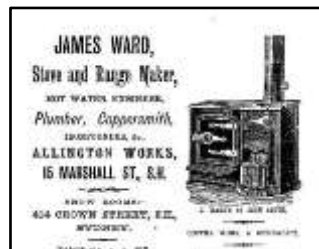


# The industrial history of Marshall Street, Surry Hills

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John W. Ross

**Cover photographs (clockwise from top):**

Vintage Cottee's Passiona sign (Burns & Co auction website)

Eveready battery, 1950s (etsy.com advertisement)

Allington stove advertisement (*Sands' Sydney Directory*, 1891)

Australian Peace Medal, Amor Ltd, 1919 (Australian Gumnut Antiques website)

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## Foreword

Much has been written about the residential development of inner Sydney in the nineteenth century, but not as much about its industrial development. The Industrial Revolution that caused such fundamental changes to working life in Britain during this time did not have the same negative impact in the Australian colonies. The gold rushes of the 1850s heralded a long economic boom where cottage industries grew into factories and warehouses, culminating in the 1880s when the inner suburbs were fully built out before the banking crash and economic depression of the 1890s brought a temporary halt to the expansion.

Marshall Street in Surry Hills is documented here as an example of the wide range of businesses and industries that characterised this era, from grocers, butchers and bootmakers that served the street to small companies that served the surrounding suburbs right up to national and international businesses that served the country. There were even four pubs in the street to cater for thirsty residents and workers, although none survived the 1920s - only a minor problem, as there were many more pubs a short walk away.

The first heavy industry in the street was the Allington Stoveworks, established in 1884 but eventually becoming a casualty of the 1930s economic depression. After this, there was no more industrial activity until Samuel Curotta erected a large factory fronting both Bourke and Marshall Streets, which housed a bewildering variety of industries: vehicle tyres, automotive engineers, a chocolate maker, a confectioner, a soft drink maker, home appliances, clothing and (of all things in the inner city): tractors.

An international presence in Marshall Street came with the establishment of Eveready Australia in 1925, manufacturing a wide range of batteries for city and rural use in two buildings, also constructed by Samuel Curotta. Eveready was followed in one building by a company that made carrier bags used throughout the nation and sample bags for the Royal Easter Show. The other building was occupied for about thirty years by a cigarette and tobacco factory. To keep all these businesses humming along, an electricity substation was constructed right in the middle of the street in 1930.

In modern times, the corner shops have largely been replaced by suburban shopping centres and manufacturing has moved to outer suburbs where expansion is easier and public transport allows workers to travel further for employment. The pubs have been turned to other uses and the factories into apartment blocks. The one remaining industry sells uniforms for hospitality workers. Marshall Street has become a gentrified residential street that still retains the visual reminders of its industrial past.

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Marshall Street today (whereis.com maps)

## Industrial development of Surry Hills

### After the Gold Rush

The inner Sydney suburb of Surry Hills was created as a residential district between the gold rushes of the 1850s and the economic depression of the 1890s. Surges in house building coincided with periods of economic boom, mostly in the 1850s and 1880s. In 1849, Surry Hills and Woolloomooloo together consisted of only 800 houses, but by the 1890s a tangled network of streets and lanes was crammed with nearly 5,300 houses in long terraces of two-storey brick buildings modelled on English architectural styles.

But the explosion in population came at a cost: in the 1850s, facilities for water, sewerage and drainage were primitive and often non-existent. Population growth had far outstripped the provisions of sanitary services. The gold discoveries near Bathurst in 1851 turned the steady stream of immigrants into a flood as men of all ranks raced to the diggings. Shopkeepers abandoned their counters and mechanics left their workshops in the hope of making their fortunes.

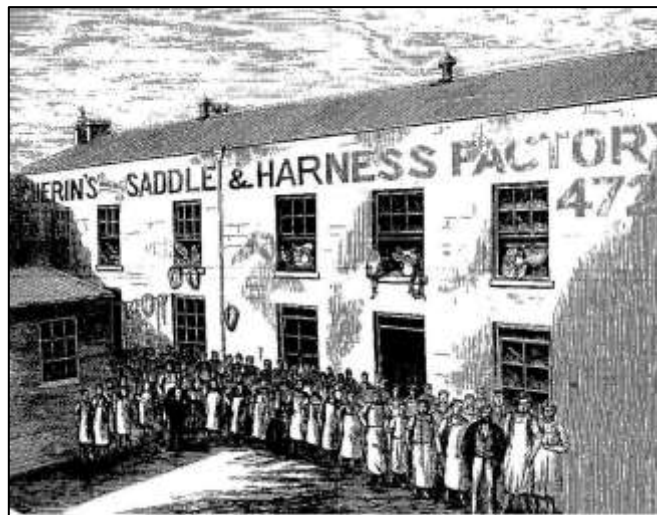


Figure 1 Guerin's Saddlery Surry Hills, 1878 (State Library of NSW)

The even social mix of the 1850s was replaced in the 1860s and 1870s by growing middle classes of mechanics, skilled artisans and shopkeepers. Much of the economy of Surry Hills was centred on the building trades, sustained by associated industries like the Bourke Street quarry, Ewart's Brickyards on Cleveland Street and Goodlet and Smith's pottery. The population was fed by produce from Nobbs' Garden, Michael Magill's Garden in Redfern and Baptist's Garden in Bourke Street.

The trades of tanning and currying were prominent in the area, principally William Pawley's Tannery in present-day Devonshire Street and William Alderson and Sons in Bourke Street. Through the length and breadth of Surry Hills there were scores of small workshops, and by the end of the 1880s every lane and alley was filled with the noise of blacksmiths' shops, flour mills, foundries and coal yards, accompanied by the smell of livery stables, ginger beer makers, biscuit factories and steam laundries. But towards the end of the nineteenth century, the sounds of textile knitting mills and printing works dominated the area, and new warehouses loomed over the nearby cottages.

## 1890s Depression and the new century

The long boom which peaked in the late 1880s culminated in a frenzy of speculation and in early 1893 with a wholesale collapse of the banks. Sydney was hit by unprecedented levels of unemployment, with the building trades among the worst affected. Those lucky enough to keep their jobs faced massive wage cuts and a shorter working week. After a few decades of prosperity, Surry Hills had once again become a working class district with the stigma of slum dwellers.

The worst effects of the depression began to dissipate by 1896, but it was prolonged until 1906 by a terrible drought. In 1905, the Sydney Municipal Council was given powers to resume and remodel whole areas for street widening. The dream of avid slum clearers like Lord Mayor Sir Allen Taylor was to demolish the old houses and replace them with business premises and factories. The middle class view at the time was that poverty was caused by slum housing, whereas it is now realised that poverty is caused by unemployment and low wages and that poor housing is simply a side-effect of this.



Figure 2 Brisbane Street resumption, 1928 (City of Sydney Archives)

Much slum clearance was undertaken, initially in Wexford Street in 1906 and continuing with the troubled Brisbane Street resumption in 1928. In the latter scheme, the Council was caught out by the Great Depression of the 1930s and the large demolished area remained empty for decades (it was eventually occupied by the Surry Hills Police Centre and Harmony Park). Streets such as William Street, Oxford Street and Flinders Street were widened after the Council demolished one side of the street then sold or leased the empty blocks after the widening was completed<sup>1</sup>.

## Marshall Street under threat

The first threat to Marshall Street from Government remodelling schemes was a plan in 1940 to widen Fitzroy Street between Crown and South Dowling Streets. This was to improve the traffic flow from Centennial Park to Central Station. A Minute Paper from the Town Clerk<sup>2</sup> stated that the plan was for three traffic lanes in each direction, with an eight-foot wide central garden, and two ten-foot wide footways. It was likened to the Hume Highway!

In August 1940, Sydney Council passed a resolution to approve the street widening<sup>3</sup>. But just a few days later the City Treasurer pointed out that the scheme was not included in Council's proposed

borrowing for the financial year 1940/1941<sup>4</sup>, and the scheme was shelved. The Pacific war from December 1941 killed off any further discussion of this scheme, as all Government attention was directed towards national defence.

Another serious threat to Marshall Street emerged in December 1968 when the New South Wales Housing Commission and Sydney Council released a plan to demolish the whole of McElhone Place and the north side of Bennett Street to erect blocks of flats. This was during the era of the Robert Askin Liberal government (1965-1975) which was notable for controversial schemes to blaze massive freeways through the heart of inner-city suburbs and grand plans for slum clearance that would have brought wholesale destruction to historic areas like Woollahroomooloo and The Rocks.

A letter from J. T. Purcell (Chairman of the Housing Commission) in December 1968 summed up the Government's intentions<sup>5</sup>: "An attractive redevelopment scheme is envisaged for the whole area, a tentative design for which indicates the possibility of the construction of eight-storey flat buildings containing approximately 128 flats to a density of the order of 95 units per acre".

It is not clear from Sydney Council records why this scheme did not go ahead, but a few factors probably helped its abandonment. Housing Commission documents stated that the 61 dwellings to be demolished involved 33 separate holdings (including the north-side houses in Bennett Street), which meant that there were 33 different owners for the government to negotiate compensation with<sup>6</sup>. Nigel Ashton, a town planner from this era, remembers that for Councils to acquire so many houses individually was financially, organisationally and politically almost impossible.

The result was that most historic areas remained as they were, and only Redfern saw changes (notably with the erection of the Northcott Place Flats, opening in 1960)<sup>7</sup>. Also, by the 1960s the Government didn't really have the money for inner city slum clearance, as the Housing Commission was more concerned with building houses on the outskirts of Sydney<sup>8</sup>.



## Early development of Marshall Street

### Maiden Lane

Marshall Street was originally named Maiden Lane<sup>9</sup>. The first residences and grocery shop were being constructed from about 1845, and by 1851 there were 13 houses in the street<sup>10</sup>. The Cockatoo Inn (now the Hopetoun Hotel) and the former Pineapple Hotel (on the east side of the Nicholls Street corner) were operating in Fitzroy Street by then. The 1854 map of the City of Sydney shows that on the western side of Maiden Lane there was one house near Fitzroy Street and one near Fanny Place, and on the eastern side seven houses from Fitzroy Street to number 14, then two houses about halfway along the street<sup>11</sup>.

From about 1865 the street was recorded as Madden Street in the City of Sydney Trigonometric Survey of 1855-1865<sup>12</sup> and in *Sands' Directories*<sup>13</sup>. This may not have been official until after November 1868 when Alderman Charles Kidman announced at a meeting of electors for Fitzroy Ward that Madden Street would be adopted. He thought that "a thoroughfare over ten or fifteen feet wide should be called a street as no one liked it said that he lived in a lane"<sup>14</sup>.



Figure 3 Marshall/Fitzroy Street corner, 1909 (City of Sydney Archives)

### The Marshall family of builders

The street was first called Marshall Street in the press in November 1869<sup>15</sup>, although there was already a Marshall Street running south from Devonshire Street (on the site of present-day Ward Park)<sup>16</sup>. The City of Sydney's Guide to Sydney Streets attributes the name of the former Maiden Lane to Joseph Marshall, the owner of Marshall's Paddington Brewery from 1857<sup>17</sup>.

