

COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 476 BEAUFORT STREET, HIGHGATE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Commercial Building, 476 Beaufort Street
Other names	RMEH Corner Venus Gallery Ramleh
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	3263
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	476-478 Beaufort St
Locality	Highgate
Survey	LOT: 50 D/P: 29193
Vol/folio	1255/858
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/ authenticity
Management category	Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.
Statement of significance	The place has interest as a fine example of a Federation Italianate style of shops and residences with considerable original detail.
	The place is a local landmark because of its prominent location and scale compared to adjacent buildings.
	The place reflects the expansion and development of residential and commercial buildings on the city fringes during the rapid population increase of 1890's gold boom and the early years of the twentieth century.
	The place has historic value for its association with the commercial development of Highgate in the early 20th century.
	The changing occupancy and use of these premises are a good illustration of the changing demography of the district and metropolitan Perth.
	This place has been part of the retail shopping precinct in Highgate since the early 20th century and therefore contributes to the community sense of place.
	It is a good demonstration of the type of retail premises which included accommodation for the proprietors and their families in the upper floor

PLACE USE

Original use	Commerce: Shop / Retail
Current use	Commerce: Shop / Retail
Other use	Residential: two storey residence

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Construction date	1906
Walls	Painted Brick
Roof	Corrugated Metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Federation Italianate
Physical description	<p>Two storey commercial building in the federation style with cantilevered filigree bow verandah with bull nose roof under a cast iron upper storey covered verandah with turned posts.</p> <p>The two storey stuccoed facades are divided into bays by full height pilasters, surmounted by parapets which step on the lesser façade. Two arched pediments above the parapet, carry the name and motif of the place and give it a distinctive skyline profile. The arched pediments mark the location of shop doors on the ground floor.</p> <p>Below the pediments a projecting string course is emphasised with a triangular pediment on the truncated corner. Zero setback corner presence and truncation.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Beaufort Street was the main thoroughfare to the rapidly developing residential areas of Highgate and immediate surrounds. Mixed residential and commercial development spread along the street, encouraged by the construction of the tramline from the Barrack Street jetty to Walcott Street, completed in 1902.

In 1906, No. 476 was built on the northeast corner of the Beaufort and Broome Street (named after Sir Frederick Napier Broome, Governor of Western Australia 1883 - 1889) intersection. It was constructed as a two-storey retail premise with two shops, and living quarters on the upper floor.

City of Perth Rates Books record that the owners were B and J Ferstall, however the recording of this name is inaccurate as the owners were local fruiterers, Bernard and Joseph Ferstat, or Forstadt. From the available information, the brothers were born in Russia and were of Jewish faith. Bernard Ferstat (1879-1946) applied to be Naturalised in 1904 and stated he was born in Kuchin, Russia and had travelled to Australia in 1897 from Palestine.

The brothers established a fruiterers shop in Wellington Street Perth and later a premises they named 'Ramleh' at the corner of Beaufort St. The Rates Books indicate that they may have operated from this site prior to the construction of the two storey premises. The lettering on the pediment of the building originates with the word 'Ramleh' an historic town in Israel. The removal of some letters may have been a method to be more discrete in the notation or a function of the space available. No details of the architect or builder have been found.

In 1906, the Ferstats operated a fruit shop in part of the premises and agent John Henry Smith occupied the other half of the building. In 1908, grocer Richard J. Symonds (or Symons) occupied No. 476 and storekeeper Alfred Henry James Sweetapple occupied No. 478. Sweetapple was followed by fruiterer Wolff Goldenberg.

By 1915, Richard Symonds had taken over the greengrocery business as well. Symonds' grocery store was still operating in 1932, while No. 478 was a drapery, run by George H. Watt.

In 1949, Mrs J. A. Dear ran a ladies' hairdresser in No. 476 and No. 478 was F. R. Johnson's mixed business. The place was occupied as the Venus Art Gallery in recent years and in 2007 by Dr Russell's Emporium.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

As of 2024 the only occupier was Acton Belle Property estate agents, as the corner-facing space appeared vacant.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards show that the building had an extension added in the late 1990s, finished by the early 2000s. As well as an awning built around 2008.

In 2024, approval was granted for the demolition of an outhouse and lean-to building located at the rear of the existing commercial building.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Peopling WA: Demographic Development. Economy: Workers and Working Cultural Life: Domestic Life	
Associations	Bernard & Joseph Ferstat John Henry Smith Richard J. Symonds Alfred Henry James Sweetapple Wolff Goldenberg George H. Watt J. A. Dear F. R. Johnson	Owners Occupier Occupier Occupier Occupier Occupier Occupier
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

