

---

## Modern Building at 217- 219 Nelson Place



Modern Building at 213- 215  
Nelson Place  
WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons  
Bay Heritage Study 2006

---

### Location

217-219 Nelson Place WILLIAMSTOWN, HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO226

### Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

---

### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Modern Buildings, designed and constructed by John Garnsworthy in 1909, at 217-219 Nelson Place, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The Modern Buildings at 217-219 Nelson Place, Williamstown are of local historic, aesthetic and technical significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it was constructed for John Garnsworthy, one of Williamstown's more renowned builders and in an innovative fashion, which belies its speculative intent. (AHC criteria A4 and H1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as an unusual neo-classic design in an uncommon material, which has been altered in detail but is a valuable contribution to the commercial streetscape. It includes features innovative for the time such as the large first floor balcony. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

Technically, it is significant as an early example of concrete construction and one of two examples by the same builder in Williamstown. (AHC criteria B2 and F1)

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

Architect/Designer Garnsworthy, John,

Hermes Number 22206

Property Number

---

## Physical Description 1

An unusual commercial form built from an uncommon vesiculated concrete masonry and stuccoed in-situ concrete. Using a simplified and free use of classical ornament, the shops' upper levels are divided by ogee-profile walls, one extending forward of the other, which makes the stepped nature of the two facades: 219 being forward of 217. Both feature upper level terraces.

Central to, but detached from both, is an elevated broken pediment, with a shell in the entablature frieze, which depicts the buildings' name and is placed on the parapet to the lower level facade which is in turn built on the property line. Comparable contemporary buildings using this vesiculated masonry exist in Camberwell (domestic examples) but otherwise it is uncommon in this period.

Changes to the original fabric include:

- The shopfronts, which are not original but are related.
- Frameless glass balustrading that has been added to the terrace (this possibly replaced an earlier balustrade) with a fabric awning over, obscuring the upper facade.
- The tiling of the corner walls.

## Integrity

External Integrity and condition

*Integrity* - Moderate. *Condition* - Good

## Physical Description 2

Context

Contributes to the nineteenth century commercial streetscape of Nelson Place.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Developing Local, Regional and National Economies, Marketing & retailing

## **Physical Description 3**

### *Associations*

John Garnsworthy

*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/>*