But it is more likely to have been named after a Scottish immigrant family who became prominent builders and property owners in and around the street. John Marshall was born in Markinch in the Scottish county of Fife in October 1805. In 1831, he married Mary Forsyth (1807-1881) from the Scottish town of Greenock<sup>18</sup>. They migrated from Greenock to Sydney in the *Stirling Castle*, arriving in October 1831<sup>19</sup>. They had seven children, including John in June 1832 and Mary in October 1838<sup>20</sup>.

John senior worked as a builder in Sydney<sup>21</sup> and died in 1843<sup>22</sup>. John junior (1832-1896), who did not marry, became a builder in Surry Hills<sup>23</sup>. Mary junior (1838-1907) married William Barnett (1836-1878) in 1875. Their second son was Walter Marshall Barnett (1877-1937), who married Mary Ann Kenny (1882-1963) in 1908<sup>24</sup>.

The Marshall family became prominent builders and property owners in the local area from the 1850s. Mary junior petitioned the Sydney Council for street improvements in Maiden Lane on three occasions, in 1858<sup>25</sup>, in 1860<sup>26</sup> and in 1866<sup>27</sup>.

By 1867, Mary junior also owned 548 Bourke Street and John owned seven houses in nearby Nichols Street: 16 to 22 and three houses to the rear of these<sup>28</sup>. By 1871, Mary junior was the owner of three two-storey stone houses off Marshall Street<sup>29</sup>. Her son Walter Marshall Barnett and his wife Mary Ann maintained ownership of properties in the street until at least 1948<sup>30</sup>.

### **Marshall Street develops**

By 1871, there were 23 houses in the street, with more constructed of wood than brick or stone<sup>31</sup>. The four pubs in the street were operating by the end of the 1870s. Note that the two pubs at each end of the street are included in this history: The Rifleman's Arms Hotel on the corner of Fitzroy Street and the Moore Park Hotel (later the Royal George Hotel) which backed onto the corner of Phelps Street. There were three grocers and a butcher by the 1880s<sup>32</sup>.

The first serious industry in the street was a factory that manufactured stoves from 1884<sup>33</sup> on the corner of Bennett Place, expanding in 1926 across the lane<sup>34</sup>. A bottle yard was the only other industry (other than shops) before 1920<sup>35</sup>.

The 1865 Trigonometric Survey map shows Bennett Street with one house already built, and Prospect Street (which was called Cook Street until 1903<sup>36</sup>) with no houses, but subdivided into allotments. Phelps Street was then called Jamison Place<sup>37</sup>.

## 75 Fitzroy Street (corner of Marshall Street)

### Rifleman's Arms Hotel

A two-storey brick building with five rooms had existed on the south-west corner of Fitzroy Street and Maiden Lane from about 1858<sup>38</sup>, and operated as a grocery shop with a residence on the first floor. John Dimond purchased the shop and the adjoining building in 1870<sup>39</sup>, and converted them into a hotel. He was able to obtain a publican's licence when Luke Murphy moved his licence from the Sailor's Arms in Lower George Street to the new hotel in March 1872<sup>40</sup>, then transferred it to Dimond the next month<sup>41</sup>. The new hotel was first called the Rifleman's Hotel, but later became the Rifleman's Arms Hotel.



Figure 4 Rifleman's Arms Hotel, 1922 (State Records of NSW)

The hotel's name was inspired by the Paddington Rifle Range (known locally as the Paddington Butts) that was established in 1852 in Moore Park, just south of Moore Park Road. The range was originally intended to provide musket practice for the troops in Victoria Barracks, but a second adjoining range was opened in 1862 to allow recreational marksmen to practise and hold competitions. The New South Wales Rifle Association held annual prize meetings there from 1866 until 1889. Two hotels sprang up in the area to cater for thirsty shooters after a hard day on the range: The Rifleman's Hotel in Fitzroy Street and the Paddington Butts Hotel in Flinders street (now called the Flinders Hotel)<sup>42</sup>.

John Shearer purchased the hotel in about 1875 and became the licensee<sup>43</sup>. Then in January 1880 he undertook renovations to the building, replacing the balcony<sup>44</sup>, and adding the inscription "Rifleman's Hotel 1880" in relief stone or concrete to the top corner of the parapet to commemorate the changes he was making. The Irish publican Peter Meehan purchased the hotel in 1888<sup>45</sup>. He died in 1891<sup>46</sup>, but it was held by his family until after it was delicensed in 1923<sup>47</sup>.

In June 1921, the licensee Philip Smyth was prosecuted by Police Inspector Fullerton for a breach of the *Pure Foods Act*. The Inspector said that samples of rum from the hotel were found to contain 26.6% added water. The licensee's counsel claimed that it was accidental, as he broke his

thermometer and had to mix the rum by guesswork. After some semantic confusion, the learned gentleman admitted he meant “hydrometer”, but whatever the broken instrument was called, the magistrate was not persuaded and fined the licensee £10<sup>48</sup>.

The new licensee, George Spiegel, was summoned to appear at a deprivation hearing of the Licences Reduction Board in October 1922. This did not go well: according to the police, the place was “old, obsolete, dilapidated, poorly conducted, and not fit for a hotel at all”. The only permanent boarder was the licensee’s son. The licensee had been there since February, and had twice been fined for illegal trading. Women frequented the place, and it had received extra police supervision. Spiegel tried to put on a brave face by optimistically claiming it was the cleanest hotel in Surry Hills<sup>49</sup>. The Board’s decision was to cancel the licence, effective 30 June 1923<sup>50</sup>.

After the pub’s closure, the building continued to be held by Peter Meehan’s widow Maria<sup>51</sup>, and after 1927 by her estate until at least 1948<sup>52</sup>. The building was used as a grocery shop and residence for some years, and from 1990 was the home of Paddington Blinds and Shutters. It has been used as office space by various companies since then, and is presently being converted to a restaurant.

## 5-11 and 13-15 Marshall Street

### Summary of industries

- Allington Stoveworks (1884-1937).
- Acorn Pressed Metal Pty Ltd (1938-1943).
- Amor Pty Ltd (1943-1997).
- Jonathan Sceats, spectacle maker (1984-1988).

### Allington Stoveworks

In 1869, the confectioner Thomas H. Rudd constructed a house on the south side of Bennett Place<sup>53</sup>. The residence was a two-storey wooden building<sup>54</sup>. By 1883, it was occupied by the Reverend William Rudd<sup>55</sup>. James Ward purchased the property in early 1884 and constructed a foundry and a three-storey workshop on the site<sup>56</sup>. In October 1884 he began to advertise the new Allington Works at 15 Marshall Street<sup>57</sup>.

James Ward (1849–1915), whitesmith and stove maker, was born in West Allington, Dorset, England. He married Sarah Jane Whittle in London in 1873 and they migrated to Sydney, arriving in February 1874. By 1885, he was established as a whitesmith and manufacturer of stoves and ranges with a showroom at 414 Crown Street and a foundry and workshop in Marshall Street<sup>58</sup>. In November 1890 he gained a contract with Sydney City Council to supply cooking apparatus for the Centennial Hall (now Sydney Town Hall).

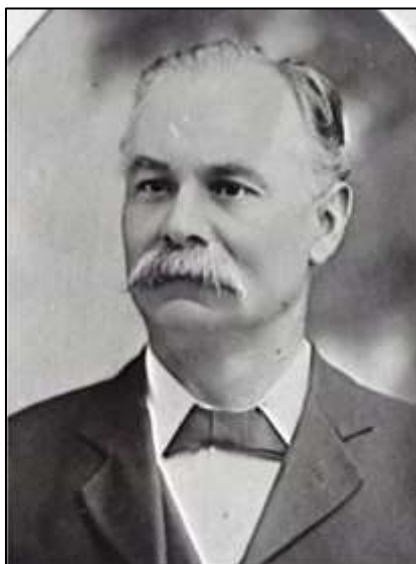


Figure 5 James Ward (Sydney Aldermen website)

As well as a stove maker, he advertised himself as a hot water engineer, plumber, coppersmith and iron-founder. By 1895, he was living in Stanley Street in Randwick in a house he named Allington, after the place of his birth. He served as an alderman for Flinders Ward from December 1900 to November 1902, then from December 1906 to November 1909, and was a member of several council committees<sup>59</sup>.

Allington stoves were installed in other major public buildings of the time, including The Australian Club, both Gladesville and Callan Park Asylums, and in the Great Hotel Company in Melbourne (the

latter reportedly the largest stove in the southern hemisphere). The Marshall Street site was associated with technological advancements in stove design during the late nineteenth century, including the development of flues for improved kitchen ventilation and living conditions<sup>60</sup>.



Figure 6 Allington stove advert, 1886 (Australian Builders' Price Book)

In 1926, the business expanded to the north side of Bennett Lane after the four terrace houses at 5-11 Marshall Street were demolished and a two-storey brick foundry was erected<sup>61</sup>. An overpass was constructed to connect the two parts of the factory at the first floor level (and is still there today). It appears that the Allington Stoveworks did not fully recover from the 1930s economic depression, because in June 1937 the board of James Ward Ltd voted to voluntarily wind up the company<sup>62</sup>. The plant and machinery were advertised for sale the same month<sup>63</sup>.

### Acorn Pressed Metal Co Ltd

Ernest Albert Parmiter was born in 1891 and arrived in Australia in 1909. During World War I, he served in the 1st Light Horse Regiment. In 1920, he joined Ausmetoy Ltd, makers of dies and stamped metal articles<sup>64</sup>, as the Works Manager. He founded Acorn Pressed Metal Co Ltd in September 1930<sup>65</sup> and operated a workshop in Mathieson Street, Camperdown where he advertised all classes of chassis, pressed metal and turret lathe work<sup>66</sup>. He purchased both buildings of the former Allington Stoveworks in October 1938 and moved his operations there<sup>67</sup>.

When World War II broke out in September 1939, Australia became involved on several fronts. The Philips Radio Works took over the Acorn Pressed Metal factory in Marshall Street in late 1941 in order to combine closely-related industries (Acorn could make the metal chassis and cases for Philips radio receivers, for example)<sup>68</sup>. One of the initiatives to aid the British war effort was the Bundles for Britain scheme, and a number of Philips factories were used as suburban reception depots for

donations, including the Acorn site in Marshall Street. A notice in *The Daily Telegraph* in June 1941 appealed for old and new clothing for the victims of the air raids in Britain<sup>69</sup>.



Figure 7 Former Acorn Pressed Metal Co (realestate.com.au)

By February 1942, the company was advertising for extra toolmakers for Defence work<sup>70</sup> and a few months later a tender was accepted by the Department of Supply and Development to make spindles for the Army<sup>71</sup>. A major change in employment during wartime was that women and girls went to work in factories that were previously the domain of men and boys (many of whom were conscripted into the military from 1942, leaving workplaces short of staff).

At the end of 1942, a judge criticised the welfare conditions for employees at the Marshall Street factory<sup>72</sup>. Soon afterwards, representatives of the Women's Employment Board inspected the buildings and found that almost nothing had been done to meet the conditions required for the employment of women in the factory. The personnel manager of Philips Radio claimed that the recommendations of the Factory Welfare Board could not be carried out due to lack of room and because permission to build could not be obtained. This included very basic things such as hot water for wash basins<sup>73</sup>.

