

FACTORY (FMR), 139 BUXTON ST, MOUNT HAWTHORN



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Factory (fmr), 139 Buxton St
Other names	
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	17979
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	139 Buxton St
Locality	Mount Hawthorn
Survey	LOT: 8 D/P: 56031
Vol/folio	1540/518
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 place.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 3</p> <p>Conservation of the place is desirable.</p> <p>Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and retain original fabric where feasible.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The place has aesthetic value as a simple example of an industrial building in the Inter War Functionalism style.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with small scale manufacturing which was undertaken in the Inter War period in metropolitan Perth.</p> <p>The place demonstrates the approach of making do and practicality expressed by the occupants who made the building themselves to undertake manufacturing.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the local jazz music community who have made this venue a successful and well known destination for audiences and performers.</p> <p>The place has social value as a venue for performers and audiences of jazz music for decades.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Industrial/Manufacturing: Other
Current use	Commercial: Retail
Other use	Social/Recreational: Other

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1932-37
Walls	Concrete Block
Roof	Corrugated metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Inter War Functionalist
Physical description	Originally constructed by two immigrants as a factory building, with the saw tooth form of construction common for factories. The concrete blocks for its construction may have been made by its builders, as the commercial production of concrete blocks did not occur until the Post World War Two period. Adapted in recent times for commercial purposes and used now [2024] as The Jazz Cellar. The Jazz Cellar occupies the basement and is accessed via a red telephone booth leading underground.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	Moderate

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Oliver A. Crouch is listed at this address in 1932, which was numbered as 130 until 1935. George Wasely followed from 1933 to 1934. It is believed that they resided in a small house at the rear of this very large block, which was later demolished.

In 1934, Steve Todoroff is listed for the first time as resident at this address. Around 1934-35 he and George Dimitroff, who had formed a furniture manufacturing partnership together, built a small factory, which was later used as a shop and storeroom facility. The building is a cement structure and was most likely constructed bit-by-bit as their business expanded and needed more space. (The current owner, Roy Burton found evidence of the cement bricks for this being made in a mould on the premises.) In 1936 George Dimitroff is listed there on his own and working as a 'cabinet maker'. The building is shown on the MWSSDD sewerage plan of 1937.

Since the 1990s the rear of the building has been occupied as the Jazz Cellar, a jazz music venue and is home to the Cornerhouse Jazz Band. The shops at the front were occupied by a mobile phone company in more recent times and Gadean Shoes, an orthopaedic shoe supplier.

The Jazz Cellar operated for a number of years without a licence, until July 2000 when an application was made to the Town of Vincent Council to change the proposed use of the place to commercial hall. The local community believed that the place was an excellent example of a venue where people of all ages could mix and socialize, and dance if they wished to. Jazz musicians from interstate and overseas play at the Jazz Cellar when they are in Perth, and young musicians and singers are encouraged to join in with the band. The application for the change of use was endorsed on the condition that some planning and health matters were attended to.

In 2024, the Cellar remains a very popular attraction to locals and those from further afield when it is open for jazz on Friday nights, with the vintage speakeasy aesthetics and atmosphere. The Cornerhouse Jazz Band is still playing, and the venue is licensed for BYO food and drinks. The front portion of the shop is a retail premises.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate there were few external changes to the subject place until the late 1990s when some small extensions were added. Portions of the roofing was replaced around 2013 but the structure has remained largely unchanged since then.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
Historic theme	Economy: Manufacturing and Secondary Industry Cultural Life: Recreation - Arts, Culture and Entertainment
Associations	Steve Todoroff George Dimitroff Occupant and builder Occupant and builder
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

