

## PROPOSED LOCAL HERITAGE PLACE

Rocklea Munitions Works - Case Factory and Machine Shop (former), 14 Engineering Street, Salisbury (LOT PLAN: 1\_RP189950)



### SUMMARY

Constructed in 1941 and operational by 1942, the former Case Factory and Machine Shop on the former Rocklea Munitions Works site is an important and rare remnant of Brisbane's wartime history. As Australia's most northerly munitions factory and the only one built in Queensland, Rocklea Munitions Works played a role in producing munitions for the Allied war effort. It was later converted for use by the Ministry of Aircraft Production to overhaul aircraft engines. After the Second World War, the Rocklea Munitions Works continued to play an essential role in Brisbane's industrial development and was adaptively reused to house various industrial and commercial uses.

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For public consultation – Qualified State Interest Amendment – Local heritage

# HISTORY

## A history of Salisbury

Salisbury remained a rural, sparsely populated farming district until the South Coast Railway Line opened in 1885. This line ran through Salisbury to Beenleigh. Like elsewhere in Brisbane, the railway's arrival spurred development in the areas surrounding it. Several residential estates were developed between Rocklea and Coopers Plains, including Salisbury Station Estate (1886), Salisbury Park Estate (1888) and Salisbury Court Estate (1890). By 1911, the population of Salisbury was only 84 residents. Salisbury's population continued to grow, however. Between 1920 and 1930, the number of residents listed in the *Post Office Directory* almost doubled, from 102 to 194. During this period, significant improvements were made to the local area's infrastructure, including the development of roads, bridges, and drainage. To petition on behalf of residents for improvements to the growing suburb, the Salisbury Progress Association was formed in 1914. In the following year, the Salisbury Progress Association appealed for the building of a local primary school. Lillian Avenue was eventually chosen as the location for the school, and Salisbury State School was officially opened on 30 May 1920.<sup>1</sup>

Lillian Avenue was the first road to provide access into the early settlement of Salisbury. Arthur Blackwood's Salisbury Township Estate was located on the northern side of Lillian Avenue, and lots were sold from 1912 onwards. This considerable development consisted of 442 lots, and created Ness, Henson, Blackwood, Kellett, Myra, and Tamblyn Roads. The suburb section closest to the railway line remained the most populated area for many decades. Gradually, settlement expanded to the east in the years before the Second World War.

The most significant development in Salisbury was the establishment of the Rocklea Munitions Works during the Second World War. These factories were built along the northern and southern sides of Compo (now Evans) Road, with housing built for civilian war workers to the west and north of the Rocklea Munitions Works. In addition, Brisbane City Council extended the local tram line along Compo Road to service the industrial area. Following the Second World War, many industrial buildings were adapted for new uses, and the surrounding area became a hub for industrial and commercial uses. This led to a demand for housing for workers and a subsequent increase in the local population, with further residential subdivision and construction resulting in expansion of the suburb.

## The development of the Rocklea Munitions Works

In January 1941, the Commonwealth Government approved the development of the Rocklea Munitions Works, with construction formally announced in early February.<sup>2</sup> The Rocklea Munitions Work, located to the north and south of Evans Road, then known as Compo Road, principally consisted of two Small Arms Ammunition plants, known together as SAA Factory No. 5 and 6, and a case factory. The establishment of the Rocklea Munitions Works occurred at a time when the Commonwealth Government became a key member of the Eastern Group Supply Council, which had been established in March 1941 to co-ordinate the production, provisions and distribution of war

<sup>1</sup> 'Salisbury State School,' *The Telegraph*, 8 June 1920, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> 'Rocklea Selected,' *The Longreach Leader*, 25 January 1941, p. 13; 'Munitions Works to be Built Near Brisbane,' *The Evening News*, 6 February 1941, p. 5.



stores produced in its member countries as part of the British Empire's war effort.<sup>3</sup> As well as Australia, membership of the Eastern Group Supply Council consisted of India, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. In addition, the construction of a munitions facility in Brisbane was undertaken to decentralise production and take advantage of an available workforce. Compared to New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, where 43 factories were established, the Rocklea Munitions Works was the most northerly located munitions in Australia and was the only established in Queensland.<sup>4</sup> Between January 1942 and October 1943, 137,729,208 rounds of small arms ammunition were produced at the Rocklea Munitions Works. In addition to producing Australian ammunition, the Small Arms Ammunition factory reconditioned and repacked ammunition for the United States.

