

Drill Hall complex (29/22 Battalion), 16-26 George Street, Fitzroy

(see also 31-43 Lt Victoria St)

Heritage overlay: HO334

City of Yarra Property Number: 291580

What is significant?

The former Drill Hall complex (29/22 Battalion), at 16-26 George Street, Fitzroy, was created in 1936 for the Commonwealth of Australia Defence Department and has historical associations with persons such as those who served in the Australian Infantry 29/22 Battalion. The place has a good integrity to its creation date.

Fabric from the creation date at the Drill Hall complex is locally significant within the City of Yarra, compared to other similar places from a similar era.

How is it significant?

The Drill Hall complex at 16-26 George Street, Fitzroy is historically and architecturally significant to the locality of Fitzroy and the City of Yarra.

Why is it significant?

The Drill Hall complex (29/22 Battalion) is significant as a monumental and significant Moderne style clinker and red brick drill hall, in the manner of other significant pre WW2 hall designs in A'Beckett St and Victoria St, Melbourne, created under local Commonwealth Works Director, Chief Architect Horace J Mackennal, as a strategic preparation for the coming world conflict.

'This robustly detailed Inter War clinker and red brick building is ... quite a well detailed building The building was formerly a hall, though it has recently been sympathetically converted to multi residential use. The building incorporates single storey pavilions flanking the front entry with rusticated banding, corbelled soldier course parapet capping and multi paned metal framed windows. The hall itself is a simple gable ended structure employing red and clinker brick in combination. There is a dwarf brick fence along the street frontage.' (Wight 2001)

References:

Municipal rate books:

VPRS 4301/P/0001

City of Fitzroy / East Ward

Rate year/Rate no./Occupier/Owner/Description /NAV

1944/45; Between 1723 and 1724; Commonwealth of Australia ; Commonwealth of Australia ; 18-22 George St, Brick Drill Hall;

1940/41; Between 1737 and 1738; Commonwealth of Australia ; Commonwealth of Australia Defence Dept; (18-22 George St) Brick Drill Hall;

1939/40; Between 1737 and 1738; Commonwealth of Australia ; Commonwealth of Australia Defence Dept.; (18-22 George St) Brick Drill Hall;

1938/39; Between 1737 and 1738; Commonwealth of Australia ; Commonwealth of Australia Defence Dept.; (18-22 George St) Brick Drill Hall;

1937/38; Between 1737 and 1738; Commonwealth of Australia ; Commonwealth of Australia Defence Dept.; (18-22 George St) Brick Drill Hall;

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1936/37; Between 1739 and 1740; Commonwealth of Australia ; Commonwealth of Australia Defence Dept,; (18-22 George St) Brick Drill Hall;
1935/36; Between 1739 and 1740; Commonwealth of Australia ; Commonwealth of Australia Defence Dept,; Commonwealth of Australia Defence Dept, (18-22 George St) Brick House;
1934/35; Between 1740 and 1741; Blank; Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and Defence Dept ; (no 22) Brick House, 9 rooms;
1741; Perman Sylvester, wood merchant; Deighton changed to Commonwealth of Australia (Defence Dept); 18 Brick house, 4 rooms; 50
1933/34; 1743; Fitzgerald Mary L. H Keeper, crossed out; Wannemacher crossed out to read Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Victoria Pde; 22 George St, Brick House, 9 rooms; 115
1744; Perman Cyril, wood dealer; Deighton Sa Mrs, Est Excrs and agency; 18 George St, brick House 4 rooms ; 50
1932/33; 1743; Fitzgerald Mary L. H Keeper; Wannemacher Matilda, 16 Brown St, Kew, Casey agt; 22 George St, Brick House, 9 rooms; 120
1744; Perman Cyril, wood merchant; Deighton Sa Mrs, Est Excrs and agency; 18 George St, brick House 4 rooms ; 50
1931/32; 1743; Fitzgerald Mary L. H Keeper; Wannemacher Matilda, 16 Brown St, Kew, Casey agt; 22 George St, Brick House, 9 rooms; 120
1744; Perman Sylvester, Carrier; Deighton Saml Excrs and agency; 18 George St, brick House 4 rooms ; 50

Melbourne or Victorian directories:

East Side

1950; 18 Defence Dept of Army (H.Q directorate of psychology)

1944/45; 18 Drill Hall

1940; 18 Drill Hall (29th Bttn), 18 O'Connor Ambrose

1937; 18 Drill Hall (29/22 Battn)

18 O'Connor Ambrose

1936; Drill Hall (29/22 Battn)

1935; 18 Perman S., Wood Yard

Other references:

Butler, G 1983 RAIA 20th Century Architecture Survey

Wight 2001:

'This robustly detailed Inter War clinker and red brick building is somewhat at odds with the prevailing mid to late nineteenth century character of South Fitzroy, though it is quite a well detailed building in its own right. The building was formerly a hall, though it has recently been sympathetically converted to mufti residential use. The building incorporates single storey pavilions flanking the front entry with rusticated banding, corbelled soldier course parapet capping and mufti paned metal framed windows. The hall itself is a simple gable ended structure employing red and clinker brick in combination. There is a dwarf brick fence along the street frontage.'

Proclaim: many property numbers; redevelopment;