

1. ALEXANDER'S/NICHOLAS BUILDINGS

- 25/3 **Pic** Demolishing Monahan's Buildings Humorously referred to by their employer as 'Whelan's Birds,' the men who are now engaged in demolishing Monahan's Buildings, Swanston street, seem to have no 'nerves', but fearlessly pick the bricks from under their feet, four stories above the pavement. [Two workmen atop steel girder above front parapet, picking at brickwork] (Argus, 10/3/25, p.9)
- 1926 Buildings of the 1920s include Nicholas Building in Swanston Street (1926) by Harry Norris... (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, pp. 146-7)
- 1930 Monahan's Building, which stood on the site of Nicholas Building, had base walls six feet in thickness. The present building, constructed in steel framing to the third floor, has columns of 2.5in base, with little or no wall between them. Because of the high cost of steel in Melbourne, reinforced concrete has been employed from the third floor, where the column thickens to 3ft. (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement p. 3)
- 32/1 Mr Whelan said that the demolition work on the site of the Nicholas Building was a bigger feat than [Stewart Dawson's] for his team. (Herald, 1/1/32)
- 32/1 Then came... Monahan's building in Swanston Street, where the Nicholas building now stands, and hundreds of others in various parts of Melbourne. (Sun, 9/1/32)
- 39/5 WW tendered for demolition (£300) of 'the buildings known as "Alexanders"' tender accepted. (Letter dated May 1939 SLV/WW, 65/2)
- 39/5 Liquor signs that twinkled from the wall of a city building at travellers journeying across Princes Bridge along Swanston Street will be seen no more. Their passing indicates... the demolition of a building that was once looked upon as a comparative skyscraper in the locality. Quite recently Mr John Wren sold the Alexander Building to Mr G.R. Nicholas, who owns the adjoining landmark known as Nicholas Building. Wreckers will soon be at work demolishing the Alexander Building and in its place will rise a two-storeyed shop to be occupied by G.J. Coles and Co. Ltd.... The building was given its present name by Mr Alexander, the tobacconist, when he bought it many years ago. Later it came into the possession of the late Jimmy Mason, but was afterwards sold to the Rev. Ah Cheong. As the location of the office of Mr Dick Lean, manager of the Stadium, all the boxers, wrestlers and athletes to visit Melbourne during the past 14 years have ascended in the lift to sign articles and transact other business. (Sun, 25/5/39)
- 39/? WW wrote to architect, Harry A. Norris: 'The reason for delay in not completing our contract at 27 Swanston St on time was due entirely to our inability to use Cocker Alley as means of carting our debris and bricks away. As you are aware the retaining wall of Softgoods Club along the R.O.W. collapsed taking with it parts of same, hence the Council's decision to close the R.O.W. against our heavy traffic. This necessitated us using one entrance with one truck only at a time.' (Letter, n.d., in WW/SLV, 65/2)

STATE BANK/CHAMPION HOUSE, 45-63 Swanston Street (NW cnr Flinders Lane)

19thC The half-acre allotment at the north-west corner of Swanston-street and Flinders-lane was the site of the first Wesleyan Methodist chapel in Port Phillip. It measured 30ft x 16ft, and was built of bricks made by Mr Horatio Cooper, at his kiln on the south bank of the Yarra. The builder was Mr John James Peers, owner of the site and an active member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society [‘a philharmonic building contractor’—Garryowen], who ‘bore the total outlay of expense, stipulating only that he should be repaid when the congregation moved to more commodious premises.’ According to a MS diary of the period (that of the Rev. William Waterfield, first minister of Collins-street Independent Church), the chapel was opened for public worship on March 10, 1839... The building was used by the [London Wesleyan Missionary] society as their place of meeting for religious services and work until June 20, 1841, and was ‘literally crowded at each service on the Sunday, especially in the evening.’ On Thursday, June 24, the society opened their new building at the corner of Collins and Queen streets, where the Bank of Australasia now stands; and the brick makeshift—the cradle of Methodism—in due course became ‘the kitchen to Mr Monahan’s public-house’. **pic**—(photo) of hotel kitchen] (Australasian, 3/3/1906, p.508)

...it remained to be put to the ignoble use of kitchen to the hotel, and as such remained for several years. (Garryowen, p. 160)