However, on the bright side (from the productivity point of view), a survey in March 1942 found that Bing Crosby was getting more work for the war effort out of Sydney girls than ever before. The head of John Sands Pty Ltd said their production figures improved by 5% when he was played during the working day. Another survey by Philips Radio Works Pty Ltd found that male swing vocalists were the most popular, followed by crooners. However, the blokes were not so keen on crooners, and favoured lively brass band selections instead<sup>74</sup>.

An advertisement in June 1942 for staff to make dies, jigs and gauges mentioned that Acorn Pressed Metal Pty Ltd had been classified as a protected undertaking<sup>75</sup>. In 1942, the Federal Cabinet declared that any person in a protected undertaking, which was an industry regarded as essential for the war effort, should be compelled to carry out their duties, whether employer or employee, under the threat that if they did not they would lose the protection of a reserved occupation and be drafted forthwith into the military services or other work<sup>76</sup>.

Philips Radio Works announced at the end of 1942 that they planned to transfer to other premises in January 1943 because working conditions in Marshall Street were not suitable<sup>77</sup>. They advertised for staff in their factories in Paddington, Camperdown, Waterloo and Surry Hills, especially for girls aged 15 to 19 to be trained for “interesting work of national importance”<sup>78</sup>. The last mention of Acorn Pressed Metal Pty Ltd in the press was at the end of January 1943, so after that they must have moved elsewhere under the name of the Philips Radio Works<sup>79</sup>.

## Amor Pty Ltd

William Joseph Amor (c1861-1955) arrived in Sydney from England on a recuperative holiday in 1886. He had been trained in the art of die engraving in England, Paris, Berlin and Vienna. An engraver at the Sydney Mint suggested he remain in the colony and work here. He did, and in 1888 set himself up as a die engraver at 321 George Street. In 1890 he married Emma Newton<sup>80</sup>, the daughter of the Sydney Mint engineer. His earliest commissions included dies for the Centennial Commission and the New South Wales postage stamps.



Figure 8 Amor WWII medals, 1945 (Bendigo Military Museum)

He prospered and moved to various larger premises, at each phase contributing medallion mementos of major events in Australian history<sup>81</sup>. From 1915<sup>82</sup>, the company operated from a factory that William Amor designed and built at 24 Wentworth Avenue<sup>83</sup>. A newspaper advertisement in 1917 listed their services as a “manufacturer of medals and badges, specialising in patriotic emblems, club and school badges stamping of all descriptions, all colours in real enamel”<sup>84</sup>.

A *Sunday Times* article on William Amor and his company in May 1919 mentioned that in a relatively short time he had built up an industry that was essentially new in Australia, and had become the predominant medal maker in the nation. He implemented a system of profit-sharing for the employees, which had been used in other countries but was in its infancy in Australia. Mr Amor said that his only competitors were men who had learned their trade under his guidance and had gone on to start their own companies.

At the time, the Amor factory was busy turning out about one million Peace Medals which the Government wanted to distribute to every school child under fifteen. Amor was the only New South Wales firm making the medals, and the sixty workers on the job were turning out some 25,000 per day for delivery to the Defence Department in time for distribution in the month after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles (which occurred on 28 June 1919 and marked the official return of peace in Europe).

Tenders to manufacture the medals had been called for in all States and several contracts were awarded, but Amor Pty Ltd was awarded twice as many as the number allocated to any other factory. In the event, a number of firms pulled out of the job and the Mr Amor was asked to speed up deliveries to meet the Government's deadline, so work went on day and night<sup>85</sup>. It was testimony to the Australian production industry that it produced over 1,500,000 medals in only a few months.

The Peace Medal was a significant marker of both global and local events that shaped Australia's identity and a physical symbol of the relief felt throughout the world when World War I ended in 1918<sup>86</sup>. In July 1943, Amor Pty Ltd purchased the Acorn Pressed Metal Ltd site in Marshall Street and moved its operations there<sup>87</sup>.

During World War II, the company made components for the war effort, including the metal links used in the landing bridges for the D-Day invasion. Occasions commemorated by Amor's products over the years included the 1924 visit of the Prince of Wales (later briefly King Edward VIII in 1936) and the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932. Dodge and Studebaker cars had badges made for them by Amor, as did the Royal Agricultural Society, Tattersalls Club and the University of Sydney, who used Amor's expertise for their commemoratives and badges<sup>88</sup>.

William James Sanders came to Sydney in 1911 from Birmingham, where he gained an intimate knowledge of the silversmith's and goldsmith's trade. By 1914 he had moved to Bowen's Buildings, near Railway Square, where he would stay for some fifty years. The workshops were manufacturing sterling silverware to order for retail jewellery houses in Sydney and Melbourne. Most noteworthy was their production of church plate in silver and gold.

In 1978, Amor Pty Ltd merged with W. J. Sanders Pty Ltd to become Amor-Sanders Pty Ltd<sup>89</sup>. Thus from 1978 the manufacture of silverware and art metal ware was undertaken in parallel with the production of medals, medallions and badges<sup>90</sup>.

Amor-Sanders operated in Marshall Street until the 1990s, winning Government contracts for Australian honours medallions in 1981<sup>91</sup> and Australian service medals in 1985<sup>92</sup>. The last mention of the company in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* was in December 1996 when they were contracted by the Government to manufacture Japan, Papua New Guinea and Thai-Malay clasp sets<sup>93</sup>.

As the premier medal, badge and institutional button maker in New South Wales, the company had supplied most of the government contracts for civil and military badges and buttons for several decades. Although it was still solvent in 1997, Amor-Sanders Pty Ltd was sold for family reasons. The company was split into two smaller concerns which moved to other locations, leaving the Surry Hills property to be developed into apartments<sup>94</sup>.

## Modern usage

The ownership and usage of the buildings 5-11 and 13-15 Marshall Street after Amor-Sanders left in the 1990s are hard to determine accurately. The main reference is the New South Wales State Heritage Register entry for 13-15 (the south side), but the building is sometimes referred to as 5-11 (the north side).

The two-storey factory building to the north of Bennett Place (now called 3-11 Marshall Street) was vacated by Amor-Sanders Pty Ltd in 1996 or 1997, at which time it was converted to an apartment block known as The Foundry, with the first apartment sold in 1997 (possibly off the plan)<sup>95</sup>.



Figure 9 Former Amor Ltd factory (Oxford Real Estate website)

The three-storey building to the south of Bennett Place (13-15 Marshall Street) is now known as 5 Bennett Place. The building was purchased by Michael McDougall Barratt and Wilhelmina Barratt in March 1982. The optometrist Jonathan Ross Sceats then purchased it in December 1984, and applied to City of Sydney Council in May 1988 to use the ground floor for the design and display of optical frames. In June 1989, the architects Suttor and Cox applied to Council to convert the building into residential units<sup>96</sup>. The building now contains an artist's studio on the ground floor and four bedrooms above.

## 17-19 Marshall Street

### Hand of Friendship Hotel

In the 1877 Rate Assessment Book, Richard McCoy was recorded as the owner of a two-storey brick house on a large allotment at 17-19 Marshall Street<sup>97</sup>. He demolished the house in 1878 and constructed a two-storey hotel with nine rooms which he named the Hand of Friendship Hotel. It opened in May that year with William Neal as the first licensee<sup>98</sup>.

The pub traded for several years, with the usual changes of licensee every few years<sup>99</sup>. But in June 1890, the annual licence renewal application by John O'Grady was refused in the Licensing Court after Police Inspector Bremner strongly opposed it. The redoubtable Inspector did not hold back when asked by the Magistrate to give his grounds for opposing the licence, claiming that the licensee was a man of intemperate habits and of a quarrelsome disposition, he had been sent to gaol for assault and to the (lunatic) reception house in Darlinghurst for insanity, he had been fined £3 for Sunday selling and lastly he kept his hotel in an exceedingly dirty state<sup>100</sup>.



Figure 10 Former Hand of Friendship Hotel (Google maps)

Two weeks later, John O'Grady, his reputation already battered and bruised in the Licensing Court, applied to transfer the licence to George Collier. The Magistrate pointed out that there was some evidence of signatures being obtained by fraud, and that there was further irregularity in the application, so it was withdrawn<sup>101</sup>. All the furniture and other effects of the hotel were sold at auction in August 1890<sup>102</sup> and that was the last mention of the hotel in the press, so it closed up soon afterwards.

### Butchers and greengrocers

In 1892, the butcher William House moved from 31 Marshall Street to lease the closed pub from Richard McCoy and establish his shop and residence there<sup>103</sup>. He remained there until erecting his own butcher's shop at 25 and a connected residence at 27 Marshall Street in 1898<sup>104</sup>. The butcher James McCoy then occupied 19 Marshall Street from 1899 to 1902<sup>105</sup>.

Richard McCoy died in April 1904, aged 65 years<sup>106</sup>, having lived in New South Wales for sixty years<sup>107</sup>. The building became a greengrocer's shop from that time until about 1910<sup>108</sup>. 17 and 19 were owned by the estate of Richard McCoy<sup>109</sup> until about 1911 when Mary Bridget McCoy became the owner<sup>110</sup>.

The cabinetmaker Harry Nagle occupied 17 and 19 from 1912 to 1916<sup>111</sup>. From about 1918 the building was subdivided and 17 and 19 were rented separately from this time<sup>112</sup>. Mary McCoy died in the late 1920s, and ownership of 17 and 19 passed to her estate<sup>113</sup> until about 1948 when Frank Balbi purchased the building<sup>114</sup>. Nowadays, 17 is a three bedroom house and 19 is a two bedroom house.

## 23 Marshall Street

### Power to the city

Electricity for lighting was first used in Sydney in 1878, to allow extended working hours in preparation for the 1879 International Exhibition, held at the Garden Palace in the Botanic Gardens. As early as 1882, the Sydney Municipal Council consulted overseas experts, including Thomas Edison, on the feasibility and cost of illuminating the city streets with electric light. Soon afterwards, some eighty electric light plants were imported, which were sold to private individuals and Government departments.

In 1896, the *Municipal Council of Sydney Electric Lighting Act* enabled the Sydney Municipal Council to raise funds to provide power for lighting the streets and people's homes<sup>115</sup>. The Council appointed two British electrical engineers, Sir William Preece and Major Philip Cardew. Cardew arrived in Sydney in March 1900 and submitted a scheme to supply electricity to districts up to five miles from a power station, which was built on Pyrmont Bay, on the site now occupied by The Star Casino. Through 1902 and 1903, the system was constructed with imported British machinery and plant.

By July 1904, a network of arc lamps was able to give the citizens of Sydney a source of bright light, heat and power previously unavailable to most people. The new electric lamps were 2,000 candlepower each, a big improvement on the existing gas lamps which were 40 candlepower (with 400 candlepower lamps on the main street corners)<sup>116</sup>. On 9 July 1904, the *Sydney Morning Herald* marveled at the brilliant effect of the new arc lamps<sup>117</sup>.

The Municipal Council of Sydney (MCS) was formed in 1904 to produce and distribute electric power to central Sydney. From then until 1935, the MCS constructed hundreds of small distribution substations throughout Sydney, many of them still in service. The MCS supplied electricity to retail customers around the inner city, inner west and lower north shore, and provided bulk power to outer western and northern suburbs such as Penrith, Hornsby and Manly.

