



4 - 58 3-5 Gledhill Street

renovation early this century, possibly co-inciding with the erection of the gabled wing on the east.

Streetscape

A narrow street, lined with double-fronted villas similar to this one, most altered in detail. Nearby is the stone 2 Gledhill Street, presumably indicating the start of the street's development.

Significance

Architecturally, both representative of a common type and distinguished amongst that type by its associated outbuildings. Historically, briefly linked with the Marquand family who were both quarrymen and apparently architects also by its form perhaps suggestive of tradesmen's home and workshop (?).

Powder Magazine

1 Gordon Street

(Note: magazine in the *City of Sunshine* but part of munitions complex in Footscray)

History (Abstract of J.W. Moore, 'The Saltwater River Powder Magazine,' Ammunition Factory Footscray, 1969).

Powder magazines controlled by the Mines Department are far more numerous and ancient than those surviving from a military background, because of the 1850s gold rush and the relatively late material preoccupation with the Colony's defence. Principal magazines holding powder for military use were at Footscray (corner Lyons and Moreland Streets, footings still visible), Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Eaglehawk, also in a former prison hulk afloat on Port Phillip Bay.

A board of inquiry, under Col. E.W. Ward, considered the proper location of magazines in 1872 and the recommendation was for an arsenal and magazine to be sited at Sunbury. A Footscray committee member, W.M. Fehon¹ (representing the Victorian Railways), disagreed, suggesting instead a relatively inaccessible and uninhabited site opposite Flemington racecourse which was set conveniently between two hills able to act as blast mounds. Blair's former farm² was purchased for £5000 and contracts let, in 1875, to principal contractor, George Cornwall (Williamstown). Numerous

1 refer ADB entry
2 FFOY, p.22

smaller contracts followed, some as sizable extras on the main contract and totaling some £25,000. William Smith was another contractor, fitting the magazine roofs with copper sheeting and lightening conductors. He also erected three brick cottages to house magazine staff (£3,861) in 1877 (demolished). John Batty did further works and William Tozer supplied two of the horse tramway trucks and landing cages used to transport powder. The total project cost was £64,992.

In January 1878 a 'Bonded Warehouse for Gunpowder' was declared open, requiring all gunpowder importers to lodge their goods here prior to the duty being paid and the powder's release for resale. A 400 metre canal, loading shed and a dock were built for disembarkation. An official opening took place in May under head-keeper, John Keays (formerly of the Moreland Street magazine), this role being taken later by J.M. De-Lacey. Subkeepers, William Avery and Thomas Babb, were assisted by a cooper, William Shilton, and labourer, James Jordan. Later keepers included W.A. Hyndman (1885-1900), J.O. Jordan (1900-10) (storeholder), Thomas E. Deag (1910-35), also keepers, Albert Baldwin (c1895-1900) and Arthur Bury (c1910). During the Second War, the magazine was its 'Ammunition Depot' and Walter Jack was depot foreman from the 1920s to 1943, leaving his name associated with the magazine.

The complex comprised two basalt masonry magazines, with gabled slate roofs, timber floors and surrounding 9m. high earth 'blast walls'. Stone-lined tunnels connect each with the loading shed. All around the magazine, the Commonwealth Government Ammunition Factory had grown since the Commonwealth began to lease the old Colonial Ammunition Company Works (1888) in 1921, purchasing it in 1927. The existing cartridge factory was timber framed and lay at the end of Nicholson Street, complete with dock and loading shed on the river bank. The office and rolling mills were in Garden Street, north of the Workmen's Homes Settlement, at the Ferguson Street corner (now Owen Street). New buildings were erected on the Gordon Street site from 1925 (Cartridge Case and Fuze Shops), housing some 10,000 personnel by 1942. Much of the Gordon Street building stock dates from this period with additional brick stores built outside of the magazine blast walls.

External Integrity

Generally original with alterations occurring at the canal loading wing and entrance block.

Streetscape

Isolated from the street view but seen from the river today as one of the many defence oriented complexes which sought discreet sites along the Maribyrnong River in then uninhabited rural land.

Significance

Among powder magazines, by far the largest and most impressive and in this instance an early physical link with the awakening concern for the Colony's defence rather than the more numerous structures linked with the gold exploration era. This complex is also a prime illustration of Footscray's foremost (stone) industry and remains in a remarkably untouched condition.

The munitions factory complex which adjoins it is more architecturally prosaic in its design but extensive and visually homogeneous, unlike similarly large and contemporary private factory complexes. It is paramount among many complexes in Footscray which either grew or commenced as a result of the two world wars, holding many associations for local residents who worked there in that period.

Metters K.F. B 22 Gordon Street

History

On a 12^{1/2} acre site once owned by the old engineering firm, Ferguson Mephan Pty. Ltd. (now gone), stove makers, K.F.B. Metters Pty. Ltd. established a large factory complex in 1928, later fronted by Moderne styled offices in Gordon Street. Harry Bettsworth managed Metters from the 1920s, with secretary, Frederick Miller, continuing there well into the 1940s. Obvious expansion periods occurred in 1929, 1935-7 and 1941.¹

Ferguson Mephan made refrigeration and ice-making equipment, bolts and nuts, keeping their offices and warehouse at the west end of Collins Street Melbourne in c1900.² They continued to the south of Mephan

1 FFC 1931. 49; RB 1929-30.2465

2 WD 1899-1900