargeboard.

7-9 Cassels Road is a single storey red brick building with cream-painted rendered plinth to facade, parapet and entrance porch. The exceedingly plain parapet sits upon square corbels and has a square profile coping. Timber-framed double-hung sash windows sit between wide brick piers. The small entrance porch has a corbelled concrete canopy and three small highlight windows between the parapet and the canopy. Externally, the building remains intact, apart from non-original aluminium-framed front entry doors.

At the rear (to the north-east) of these two buildings is a complex of red brick sawtooth-roofed factory buildings.

Key Architectural Elements: Tinning Street two-storey bichrome brick building
Cassels Road single storey face red brick and render Edwardian building with timber-framed double-hung windows

Context: The cramped site is set in a residential area that grew up after the establishment of the original 1880s rope walk.

Comparative analysis: Brunswick has had a concentration of rope works including George Jones' Rope and Twine Makers in DeCarle Street from 1897, McNally's Rope Factory in John Street, James Miller & Co. F.J. Wolfe Cordage Manufacturers in Albion Street and the Brunswick Rope Works that operated on this site from 1888 to 1898. With the recent demolition of most of Miller's works, Downs is the only intact rope works in Brunswick and the best surviving in Melbourne.

Conservation Guidelines: Tinning Street remove paint from brick parapet on south facade
Cassels Road preferably reinstate front doors to original or sympathetic design

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/>