Electricity substations were generally built as modest one- or two-storey buildings, with considerably larger Zone Substations. The style of substation construction became much more standardised as the network expanded. While the earliest substations tended to be large ornamented public buildings, as they became more commonplace they were smaller and simpler.

This reflected the need for more cost-effective construction methods, the reduction in size of electricity equipment and the speed the buildings needed to be erected to keep up with demand. By the late 1920s, the trend was for standardised design in a smaller size designed to fit on a standard suburban block, typically 100 to 200 square metres. Designs kept pace with architectural trends and a number of distinct architectural styles can be identified among them. From the late 1920s, the number of substations constructed in Sydney exploded to dozens per year.

From the 1950s, freestanding metal kiosk-style substations were progressively introduced, which meant that many were strictly functional unornamented brick boxes. Historically, better quality substation buildings were built in what the MCS called "high class" suburbs (Woollahra and Mosman in particular), while middle- and working-class suburbs tended to get much simpler functional buildings.

## Electricity Substation No. 114

In 1888, 23 Marshall Street contained a one-storey wooden house owned by Richard McCoy<sup>118</sup>. This building was still standing in 1930, by then owned by Joseph L. Miller<sup>119</sup>.

Substation 114 was originally established in 1921-22 in part of the Anderson and Company Hat factory site bounded by Nichols, Hutchinson and Fitzroy Streets, Surry Hills. By 1929 the original substation building was almost overloaded but with insufficient space for additional equipment. The current substation building in Marshall Street was constructed as a replacement in 1930-32. It was built by the Municipal Council of Sydney during the period of rapid expansion of the electricity network into the suburbs. Since 2011 it has been owned by AusGrid.



Figure 11 Electricity Substation No. 114 (Google maps)

The Marshall Street substation is a rare and representative example of a well-detailed Interwar Functionalist building that features strongly articulated decorative brick detailing to the street façade. The building has aesthetically significant interwar Art Deco detailing such as the symmetrical façade, rounded corners and emphasis on parallel lines created by the use of contrasting brick<sup>120</sup>.

After being leased for almost 20 years, the surplus land at the rear of the substation was sold in 1954<sup>121</sup>. In 1959, an application was made to the Sydney Council to use the rear portion for motor repairs and spare part sales<sup>122</sup>.

In September 1995, an application was made to erect a two-storey residence at the rear of the substation, known as 6 Fanny Place<sup>123</sup>.

## 25-27 Marshall Street

### An enterprising butcher

The first record of buildings at 25 and 27 Marshall Street occurred in 1871 when the carpenter and joiner Joseph C Miller owned and occupied a single-storey four-roomed wooden house and the carpenter George Munro/Munroe owned and occupied a smaller two-roomed house<sup>124</sup>. The house numbering from this time until about 1900 is inconsistent in the Rate Assessment Books and *Sands' Directories*, but the 1888 Higinbotham & Robinson map of the street shows a wooden house at 27 on Marshall Street and another one behind it (on Fanny Place), with vacant land at 25. So it seems the two wooden houses on the allotment were those referred to variously as 25 or 27 or 25-27 for some years.



Figure 12 25 Marshall Street (Bresic Whitney website)

William James House was born in the small village of Fivehead in Somerset, England in July 1853. He migrated to Sydney with his family, arriving in September 1856. He married Mary Ann McMahon in Sydney in December 1880<sup>125</sup>. From 1887, he blazed the trail for butchers in Marshall Street: starting a shop at number 31, moving to number 19 (the former Hand of Friendship Hotel) in 1892, which was occupied by another butcher after he moved out.

In 1896, William House purchased the two wooden houses<sup>126</sup> and leased them for a couple of years. In 1898, he constructed a two-storey brick butcher's shop at 25 and a connected two-storey brick residence at 27<sup>127</sup>. The shop is an impressive structure capped by a pediment under which is displayed the year of construction in relief. The residence has a matching pediment.

William House remained there until advertising the two buildings for sale in 1907<sup>128</sup>, although *Sands' Directories* listed him as the occupant until 1910<sup>129</sup>. He sold the two buildings to William A. Dixon by 1911<sup>130</sup> and they were occupied separately after this. Number 25 continued to be used as a butcher's shop for a few more years<sup>131</sup>. William House moved to 496 Bourke Street by 1913<sup>132</sup> and died there in November 1917, aged 64<sup>133</sup>.



**Figure 13 27 Marshall Street (realestate.com.au)**

Number 25 continued to be used as a shop until 1948<sup>134</sup>. Walter Henry Cottee purchased them at this time, lived in 27 and leased 25<sup>135</sup>. Cottee's occupation was recorded as a carrier at 27 Marshall Street in the 1949 Electoral Roll<sup>136</sup>. Today, 25 is a two-bedroom house and 27 is a three-bedroom house.



**Figure 14 Front room of 25 Marshall Street (realestate.com.au)**

The side walls of the front room of 25 Marshall Street still feature the monochrome blue tiles that were characteristic of Victorian-era butcher's shops.

## 29-31 Marshall Street

### Summary of industries

- Jewell & Sheehan, paint manufacturers.
- Eveready Australia, battery manufacturers.

The first buildings on the site in 1876 were a grocery at 29, owned and operated by William Deemer<sup>137</sup>, and a drapery at 31 operated by Edwin Proctor and owned by H. Enright<sup>138</sup>. The two buildings were of brick with two stories and two rooms each. Behind 29, fronting Fanny Place, were two single-storey weatherboard cottages. William Deemer sold the shop and cottages in 1878 to move to the country<sup>139</sup>.



Figure 15 29 Marshall Street, 2011 (Mark Stevens, COS Archives)

William House operated a butcher's shop at 31 from 1887<sup>140</sup> until about 1891<sup>141</sup>, when he moved to the former Hand of Friendship Hotel building. A health scare occurred in Marshall Street in October 1892 when typhoid fever was reported in the family of the grocer and milk vendor Mr G. Hammond at 31. The Board of Health suspended his registration until the infection had passed<sup>142</sup>. Several grocers operated at 29 until at least the 1930s<sup>143</sup>.

In 1923, Jewell and Sheen Pty Ltd manufactured stains and polishes at 119 Phillip Street<sup>144</sup>. One product they advertised was Quik-N-Ezy, a stain for stoves and grates<sup>145</sup>. In 1926, the company owner Albert Jewell purchased 31 Marshall Street and moved his factory there<sup>146</sup>. They remained in the building until 1932, when Eveready Australia Pty Ltd leased it from Albert Jewell<sup>147</sup> before purchasing it in about 1939<sup>148</sup>. Eveready remained there until after 1945<sup>149</sup> when the company closed its factory at 38-48 and 50-56 Marshall Street, and presumably moved to the purpose-built factory at Harcourt Street, Rosebery. 31 Marshall Street was then purchased by John Francis Ley<sup>150</sup>.

31 was used for small-scale industry for some years, including as a carpenter's workshop from 1954<sup>151</sup> and for upholstery work from 1964<sup>152</sup>.

In 1965, a proposal was submitted to Sydney Council to convert 29 and 31 Marshal Street to a block of flats<sup>153</sup>. But this did not eventuate until another application was submitted in 1974<sup>154</sup> when a two-storey block of four town houses, known as 29 Marshall Street, was completed in June 1975.

## 33-39 Marshall Street

### A posse of Marshalls

By 1871, the four allotments on Marshall Street to the south of Fanny Place (33 to 39) were occupied by three two-storey stone or stone/wood houses owned by Mary Marshall<sup>155</sup>, while 33 contained a large garden or yard<sup>156</sup>. John Marshall was the owner by 1877<sup>157</sup>. In 1891, he owned and lived in a small brick house at 33, while 39 was a set of stables that he also owned<sup>158</sup>.

After John died in 1896, his sister Mary became the owner of two houses and two stables in the large block<sup>159</sup>. After she died in 1907, her son-in-law Walter Marshall Barnett became the owner of the properties<sup>160</sup>.

### O'Keefe the bottle-oh

By 1919, Patrick O'Keefe had established a bottle yard with stables at 37 and 39<sup>161</sup>, and operated it until at least 1954<sup>162</sup>. In the early twentieth century, the cost of producing glass bottles was higher than today, so a natural industry of glass bottle collectors and merchants operated. Bottle accumulators, a licensed and unionised workforce known as "bottle-ohs" from their street cries, travelled in carts around the streets buying empty bottles from households and businesses.



Figure 16 Bottle-oh in Carlton, c1950 (Agnes Herron Facebook page)

They would sell the bottles to a bottle yard where they would be stored and sorted before being sold them in bulk to brewers and other bottlers. It was an industry in which a bottle-oh could make a good living: in 1904 they could buy a dozen beer bottles for 6d, sell them to the bottle yard for 9d who could then sell them to brewers for 1 shilling<sup>163</sup>. But the commercial reuse of glass bottles and the collecting industry had all but disappeared by the 1950s<sup>164</sup>.

A Collector's Licence was issued to Patrick O'Keefe's employee James Cox of 37 Marshall Street, Sydney in October 1921<sup>165</sup>. The bottle yard was operating until at least 1954<sup>166</sup>. In November 1966, an application was submitted to Sydney Council to erect a block of flats from 33 to 39 Marshall Street and including 456 and 458 Bourke Street, when the owner was the Estate of Mary Ann Barnett<sup>167</sup>. This was followed by another application in July 1968 for a new building on the same block<sup>168</sup>.

## A park for a Labor stalwart

By 1981, the buildings from 33 to 39 and those behind on Bourke Street had been demolished and a park named Fred Miller Reserve constructed with a mural on the south side building wall<sup>169</sup>.



Figure 17 Fred Miller (Sydney's Aldermen website)

Frederick Joseph Miller (1926-1992) was born in Surry Hills and lived there all his life. He worked as a plumber for twelve years, and then was employed as a health patrol officer by the South Sydney Council Health Department. He worked as an inspector for Sydney Council from 1969 to 1973. He joined the Surry Hills branch of the Australian Labor Party and became its secretary for thirteen years. He was the foundation president and life member of the Sydney Labor Club (see the section below on 45-47 Marshall Street).



Figure 18 Fred Miller Park, 1981 (City of Sydney Archives)

Fred Miller was elected the member for Bligh in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly from September 1981 to March 1984 and was an Alderman for Flinders Ward from September 1969 to September 1974<sup>170</sup>. In 1985 he began work in the local community, taking up the position of gay liaison coordinator for the Police Community Relations Bureau before retiring in 1989. He died in May 1992 after a long battle with asbestosis, survived by a wife and four daughters<sup>171</sup>.

## 45-47 Marshall Street

### Summary of Industries

#### 464 Bourke Street

- 1920-1921: Centennial Rubber Company.
- 1922-1925: Starkey & Company, automotive engineers.
- 1925-1926: Auto Tyre Service, automobile spare parts.
- 1937: F. J. Dynon and Company, used-car service station.
- 1937-1939: P. Murcutt & Co, shop fitting and metal plating.
- 1942-c1954: Super Transport Service Pty Ltd, delivery and haulage.

#### 45-47 Marshall Street

- 1930-c1935: Cottee's Passiona Ltd, soft drink manufacturer.
- 1939-1945: West Paper Company.
- 1946-c1948: Kavanagh & English Pty Ltd, home appliances.

