

Place name Cowwarr Butter Factory (former)

Survey Date:

Other name

Id:

735

Street Main Street, Traralgon Maffra Road

Last Update

Locality Cowwarr

Postcode 3857

Official Locality

Property No

Local Government Area Wellington Shire

Property Info

Precinct: Not in precinct

Easting

Northing

Map Cowwarr Town Map

Workshop number

Workshop votes

Field survey number

Community priority

Designer

Builder

Ownership

Built Date 1918

Change Date

Description The two storey building, which once had gargoyles on the red brick tile roof, is a mixture of Queen Anne style, French Chateau and Arts and Crafts. Some windows have been added but basically few major alterations have been made to the exterior other than to replace the hole made by the boiler with a large bay window. The internal roof was lifted in the 1950s to allow the spray dryer for the powdered milk products to be installed. The walls are reinforced pise with a suspended slab ceiling with mesh sections in one section which is very unusual for the period. The external walls are rendered in cement based render with fine river quartz pebbles or aggregate. Interior walls are cement lined, then tiled in the wash down areas with plaster rendering in the upper areas. The roof tiles come from Cornwell's Potteries in Brunswick although the owner feels that some may have been imported from South Africa or India. The chimney dominates the landscape. The building inside has been renovated to make private living spaces, however the original sloping floor, cork lined walls in the cheese room, cool stores, tiled walls and large open spaces remain. Living space has been created around the central chamber by installing an open mezzanine floor. (RNE 018434)

Condition and Integrity : The chimney is intact apart from the loss of the lightning indicator and some bricks are loose at the top of the chimney. The gargoyles on the roof have been removed however one remains in a shed. (RNE 018434)

Title Details: C/T;Vol 9773;Folio 494;From: 01/01/18;To: 09/01/97

Now Gallery and art space and private residence (Les Hooker July 2001).

Condition

Integrity

History

Heritage Protections	Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
	National Trust Register	B6078		Listed
	Planning Scheme	HO66		Listed
	Register of the National Estate	018434		Recommended
	Victorian Heritage Register	H1282		Listed

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed & protected **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

Final Ranking State significance **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

Statement of significance The former Cowwarr Butter Factory is a one and two-storey reinforced concrete building, constructed in 1918 to replace an earlier cheese and butter factory.

The building was constructed in the Arts and Crafts style. The butter factory was built in an era which saw many small butter factories constructed in dairying areas. Improvement in road transport and the handling of milk in bulk led to the closure of all but the largest and most centrally located factories. The Cowwarr factory ceased operations as a factory in 1959 (as a result of factory amalgamations) and is now used as an art centre/gallery.

The former Cowwarr Butter Factory is of architectural and historical importance to the State of Victoria.

The former Cowwarr Butter Factory is architecturally significant as a rare example of an industrial building employing Arts and Crafts design traditions.

The distinctive styling and concrete construction define the building as an extraordinary example of a factory, particularly in the context of the many other cheese butter factories built in Victoria in the early 20th century. The Cowwarr factory is important as an architecturally distinctive building which still retains elements of its original butter factory form, particularly the boiler mountings, draft channels and chimney.

The former Cowwarr Butter Factory is historically significant for its associations with the Gippsland dairy industry which has been of critical importance to the development of the region and the State. (Heritage Victoria Register, 1282)

The decorative Chateau style of the building and its large chimney are substantial reminders of the importance of such a major industry in a small country town. . (National Trust Register, B6078)
The extensive use of trimmings and special design indicate that local shareholders in the cooperative thought the industry of sufficient importance to spend a great deal of money more than necessary to make their buildings attractive as well as functional. The reinforced slab ceiling and pise walls are rare in such an industrial building and unusual for that period. Although the building has undergone some renovations and is now an art gallery and private home, these do not detract from its social and historic importance. The evidence of railway access and accompanying small station are also significant. It is a splendid example of the success of recycling industrial buildings. . (National Trust Register, B6078)

Extent of designation To the extent of:

Informant

Notes

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Bibliography

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