In 1938, as the likelihood of war became more apparent, Australia announced a rearmament program. Initial developments focused on southern states where raw materials and labour were close by. However, towards the end of 1940, the Commonwealth Government explored the possibility of constructing an ammunition factory in Brisbane to support the war effort.<sup>5</sup> In early 1941, the Commonwealth Government announced that an initial £1,500,000 would be spent constructing a Small Arms Ammunition factory at Rocklea, Queensland. A site along Compo Road was considered favourable because it was reasonably flat, above the flood level, could be provided readily with road, rail, electricity, water, and gas services, and was accessible to populated areas. In January 1941, J.D. O'Shea, the Assistant Manager of the munitions factory at Footscray in Melbourne, was appointed the Manager of Rocklea Munitions Works.<sup>6</sup> Other staff, notably engineers, came from Victorian munitions establishments and private industry. In addition, technical staff were recruited in Queensland.

From February 1941, the Works and Services Branch of the Department of the Interior prepared the plans needed for the Rocklea Munitions Works. On 10 March 1941, the Queensland Main Roads Commission commenced the cutting and filling groundwork for the first large building on site, the Small Arms Ammunition factory building (now 32 Commerce Street, Salisbury). By November 1941, this factory had commenced operations, ten months after the site was chosen.<sup>7</sup> By the end of 1941, the acquisition of the bulk of the land required to construct the Rocklea Munitions Works had been completed under the terms of the *National Security (General) Regulations*.<sup>8</sup> However, the acquisition of land continued into 1942.<sup>9</sup>

The cost of completing the buildings, works, services, air raid precautions and camouflage at the Munitions Works was reported to amount to £989,288. However, in 1944, Rocklea Munitions Works became the focus of debates over Australia's wartime economy. Several newspapers, notably *Smith's Weekly* in Sydney, reported that Rocklea had cost approximately £4,000,000 to establish. *Smith's Weekly* described the Rocklea Munitions Works as 'Australia's principal munitions white

<sup>3</sup> National Archives of Australia (NAA), A2680, 40/1941, Confidential Report on the Eastern Group Supply Council, 21 April 1941, p. 2; Ashley Jackson, *The British Empire and the Second World War* (London: Hambledon Continuum, 2006), pp. 359-60.

<sup>4</sup> Ross Fitzgerald, *A History of Queensland: From 1915 to the early 1980s* (St Lucia, QLD: University of Queensland Press, 1984), p. 184.

<sup>5</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History: Ammunition Factory, Rocklea, Queensland* (1946), p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 1; 'Bren Gun Parts to Be Made in Q'ld,' *The Telegraph*, 15 February 1941, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 7; 'Rocklea Making Bullets Now,' *The Courier-Mail*, 3 December 1941, p. 3; D.P. Mellor, *The Role of Science and Industry* (Canberra, ACT: Australian War Memorial, 1958), p. 335.

<sup>8</sup> 'Acquisition of Land at Rocklea for Munition Works,' *The Telegraph*, 4 July 1941, p. 3

<sup>9</sup> NAA, J56/11, QL686 Part 1, Memorandum for the Secretary, Department of the Interior, Property and Survey Branch on the acquisition of further land in Rocklea, Queensland, 4 August 1942.





elephant.<sup>10</sup> The federal Minister for Munitions, Norman Makin, rebutted these claims noting that the Rocklea Munitions Works had cost £2,117,000 to complete.<sup>11</sup>

At its peak, in May 1943, the Rocklea Munitions Works employed approximately 3,000 people.<sup>12</sup> This included those employed in the various factories on-site and those involved in associated services such as Army inspectors employed on-site to check the munitions' quality. By comparison, the larger Footscray factory in Melbourne employed over 9,000. Absenteeism was, however, a problem.<sup>13</sup> The reasons for this included the introduction of night shifts, the regimentation of the work, industrial fatigue, and lack of proper meals.