#### Whole building

- 1955-8: Lanz Australia Pty Ltd, tractor showroom and spare parts.
- 1964-66: J & E Gritsch, clothing factory.
- 1968: Sydney Labor Club.
- 2005: Sydney Labor Club became Arts of Bourke.

### The Rubber King

The two-storey brick factory building at 45-47 Marshall Street was constructed in 1920 with two separated parts, one fronting Bourke Street (now 464) and the other fronting Marshall Street (45-47). The history of each part is described separately until the dividing wall was removed in the 1950s, after which it is treated as a single building. Note that the Bourke Street address has been variously called 462, 462a and is now 464.

By 1880, 462 Bourke Street was occupied by a one-storey brick house with four rooms and a yard to Marshall Street, constructed by a Mr Thompson<sup>172</sup>. The 1882 Rate Assessment Books then recorded the houses from 460 to 470 being pulled down<sup>173</sup>, and in the 1891 Rate Books, 462 is a two-storey brick house owned by Charles B Bond with land next door owned by Thompson<sup>174</sup>.

While the 1888 Higinbotham and Robinson map shows a one-storey brick house owned by Thompson on the latter site<sup>175</sup>, it seems that this was the empty block running from Bourke Street to Marshall Street on which Samuel Curotta constructed a two-storey factory building in 1920<sup>176</sup>, divided into 462a (now 464) Bourke Street on one side and 45-47 Marshall Street on the other side.

Samuel Curotta (1896-1959) was born Simki Curotta in Sydney. His parents Jankel/Jacob (1856-1904) and Rachel (1859-1943) arrived from London on the *Illawarra* in July 1883. They were born in Russia and were married in London in 1880. Jacob was listed as Jewish and a tobacco cutter in the ship's list. Samuel's brothers who were later involved in business with him were Lewis (1880-1962), Harris (1883-1943) and Morris Albert (1886-1968)<sup>177</sup>.

Samuel had been in the business of selling and repairing new and second-hand vehicle tyres and tubes since about 1912, when he advertised himself as The Rubber King from his business at 31 Reservoir Street, City<sup>178</sup>. The Curotta Rubber Company moved to 19 Barlow Street in Haymarket in 1913<sup>179</sup>, then to 72 Great Buckingham St, Redfern in 1915, when it claimed to be the largest second-hand tyre warehouse in the State<sup>180</sup>. The last newspaper mention of this company was in November 1920 when 53 bales of wool waste were exported to London<sup>181</sup>.

### **Automotive industries**

The Centennial Rubber Company opened at 5 Flinders Street in November 1918 in a building newly constructed after the widening of Flinders Street in 1918-1919, offering bargains in new and second-hand tyres and tubes<sup>182</sup>. This company advertised from this address until August 1920<sup>183</sup> after which it moved to Samuel Curotta's new building at 464 Bourke Street.



**Figure 19 464 Bourke Street, 2022 (Google maps)**

Disaster struck a few months later in January 1921 when a fire caused severe damage to the rubber company and to the Butterfly Chocolate Company in the rear of the building at 45-47 Marshall Street<sup>184</sup>. After most of the inflammable rubber products went up in smoke, the roof then fell in<sup>185</sup>. This seemed to be the end of the Centennial Rubber Company, which was never mentioned in the press again.

The newspaper reports of the fire referred to the Continental Rubber Company, but the reporters were confused with the more famous German tyre company of that name that was operating in Sydney until 1916. At that time, a Federal Court ruled that because it was German-owned, all the stocks of the company had to be moved from the other States to Melbourne, to give Government the control over how the products were distributed<sup>186</sup>. *Smith's Weekly* later reported in 1919 that not long after World War I began, the Federal Government brought in legislation against enemy trading companies (The *Enemy Trading Act 1914*), and assumed control over the Continental Rubber Co, which was based in Melbourne<sup>187</sup>. After the War, the General Rubber Company bought the

Continental Rubber Company's stock from the Commonwealth Government and advertised it for sale in 1919<sup>188</sup>

After the extensive fire damage was repaired, a new firm of automotive engineers named Starkey and Company took over the 464 Bourke Street site in February 1922. Les Starkey, formerly of McIntosh and Sons Ltd, entered into a partnership with his father A. E. Starkey, formerly of the Metro Motor Works<sup>189</sup>. Starkey senior and junior remained at the site until January 1925<sup>190</sup> when they moved to 494 Crown Street<sup>191</sup>.



Figure 20 Starkey and Co advert, 1922 (*The Sun*, 11 February 1922)

In July 1925, the Auto Tyre Service moved to 464 Bourke Street, advertising parts for Buick cars<sup>192</sup>. The company continued to advertise its services until November 1926<sup>193</sup>. There followed a long period of inactivity at the site until 1937, when F. J. Dynon & Coy established a service station for their second-hand cars, which they were selling from a showroom at 250 Castlereagh St<sup>194</sup>. The shop-fitting company P. Murcutt Pty Ltd then moved to 464 Bourke Street in August 1937<sup>195</sup> and advertised for shop fitters and metal workers until November 1939<sup>196</sup>.

At this time, the Super Transport Service Pty Ltd became registered to carry on the business of general carriers and haulage contractors with a registered office at 56 Crown Street, Woolloomooloo<sup>197</sup>. By 1942, this company had moved its operations to 464 Bourke Street, where a large quantity of clothing was stored while awaiting delivery to Sydney firms. This made the site a magnet for burglars, and in June 1942 several goods including children's wear, silk stockings, cosmetics and perfumes were stolen. These items were reported to be heavily rationed during the war and would fetch a high price on the black market<sup>198</sup>.

Another serious burglary occurred in November 1943 when clothing valued at over £500 was taken from the warehouse. But police found them in an air raid shelter not far away, apparently hidden there until they could be carried away in a truck<sup>199</sup>. The 1943 aerial map of Sydney shows zig-zag air raid trenches in many of Sydney's parks, and the nearest one to 464 Bourke Street was in the yard of the J. J. Carroll Pre-School Centre, on the corner of Phelps and Alexander Streets<sup>200</sup>. The Super Transport Service continued to advertise for delivery drivers and salesmen until January 1953<sup>201</sup>. The company's name is still visible on the front of the building today.

## **Butterfly Chocolate Company**

*Dun's Gazette* of New South Wales businesses lists a chocolate manufacturer with the romantic name Butterfly Chocolate Company that commenced operation in January 1920 with a city office at 32 Castlereagh Street<sup>202</sup>. In March that year they established a factory at 45-47 Marshall Street and advertised for staff (specifically experienced chocolate dippers)<sup>203</sup>. The following month they exhibited their products in the Royal Hall of Industries at the Royal Agricultural Show alongside the heavy hitters in the sweets and snack food trade such as Henderson's Sweets Ltd, Hoadley's Ltd and the Sanitarium Health Food Company<sup>204</sup>.

Through 1920 the company advertised for agents to promote their thirty varieties in the Blue Mountains<sup>205</sup> and for a confectioner in their factory<sup>206</sup>. In October 1920, the company raised capital of £5000 in £1 shares, to carry on the business acquired from Ernest Jules Vieser, Adam Lockhart and Lawrence Richmond<sup>207</sup>. In November 1920 they were still looking for experienced chocolate dippers (I guess you can't have too many chocolate dippers in a chocolate factory) at the Marshall Street factory<sup>208</sup>. The Butterfly Chocolate Company did not advertise its products in the newspapers, so it seems its market was selling wholesale to grocers and confectionery shops.

In January 1921, the disastrous fire in the Centennial Rubber Company next door also caused the upper storey of the chocolate factory to be burnt out, with less damage to the lower floor<sup>209</sup>. The Butterfly Chocolate Company did not recover from this setback, and in April it was announced in *Dun's Gazette* that it would be wound up voluntarily<sup>210</sup>.

In June 1921, the confectioners Pearson Brothers established a factory at 45-47 Marshall Street and advertised for staff<sup>211</sup>. This company operated until just before the Great Depression of the late 1920s, closing the business in February 1929 and selling the contents of their factory<sup>212</sup>.

## **Cottee's Passiona Ltd**

Spencer Cottee was a dairy farmer in Lismore New South Wales who developed Passiona as a cordial which, when carbonated, became the foundation product of the Cottees range from its first manufacture in 1924. Cottee developed his Passiona fruit syrup as a way to make use of the passionfruit grown on his farm. He became an enthusiastic promoter of the product as a money earner for local farmers. He distributed his syrup to cafes and refreshment rooms as well as sending samples to Government House.

It was a local bottler in Lismore who first produced an aerated version of Passiona, and in 1926 Cottee set up a factory in Sydney. He had vice-regal patronage, and in 1927 was quoting Lady De Chair, the Governor's wife, in his advertisements<sup>213</sup>. Passiona is now manufactured by Schweppes Australia.

Cottee's established a soft drink factory at 45-47 Marshall Street in January 1930 and advertised for staff<sup>214</sup>. In November the company was looking for sales representatives to sell their products to country grocers and confectioners<sup>215</sup>. It is not clear when Cottee's stopped using the Marshall Street factory, but the 1930s economic depression was very severe, and by 1936 the occupant was Frederick Terry<sup>216</sup>, and from 1939 to 1945 the West Paper Company operated from there<sup>217</sup>. In April 1940, Cottee's Passiona Ltd was reportedly constructing a large factory in Marion Street, Leichhardt<sup>218</sup> and on its completion moved its operations there.



Figure 21 Cottee's at the Royal Easter Show 1956 (Sydney Morning Herald, 24 Mar 1956)

### **Kavanagh & English Pty Ltd**

Kande Kitchenware was established by Patrick Kavanagh and William English (Kande was formed from their initials, K and E) and had its Sydney factory in Little Collins Street, Surry Hills. Kavanagh and English Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Kande Kitchenware, became a limited company in 1924 with both founders as directors. Another director was the Test cricketer Jack Gregory, an all-rounder who moved easily into the role of businessman. He helped the company grow from a tiny operation to a major manufacturer and exporter that employed 80 people in 1931, survived the Depression and kept manufacturing until at least the late 1960s<sup>219</sup>.



Figure 22 Kande toaster (Powerhouse Museum)

The company started advertising for soldering staff at the Little Collins Street factory in March 1922<sup>220</sup>. By January 1928 they had moved to a site in Lacey Street, off Kippax Street<sup>221</sup>. The factory then relocated to larger premises which it purchased at 517-543 Dowling Street Moore Park in September 1935<sup>222</sup> and remained there through the 1940s<sup>223</sup>.

The company made more than four hundred lines of kitchenware before World War II, but in the 1940s switched to war work except for about 25 essential lines. Certain things like flour sifters, soap savers, meat covers and strainers were hard to get because of the shortage of materials, particularly wire gauze<sup>224</sup>. Kavanagh and English were operating a factory at 45-47 Marshall Street by 1946<sup>225</sup>.



Figure 23 Jack Gregory, 1925 (State Library of NSW)

By 1948, Samuel Curotta had sold the whole building to Mrs Kathleen M. Williams<sup>226</sup>. Kavanagh and English were last reported at 45-47 Marshall Street in the 1948 Rate Assessment Books<sup>227</sup>, although they continued to operate at the larger Dowling Street factory for some years after that<sup>228</sup>.

