

GROUP OF SHOPS, LEEDERVILLE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Group of Shops
Other names	Shopping Precinct
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	8734
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	163 - 167 Oxford St
Locality	Leederville
Survey	LOT: 2 D/P: 8580
Vol/folio	1221/125
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Moderate</p> <p>Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Has some altered or modified elements, not necessarily detracting from the overall significance of the item.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 3</p> <p>Conservation of the place is desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place, and original fabric should be retained wherever feasible.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The three attached shops at 163-167 Oxford Street are a representative example of a group in the Interwar stripped classical style.</p> <p>The shops are an example of the development of Oxford Street into a retail centre for Leederville.</p> <p>The group of shops demonstrate the reduction in scale and confidence of commercial development undertaken in this period.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Commercial: Shop/Retail Store
Current use	Social/Recreation: Theatre or Cinema
Other use	Commercial: Other

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	c 1930s
Walls	Painted Brick Rendered Brick Faience Tile
Roof	Corrugated Metal Sheeting
Architectural Style	Inter-War Art Deco
Physical description	Row of three one storey retail premises. The original shop fronts are largely intact. The simple parapet is capped with pediments over each shop. The original verandahs have been replaced. The interior has been linked with the Luna Cinema as an extension of its operations.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Oxford Street was first listed in the 1897 edition of Wise's Post Office Directories. In 1930 and 1931 three new shops were listed next to the New Oxford Tea Rooms and a residence; they were occupied from 1931. The City of Perth Rates Books indicate that the owner of the group of shops were Alexander Phocas, a café proprietor.

The first businesses listed at the shop premises were a mixed business run by Harry Evans at No. 163, No. 165 was occupied by John Shaw the tailor and No. 167 was occupied by the Delaviris fish shop, which was run by T. Delaviris. No. 163 had a dwelling built onto the rear of the shop and was fenced off from the rest.

The Universal Library also operated from No. 163 from at least 1940 to 1949. No. 165 was occupied by Shaw from 1931 to 1935 when he moved to No. 171 Oxford Street for the period between 1945 and 1948. It was then occupied by a cycle agent, ladies' hairdresser, boot repairer and others. No. 167, the Delaviris fish shop became a boot-maker's from 1945 to 1948 and then a fish shop again, run by Lekias and Hamos, fishmongers.

In the 1990s the shop at No. 163 was occupied by Julian's Cafe which operated there for many years with a garden at the rear. Weekly talent nights were also held there. The side of the lot which joined with the New Oxford (Luna) Cinema had fire escape stairs next to the driveway, which allowed access to the back area of the subject lot. A small cinema was established in the rear residential section of this shop in later years, and this is now used as an adjunct to the operation of the Luna Cinema next door. The Luna Outdoor Cinema is conducted on the land at the rear of the property. No. 163 is now the main entry to this and has been painted a deep red, as have Nos. 165 and 167.

In 2001 an application was approved for an 'eating house', known as 'Luna Lounge' at No. 163 (two tables and four chairs) and for alfresco dining on special occasions. Approval was given for the outdoor cinema to operate for 24 weeks per year from November to April and one of the conditions was that the noise be kept below a specific level. However, a complaint of excessive noise at the outdoor theatre was made in 2002 and, when tested, the levels were found to be excessive. As of 2024 Luna Outdoor Cinema continues to operate through the summer months. Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate that the subject site remained unchanged until the late 1990s when an extension was added to the rear of the building and in the early 2000s the remaining back area of the block was landscaped to suit the outdoor cinema. There have been few changes since that time.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION		
Historic theme	Peopling WA: Demographic Development Economy: Commerce	
Associations	Alexander Phocas Harry Evans	Original owner First occupant – mixed business
	John Shaw	First occupant – tailor
	Delaviris	First occupant – fish shop
	Universal Library Luna Cinema	Occupant Occupant
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

