

FORMER GAS INSPECTOR'S RESIDENCE

1 Gleadell Street

History and Description

Built for the Metropolitan Gas Company in 1883, as the gas inspectors residence, this building is all that remains of the Richmond gasworks.

The Metropolitan Gas Company was formed by the amalgamation in 1878 of The City of Melbourne Gas and Coke Company (est. 1853) which was supplying gas to Richmond by 1858; the Collingwood, Fitzroy and District Gas and Coke Company and the South Melbourne Gas Company.

By 1880 the Company was hiring out gas stoves and by 1939 gas space heating was being widely used in theatres, churches, factories and offices. The Company also pioneered the use of electric arc welding in 1941.

In 1950 the Metropolitan and Brighton Gas Companies merged to form the Gas and Fuel Corporation, the other metropolitan supplier, the Colonial Gas Association elected to retain its independence.

By the end of 1970 the Melbourne metropolitan area had been converted to natural gas and the gas holders dismantled.

The gas inspector's residence is in polychromatic brickwork in a style almost identical to the original town hall, post office and police station complex opposite. It is now owned by the Education Department.

Statement of Significance

This unusually well detailed and constructed residence is all that remains of the Richmond gasworks.

References

Keating, John The Lambert Flame M.U.P. 1974.
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Gas and Fuel Corporation.