### Tractors in the inner city

An application was submitted to Sydney Council in October 1954 by Lanz Australia Pty Ltd to amalgamate the two parts of the building for use as a tractor showroom, offices and spare parts<sup>229</sup>. Heinrich Lanz started producing tractors in Mannheim, Germany. John Deere purchased Lanz in 1956 and started using the name John Deere-Lanz for the Lanz product line. The Lanz Bulldog was a notable series of their tractors. The most recent Museums Victoria Collections photo of a tractor at this address is dated c1958<sup>230</sup>.



Figure 24 The Lanz Bulldog (Museums Victoria)

It is not known when the last Lanz tractor rumbled out into Bourke Street to surprise the urban traffic throng, but by 1964 J. & E. Gritsch applied to use it as a clothing factory<sup>231</sup>.

## Sydney Labor Club

In November 1965, Kevin Martin of the Darlinghurst Labor Club submitted a proposal to Sydney Council to use the building as a club<sup>232</sup>. This opened in January 1968 as the Sydney Labor Club<sup>233</sup>. It housed the meetings of the Surry Hills Branch of the Australian Labor Party, bringing local residents together to socialise and discuss politics in a friendly communal space for many years.



Figure 25 Arts on Bourke (realestate.com.au)

In time, hip cafes and stylish restaurants started to replace the smoky bars, bistros and taverns that were once commonplace in the suburb, and the Labor Club struggled to keep up with the transition. In 2005, it was finally forced into amalgamation with the Graphic Arts Club, based in Mascot. At the time, the Labor Club was \$400,000 in debt and the Graphic Arts Club invested a lot of time and money trying to revitalise the place. The name was changed to Arts on Bourke. The upstairs lounge was preserved, and the club was turned into an art space and eatery to attract a broader clientele<sup>234</sup>. Arts on Bourke closed in 2008 after local resident protests<sup>235</sup>. The building was sold soon after the club closed. Its present use is not known, but it appears to be residential.



## 480 Bourke Street (backing onto Marshall Street)

### Royal George Hotel

In November 1868, John Luland purchased land on the corner of Bourke Street and Jamison Place (now Phelps Street)<sup>236</sup>, and constructed a two-storey brick hotel<sup>237</sup> which he named the Moore Park Hotel<sup>238</sup>. In February 1889, the Licensing Court gave the then-publican George Morris permission to change the name to the Good Luck Hotel<sup>239</sup>. Then in June 1893, Morris was given permission to change the hotel's name again, to the Royal George Hotel<sup>240</sup>. Alfred Meadham became the licensee in August 1913<sup>241</sup>, but found himself in hot water (or at least too much water!) when he was fined in both July 1915<sup>242</sup> and August 1917<sup>243</sup> for selling brandy and whisky that had been adulterated with added water.



Figure 26 Former Royal George Hotel (L. J. Hooker website)

John Luland died in January 1882, and his surviving son Francis John, a tanner from Botany, was the owner by 1921. Francis Luland and the overhydrating Alfred Meadham were summoned to a licence deprivation hearing in September 1920. This did not go well for the hotel, as the police were unusually critical of the premises and its management. Inspector George Mitchell testified that the building was very old and very much out of date. He thought the hotel was conducted badly, and didn't think this type of hotel was needed anywhere at any time. He claimed that the hotel was selling liquor out of hours, but admitted that they had a "complete system of espionage" to avoid apprehension.

Sergeant Duffell testified in the same vein, saying that he was watching on a recent Sunday when two bottles of beer were passed out of a window, but it was too far away to identify the recipient. The hotel's system of touting prevented the police getting within 200 yards without the alarm being raised, both on Sundays and at night. The embattled licensee gave evidence in which he gamely denied all of the above scurrilous accusations, but the Licences Reduction Board decided in November 1920 to close the hotel, effective 30 June 1921<sup>244</sup>.

After the hotel closed, Gaetano De Fina and his family operated a fruit shop from about 1924<sup>245</sup> until after 1948<sup>246</sup>. The first floor rooms were used as residences. From 1998, Jim Alauvie and Frank Drouby operated a mixed-business grocery store on the ground floor since migrating from the same

village in Lebanon. Then in August 2018, the building was purchased by the Singaporean investor Harold Gan, who at the time of the auction was reportedly not sure if he would turn the building into a café with residences above or make the whole building residential<sup>247</sup>. Five years later, he's apparently still thinking about it.

## 10 Marshall Street

### McElhone Place

In 1794, Commissary-General John Palmer was granted 70 acres in the Surry Hills area, calling it George farm. Palmer acquired 25 acres more, and then bought Joseph Foveaux's land grant to the west of his own when Foveaux left for Norfolk Island. By 1800, Palmer had accumulated about 200 acres in Surry Hills. In January 1808, the Rum Rebellion by the New South Wales Corps overthrew Governor William Bligh. Palmer had supported the Governor, and for this he was sacked by the rebel administration. He then spent six years in England at various enquiries into the rebellion, and his businesses in New South Wales went into debt.

Palmer finally returned to New South Wales in 1814 with his financial affairs in a very bad state. Sheriff William Gore ordered his Surry Hills estate to be auctioned to pay off his debts. At the 1814 auction, James Chisholm, former Corporal in the New South Wales Corps, acquired about eight acres. The sandstone cottages in McElhone Place and Marshall Street stand on part of allotment 21 purchased by Chisholm. In 1830, he was one of the first people to subdivide Surry Hills following the 1814 sale. In May 1833, he sold part of his land to Arthur Little, who in June 1833 sold the same land to Terence McElhone, a dairyman and milk vendor who had arrived in 1819 as a convict<sup>248</sup>.



Figure 27 Simpson's grocery, 10 Marshall Street (Laing Simmons website)

Sometime between the purchase of the land in 1833 and the first appearance of the properties in the Rate Assessment Books in 1845, Terence McElhone and James Regan constructed ten workers' cottages in McElhone Place (numbers 2 to 20) and four in Marshall Street (numbers 8 to 14). The cottages in Marshall Street are two pairs of attached houses, separated by McElhone Place<sup>249</sup>.

### The first grocer

Number 10 Marshall Street has a carved street sign indicating McElhone Place on the southern wall at eaves level, and the painted words "J SIMPSON GROCER" over the door on Marshall Street. John Simpson is recorded as operating a shop there from 1848<sup>250</sup> to 1852<sup>251</sup>.

After this, the building is recorded in the Rate Assessment Books as a house<sup>252</sup> until 1882<sup>253</sup>, when John Riddett ran a bootmaking business<sup>254</sup> while his wife Mary ran a grocery<sup>255</sup>. Alexander Gollan

took over the grocery in 1885<sup>256</sup> and ran it until 1898<sup>257</sup>. The bootmaker Horatio Johnson then operated there from 1898<sup>258</sup> to 1903<sup>259</sup> when he died<sup>260</sup>. The manufacturing confectioner Karl Silberschmidt occupied the building from 1904 to 1907, although his workplace may have been elsewhere in the area<sup>261</sup>.

10 Marshall Street was owned by Terence McElhone until his death in 1843, after which his wife Catherine assumed ownership. After she died in 1863, the building stayed in the hands of various McElhone family members until 1925, when 1-23 and 2-26 McElhone Place and 8-18 Marshall Street were sold by William Percy McElhone (1871-1932) to Teresa Alice Taylor (1885-1925). This ended the long period of single ownership of McElhone Place and 8-14 Marshall Street by the McElhone family, extending from the original land purchase in 1833.

### **Pickpocket and property tycoon**

The new owner Teresa Taylor was born in Braidwood in 1885, and moved to Sydney in about 1900 to work in domestic service with an older sister who was already there. The two sisters bought small blocks of land in the suburbs from their savings and sold them at a profit. In time, Teresa acquired a great deal of housing property in the slums of Sydney, and held them in the name of Amy Wilson or Alice Rose Payten<sup>262</sup>.

But from about 1910, Teresa embarked on a life of crime as a thief and a pickpocket. Her first conviction was in October 1910, and the last was in March 1924. She was convicted 13 times, with a total sentence of seven years, four of which were spent in gaol. She had just completed a sentence of about nine months in the Women's Reformatory at Long Bay a few months before her death, after robbing a ferry engineer of his wallet containing £105. To confuse the police, she used many other aliases in her short career, such as Amy Wilson, Amy Rose Wilson, Alice Rose Payten, Rose Whatton, Rose Lewis, Rose Walsh, Ira Bray, Annie Smith, Myra Bray. But she was mainly known to the police as Rose Walsh.

The newspaper report on her last trial mentioned that she had recently sold some of her properties for £8,000, and this sale was probably used to finance the purchase of the 32 houses in McElhone Place and Marshall Street. The police were puzzled by her criminal activities, and a detective once asked her why she took the risk of imprisonment when she had enough money to live comfortably for the rest of her life. She told him her ambition was to own a hundred houses, and then she would be satisfied and go straight.

From 1929 to 1945, Neredah Victoria Rudovsky was the owner of 1-23 McElhone Place and 8-10 Marshall Street<sup>263</sup>. She was born Neredah Victoria Withers, and in May 1925 married Joseph Rudovsky, a businessman who became the Yugoslavian Consul in Sydney in 1937. She died in Mosman in June 1944<sup>264</sup>. In August 1945, 1-23 McElhone Place and 8-10 Marshall Street were sold to Arthur H. Chartres<sup>265</sup>.

## **Separate ownership**

From the late 1950s Arthur Chartres sold his Marshall Street houses to individual owners. In 2005, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on the recent sales of 10 Marshall Street. In 1986, the Triple J radio announcer Tim Ritchie and his wife, opera costume designer Rebecca Ritchie bought the cottage from Ian Kiernan, founder of Clean Up Australia and solo round-the-world yachtsman. In 1999, the Ritchies sold it to Dr Bob Challender and his wife Mandy Musgrave Challender, who then sold it in 2005 for \$450,000<sup>266</sup>. The Domain real estate website records this as the last sale<sup>267</sup>.



## 38-48 Marshall Street

### Summary of industries

- C1877-1891: William Aulbury & Sons, painters
- 1918: James Pemell and Company, flour millers.
- 1921: S Hoffnung & Coy, merchants.
- 1925-c1945: Eveready Battery Co.
- C1948-1959: Carrier Bag Company.
- 1952-1954+: E C Blackwood (NSW) Pty Ltd, paper merchants.
- 1964: Liberty Trading Coy, toy warehouse.

### A row of timber cottages

William Taylor purchased the allotments 38 to 48 Marshall Street and by 1855 had constructed two single-storey wooden houses at 38 and 40<sup>268</sup>. The remaining four wooden houses were constructed between 1863<sup>269</sup> and 1867<sup>270</sup>. Between 1877<sup>271</sup> and 1882, he sold them to a Dr. Fullerton<sup>272</sup>.

William Aulbury operated a painting business at 346 Sussex Street from the early 1870s<sup>273</sup> before moving to 44 Marshall Street (on the corner of Cook Street) in about 1876<sup>274</sup>. The street numbering was changed to list the painter James Spillsbury in 48 from 1895 to 1897<sup>275</sup>.

