



**BOKHARA.**

**1 VIEW STREET.**

Solicitor General of New South Wales, William M Manning, subdivided Charles Roemer's Crown Portion, purchased in 1840 and began sales in 1854. He created the Alphington village, Terra Street, and Roemer Crescent<sup>1</sup>.

East of Roemer Crescent, a road turned from Bank Street (Lucerna Cr.) followed the crescent to its centre and then headed south to the Terra River.

In May 1854, Manning sold lots 43-4 to George Fitzsimmons. Lots 40 and 39 also went to Fitzsimmons to provide a total of six acres and two rods of rural land, fronting the Terra<sup>2</sup>.

Forty years later, in 1892, Alfred Fridham had built the first stage of Bokhara at the top part of the site<sup>3</sup>.

Fridham was a butcher and probably used his six acres towards that purpose. Thomas Kings<sup>4</sup> had established a butcher's shop and abattoirs, in the 1860 s, on the Hadilberg Road directly to the north and thus completed the necessary chain from the paddocks by the river to the shop window by the roadside.

Fridham had his own premises, however, at Metropolitan Meat Market and no doubt gave them priority<sup>4</sup>.

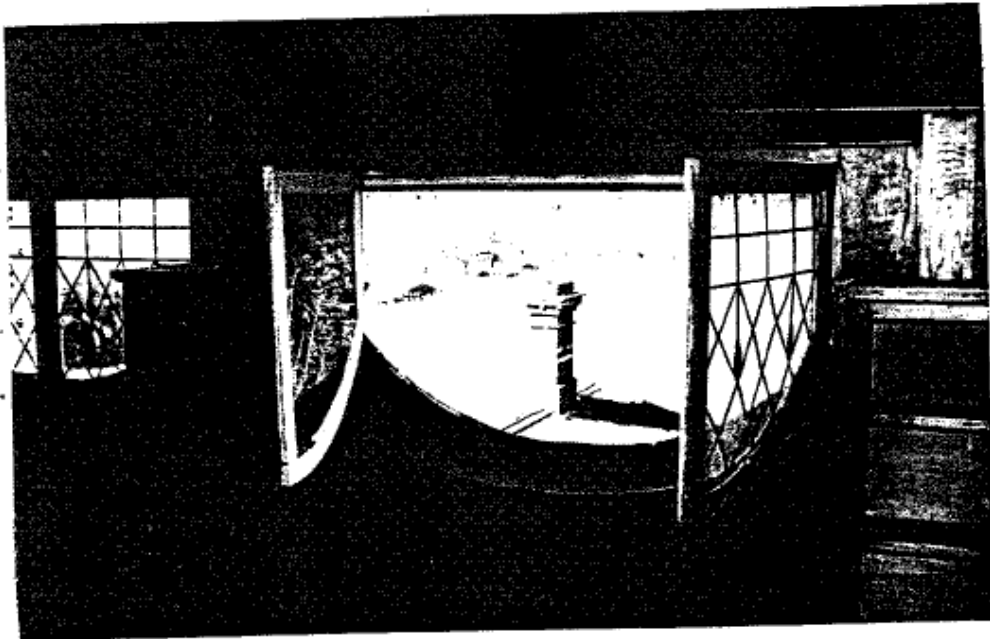
1892

By 1900 Fridham was leasing his property to John Hinnuman, a dairyman, and after him William McDonald. Within the next five years the tobacco merchant, David W Keir, had purchased Bokhara and was again leasing it to those with rural pursuits such as Joseph Davis, a fruit merchant and John S Cougle, a butcher<sup>5</sup>.

Keir came to live at Bokhara after the first decade of 1900 but it seems, prior to this, he erected a strange tower to the north of the house<sup>6</sup>. Keir remained there for about thirty-five years: selling to James Robert McFabb in the late 1940 s<sup>7</sup>.

The first part of Bokhara was a triple-fronted, hip-roof house of polychrome brickwork. A return verandah with a convex roof and cast-iron columns and friezes, face to the river and the east.

Bokhara's roof is of corrugated iron. Internally, there is the typical, arched hallway with remnants of an embossed dado and border papers. Some rooms show renovations from the c1910 era whilst still retaining the Victorian ceiling roses and one rose is of an unusual design, containing plaster putti. The second part is the three-level, brick and stucco tower, built c1909-10.



Reputedly the upper level, with its diamond pane lunettes, and commanding views over the six acres of river flats, was built as a billiard room. It has stained plywood panelling to both the pitched ceiling and the walls; with inbuilt cupboards which divide the inverted curve of the sills. The lower levels appear to be service rooms and possess

typical multi-casement windows.

Architecturally, the house is undistinguished but the tower is unusual and possesses considerable aesthetic value. As well, it illustrates a typical response, in a unique form to the siting and views of the Yarra valley as seen in other buildings in Alphington Street and Park Crescent.

