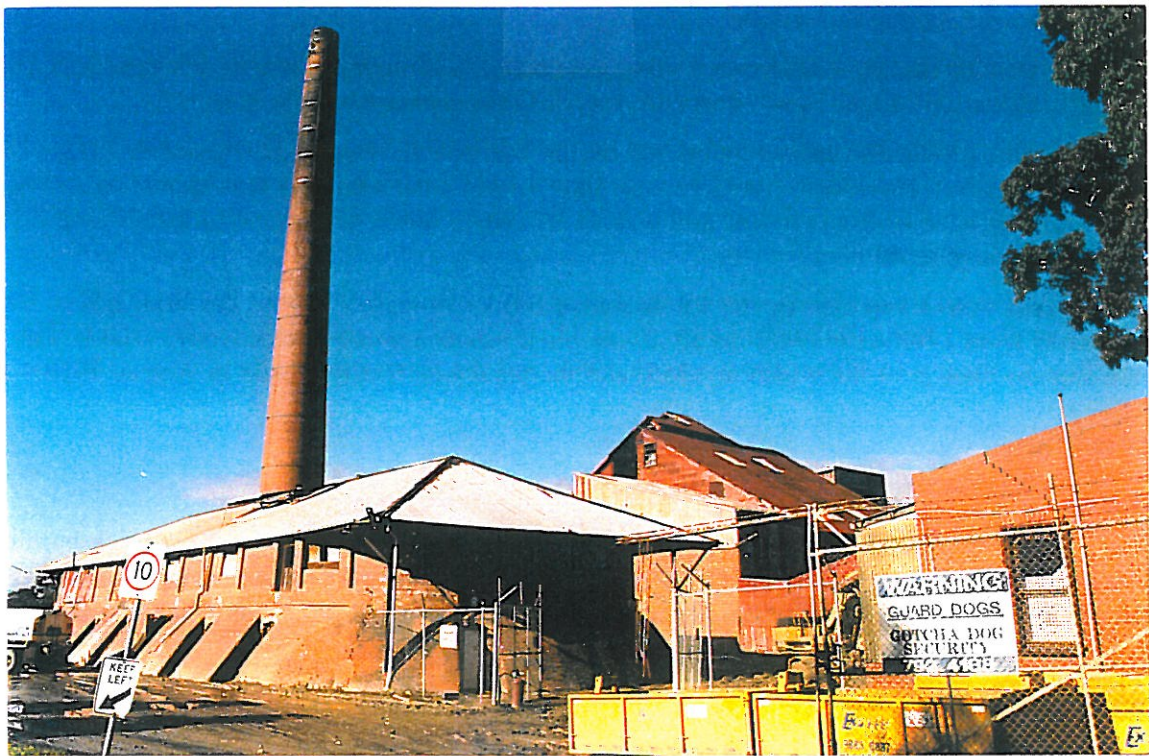


Building:	Former Standard Brickworks	Significance:	A
Address:	14 Federation Street, Box Hill	Melway May Ref:	47 B11
Building Type:	Brickworks	Construction Date:	1912 onwards
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:
G[] F[x] P[]

Condition:
G[] F[x] P[]

Existing Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register [x]
Register of the National Estate []
National Trust [x]

Recommended Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register [x]
Register of the National Estate [x]
Heritage Overlay Controls [x]

History

The following historical information is derived from the Heritage Victoria citation for the Former Standard Brickworks:

The Box Hill Brickworks had its origin the 1880s. In 1884, a prospectus was issued for the Haughton Park Brick Company Ltd, Box Hill, proposing to produce machine and handmade bricks, tiles, earthenware and porcelain on a 30-acre site on the corner of Elgar and Canterbury Roads. One of the directors was Peter Behrendt, a civil engineer and architect and agent for Continental Clay Products. Behrendt was said to be adept in the manufacture of Dresden and other high class terracotta and porcelain works.

In 1886 the company changed its name to the Box Hill Brick Company Ltd. The year 1889 was a peak year for brick making in the Melbourne, and in 1890 the company declared its first dividend. With the industry in decline in the 1890s the company did not pay a dividend in 1891, and in 1892, production was suspended. Following a change in ownership and a lease by the rival Co-operative Brick Company, the site was sold in 1905 and the clay pit became the popular swimming hole known as the Surrey Dive.

None of the nineteenth century brickworks buildings remains, although the manager's residence, constructed in 1889 at 366 Elgar Road, Box Hill, remains (see separate datasheet).

In about 1911, brick production had again started on the site near the Surrey Dive, and in 1913, this became the Standard Brick and Tile Company Ltd. In 1913 the company was extending its plant, and an 18 chamber Hoffman patent kiln was under construction, with plans to install four brick presses, and employ 40 men.

In 1938, the works were taken over by the Co-operative Brick Company. Due to the War, the plant was closed from 1942 until 1946. In 1952, the plant was converted to electricity. The Brick and Pipe Company took over the works in 1966, and the plant was finally closed in August 1988.

Description

Hoffman Kiln

The kiln is a standard 18 wicket Hoffman kiln with elongated endless tunnel for brick burning, flues and central chimney stack with gas firing from tunnel roof. The tunnel has characteristic battered walls and the main hipped roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel and penetrated by a tall, tapered round chimney. The wickets are steel.

Brick Press and Mill

The press building with blacksmith's shop is a of brick construction on its lower levels with segmental arched openings and timber roof structure extending with an angled roof to the clay receiving facilities overlooking the quarry. The upper levels are clad in corrugated galvanised steel. The mill section is a recent steel-framed structure with corrugated galvanised steel cladding.

There are four Otis presses and one Anderson press in various stages of removal. The blacksmith's shop has a forge and is fully equipped. The three edge runner (Chilean) mills include plant manufactured by W. Anderson and Sons (Melbourne and Richmond). The mills and belts are intact.

Loco Shed

The former locomotive shed (later an electricity substation) is a small L shaped gable roofed red brick building with an altered west-facing opening. Gable-ends are clad in weatherboard clad and two early windows have been bricked up.

Office

The office and sales building is a small red brick single-storey building with parapet walls and lean-to roof extended to form a covered way. Corners are formed with bull nosed bricks.

The site also includes the quarry, which dates from 1918.

Comparative Examples

Former Nubrik Brickworks, Dawson Street, Brunswick (Hoffman kilns)

Former Nubrik Brickworks, 78 Middleborough Road, Burwood East (tunnel kiln)

Daniel Robertson Brickworks, 58 Station Street, Nunawading (tunnel kilns)

Significance

The following Statement of Significance is primarily derived from the Heritage Victoria citation for the Former Standard Brickworks (H720):

The former Standard Brickworks is of outstanding historical and technological significance.

The complex is the rare remnant of a series of brick and tilemaking works which were established in the eastern suburbs between the 1880s and the 1940s. The complex comprises a rare and unusually intact brickmaking plant of the early twentieth century. The site retains material evidence from all the stages of the brick production process from clay extraction to despatch of finished bricks.

Until the closure of the works in 1988, the Hoffman patent brickmaking kiln was one of the last such operative kilns in Victoria.

The distinctive form and internal fittings of the clay mill building provide evidence of superseded brickmaking processes and ancillary trades, in particular the tramway system for hauling clay, and the blacksmith's shop. The grinding pans and brick press machinery on site exhibit the same fundamental technology which was introduced with the industrialisation of brickmaking to Victoria in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Source

Andrew C Ward & Associates. *City of Box Hill Heritage and Conservation Study*. 1990.

Additional Historical Information

Heritage Victoria citation. Former Standard Brickworks. 1989.

