

HISTORY : Built in 1893,¹ the plan shown on the 1897 MMBW plan 1062 is similar to that extant today. The designer was John A.B. Koch, (1845-1928). Koch migrated to Melbourne from Hamburg in 1855. By 1870 he was practising as an architect. Over 60 buildings, mostly in Richmond, where he was City Architect in 1887 and Hawthorn where he lived from 1896, have been attributed to him. He was City Architect to Melbourne from 1873. He designed Mietta's; Record Chambers, Collins Street; Labassa, Caulfield; Lutheran Church Parsonage, East Melbourne and also the Spread Eagle Hotel, 370 Bridge Road (1885) and the Prince Alfred Hotel, 619 Church Street, 1899-1900.²

Early in 1893, Richmond newspapers reported that the contract for a new Fire Brigade Station had been given to John Gahan of Colingwood.³ It was opened by the Mayor on 4 May 1893. Inside, the two-storeyed building included an "engine and hose-cart house, stable, and office and nine apartments".⁴

The Station has probably undergone changes since its closure in 1966(?).⁵ A recent "Age" article described the conversion of the building for its current private owner.⁶

VISUAL DESCRIPTION : Double-storey red brick, two-bay fire station with render dressings in a U-plan. It has a hip-roof with the right hand set forward for the vehicular entry, as a parapet gable, corbelled. This has a cornice and frieze. There is a render band at springing height and a broad moulded band at first-storey, with embossed name and a lamp. There are window pairs in each bay. At first-storey these have round heads with keystones and segmental head at ground.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS : Comparable to : North and South Melbourne Fire Stations, Cedric Ballantyne (both 1893); Eastern Hill Fire Station (1891-92) Smith & Johnson; and other John A.B. Koch buildings such as : 10 Waltham Place, the minister's residence; German Lutheran Church Parliament Place, East Melbourne, 1890; the Lutheran Church, 53 Victoria Street, Doncaster, 1892 and the Prince Alfred, 619 Church Street (ref : 159).

SIGNIFICANCE : An early fire station, designed by John A.B. Koch, architect in 1893. Of local architectural and historic significance.

INTACTNESS : Converted for use as a house. Roofing replaced with glazed Marseilles tiles, a rear double-storey verandah appears to have been removed and some minor windows sealed.

CONDITION & THREATS : Very good, well maintained.

- REFERENCES :**
1. Richmond Historical Society file. MFB records.
 2. Bede Nairn & Geoffrey Searle, (General Editors), Australian Dictionary of Biography Volume 9 1891-1939. (MUP) Melbourne 1983, pp.632 & 633.
 3. Richmond Australian, 4 February 1893.
Richmond Guardian, 4 February 1893.
R&BHS, "Fire Fighting, Richmond : Fire Brigades", file.
 4. Richmond Guardian, 13 May 1893.
 5. R&BHS "Fire Fighting, Richmond : Fire Brigades", file.
Age, 5 September 1990, p.39.
 6. Age, 21 July 1992.