FORMER DENTON HAT MILLS

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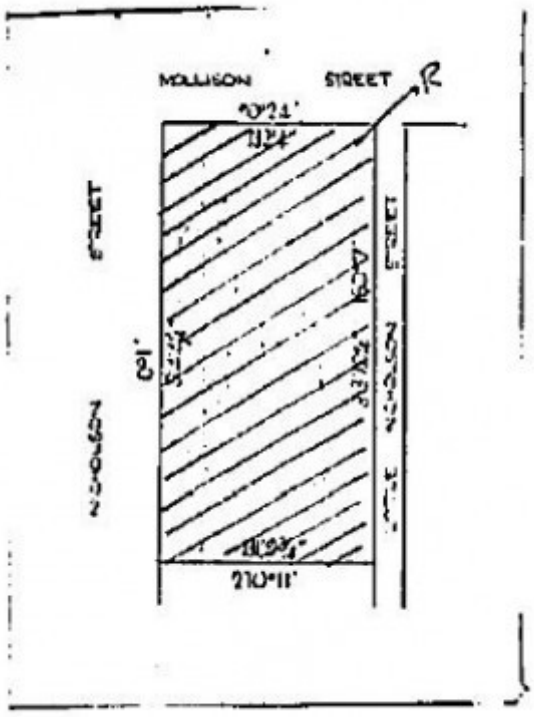
1 former denton hat mills nicholson street abbotsford front view

former denton hat mills nicholson street abbotsford delivery entrance

former denton hat mills nicholson street abbotsford detail of window



h00815 plan h0815

Location

48-60 NICHOLSON STREET ABBOTSFORD, YARRA CITY

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0815

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO40

VHR Registration

September 5, 1990

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 12, 1999

What is significant?
The former Denton Hat Mills factory complex is a large and important 19th century factory complex, comparable to similar establishments in England and America. By the 1880s the Denton Hat Mills company was a leading exporter of hats to the other Australian colonies. The existing polychrome brick factory was built c1888, replacing the factory which was established on the site by James Hobson Turner, a local tanner and Collingwood Town Councillor, in 1874. It is an example of a very early extant factory complex, its chimney stack dating from c1890. Portions of the Nicholson Street section may date from as
early as 1888.

How is it significant?
The former Denton Hat Mills factory complex is of historical, architectural and scientific significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it Significant?
The Denton Hat Mills complex has historical significance for its associations with the hat making industry and clothing trade in Melbourne since 1874. The factory rapidly grew to be one of the suburb’s largest, reflecting the prosperity of the Denton Hat Mills company. Three early prominent hat manufacturers, James Hobson Turner, Thomas Shelmerdine and Thomas Davison were associated with the Mills, as well as the important merchants, importers and warehousemen, George and Leader Stevenson and, from the 1890s, the brothers John and George Bruce, principal partners in Victoria's leading softgoods house, Paterson, Laing and Bruce.

The Denton Hat Mills complex has architectural significance for its associations with the important Melbourne architect, William Pitt (1855-1918), who designed some of Melbourne's most notable buildings, including the Princess Theatre and the Rialto and Olderfleet Buildings in Collins Street. The Denton Hat Mills is one of a number of significant large factory complexes designed by Pitt. It is thought to represent some of his earliest extant factory designs, predating his 1890s work at Foy and Gibson and the Victoria Brewery and his 1909 work at Bryant and May.

The Denton Hat Mills complex is of scientific significance because it was Australia's first steam-powered hat factory and one of only ten percent of all Victorian clothing factories of the 1880s which boasted powered/mechanized plant.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don’t harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions here.

Construction dates	1888,
Architect/Designer	Pitt, William,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	7
Property Number	

History

Associated People: Tenant THOMAS SHELMERDINE, THOMAS DAVISON, ROBERT SIMON;

Plaque Citation

This former factory, built in stages from c.1888 to the 1940s, was Australia's first steam powered hat factory and a leading exporter of hats. Prominent architect William Pitt designed early 20th century additions to the complex.

Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
Historic Building No. 815:
Former Denton Hat Mills, 48-60 Nicholson Street, Abbotsford.
(The whole of the land and the buildings shown hatched in Appendix A within Certificate of Title Volume 8600 Folio 954.)
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G35 3 September 1990 p.2699]

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/