### The development of the Case Factory and Machine Shop (former)

The largest and most substantive building constructed on the Rocklea Munitions Works site was the former Case Factory and Machine Shop, located at 14 Engineering Street. The Case Factory was constructed on land, portions 210 and 211 and subdivision one of portion 209, previously owned by James Greer, who had operated a slaughtering yard on site.<sup>14</sup> It was reported that the building would cover six and a quarter acre.<sup>15</sup> Once built, the building measured 230,484 square feet and was known as Building 27 on the site. The building began producing brass shell cases for 25 pounder shells in June 1942.<sup>16</sup> Specifically, the former Case Factory and Machine Shop produced shell casings for rounds fired from the mark two version of the Ordnance 25-pounder field gun, the main artillery piece operated by British and Commonwealth forces during the Second World War. The 25-pounder field gun was used in all theatres of war where British and Commonwealth forces operated, including by the Australian Army in its various campaigns in the South-West Pacific Area. When production ceased at Rocklea in August 1943, the Case Factory had produced 1,221,122 shell cases since June 1942.<sup>17</sup> The 25-pounder field gun continued to be used by reserve units of the Australian Army through to the 1970s.

Preparations for the construction of the former Case Factory and Machine Shop began on 30 May 1941 with the building floor described as 'a maze of channels, drains and foundations.'<sup>18</sup> Tenders for the construction of the building had been accepted at the start of that month.<sup>19</sup> Drysdale and Ridgway Pty. Ltd. were awarded the tender to supply and erect structural steel for the building.<sup>20</sup> It was expected that major construction works at Rocklea would be completed by September 1941.<sup>21</sup> However, due to steel supply issues, construction was delayed until October 1941, when the internal columns of the building were constructed.<sup>22</sup> As *The Courier-Mail* reported in September 1941, the shortage of steel affected the construction of the buildings at the Rocklea site. In addition,

<sup>10</sup> '£4,000,000 Down the Drain,' *Smith's Weekly*, 9 September 1944, p. 1; 'Appalling Waste at Rocklea,' *Smith's Weekly*, 23 September 1944, p. 3.

<sup>11</sup> 'Cost of Rocklea Munitions Plant £2,117,000,' *Queensland Times*, 20 September 1944, p. 2; 'Waste at Rocklea £2,117,000 Plant Denied,' *The Courier-Mail*, 20 September 1944, p. 3; 'The Budget Debated,' *Daily Mercury*, 20 September 1944, p. 2; 'Munitions Effort,' *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser*, 20 September 1944, p. 3; 'Cost of Rocklea Munitions Plant,' *The Central Queensland Herald*, 28 September 1944, p. 13.

<sup>12</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 13.

<sup>13</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 13.

<sup>14</sup> NAA, J56/11, QL686 Part 1, Valuation of properties proposed to be acquired for Ammunitions Factory Site, Rocklea, Queensland, made for and on behalf of the Works Director, Department of the Interior, 1941.

<sup>15</sup> 'Munitions Shop at Rocklea to Have Floor Space Of 6¼ Acres,' *The Courier-Mail*, 21 November 1941, p. 3.

<sup>16</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 7.

<sup>17</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 10.

<sup>18</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 10.

<sup>19</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 10.

<sup>20</sup> 'Rocklea Arms Factory,' *The Northern Miner*, 17 April 1941, p. 4.

<sup>21</sup> 'Queensland has £5M Defence Works Programme Ahead,' *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser*, 29 May 1941, p. 7.

<sup>22</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 10.