Henry Farrell was the owner of 38 to 48 by 1907<sup>276</sup>. In March 1910, he advertised the properties for sale, promoting them as “a corner block of land suitable for a terrace of houses or factory”<sup>277</sup>. The cottages were purchased by John Nobbs (1845-1921), politician and son of prominent Surry Hills market gardener John Nobbs (c1819-1866)<sup>278</sup> who promptly demolished the six cottages and advertised the sale of the large pile of building materials<sup>279</sup>. The land was largely vacant until 1918, when the flour millers James Pemell and Company purchased the land and operated stables there<sup>280</sup>.

### S. Hoffnung & Company

Sigmond Hoffnung (1833-1904) was born in Kalisz Poland but was educated in England. He arrived in Sydney in the *Waterloo* in 1853 with an assortment of goods which he sold on the wholesale market. He gradually expanded his mercantile business in England and Australia, returning to England in the 1870s to live<sup>281</sup>. He was naturalised in Sydney in 1870 and died in London in 1904<sup>282</sup>.



Figure 28 Sigmond Hoffnung (House of Hoffnung website)

The eponymous S. Hoffnung and Company began to advertise its services in 1854 as general importers and commission agents with an office at 191 Pitt Street<sup>283</sup>. In 1922, their Sydney office was

at 169 Pitt Street<sup>284</sup>. Then in 1921, Samuel and Rachel Curotta constructed a two-storey brick factory building that was leased by S. Hoffnung & Coy as a factory or warehouse<sup>285</sup>.

### **Eveready Australia Pty Ltd**

The Eveready Company Inc. is an American manufacturer of the electric battery brands Eveready and Energiser. The predecessor company began in 1890 in New York, where in 1899 the company obtained a patent for a tubular hand-held electric device (that is, a flashlight), at the time owned by Conrad Hubert. In 1905 he changed the company name to The American Ever Ready Company, selling flashlights and batteries under the trademark Ever Ready.

In 1914, the trademark was shortened to Eveready, and in 1917 the company was taken over by the Union Carbide and Carbon Company. In 1957, three of the company's employees invented the longer-lasting alkaline battery, but Eveready decided to continue marketing the older zinc-carbon battery, losing significant market share to their main rival Duracell.



**Figure 29 Eveready Australia advert, 1934 (Ebay auction site)**

In about 1900, a representative of Eveready came from England to Australia to make the first dry-cell electric torch battery in the country, setting up operations on the corner of Pitt Street and Martin Place (where the Commonwealth Bank head office has been since 1913). In about 1907 the company moved to larger premises at Darling Harbour, then in 1923 another expansion was made to 38-44 Marshall Street, Surry Hills. In 1933, Eveready purchased the building from Samuel Curotta<sup>286</sup>.

Apart from torch batteries, Eveready produced the Eveready Air-Cell Battery, which did not require any recharging and was ideal for powering radio receivers in remote parts of the country. It delivered electric power for up to twelve months under normal operating conditions to areas without mains power. It is a wet-cell battery that is simply filled with normal drinking water to begin operating<sup>287</sup>. This innovative battery was widely used in the Australian outback as a 2-volt radio power source, and gave 1,000 hours of service with a normal current load<sup>288</sup>.

Expansion into New Zealand and the Pacific required larger premises, and in 1937 the company constructed a new building in a large block in Harcourt Parade, Rosebery<sup>289</sup>. The company continued operations in the Marshall Street building until about 1948<sup>290</sup>

## Carrier Bag Company

By 1948, Eveready had moved their operations to Rosebery. The Carrier Bag Company leased the building<sup>291</sup> and moved there from 147-149 William Street<sup>292</sup>. In April 1949, this company advertised the sale of show bags at the Royal Easter Show. They also made carrier bags for frocks, lingerie and shoes. They made the then-famous 3 pence carry bags sold by all stores and shops in Australia<sup>293</sup>.

**Don't miss these**  
*Sample*  
**"CARRIER-BAGS"**  
*at the Show!*

★ Brilliant! Colourful!  
Full of good things!  
**GREAT VALUE** in every bag.

When you've enjoyed the generous contents, keep the bags and use them for shopping. Don't forget friends who are unable to visit the Show. Buy extra bags for them. **THERE'S JOY IN A SHOW BAG!**

Country visitors! Be sure to take home a full collection of Show bags. They're the best souvenirs of the Royal Show.

**GENUINE "CARRIER-BAGS"** as illustrated here are products of **CARRIER-BAG CO.** Makers of the famous 3d. shopping bag sold by all Stores and Retail shops throughout Australia.

We also manufacture printed Show bags, Frock, Lingerie and Shoe bags.

Special paper packs designed and made for various industries,

**CARRIER-BAG CO.**  
38-40 Marshall Street, Surry Hills,  
109-119 Howe Street, West Melbourne,  
105 Wymouth Street, Adelaide.

**CUT OUT THIS ADVERTISEMENT.**

Take it with you to the Show. It's your guide to the greatest array of genuine Carrier-Bags and excellent contents ever offered at any Show.

Figure 30 Carrier Bag Co advert, 1949 (*Daily Telegraph*, 9 April 1949)

In 1952, the company was joined by the paper merchants E. C. Blackwood (NSW) Pty Ltd advertising all kinds of wrapping paper. Their advertisements mentioned that they did not have a shortage of paper by then, suggesting that the wartime rationing period had recently come to an end<sup>294</sup>. In 1959,

the Carrier Bag Co (and possibly E. C. Blackwood) moved to 498/510 Bourke Street<sup>295</sup>. This was formerly the site of the Carrington Grounds athletic field and the Wilson Steam Laundry.

In 1964, the Liberty Trading Company applied to the Sydney Council to modify the building for use as a toy warehouse<sup>296</sup>. In 1996, the building was converted to an apartment block 38-48 Marshall Street<sup>297</sup>.



Figure 31 38-48 Marshall Street, 2015 (realestate.com.au)

## 50-56 Marshall Street

### Summary of industries

- 1875-1893: Victoria Hotel.
- 1931-c1945: Eveready Co Ltd, battery factory.
- c1947-1975: William Butler Tobacco Co Pty Ltd, cigarette and tobacco factory.
- From 1975: T Karas, clothing manufacturer.
- 1985-1989: R & J Pillion, clothing factory.
- Today: Worktones, uniform store.

### Victoria Hotel

Prior to 1875, the land on the eastern side of Marshall Street between Cook and Phelps Streets was vacant<sup>298</sup>. In 1875, Thomas Whitty constructed the Victoria Hotel, which was licensed to William Barnett<sup>299</sup>. Whitty advertised the hotel for sale the same year<sup>300</sup>, but was still the owner in 1880 (along with the houses at 52-56)<sup>301</sup>.

In 1877, Thomas Whitty also constructed the Criterion Hotel (now the Carrington Hotel) on the corner of Bourke and Arthur Streets and was its first licensee<sup>302</sup>. Thomas Stewart purchased the Victoria Hotel in 1891<sup>303</sup> and the 52-56 houses, and held them until at least 1901<sup>304</sup>.

In June 1893, the hotel's licensee Louis Lashies/Lasbies applied for an annual renewal of the licence at the Water Police Court, but the police objected on the grounds that the premises were unfit, so the renewal application was withdrawn<sup>305</sup>. A few days later the licensee applied for a licence transfer to Thomas Stewart, the owner. But the police repeated their objection that the place was unfit to be granted a licence, and the application was again withdrawn<sup>306</sup>.

The following month, Thomas Stewart applied one more time for a licence for the Victoria Hotel, this time clutching plans of proposed alterations to support his application. The Bench of the Water Police Court pointed out that an application by a previous person had recently been refused, and decided to also refuse the present application on the grounds that the neighbourhood did not warrant an additional hotel<sup>307</sup>. Police Inspector Bremner gave evidence that there were already eight public houses within 200 yards, so the requirements of the neighbourhood did not justify the granting of a licence<sup>308</sup>.

The holder of the mortgage over the pub must have thought the writing was on the wall after the previous month's refusal, as he ordered the household furniture and effects to be auctioned before the second application was submitted<sup>309</sup>. So the Victoria Hotel lasted eighteen years, longer than the Hand of Friendship Hotel which survived for only twelve years, both falling victim to Inspector Bremner, the scourge of dodgy hotels in the inner city.

### An apostrophe of grocer's (sic)

Grocers in the nineteenth century could sell a wide variety of goods, although many of them required a licence, such as alcohol, tobacco products and milk. After the Victoria Hotel closed in 1893, the building (at 50 Marshall Street) seemed to remain vacant for several years, as there was no mention of occupation until Isabel Sloan was granted a licence to sell tobacco, cigars and cigarettes there in January 1898<sup>310</sup>. In 1899, the Government department that licences the sale of

milk must have conducted a blitz on grocers' shops, as Isabel Sloan and fifteen other grocers were each fined ten shillings for selling milk without being registered<sup>311</sup>.

Her husband John H. Sloan was listed in *Sands' Directory* as a greengrocer and fuel merchant from 1903<sup>312</sup>. Cook Street was renamed Prospect Street in 1903<sup>313</sup>, and by 1910 Frank Donlevy had taken over the grocery shop<sup>314</sup>. The Rate Assessment Books listed Mary Ann Gordon as the owner of 50-56 from 1907<sup>315</sup>.

Mary Ann married Edward Phillip Barnett in 1909<sup>316</sup>, and was recorded from the 1914 Rate Assessment Books as Mary Ann Barnett<sup>317</sup>. She retained ownership of 50-56 until about 1930<sup>318</sup> when the buildings were sold to Morris and Samuel Curotta<sup>319</sup>.

### **Eveready expands**

Morris and Samuel Curotta, who had become avid factory builders, promptly demolished the 50-56 buildings and constructed a three-storey brick factory with offices. The Eveready Australia Pty Ltd had been using 38-48 Marshall Street to manufacture batteries since 1925 and leased the new building at 50-56 to expand their operations<sup>320</sup>. A second floor walkway between the Eveready's two factories was constructed in 1930 to facilitate communication<sup>321</sup>.



**Figure 32** Eveready overhead bridge, 1930 (City of Sydney Archives)

In 1932, Eveready also leased 31 Marshall Street, presumably as offices, and in 1933 the company purchased 50-56 from the Curotta family<sup>322</sup>. The company remained at 38-48 and 50-56 until after 1945<sup>323</sup> when they transferred their operations to the building in Rosebery. 50-56 was sold to H. Horsley and Harold D. J. Jenkins<sup>324</sup>.

## William Butler Tobacco Company

### Tobacco smoking

Tobacco was introduced to Europe and Asia in the late seventeenth century by European colonists, where it followed common trade routes. The practice of smoking encountered criticism after its importation to the Western world, but embedded itself in parts of a number of societies before becoming widespread on the introduction of an automated cigarette-rolling apparatus. Many substances in cigarette smoke trigger chemical reactions in nerve endings, which heighten heart rate, alertness and reaction time. Dopamine and endorphins are released, which are associated with pleasure.

Like tea, coffee and opium, tobacco was just one of many intoxicants originally used as a form of medicine<sup>325</sup>. But soon after its introduction to the Old World, tobacco was frequently criticised by state and religious leaders as a threat to public morals and health. Early attempts to ban it or tax it out of existence were unsuccessful, as shown by the presence of around 7,000 tobacco outlets in London in the early seventeenth century. At about this point, several authorities decided to switch course from discouraging it to monetising it by turning tobacco cultivation and trade into often lucrative government monopolies<sup>326</sup>.

