

1-3 Cawkwell Street

1881: No brick houses in sec. 15

1882: Cartledge, Esther occupier, Cawkwell owner, Pt. 15 Allot. 42, 4r. Bk. off High St, 4r. Bk. off High St

1883-84: Cartledge, Sam. (Tile Maker) occupier, Cawkwell, Henry owner, Pt. sec. 15, 4r bk. cottage off High Street. Pt. sec. 15 4r bk. in course of erection. H Cawkwell owner

1885: Cawkwell, Henry A, Manufact., Hse. Bk. 4 rms., Hse. Bk. 4 rms. (Malvern Rate Books)

Cawkwell's Tile Works

Henry Cawkwell arrived in Australia from England in 1856 and bought some land in the then outer suburb of Malvern. The clay here was excellent for tile making and he established a large works. The business prospered and some of its craftsmanship was displayed at the 1880 International Exhibition in Melbourne. The Victorian Railways Head Office building in Spencer Street features a fine example of nineteenth century mosaic tiling in the former centre entrance. When this building was opened in 1893 - at the height of the land boom - marble and mosaic floors were very popular, but there were only two top class tiling suppliers - Walker's and Cawkwell's. Cawkwell's also supplied tiles for many well-known buildings including Parliament House, Stonnington, Valentine's Mansions, many Melbourne churches and the Maryborough Railway Station. In company with many other businesses, the Cawkwell empire collapsed during the land boom of the 1890s. The works were idle for years until bought by a former apprentice, who later went bankrupt. All that remains today is the street alongside the original works, named after its founder, featuring two small brick cottages. These two workers' cottages feature simple gabled roof forms broken only by chimneys on the ridge line. (1)

1 Cawkwell Street

This house has been altered in a late Edwardian manner; the roof now extends beyond the front wall to form a verandah which also features an Edwardian/Californian bungalow brick base for the columns and balustrade. Strap work has been added to the gable end walls. The



front wall of the original building fabric features red brick work with cream brick quoins. This building has remained relatively intact from the time these alterations occurred, other than the painting of the face brick work on the side wall and the modern low brick fence.

3 Cawkwell Street

This house was originally of a slightly different, and presumably earlier, design to 1 Cawkwell Street with the apparent use of older bricks to the building exterior. It features parapet end walls to the gable ends, the brick work is unrelieved by any contrasting work except the flat voussoirs which create the square window heads. The building has been substantially altered since its sale in 1983 with one chimney being removed and a simple hip verandah replacing the 1920s style bracketed canopy. This building may never have had a verandah (like 4 Acre Place) and the new verandah cuts across the window voussoirs. It has a simple low timber picket fence of a sympathetic design.

1-3 Cawkwell Street are of local significance as extremely unusual remnants of an important industrial complex, Cawkwells's Tile Works, an important supplier of mosaic floor tiles in the nineteenth century building boom. (2) The site included two large clay pits, one immediately adjacent to No 3 and a large three storey factory and works opposite next to the second clay pit. (3) While these buildings have been altered, they are essential to the interpretation of this once important manufacturing operation as the sole remnants of it.

1 Based on research by Malvern Historical Society Inc.

2 *ibid.*

3 MMBW Detail Plan 1756, 40 foot to the inch.