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it led to the dismissal of some workers, such as carpenters, because related work could not be completed until more steel arrived.<sup>23</sup> After these supply problems were solved, full production at Rocklea was expected to occur by July or August 1942.<sup>24</sup> Moreover, once the saw-tooth roof began to be erected at the former Case Factory, plant and equipment were installed in the building.<sup>25</sup> Saw-tooth roofs, which emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, are characteristic of many industrial buildings in Brisbane in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. The saw-tooth roof consists of a series of ridges with dual pitches on either side. The vertical elements of the roof incorporated glazing and were typically oriented south to ensure diffused, rather than direct light. The ridges shielded workers and machinery from the effect of direct sunlight and glare, while the glazed panels admitted natural light into the factory.

The large size of the building was dictated by the inclusion of two complete production plants under the same roof.<sup>26</sup> This allowed for round the clock production of shell casings on alternating shifts. This was important as it took roughly one and a half person-hours to produce a shell case.<sup>27</sup> It had been estimated that each plant could produce 1 million cases per annum on a one-shift basis, though this was never achieved. At the height of production in March 1943, the former case factory employed 319 workers, of whom around two-thirds were female.<sup>28</sup> In addition, the former Case Factory and Machine Shop also employed visually impaired workers. This was primarily because of a shortage of workers. Eventually, some 'fifteen to twenty [visually impaired] men and women' were employed in the Case Factory, undertaking tasks such as re-tapping and gauging shell cases.<sup>29</sup>

From early 1943, in response to a request from the US government, planning commenced to convert the munitions works buildings to overhaul aircraft engines for the US Army Air Force operating in the South-West Pacific Area.<sup>30</sup> This work was undertaken as part of the Reciprocal Lend-Lease agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the US whereby Australia provided support for US forces stationed in country. The decision to repurpose the Rocklea Munitions Works also coincided with a Commonwealth Government decision to reduce munitions production and workforce in Australia due to changing strategic conditions.<sup>31</sup> Given its size and suitability for the work, early discussions centred on the use of the former Case Factory for this role.<sup>32</sup> Further discussion then focused on transferring the whole factory site to the Department of Aircraft Production.<sup>33</sup> In late November 1943, the Commonwealth Government approved £358,000 for this task, with the site handed over to the Department of Aircraft Production in the same month.<sup>34</sup>

Aircraft engine overhaul at the Rocklea works commenced early in 1944. This work was undertaken by Ford Motor Company of Australia and General Motors Holden as contractors for the Ministry of Aircraft Production.<sup>35</sup> Once the site was transferred to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, the Commonwealth Government dismantled the former Case Factory and Machine Shop with

<sup>23</sup> 'Steel, Not Timber Short at Rocklea,' *The Courier-Mail*, 19 September 1941, p. 3.

<sup>24</sup> 'All Units at Rocklea Ready by July, August,' *The Courier-Mail*, 22 November 1941, p. 3.

<sup>25</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 10.

<sup>26</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 10.

<sup>27</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 10.

<sup>28</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, 'Appendix C – Ammunition Factory – No. of Employees' to *History*.

<sup>29</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 11.

<sup>30</sup> NAA, BP262/2, 9127 Part 3, Operation of the Aircraft Engine Overhaul Depot – Queensland, 1 July 1943 to 30 June 1944, Notes for the Annual Report of the Allied Works Council, 2 October 1944, pp. 1-2.

<sup>31</sup> S.J. Butlin and C.B. Schedvin, *War Economy, 1942-1945* (Canberra, ACT: Australian War Memorial, 1977), pp. 398-9.

<sup>32</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 15.

<sup>33</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 15.

<sup>34</sup> NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 7; NAA, J56/11, QL686 Part 1B, Memorandum on the Acquisition of Land at Rocklea, Queensland for Aircraft Engine Testing Purposes, 29 December 1943.