Champion’s Queen’s Arms Hotel licensed 1847□closed 31/12/1923. (Cole Collection)

19thC Monahan’s Queen Arms Hotel, built in 1845, and whose licensee, Thomas Monahan, died a millionaire in 1889. (Age, 8/6/1940)

1895 Queen’s Arms Hotel ‘generally known as “Champions”’—bar men instead of bar maids are employed here. ‘There is a series of bars here. The one known as the “private bar” is a model of an American drinking place. ...Flinders-lane, from a private door in the right-of-way, comes here exclusively. the best drinking men of Melbourne are to be seen here, for here they get the best drink.’ (‘The Vagabond’ in Leader Supplement, 16/11/1895) **pic** on file

06/2 In a 1906 article detailing the renovations [to be] carried out to the Queen’s Arms Hotel, Swanston Street, the [Australian Brewers’] journal reported that the hotel had once been licensed to Mr Hawkins, who had sold the business to Mr Ben Champion ‘whose widow, Mrs E. Champion (Mr Hawkins’ niece), has carried on the business to the present day in a manner that has earned the profound respect of the whole community, which respect is also shared by her family of good citizens.... As a record place of business, having been conducted by members of one family for just half-a-century, the Queen’s Arms has, we think, but one rival in Victoria—the Sir John Franklin Hotel, Collingwood, for about as many years in the Davison family. Mrs Davison, like Mrs Champion, is still with us, and both ladies amply give the lie to the aspersions cast at members of the trade by teetotal agitators.... When the new up-to-date and palatial building throws open its doors to the public, it will be the fervent hope of all of us that the present estimable licensee may long be spared to continue its management.’ Mrs Elizabeth Champion... held the licence for the Queen’s Arms Hotel for twenty years, passing it to her son William in 1916. (Clare Wright, Beyond the Ladies’ Lounge, pp. 95-6, quoting Australian Brewers’ Journal, 20/2/1906, p.283)

- 06/3 The new buildings **[pic]** to be erected in Swanston-street will have a frontage of 136.5ft, and to Little Flinders-street of 61ft, extending back to a lane known as Monahan-place. The corner of Swanston and Little Flinders streets will be occupied as at present by Champion's Hotel. This will have a frontage to Swanston-street of 53ft, and will consist of basement and ground floor and five upper stories, with an octagonal tower on the angle, the total height from the pavement to the top of the tower being 128ft.
- The rest of the site will be occupied by four shops and a central entrance to the rooms on the upper floors. Each shop will have a clear width of 17ft, and will extend the full depth of the site, with a back door and windows abutting on Monahan-place. The shop fronts in Swanston-street will be handsomely treated with metal-lined framing and curved glass angles to entrances. The basements under each shop will have direct approaches from Monahan-place, and will be lighted by prismatic pavement and stall-board lights in Swanston-street.
- The four floors over the shops will be reached by two lifts and a stone staircase from the central entrance. They will be available as offices, chambers or clubrooms, and the building is so planned that the superimposed floors over any particular shop may be let with that shop if required. In the tenancies already effected the whole of the first floor is let—the southern half to the hotel for billiard-rooms and offices, and the northern half as the factory and show-rooms of Messrs Ingram Bros, jewellers, who will occupy one of the shops.
- The facades are to be treated in red brick, with cement dressings, and with polished marble facings to the ground floor. The details are classic in character, and the front is broken by bold oriel windows and balconettes in Swanston-street, and there are recessed arcades to the upper floors of the hotel, the corner being emphasised by an octagonal oriel, surmounted by a turret with pyramidal copper roof.
- The buildings are being erected by the Equity Trustees Company of Queen-street, as trustees for the estate of the late Thomas Monahan. The architects are Messrs Oakden and Ballantyne. The contractors are Messrs Murray and Crow. The total cost will be over £30,000. (Australasian, 3/3/1906, p.508) **[pic]** (photo) of old buildings on the site]
- 23/11 New premises for State Bank in Swanston Street planned for 1924. (Herald, 27/11/23)
- 71/12 Demolition permit [Champion House & State Savings Bank (ex-Champion's Queen's Arms Hotel)] [6-storey brick office building] [wrecked for State Bank (further permit Oct 1972), \$50,000. (MLC167/3 Box 25 D3393/Box 26 D3527)]

11/5 CITY WAREHOUSE ABLAZE. ROOF CRASHES IN. EARLY MORNING FIRE.—

Effective work by the fire brigade early yesterday morning prevented a six-storied building in Flinders-lane from being totally destroyed. As it was the roof and the two upper floors fell in and the third floor supported a mass of twisted girders, charred wood, and ashes of what had a few hours before been valuable stock of various kinds.

