

FORMER TUBEMAKERS ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS 1 AND 2

C20 07

Place Name and Address: Former Tubemakers Administration Buildings
498 and 500 Churchill Road, Kilburn SA 5084

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE VALUE:

Description:

Administration Building 1 (500 Churchill Road) is constructed of red brick with pitched corrugated iron roof behind parapets and a cupola forming a roof vent. Brick walls are recessed around window openings and brick detailing above windows and parapets incorporates chevron motifs. The 14 paired windows at the front of the building are small-paned, metal-framed and shaded by blinds. The cement rendered front entrance portico is Grecian in style with classical columns, pilasters and entablature. The interior has high ceilings and a terrazzo floor. The rear half of the building was added in 1940–42 and is similar in style to the front part. The building currently forms the administration office of Veolia Environmental Services. Administration Building 2 (498 Churchill Road) is Modern Internationalist in style and is constructed in lighter coloured brickwork. It incorporates curved walls of metal-framed glass and brick, forming finely proportioned horizontal lines. These are offset by larger cubic forms of brick, with the whole design well balanced and a horizontal emphasis. This building is occupied by MIWE Pty Ltd.

Statement of Heritage Value:

The two former Tubemakers Administration Buildings at Kilburn are important as examples of the expansion of secondary industry in South Australia and the need for industrial buildings to accommodate this in the late 1930s and during the Second World War. The buildings are also interesting for their creative architectural design; Administration Building 1 is traditional in style, with Art Deco features, while Administration Building 2 is in Modern International style.

Relevant Criteria (Under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*):

- (a) They demonstrate important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history, being examples of the expansion of secondary industry in South Australia and the need for industrial buildings to accommodate this in the late 1930s and during the Second World War.

 - (e) They demonstrate a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment as outstanding representatives of early Modern commercial buildings
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RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the former Tubemakers Administration Buildings 1 and 2 at 498 and 500 Churchill Road, Kilburn be provisionally entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE:

(a) They demonstrate important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.

Pipe and tube were first imported into Australia in the early 1800s and in 1882 Lloyd & Lloyd established a sales office for this product in Sydney. Over the next two decades other firms set up in competition across the country. In 1911 Stewarts & Lloyds (Australia) Ltd was formed and established sales offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane. It was not until 1934 that that manufacture of steel pipe commenced in Australia, when Stewarts & Lloyds Ltd of Britain formed a joint venture with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited to produce steel pipe on a continuous weld mill at a site near the Newcastle Steelworks. In 1938 Stewarts & Lloyds (Australia) Pty Ltd and Tube Investments Ltd of Britain jointly established British Tube Mills (Australia) Pty Ltd (BTM) at Kilburn in the Dry Creek area of Adelaide. The decision to establish the factory at Kilburn was strongly influenced by the cooperation of the South Australian Government under Premier Richard Butler and later Premier Thomas Playford.

The company purchased forty acres of former Crown land at Kilburn and the first truss to go into place for the first building was erected on 3 May 1939. Tube production began on 27 September, within days of the outbreak of the Second World War. One weld mill and six drawbenches initially supplied tube for aircraft guns and navy boilers. By 1940 the number of drawbenches had increased to 16, enabling BTM to produce 30 million metres of steel tubing by the end of the war. The Manipulation Department commenced during the Second World War, with workers using a manipulation press to produce complicated components ranging from Sten Gun barrels to twenty-five pounder gun trail legs. Wartime petrol rationing from 1940 saw the founding of a new industry for Australia, gas cylinder production, produced by the Kilburn factory for use in motor vehicles.

In 1946 a holding company, Tubemakers of Australia Limited, was formed to consolidate the various Australian interests of Stewarts & Lloyds, BHP and Tube Investments. The group restructured in 1969 for public listing. Golf shaft production began in collaboration with USA company, True Temper Corporation. Automotive component production commenced with the manufacture of the first Holden car in Australia in 1947. Since then the factory expanded its range of products to include motor cycle frames and rims, gold shafts, chairs, bobbins, HPG and LPG cylinders, hydraulic tappets and defence equipment. Apart from defence products, all the items produced were used in motor vehicle manufacture.