<sup>35</sup> NAA, A2680, 9/1944, Minister for Aircraft Production to the Acting Secretary, Advisory War Council, 9 May 1944.



equipment being sent elsewhere in Australia.<sup>36</sup> General Motors subsequently moved into the former Case Factory and used it as its primary overhaul facility.<sup>37</sup> In addition, banks of sound-proofed engine testing stands were constructed at the eastern end of Evans Road. The work undertaken at Rocklea was the 'largest undertaken on behalf of the Americans in the aircraft maintenance field.'<sup>38</sup> Unfortunately, despite the investment made in the repurposing of the Rocklea Munitions Works, by mid-1944, the demand for aero-engine overhaul had decreased. This was due to the shifting strategic priorities of the South-West Pacific campaign of the Second World War and that 'the Americans as usual grossly overstate[d] their requirements.'<sup>39</sup>

Subsequently, several former Munitions Works buildings, including the former Case Factory, were then turned over to the military as storage facilities. By early November 1944, the former Case Factory was occupied by the Australian Army with the 11 Australian Base Workshop of the Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers establishing a tank workshop on site.<sup>40</sup> By the conclusion of the Second World War, 82 of the former Rocklea Munitions Works buildings, including the Case Factory, were occupied by the Department of the Army, the Royal Navy, and the Department of Aircraft Production.<sup>41</sup> While there was some discussion of the site being used by the Australian Army as a peacetime depot, the Commonwealth Government decided that the former Rocklea Munitions Works should be turned over to civilian use.<sup>42</sup>

After the Second World War, the Rocklea facilities, including the former Case Factory, were viewed as a significant site for future manufacturing and industry. Consequently, soon after the Second World War, the Commonwealth Government progressively leased buildings to various secondary industries to promote manufacturing.<sup>43</sup> For example, in 1947, the Commonwealth Government leased part of the former Case Factory to Ve-Toy Biscuits Pty. Ltd. for five years to manufacture biscuits.<sup>44</sup> It was noted that the portion of the building leased to Ve-Toy would be 'divided from the remainder of the building by a wood, glass and wire-mesh partition.'<sup>45</sup> This work was undertaken under the sponsorship of the Secondary Industries Commission, which had been established in October 1943 to 'recommend [...] measures which should be taken to implement a policy of industrial development' post-Second World War Australia.<sup>46</sup> The Secondary Industries Commission formed part of the Department of Post-War Reconstruction established in 1942 under the leadership of Ben Chifley.

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<sup>36</sup> NAA, A2680, 9/1944, Minister for Aircraft Production to the Acting Secretary, Advisory War Council, 9 May 1944; NAA, MP438/3, S/43, *History*, p. 16.

<sup>37</sup> NAA, BP262/2, 9127 Part 3, Operation of the Aircraft Engine Overhaul Depot – Queensland, 1 July 1943 to 30 June 1944, Notes for the Annual Report of the Allied Works Council, 2 October 1944, p. 12.

<sup>38</sup> Butlin and Schedvin, *War Economy*, p. 415.

<sup>39</sup> NAA, A5954, 286/5, Minister for Defence to the Commanding General, Southwest Pacific Area, 26 September 1944; Butlin and Schedvin, *War Economy*, p. 415.

<sup>40</sup> NAA, A5954, 286/5, Minister for Aircraft Production to the Prime Minister, 4 October 1944.

<sup>41</sup> NAA, J56/11, QL686 Part 1, Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury on the Ammunition Factory, Rocklea, Q'Land – Care and Maintenance by the Secretary, Property and Survey Branch, Department of the Interior, 10 September 1945.

<sup>42</sup> NAA, J56/11, QL686 Part 1, Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury on the Ammunition Factory, Rocklea, Q'Land – Care and Maintenance by the Secretary, Property and Survey Branch, Department of the Interior, 10 September 1945.

<sup>43</sup> NAA, J56/11, QL686 Part 1, List of Commonwealth Owned Properties leased to Enterprises Sponsored by the Secondary Industries Commission, 1947.

<sup>44</sup> NAA, A3995, 73/1947, Cabinet Sub-Committee (Secondary Industries) Minute, Decision No. 392, Agendum No. 73/1947 – Lease of Portion of Rocklea Munitions Factory to "Ve-Toy" Biscuits Pty. Ltd., 15 October 1947.

