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## Punshon's Federal Stores (Former)



Punshon's Federal Stores  
(Former), Hobsons Bay  
Heritage Study 2006



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### Location

82-84 Ferguson Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO123

### Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former Punshon's Federal Stores, designed by CJ Polain and constructed by James Rowsthorn in 1890, at 82-84 Ferguson Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The former Punshon's Federal Stores are of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobson's Bay.

#### Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is a building, which perhaps best illustrates the increasing importance of Ferguson Street as the main commercial centre of Williamstown during the latter half the nineteenth century. It is also notable for its original and long association with the locally important Punshon family and for its long use as a grocery. (AHC criteria A4 and H1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as perhaps the most elaborate nineteenth century commercial building in Williamstown, which is notable for its unusual and skilfully combined ornament. One of the best works by local architect, CJ Polain, it is a novel adaptation of the English Queen Anne manner and is a landmark within the historic late nineteenth and early twentieth century streetscape in this part of Ferguson Street. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Architect/Designer Polain, CJ,

Hermes Number 15054

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The former Punshon's Federal Stores is a two storeyed, parapeted brick and stuccoed shop and residence pair with a trabeated facade, in the Ionic (upper) and Tuscan (lower) orders, and an unusual trio of raised parapet entablatures. The minor entablatures are centred on individual shop facades on either side of an arched, main entablature which houses a bas-relief bust of its original owner, Punshon. Mannerist ornamentation includes the broken cornice line at each side entablature, cantilevered window bays (with arched openings) which are surmounted by broken pediments and a central prism-shaped window bay.

The former street verandah has been removed; the brickwork has been painted, and minor alterations made to the surviving shop windows and central residential entrance. One of the ground level shopfronts, altered in the 1950s, has been reconstructed.

## Integrity

External Integrity and condition

*Integrity - Moderate. Condition - Good.*

## Physical Description 2

Context

One of the small (but diverse), near original nineteenth century commercial groups at 82-90 Ferguson Street.

## Historical Australian Themes

Developing local, regional and national economies, Marketing & retailing

## Physical Description 3

### *Associations*

Robert Punshon, CJ Polain

*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/>*