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# HUME PIPEWORKS



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## Location

VAN NESS AVENUE MARIBYRNONG, MARIBYRNONG CITY

## Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0023

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

1. The complex is a memorial to one of Australia's pioneer industrial enterprises - meat-canning - which was an example of advanced technology in 1868. Its establishment at Maribyrnong was followed by the formation of other meat preserving companies at Footscray, Colac, Warrnambool, Echuca and Ballarat in the meat canning boom of 1869-187?

In the 1870s the Maribyrnong works was described as "one of the largest factories of its kind in Australia," (Argus 26 February 1870, p.7) and even in the world (Argus 6 October, 1874, p.6).

2. It was the location of the first ventures of the Australian frozen meat export company, which developed the Victorian export trade in frozen meat and was, for a time in the early 1880s, the largest exporter of frozen meat in Australia.
3. It was an early example of a major Australian factory complex, built of bluestone (rubble) it was an open plan factory, split level in the main building with segmented arches and columns. The iron truss roof in 1874 building could be original. It is an interesting colonial adaptation of English industrial design.
4. The buildings have national significance also, as part of the Humes complex since the First World War. Described as "the largest manufacturers of steel re-enforced concrete pipes in Australia" (Sunshine Cavalcade, 1951, p.77), Humes is a concern which has played a very important part in the industrial development of Australia.
5. The factory and its site are an important part of the history of Melbourne, especially industrial development in the western suburbs.
6. A number of leading Melbourne merchants, stock and station agents, as well as pastoralists were the financiers founded the meat preserving works.
7. The company's works were originally built and designed by a Melbourne civil engineer and its machinery was originally supplied by a Melbourne firm (except for the boiler which was from Glasgow).

Other Names      FORMER RALEIGH'S BOILING DOWN WORKS SITE, PIPEMAKERS PARK,  
MELBOURNE MEAT PRESERVING COMPANY SITE,

Hermes  
Number              8683

Property  
Number

## History

Site was occupied by the Raleigh Boiling Down Works company around 1848. The boiling down works included substantial bluestone buildings. Reports in 1854 cite that it was well known for processing sheep and cattle for tallow production. In 1868, the company was purchased by the Melbourne Meat Preserving Company (MMPC) which produced tinned meat. The MMPC renovated the existing building, and built additional buildings across the site until the 20th century.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*