At 20 minutes to 4 o'clock the brigade was summoned... Flames were bursting from the roof of Watson's-chambers, a building on the northern side of Flinders-lane, not far to the westward of Swanston-street.... Deputy Chief Officer Wilkins smashed a panel from the front door, and climbed the staircase through black smoke to the top floor. Lines of hose were brought up after him, and with difficulty the water was played on to the fire, which was burning at the rear of the building. The Morris ladder was reared to the top of the building adjoining on the eastern side, and, three lines of hose having been taken to the roof, streams of water were poured into the heart of the fire. Another line was run to the roof of the Softgoods Club, opposite the burning building, while hoses were also brought down a right-of-way from Collin-street. The premises of Banks and Co., on the other side of the right-of-way, were forcibly entered by the firemen, and from the upper windows streams of water were directed into the windows of the burning building. The heat became intense. The back wall of Watson's-chambers buckled, and the wall facing the right-of-way looked so dangerous that the firemen were temporarily withdrawn from the vicinity. The flames shot from the upper windows till the building looked like a huge torch, that threatened destruction to the adjoining warehouses. There was no wind, otherwise the whole block might easily have been destroyed. After half an hour's work the fire seemed under control, but then it began to eat down through the centre of the building, and the firemen inside were almost suffocated before they reluctantly withdrew to a safer position. At half-past 4 o'clock the roof crashed down, and again there was uncertainty as to whether the building could be saved. However the chief inspector of water supply (Mr W. Larkins) had concentrated an excellent pressure of water to the mains in the fire area, and the copious flow enabled the firemen to obtain control of the blaze at 10 minutes past 5.

Strangely enough, fire-sprinklers were about to be installed in the building, and this work would shortly have been completed. Had it been begun earlier a loss estimated at £30,000 would probably not have to be chronicled. The fire screens over the windows of Banks and Co's premises prevented the flames from securing a hold there, though the parapet of the roof was cracked by the intense heat.

Watson's-chambers is owned by Mr G.A. Jury, who purchased it a few months ago for £45,000, and it is insured in various companies for £27,500. The two top floors and their contents were gutted, while the middle of the building on the second and third floors, with the stock, was also converted into a mass of rubbish. The remainder of the building, with the contents, was damaged by heat and water.... Little was saved from the three top floors, which were occupied as follows:—Top Floor—R.G. Turnleigh and Son, fancy goods merchants; W.J. Gunning and Co., softgoods indentors; E.M. Marks, fancy goods indentor; Richard Searle and Co., Japanese goods merchants. Fifth Floor—Stanley Mullen and Co., stationers and publishers. Fourth Floor—A. Schutze and Co., fancy goods merchants; W. Hume, softgoods merchant; Frank Stone and Co., clothing manufacturers; Syme, Harris and Co., softgoods importers. The ground floor was unoccupied, and the stock on the second and third floors was damaged only by water. These floors were occupied as under:—Third—Buswell and Ostberg, softgoods merchants; J.A. Duff, fancy goods merchant; A. Matheson, fancy goods merchant; W.E. Ward and Co., clothing manufacturers. Second—McMurtrie and Co., boot importers....

The chief officer of the brigade (Mr Lee) stated after the fire that the windows of buildings in Flinders-lane which looked on to right-of-ways should be fitted with fire-screens. These right-of-ways are only 10ft. in width, and if a building caught fire the flames easily spread across from window to window. Thus a whole block might go owing to the absence of these screens. The undergrounding of all telegraphic and telephonic wires was also a matter of importance. When the Morris ladder was being reared to the top of Makower and McBeath's building it fouled several wires and had the conflagration spread, the telephonic service would have been badly interrupted....

