

### Significance

Architecturally, an unusual and complete Bungalow design using reinforced concrete in a distinctive manner. Historically, possibly connected with the quarrying industry.

### Glenara 80 Stephen Street

### History

Engineer, Claus Ebeling, built this house beside his blacksmith's works in 1897-8.<sup>1</sup> Ebeling had started at the corner of Stephen and Castlemaine Streets in 1885, at a blacksmith's shop previously operated by Zimmerman.

Edward Murphy's contracting business in nearby Tarrangower Street (q.v.) was a great and early impetus for Ebeling, being apparently the business community's decision to give all of their work to their local blacksmith. Another big contract source was the newly established M.M.B.W. sewerage programme which required many iron ladder rungs in man holes, during the 1890s. This concurred with Ebeling's own expansion programme, involving reconstruction of his sheds in the 1890s and the erection of this house in an area increasingly favoured by blacksmiths and ironmongers (ie. Alex Goudie, Edward Holden)<sup>2</sup>. Prior to building this house Ebeling evidently occupied a timber residence on this site as shown as a verandahless and smaller structure in the MMBW Record Plan of 1894. His works are shown on the opposite corner, built hard onto the Stephen and Castlemaine Streets' frontages.

Carriage building was also an increasing facet of the firm. With the development of local secondary industries, Ebeling's smithy became mechanized by the



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- 1 RB1897.6256; RB1899.6041
- 2 RB 1900. 6073f

installation of a lathe and the engineering work increased.<sup>1</sup> Specialization in shop repairs gave the firm a boost during and after the Second War, gaining local and American contracts. One hundred Ebeling workers laboured on ships alone in 1949.

Introduction of rolling mills and a furnace allowed the firm to fabricate their own rolled sections and sheet. This, combined with a casting foundry, equipped them well for the wartime work. This is shown by the expansion of the works in this period towards Somerville Road.

After the War, Ebelings were without their founder but they (as Ebeling & Sons Pty. Ltd.) now pursued a new direction, in the form of street cleansing equipment.<sup>2</sup> Ebeling died in 1948, having occupied this house, with his family, from its construction.<sup>3</sup>

### Description

An otherwise typical dichrome brick Italianate villa of the late 19th century, this house is understandably distinguished by its metalwork. Cast-iron in the verandah, roof ridge ornament and front fence is either unusually complete or of an atypical design. The arch in the verandah was a type of element normally used in the easier-to-construct gabled form and the ridge detail is rare. The gate is fanciful wrought iron and the flanking fence is not like the many metres of similar fence seen in Melbourne's inner suburbs, given the scrolled border introduced at its base. Iron fences were a rarity in the municipality as they were in the entire western middle suburbs.

The adjoining works show externally the expansion induced by the Second War contracts. They also show, albeit symbolically, the once typical location of factory and factory owner's residence, side by side (see Henderson's piggery). The Ebeling family owned the house into the 1980s.<sup>4</sup>

### Streetscape

Generally original, additions at rear.

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Sited beside the now much-altered works, the house has little period empathy with it. Comprising one of the city's better residential streetscapes, the adjoining and opposing housing is of a similar period and form.

### Significance

Architecturally, this is a typical and conservatively designed Italianate villa which is distinguished by its owner's craft, in the form of metalwork detailing, and part of a locally important residential streetscape. The adjoining industrial complex, although not externally of the same period, is linked historically with the house and its industrialist owner whose firm rose to metropolitan prominence after his death.

### Row Houses

#### 98 Summerhill Road

### History

James Govan Snr., building contractor, arrived at Port Phillip in 1856 and after some 18 months began a five-year stint of quarry work at the Stony Creek. After a further six-year period spent working on the extensive Mount Alexander railway and at Brunswick, Govan returned to live and work at Footscray.

His quarries in the area covered some 3<sup>1/2</sup> acres by the late 1880s, where he boasted that 'some of the best quality of stone, which is in demand throughout the colonies...' could be had at his premises. His stone (basalt) was used in the impressive Goldsbrough Wool Stores and offices in Bourke Street, the Melbourne Town Hall and Exhibition Buildings, to name a few. Besides stone supply, Govan had acquired many surrounding rural acres, ripe for speculation at the height of the 1880s land boom.<sup>5</sup>

Govan received the first Torrens title to this allotment (corner of 'Summer Hill Road', Essex and Market Streets) in December 1878. His widow, Caroline, was

1 FFOY p.159

2 *ibid.*

3 D1900-D1945

4 R Cocks

5 Sutherland, *Victoria and its Metropolis*, p.640