<sup>45</sup> NAA, A3995, 73/1947, Agendum No. 73/1947 – Lease of Portion of Rocklea Munitions Factory to "Ve-Toy" Biscuits Pty. Ltd., 7 October 1947.

<sup>46</sup> NAA, A9816, 1943/685, Cabinet Agenda No. 530 – Secondary Industries Planning Commission, 19 October 1943.

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From 1947, the Queensland Government progressively purchased the former munitions site from the Commonwealth Government. Despite leasing buildings to private industry, the Commonwealth Government recommended the sale of the former Rocklea Munitions Works buildings to help Queensland further develop secondary industries in the State in its 'own way'.<sup>47</sup> This acquisition process commenced with the buildings north of Evans Road.<sup>48</sup> The work to convert the Rocklea Munitions Works to civilian use was overseen by the Secondary Industries Division of the Department of Labour and Industry.<sup>49</sup> The Secondary Industries Division, established in 1946, was 'concerned with the provision of land and financial industries' in post-Second World War Queensland.<sup>50</sup> By 1947, 56 tenants on the industrial estate occupied 500,000 square feet (46,451 square metres) of floor space with over 700 employees. Eventually, in late 1950, the site of the former Case Factory had been acquired by Queensland Government for industrial use.

Since the 1950s, the former Case Factory and Machine Shop has been leased to companies for various purposes. At times, given the size of the building, it has been used by several companies simultaneously. For example, in the 1980s, parts of the building were leased from Queensland Government by Jeep Australia Pty. Ltd. In the mid-1980s, the site was damaged by fire, with approximately one-third of the northwest section of the former Case Factory destroyed.

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<sup>47</sup> Butlin and Schedvin, *War Economy*, p. 771.

<sup>48</sup> NAA, J56/11, QL686 Part 1, Memorandum on the Handover of Northern Area, Rocklea Munitions Factory to the State of Queensland, 1 July 1947.

<sup>49</sup> Kenneth Wiltshire, 'Public Finance' in D.J. Murphy, R.B. Joyce, and Colin Hughes (eds.), *Labor in Power: The Labor Party and Government in Queensland, 1915-57* (St Lucia, QLD: University of Queensland Press, 1980), p. 278; Ian Cameron, *125 Years of State Public Works in Queensland, 1859-1984* (Bowen Hills, QLD: Boolarong Publications, 1989), p. 302.

<sup>50</sup> Cameron, *125 Years of State Public Works in Queensland*, p. 302.

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## DESCRIPTION

The Case Factory and Machine Shop (former) is located within the area of the former Rocklea Munitions Works and is an example of Brisbane's wartime industrial development. Positioned on a large block, bounded by Assembly, Engineering, Bearing and Lathe Streets, the factory takes up the majority of the site and is set back from the street by a footpath. Like other buildings in the area, it is large and industrial in scale and visible from all streets.

### General description

The Case Factory and Machine Shop (former) is a large, steel-framed shed clad in corrugated metal with smaller lean-to structures on Engineering and Lathe Streets. The factory was originally rectangular in plan, however, a fire in the mid-1980s destroyed the northwest section of the building resulting in a structure that is now generally L-shaped. Like other buildings in the area, it has a sawtooth styled roof. Entry to the sheds and lean-to structures is via several full-height and standard sized double roller doors located around the building.

The roof is corrugated sheet metal in a sawtooth arrangement of 27 bays, with an east-west orientation and clerestory windows orientated to the south. The 16 northern-most bays are taller than the southern bays and are shorter in plan by approximately two metres. There are numerous metal ventilation stacks on the sawtooth roof, and a metal gantry entered from Bearing Street stretches across six bays in a north-south direction. Lean-to roofs are also corrugated metal.

Original exterior walls are clad in corrugated metal and are set atop a brick base of varying heights. Metal flashing separates the corrugated metal from the brick, and exhaust penetrations and brick vents remain. The former internal wall on the western elevation is an exception, with Zinalume sheet metal extending to the ground that enclose factory spaces once opened due to the fire in the mid-1980s.