The new company opened another plant at Dingley, Victoria. In addition to the Adelaide office, sales offices had opened in Melbourne and Sydney in 1942. Known as Bundy, the company produced double-wrapped Bundy weld steel tubing from 1954 and single wall electric weld steel tubing from 1977. The introduction of computers meant it was able to produce a wide range of components for automotive, refrigeration, electrical and general industries. A computer system was also introduced for administrative functions.

Administration Building 1 is located at 500 Churchill Road, Kilburn and currently forms the administration office of Veolia Environmental Services. Administration building 2 is located at 498 Churchill Road and is currently occupied by MIWE Pty Ltd. Both buildings are in very good condition.

(e) They demonstrate a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or are outstanding representatives of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

The former Tubemakers Administration Buildings 1 and 2 are quite different in design and both display creative flair and technical skill in their execution. Building 1 was constructed in 1939 and is in an eclectic architectural style. Constructed of the red brick typical of the period, an Art Deco approach is used in the chevron motifs of the brick detailing, the recessed brick walls around window openings and concentration of ornament on the upper part of the building. While the cement rendered front entrance portico is of classical Grecian style, this is in keeping with the Art Deco feature of a monumental entrance. The pitched corrugated iron roof is visible behind the decorative parapet and a cupola forming a roof vent crowns the building. The parapeted brick walls continue at either side of the building for the space of another pair of windows. The rear half of this building was added in 1940–42 and, while not as decorative, is similar in style to the front part. This part is of the same brick and has timber eaves under a corrugated iron roof, except for the north western end where a rendered parapet surmounts the brick wall and concrete columns are incorporated into the entrance.

Administration Building 2 (1940–42) is designed in a Modern (later known as International or Functionalist) style. It is asymmetrical and has curved walls of brick and metal-framed glass (ribbon windows) that intersect with more massive cubic forms. The structure is well balanced with strong but finely proportioned horizontal lines that emphasise its horizontal nature. The architect for Administration building 2 is believed to be Christopher Smith, who designed Council offices at Brighton, Port Adelaide and Hindmarsh, as well as the Capri Theatre at Goodwood, and his own residence at Prospect. The architect for Administration Building 1 is unknown, although its Art Deco features indicate that it may also have been designed by Smith.

An aerial view of British Tube Mills (Aust.) factory at Kilburn, taken in 1947, shows the two administration buildings on the left side.

REFERENCES:

Apperly, Irving & Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture*, 1989.
Taylor Weidenhofer, *Enfield Heritage Survey*, 1996.
BTM Kilburn South Australia, 1939–1989, Tubemakers of Australia Limited, 1989.
State Library of South Australia, photograph B24050, British Tube Mills factory at Kilburn: aerial view, 1947.

SITE RECORD:

FORMER NAME:	Tubemakers Administration buildings	
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Two brick buildings - Administration Building 1 of red brick in a traditional style with Art Deco features; Administration Building 2 of brown brick and of a modern international design.	
DATE OF COMPLETION:	1939–42	
REGISTER STATUS:	Description:	n/a
CURRENT USE:	Description:	Administration buildings
	Dates:	1939+
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Description:	n/a
	Dates:	n/a
ARCHITECT:	Name:	Building 2: Chris Smith
	Dates:	1940–42
BUILDER:	Name:	n/a
	Dates:	n/a
SUBJECT INDEXING:	Group:	Manufacturing
	Category:	Office building
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Description:	Port Adelaide Enfield
LOCATION:	Unit No.:	-
	Street No.:	498 & 500
	Street Name:	Churchill Road
	Town/Suburb:	Kilburn
	Post Code:	5084
	Region No.:	2
	Region:	Metropolitan Adelaide
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Type:	CT
	Volume:	5951
	Folio:	969
	Lot No.:	Lot CP
	Section:	n/a
	Hundred:	Yatala

SITE RECORD (Cont.):

AMG REFERENCE:

Zone: 54
Easting: 278950
Northing: 6140400
Map Sheet: 6628 Adelaide
Map Scale: 1:100,000

OWNER:

Name: Community Corp 23054
Address: 500 Churchill Road
Town/Suburb: Kilburn
Post Code: 5084

Location Map



Aerial view of Former Tubemakers Administration Buildings 1 and 2

(Google Earth)

FORMER TUBEMAKERS ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS 1 and 2

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Former Tubemakers Administration Building 1, looking north-west



Former Tubemakers Administration Building 1, looking south



Former Tubemakers Administration Building 2, looking north-west



Former Tubemakers Administration Building 2, looking south-west