From 1950, British researchers demonstrated a clear relationship between smoking and cancer<sup>327</sup>. Then in January 1964, the United States Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health suggested a link between smoking and health<sup>328</sup>.

Evidence continued to mount after the 1960s, and since then rates of consumption have peaked or declined in the developed world<sup>329</sup> but continued to climb in the developing world<sup>330</sup>.

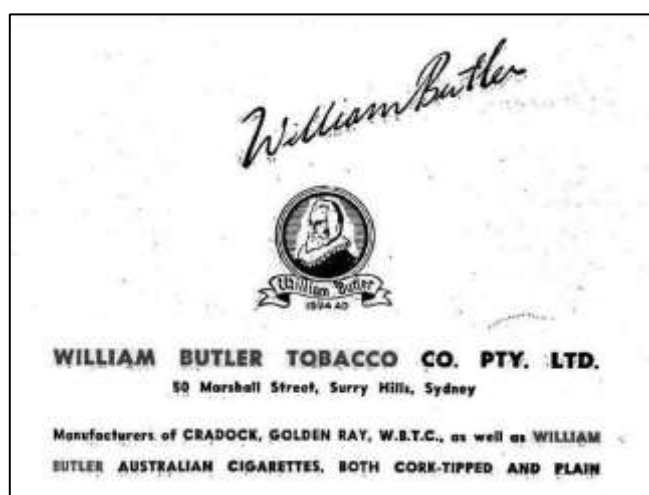


Figure 33 William Butler Advert, 1954 (*Illawarra Daily Mercury*, 11 February 1954)

Severe restrictions have now been placed on tobacco advertising and availability in Western countries. Australia has been highly successful in reducing the rate of smoking among adults to 10.1% in 2022<sup>331</sup>. The average smoking rate in the European Union is currently about 20%<sup>332</sup>.

### William Butler tobacco factory

In 1937, William Butler Tobacco Company Pty Ltd was registered in New South Wales as tobacco merchants, manufacturers and growers<sup>333</sup>. From 1939 they were advertising for staff in their factory

at 130 George Street<sup>334</sup>. In 1947, the company leased the 50-56 Marshall Street building and advertised for staff to work at tobacco leaf stripping<sup>335</sup> and stemming<sup>336</sup>.



**Figure 34 Dr Pat pipe tobacco (Lyttleton Museum)**

In 1949, the company was buying tobacco from the USA<sup>337</sup>. Its varieties of tobacco were advertised as Craddock, Golden Ray and WBTC. It also sold William Butler Australian cigarettes, both cork-tipped and plain<sup>338</sup>. The company once sold Dr. Pat Irish Mixture pipe tobacco in tins<sup>339</sup>. An advertisement in June 1952 mentioned that their tobacco was by then off-quota<sup>340</sup>, referring to the restrictions on the availability of some goods after World War II.

The company was at 50-56 Marshall Street until about 1975 when T. Karas applied to Sydney Council to use the building for clothing manufacture and sales<sup>341</sup>. The William Butler Company began the process of voluntary liquidation in May 1979<sup>342</sup>, which was completed in July 1981<sup>343</sup>.

In 1985, R & J Pillion applied to Sydney Council to use the building manufacture and distribution of clothing<sup>344</sup>. Today the building houses Worktones, a retailer of work uniforms.



**Figure 35 50 Marshall Street (realcommercial.com.au)**

## 76 Marshall Street

### The corner shop

In 1883, the builder Martin Guest<sup>345</sup> purchased the four vacant allotments to the north of Phelps Street (70-76 Marshall Street) and constructed three two-storey brick houses and a grocery shop on the corner of Phelps Street. He advertised the shop for rent with five rooms, kitchen, bath, balcony, verandah front and back, stabling, large shed and side entrance<sup>346</sup>. Then in March 1884, he advertised the group of five buildings from 68 to the 76 shop for sale. The shop had “a double front, fitted with two counters, show windows and two nests of drawers, containing four rooms besides the shop and kitchen”<sup>347</sup>.



Figure 36 76 Marshall Street, 2015 (Google maps)

A trio of grocers occupied the shop from this time until 1897: Benjamin Barton<sup>348</sup>, William Robinson<sup>349</sup> and James Munro<sup>350</sup> before the newsagents Mrs. Kate Brennan<sup>351</sup> and Thomas Mulholland<sup>352</sup> took over. The confectioner Joseph Asquith then sold sweets from 1905<sup>353</sup> before a long occupation by the bootmaker Joachim Caesar Caux from 1920 to 1931<sup>354</sup>.

The shop may have been used as just a dwelling for some time after this, as the occupant from 1933<sup>355</sup> to 1943 was the labourer Joseph Zammitt<sup>356</sup>, followed by a relative Thomas Zammitt to 1948<sup>357</sup>. But the building was restored to a grocery store in 1983 by Mrs Budimka Dimeska<sup>358</sup>.

Mrs Dimeska (1931-2022) died in April 2022, and today the former grocery shop has been subdivided into two apartments. It was advertised for sale in October 2023 with the advertisement stating that it has been owned by the same family since 1974<sup>359</sup>.



## Notes

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Christopher Keating, *Surry Hills, the city's backyard*, Sydney, 1991.
- <sup>2</sup> NSCA CRS 1089: 1089 January 195 Fitzroy St & McElhone Place. Widening by realignment: Minute Paper from Town Clerk, 4 April 1940.
- <sup>3</sup> NSCA CRS 1089: 1089/1/195 Fitzroy St & McElhone Place. Widening by realignment: Minute Paper, 5 August 1940.
- <sup>4</sup> NSCA CRS 1089: 1089/1/195 Fitzroy St & McElhone Place. Widening by realignment: Minute Paper from City Treasurer, 8 August 1940.
- <sup>5</sup> NSCA CRS 34: TC 5875/68 Area bounded by McElhone Place, Marshall Street, Bennett Street & South Dowling Street. Proposed redevelopment for housing purposes by Housing Commission of N.S.W.
- <sup>6</sup> NSCA CRS 34: TC 5875/68 Area bounded by McElhone Place, Marshall Street, Bennett Street & South Dowling Street. Proposed redevelopment for housing purposes by Housing Commission of N.S.W.
- <sup>7</sup> Ashton, P., *Planning Sydney – Nine planners remember*, Sydney, 1992.
- <sup>8</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 November 1962.
- <sup>9</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 December 1851.
- <sup>10</sup> Rate Assessment Books, 1851.
- <sup>11</sup> 1854 map of the City of Sydney, City of Sydney Archives.
- <sup>12</sup> City of Sydney Trigonometric Survey 1865, City of Sydney Archives.
- <sup>13</sup> *Sands' Sydney Directories*, 1867-68.
- <sup>14</sup> *Empire*, 24 November 1868.
- <sup>15</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 November 1869.
- <sup>16</sup> 1854 City of Sydney maps, City of Sydney Archives.
- <sup>17</sup> Guide to Sydney Streets, City of Sydney website.
- <sup>18</sup> Marshall Thomson Maves Reid tree, ancestry.com.au.
- <sup>19</sup> Shipping Passengers to NSW 1826-1837.
- <sup>20</sup> Marshall Thomson Maves Reid tree, ancestry.com.au.
- <sup>21</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 October 1881.
- <sup>22</sup> Marshall Thomson Maves Reid tree, ancestry.com.au.
- <sup>23</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 December 1881.
- <sup>24</sup> Marshall Thomson Maves Reid tree, ancestry.com.au.
- <sup>25</sup> Sep 1858 – Jan 1859: Report to the Improvement Committee recommending ballasting and repair of Maiden Lane, City of Sydney Archives.
- <sup>26</sup> Nov 1860 – Jan 1861: Report of the Improvement Committee recommending the laying of a five course gutter in Maiden Lane.
- <sup>27</sup> Nov 1866 – Jan 1867: Report of the Improvement Committee recommending kerbing and guttering on west side of Bourke Street near Jamison Place.
- <sup>28</sup> Rate Assessment Books, 1867.
- <sup>29</sup> Rate Assessment Books, 1871.
- <sup>30</sup> Rate Assessment Books, 1948.
- <sup>31</sup> Rate Assessment Books, 1871.
- <sup>32</sup> *Sands' Sydney Directories*, 1880-1888.
- <sup>33</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 October 1884.
- <sup>34</sup> Former Allington Stoveworks factory including interiors, State Heritage Inventory, NSW Department of Planning and Environment website.
- <sup>35</sup> *Sands' Sydney Directory*, 1919.
- <sup>36</sup> *Sands' Sydney Directory*, 1903.
- <sup>37</sup> City of Sydney Trigonometric Survey 1865, City of Sydney Archives.
- <sup>38</sup> *Sands' Sydney Directories*, 1858-1867.
- <sup>39</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 December 1870.
- <sup>40</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 March 1872.
- <sup>41</sup> *Evening News*, 5 April 1872.
- <sup>42</sup> John Ross, *The History of Moore Park Surry Hills*, 2018.
- <sup>43</sup> *Sands' Sydney Directory*, 1875.
- <sup>44</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 January 1880.
- <sup>45</sup> Licences Reduction Board, SRNSW.

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- <sup>46</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 April 1891.
- <sup>47</sup> Rate Assessment Books, 1948.
- <sup>48</sup> *The Sun*, 28 June 1921.
- <sup>49</sup> *Evening News*, 3 October 1922.
- <sup>50</sup> Licences Reduction Board, SRNSW.
- <sup>51</sup> Rate Assessment Book, 1927.
- <sup>52</sup> Rate Assessment Book, 1948.
- <sup>53</sup> *Sands' Sydney Directory*, 1869.
- <sup>54</sup> Rate Assessment Books, 1871.
- <sup>55</sup> *Sands' Sydney Directory*, 1883.
- <sup>56</sup> Rate Assessment Books, 1891.
- <sup>57</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 October 1884.
- <sup>58</sup> James Ward, Sydney's Aldermen, City of Sydney website.
- <sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>60</sup> Former Allington Stoveworks factory including interiors, State Heritage Inventory, NSW Department of Planning and Environment website.
- <sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>62</sup> *Government Gazette of the State of NSW*, 4 June 1937.
- <sup>63</sup> *Construction and Real Estate Journal*, 16 June 1937.
- <sup>64</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 May 1924.
- <sup>65</sup> Who's who in radio, *Radio Trade Annual of Australia*, 1933.
- <sup>66</sup> *The wireless weekly*, 21 July 1933.
- <sup>67</sup> Former Allington Stoveworks factory including interiors, State Heritage Inventory, NSW Department of Planning and Environment website.
- <sup>68</sup> *Daily Mirror (Sydney)*, 2 December 1942.
- <sup>69</sup> *The Daily Telegraph*, 13 June 1941.
- <sup>70</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 February 1942.
- <sup>71</sup> *Construction*, 15 April 1942.
- <sup>72</sup> *Daily Mirror (Sydney)*, 2 December 1942.
- <sup>73</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 December 1942.
- <sup>74</sup> *The Sun (Sydney)*, 29 March 1942.
- <sup>75</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 June 1942.
- <sup>76</sup> Paul Hasluck, *The Government and the People 1942-1945*, 1970.
- <sup>77</sup> *Daily Mirror (Sydney)*, 2 December 1942.
- <sup>78</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 January 1943.
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