Many of the original window and door assemblies remain in their original locations. The majority of the timber-framed clerestory windows remain in situ. On Engineering and Lathe Streets, lean-to windows are a mixture of timber-framed fixed and operable louvre types.

The Engineering Street elevation has a timber-framed awning and double-hung sash windows on the ground level. Above the sash windows are 12 bays of timber-framed windows, including three operable glass-louvre types and nine fixed, multi-pane windows. A cantilevered awning with sheet metal sits above the sash windows.

All window openings on Bearing Street are covered with corrugated metal. Factory windows are metal framed with fixed louvres on the Lathe Street elevation.

Several types of doors are used around the building. Timber-framed, double doors with vertical join (VJ) detailing are found on the southern lean-to on Lathe Street and the factory's Bearing Street elevation. Very large double doors with VJ detailing on the Engineering and Bearing Street elevations of the factory include small, inset doors for personnel access. Above the large VJ double doors are timber-framed awnings tied into the factory structure with tie-rods. The level of intactness varies between awnings.

Sheet metal roller doors are also used around the site.

Several drainage pits also remain. These are located on the footpath around the factory. In addition, a tall, cylindrical tank has been installed in the vacant area alongside the western elevation of the factory.

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## Significant features

Features of cultural heritage significance include:

- Views to the building from Assembly, Engineering, Bearing and Lathe Streets
- The original location and set backs of the building, including lean-to structures
- Sawtooth roof form
- Lean-to roof form
- Orientation and scale of sawtooth bays
- Corrugated sheet metal roofing
- Metal gantry, including entry, from Bearing Street
- Original metal ventilation stacks
- Corrugated sheet metal external wall cladding
- Low-height brick external walls
- Original exhaust penetrations and vents in external brick walls
- Location, size, and arrangement of original door and window openings
- Original timber-framed clerestory windows
- Original timber-framed windows with fixed louvre systems
- Original timber-framed windows with operable louvre systems
- Original timber-framed double-hung sash windows
- Original timber-framed awning windows
- Cantilevered, timber-framed window awning
- Original standard and large timber-framed double doors with VJ detailing
- Original inset personnel doors with VJ detailing
- Original timber-framed awnings over doors, including tie rods
- Original metal roller doors
- Original drainage pits, including metal covers and internal brick detailing

## Non-significant features

Non-significant features include:

- Zinalume external wall cladding
- Non-original windows, including hardware
- Non-original doors, including hardware

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- Air conditioner units

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## CURTILAGE

The curtilage captures all significant or original elements of the place as described and consists of part of Lot 1 on RP189950 including existing building awnings and drainage pits that sit outside the building wall perimeter.



Source: Brisbane City Plan Online Mapping

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## STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

<p><b>Criterion A Historical</b></p> <p>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history.</p>	<p>As a remnant of the Rocklea Munitions Works, Australia's most northerly munitions factory and the only one constructed in Queensland, the former Case Factory and Machine Shop provides evidence of Brisbane's munitions industry during the Second World War and the City's post-war industrial history. During the Second World War, the factory, staffed by a mixed workforce of men and women, was used to produce cases for 25-pounder artillery guns before being converted to overhaul aircraft engines for the Ministry of Aircraft Production.</p>
<p><b>Criterion B Rarity</b></p> <p>The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Purpose-built in 1941 and operational by 1942, the former Case Factory and Machine Shop is the only example of an artillery case factory, a rare form of industrial activity in Queensland. The building also provides rare evidence of Brisbane's munitions industry during the Second World War, an industrial activity that no longer exists.</p>
<p><b>Criterion C Scientific</b></p> <p>The place has the potential to provide information that will contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the city's or local area's history.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Criterion D Representative</b></p> <p>The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Criterion E Aesthetic</b></p> <p>The place is important because of its aesthetic significance</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Criterion F Technical</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

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<p>The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period.</p>	
<p><b>Criterion G Social</b></p> <p>The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Criterion H Historical Association</b></p> <p>The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the city's or local area's history</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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