Moreland City Council

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Spicers Paper Mills

Location:
1 Moreland Road, Coburg VIC 3056 - Property No 20677

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:
Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Number: HO117
Listing Authority: Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance:
Spicer's Paper Mills at 1 Moreland Road, Coburg is of State aesthetic significance as an example of the works of Oakley & Parks in an industrial context and an interesting example of the Dutch Modernist style as applied to a large industrial complex.

Description

Spicer's Paper Mills comprises a complex of brick factory buildings including a two and three storey office, two story processing building and single storey saw tooth roof factory. The facade curves around from Murray Road to present a Southern and Western aspect. This is constructed in the Dutch Modernist style in cream brick with a white string course above the first floor windows and white rendered framing around the ground floor windows. The entrance is on a curved corner with a glazed tile surround and deeply recessed door surmounted by a verandah. The building sits on an elevated platform with a brick retaining wall along the street edge. The fall in the land from west to east provides for a basement floor on the east side. Windows are metal glazed with hopper sash openings. A four storey tower behind the entrance is in the form of an airport control tower and is surmounted by a flagpole. Behind this facade the remainder of the factory is in an unexceptional red brick saw tooth roof building. Additions to the factory such as the loading bay and canopy have been executed in a sympathetic style although they obscure part of the original 1940s facade.

Context:
Adjacent to the Merri Creek, which may have been a water supply to the factory or, more likely, a drain, considering the polluted state of the creek at that time. Also nearby is the large Hilton textile mill.

Condition and integrity:
In good condition, but extensively altered with the addition of new structures along the western side.

Comparative analysis:
A few large industrial complexes have employed the Dutch Modernist style. Local examples include the

additions to Lincoln Mills in Coburg and the Tip Top factory in Brunswick.

Heritage Study / Consultant	Moreland - City of Coburg Heritage Conservation & Streetscape Study, Timothy Hubbard Pty Ltd , 1991; Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1999; Moreland - Northern Suburbs Factory Study, Vines, G and M, Churchward , 1992
Construction Date Range	- 1920
Architect / Designer	Carleton Carleton & Oakley
Municipality	MERRI-BEK CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	56684
Property number	20677

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online