
ETA Factory



HO83(1) - Eta Factory, 254 Ballarat Road, Braybrook.JPG



HO83(2) - Eta Factory, 254 Ballara Road, Braybrook.JPG



HO83(3) - Eta Factory, 254 Ballarat Road, Braybrook.JPG

Location

254 Ballarat Road BRAYBROOK, Maribyrnong City

Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1916

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO83

Heritage Listing

Maribyrnong City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The ETA factory is of historical and architectural significance at the State level as an important translation of contemporary American factory design practice to an Australian building which demonstrates both the growth of awareness in overseas factory and architectural design. It is of Architectural significance for its association with the important Australian practice of Frederick Romberg and the partnership of Grounds, Romberg and Boyd and for its place in the development of the glass curtain wall in an industrial context. (Criterion A3) As one of the earliest applications of the glass curtain wall in Victoria, and a rare application to industrial structures, the ETA factory contributes to our understanding of industrial development in the region, comparable locally with very few other examples, one being BP Lubricants in Spotswood. (Criterion C2) The Frederick Romberg design stands as a high point in the International Modern style, while the combination of building, landscaped garden and sculpture epitomises the integrated design philosophy of the Modernist movement. (Criterion E1)

The factory also reflects the 1950s growth of industry from its animal by-products beginnings in the Braybrook area and the confidence of industry in the period of post war revitalisation, while the significance of ETA as a major food producing company and household name of the post War period is demonstrated in the scale and form of the building. (Criterion A4) The landscaped courtyard, with surviving original plantings and the Zikaras sculpture contributes and is intrinsic to the overall design. Similarly, the cantilevered staircase and internal finishes of the entrance vestibule make an important contribution to the place.

Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) criteria

The Australian Heritage Commission criteria consist of a set of eight criteria which cover social, aesthetic, scientific, and historic values. Each criterion has sub-criteria written specifically for cultural or natural values. The relevant criteria are:

A.3 richness and diversity of cultural features

C.2 research potential

E.1 aesthetic importance to the community or cultural group

A.4 demonstrates well the course and pattern of history, important historic events

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Maribyrnong - Maribyrnong Heritage Review, Jill Barnard, Graeme Butler, Francine Gilfedder & Gary Vines, 2000; |
| Construction dates | 1956, |
| Hermes Number | 28353 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Early example of "curtain wall" construction and application to industrial building. Coloured glass walls in aluminium frames with exposed diagonal trusses. The building forms a facade to the more utilitarian sawtooth roof factory behind but is detached from it, separated by a landscaped courtyard garden but linked by a continuous cantilevered loading bay canopy which forms the fourth side of the courtyard.

Within the courtyard is the sculpture and fountain by artist Teisutis (Joe) Zikaras featuring two cast concrete sections of curving forms in a delicate sense of balance, placed in a circular concrete basin filled with water and edged with basalt boulders. Four copper discs on opposite sides were meant to direct water onto the sculpture but have remained blocked. Remnants of the original integrated landscape design can be seen, including cactus and cordyline in the courtyard. Angular and zig-zag paths and pebble borders are only evident in fragments.

The glass and aluminium construction continues around the sides and back giving the building a stand-alone integrity unusual for factory offices. A cantilevered, "floating" stair case enclosed by the glass wall forms the prominent entrance feature. A service tower stands above the roof line as a projecting geometric form originally carrying the ETA brand name.

Physical Conditions

In fair condition. Partitioning of the factory into smaller rental units and the consequent uncoordinated repainting and signage has diminished the uniform effect of the curtain wall facade. Lack of maintenance is also apparent.

Integrity

Intact apart from replacement of some coloured panes of glass with unsympathetic clear or painted panels.

Physical Description 2

One of a number of large industrial sites along Ballarat Road in the Braybrook area, with Pilkington's contemporary factory nearby.

Historical Australian Themes

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme Manufacturing and Processing

PAHT Subtheme: Manufacturing and Processing

Local Theme Industry Pushing Outwards:

Physical Description 3

Creation date(s): 1956 -60

Map (Melway) 27 DII

Boundary description The extent of the current allotment

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/>