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# Foy & Gibson, Former Factory



collingwood wellington street  
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111



Foy and Gibson 011.jpg

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## Location

111 Wellington Street, COLLINGWOOD VIC 3066 - Property No 295520

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO318

## Heritage Listing

Yarra City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2014

Precinct statement of significance

Component streets include:

Cambridge Street,

Oxford Street,

Peel Street,

Wellington Street,

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Development of the Collingwood Slope (44) began in 1839 when S A Donaldson acquired the major portion of the area, consisting of lot 52 and part lots 53 and 68, and George Otter acquired the northern portion, consisting of part of lot 73.

The pattern of streets, determined by the government's pre-auction survey, yielded large allotments in a gridiron pattern ideal for speculation and intense subdivision.

Subdivision of these allotments commenced in 1848 (lot 73) and 1849 (lots 52 and 53), and by 1853 the whole of the area, bounded by Smith, Johnson and Wellington Streets and Victoria Parade, was built upon. The area was originally known as East Collingwood. It fell outside of the *Melbourne Building Act* 1849 and was rapidly developed in a relatively unplanned manner by speculators, as a place of small shops and cottages, many of timber.

By the early 1860s, Wellington Street rivalled Smith Street as a commercial precinct and many of the boot and brewing premises established on the Collingwood Slope had spread to the Flat and beyond. While the area contained predominately working class housing and manufactories of varying types, the southern area near Victoria Parade included some grander houses including Portia and Floraston, as well as a number of churches, schools and Dr Singleton's Dispensary in Wellington Street.

In 1883, Foy and Gibson established what was to become a retail and manufacturing empire in the area, when they opened a shop in Smith Street. From then until the 1920s, the entire block bounded by Smith, Wellington, Peel and Stanley Streets (originally occupied by houses, small factories and hotels) underwent a transformation into an industrial landscape which remains externally substantially intact. This major expansionary phase brought woollen mills, clothing manufacture, hosiery, bedding, metal goods and cabinet manufacture to the Heritage Overlay Area at a scale unprecedented in Melbourne at the time; this is reflected in the substantial warehouses which remain today. The Foy and Gibson complex is on the Victorian Heritage Register and hence is not in the Heritage Overlay Area but forms a major part of the history and context of the Heritage Overlay Area.

By the early 1890s the first phase of development in the area as a whole was almost complete but has since been eroded by mostly post-Second War development.

The MMBW plan of 1898 shows street trees in approximately the locations of the existing plane trees in Peel St as part of the urban fabric extant by the turn of the century. No trees were shown in Stanley St.

Main development era

The main development period evident in the heritage overlay is that of the Victorian era. There is also a contribution from some well preserved Edwardian-era and inter-war factory buildings and individually significant places of all eras.

Contributory elements

The Collingwood Slope Heritage Overlay Area includes contributory residential buildings as typically (but not exclusively) attached Victorian-era mainly two-storey houses having:

- . Pitched gabled or hipped roofs, with facade parapets;
- . Row house form;
- . Face brick (red, bichrome and polychrome), or stucco walls;
- . Corrugated iron roof cladding, with some slate roofing;

- . Chimneys of either stucco finish or of face brickwork (with moulded caps);
- . Post-supported verandah elements facing the street, with cast-iron detailing;
- . Less than 40% of the street wall face comprised with openings such as windows and doors;
- . Narrow front paved front yards, originally bordered by typically timber or iron picket front fences of around 1m height.

The Collingwood Slope Heritage Overlay Area also includes contributory residential buildings as typically (but not exclusively):

- . Victorian-era shops and residences
  - In an attached and mainly two-storey form with the elements described above for residences; and
  - With timber-framed show windows, shopfront plinths, recessed shopfront entries, and zero boundary setbacks;
- . Well preserved buildings including mainly two storey industrial buildings from pre Second War era, with zero side and front boundary setbacks.
- . Mature street tree plantings (plane trees) in Peel Street; and
- . Public infrastructure, expressive of the Victorian-era such as bluestone pitched road paving, crossings, stone kerbs, and channels, and asphalt paved footpaths.

Also a significant landmark within the heritage overlay (but not part of it because of its listing on the Victorian Heritage Register) is the Foy and Gibson complex with:

- . Face red brick walls, in a parapeted form
- . Cemented dressings to parapets
- . One, two and up to five floor levels
- . Timber framed windows and large entry doorways, originally with boarded ledged and braced doors;
- . Less than 40% of the street wall face comprised with openings such as windows and doors, symmetrically arranged on the street facade.

How is it significant?

HO318 Collingwood Slope Heritage Overlay Area is **socially, aesthetically and historically** significant to the City of Yarra (National Estate Register[NER] Criteria E1, A4)

Why is it significant?

The Collingwood Slope Heritage Overlay Area is significant:

- . As a remnant area of substantially 19th mixed commercial, residential and industrial development that once typified the area and is distinguished by its high integrity with many surviving original shopfronts;
- . For the contribution provided by well preserved Edwardian-era and inter-war factory buildings;
- . For the area's historic context created by the massive and substantially intact former Foy and Gibson factory/warehouse complex, a red brick and rendered complex dating predominantly from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The complex is characterised by a strong sense of mass and a consistency of materials (predominantly red brick with rendered dressings). The former Foy and Gibson complex is of particular significance: this retail and manufacturing empire, established in 1883, was an early example of a new type of retail venture which was based on the earliest department stores in Europe and the United States. The complex was also considered to be technologically advanced for its large scale use of steam and electric power;

. As a destination for many Melbournians who were employed here (particularly, the former Foy and Gibson complex), and to members of the community who travelled both from within the local area, and from further afield, to shop there and at the Foy and Gibson stores;.

. For the early street layouts, together with most original bluestone kerbs and guttering survive. These elements provide an appropriate setting for this collection of buildings and the mature *Platanus* street trees further enhance the period expression of the Heritage Overlay Area; and

. For key buildings of individual historical and architectural significance.

## References

44 Extends from Stanley Street south to Peel. Street and includes Little Oxford, Oxford, Cambridge and Wellington. Streets, adjoining the Collingwood Flat

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - City of Collingwood Conservation Study, Andrew Ward & Associates, 1989; Yarra - City of Collingwood Conservation Study, Andrew Ward & Associates, 1995; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1998; Yarra - City of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Construction dates	1890,
Hermes Number	93450
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 2

Proclaim Property Database: part 108 Cambridge St, shared property number

## Integrity

Good

*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/>*