

Melbourne Tramway & Omnibus Co. Ltd Cable Tram Depot, Former, later part Rydges Riverwalk hotel complex.



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Omnibus Cable Tram Depot



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Cable Car Engine House
Shed

Location

649 Bridge Road, RICHMOND VIC 3121 - Property No 168890

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO228

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The following wording is from the Allom and Lovell Building Citation, 1998 for the property. Please note that this is a "Building Citation", not a "Statement of Significance". For further information refer to the Building Citation held by the City of Yarra.

History:

The tram depot in Bridge Road, Richmond, was the first of 15 tram shed complexes built between 1885 and 1891 to house the Melbourne cable trams. The depots were built by the Melbourne Tramway & Omnibus Co. Ltd. which owned and operated the service. The tracks and eleven cable winding engine houses were built by the Melbourne Tramways Trust and leased to the company until 1916. Thereafter, the system was vested in a Tramways Board. Prior to 1885, the company operated an extensive service of horse-drawn omnibuses and the cable tram network virtually followed of the omnibus routes. The Richmond Depot was closed in 1927.

The former Tram Depot is now part of the Rydges Riverwalk hotel complex.

Description:

The facade of the original cable tram depot is presently incorporated into the six-storey Rydges Hotel complex, however it still retains its not inconsiderable aesthetic quality. The long facade is of polychromatic brickwork, with walls of brown brick articulated by red brick piers. The plinth and upper walls are also of red brick. Windows are double-hung sashes with segmental-arched heads with brown brick voussoirs and bluestone sills. Towards the east and west ends of the facade are two segmental arched openings, decorated with rendered vermiculated quoining, and crowned by rendered pediments. A moulded cornice runs across the length of the facade.

The hotel, constructed in the late 1980s, rises from behind the original single-storey facade, which is all that remains of the original structure.

Significance:

The former Richmond Cable Tram Depot, Bridge Road, Richmond, is of local architectural and historical significance. The facade is substantially intact, although its architectural significance is considerably diminished by the 1980s six-storey hotel built behind. Historically, it was the first of 15 cable tram depots to have been constructed in Melbourne, and is one of the surviving sheds of the original cable tram network, which now demonstrate the route and extent of the cable tram system.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Richmond Conservation Study, John & Thurley O'Connor, Ros Coleman & Heather Wright, 1985; 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	1885,
Hermes Number	103810
Property Number	

Physical Description 2

base level only

Physical Description 1

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Integrity

Low

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/>