Ten men were left on duty at the fire last night, for the debris that cumbered the fourth floor smouldered in spite of all the water that had been poured upon it. The firemen... stood under great girders that were prevented from falling only by buckled walls or charred beams. Sheets of corrugated iron hung from the front portion of the roof, the only part that had not caved in. Nevertheless, the firemen worked away as if the girders were set in solid masonry, and gave no thought to the danger of their position. The police barricaded the street, and none of the public were allowed to pass if his object was mere curiosity. (Argus, 26/5/11, p.6)

1911 Building gutted by fire, then demolished by WW. JPW hit on head by falling brick. **Pics** x 2 on file at SLV/WW 54/11.

63/ Now known as Manchester Buildings. (MJW speech, 1962 or 3[]SLV/WW 64/2)

2. BOURKE ST EAST

- 1897 ...towards the corner of Bourke-street the path [of Swanston] is market by the cafes, oyster saloons, and restaurants which signify the neighbourhood of the theatres. (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, p.45)

...this neighbourhood...30 years ago boasted 17 hotels all within a stone's throw of one another... They were brave days when, standing at the corner of Bourke and Swanston streets, one could take the choice within an area of about 200 yards of the Royal Oak, the Vendome, the American, the Queen's Arms, and the Gippsland in Swanston street; the Reform Club Hotel (WW), in Little Collins street; or His Majesty's, the Albury, the Victoria [Hall], better known as Mick Nathan's, the Bull and Mouth (WW), the Mechanics', the Canton, the Albion, the Sunbeam, the Orient, the Old England, the Opera House, and the Theatre Royal bars (WW), all in Bourke street. At the old Mechanics' Hotel, which used to stand on the site of Coles's shop in Bourke street [329, west cnr the Causeway], the licensee, the late Mr Ascenio de Freitas, distributed to the poor of the city the viands left over from the evening meal.... From the front door of the Bull and Mouth, which occupied the site of Woolworth's new shop, the coaches set out in the old days for the gold diggings. Old sporting enthusiasts will remember the boxing matches that were held 30 years ago in the Victoria, since given place to the Melba Theatre [283 Bourke, WW]. (Argus, 26/12/33)

EASTERN MARKET

Pics in Cole, *Melbourne Markets*: p.2 (engraving, 1862; p. 35 (engraving 1864); p. 36 (floor plan, 1859-78); p. 39 (aerial photo, 1873); p. 41 (engraving, c.1870); p.44 (photo, 1880); p.45 (interior photos, 1908); p.46 (engraving, interior upper level, 1880).

- 1840 In 1840 the Female Penitentiary was built at the corner of Exhibition and Little Collins streets, on part of what later became the [Eastern] Market site. (Miles Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history & development*, p. 30)
- 1842 Watch-house built on Eastern Market Reserve. Occasionally served as a temporary lunatic asylum. (Garryowen, pp.76, 425)

Early 1842—temporary hay and corn market started business in NE angle of Eastern Market site. (Garryowen, p.255)

2-acre site originally set aside for Methodist Church but congregation refused site because it was too far from town. Vegetable market established 1859. (Rogan, p.66)

- 1846-77 Since Melbourne was expanding rapidly to the east, most vendors quit the chaotic Western Market scene [in mid-late 1850s] and opened stalls on ground reserved for an Eastern Market. This three-acre site... had originally been intended for municipal buildings. However, as Melbourne Town Hall rose on its present site in Swanston Street, the eastern block became available for other purposes.

The site had been used as a hay and corn market since 1846, with a row of brick stalls built on the Exhibition Street frontage in 1847 to make a small general market. The Bourke Street frontage was divided into 30-ft square allotments, where retailers of cheap clothes, shoes and books erected temporary timber shops. These were destroyed by fire in

November 1855, and replaced by rows of carts and stalls trading in the open air. The *Leader* in July 1858 thought the greatest attraction of this impromptu market was ‘confectioners’ stalls, blazing with light and glittering with wonderful feats in the art of making sugar candy’. Noisy vendors offered ‘heating happles, three pounds a shilling’, or ‘brooms for a bob’. (Cannon, *Melb After the Gold Rush*, p.187)

Here we have long lines of stalls, carts, and wheelbarrows selling everything. One man is sailing up and down, like Admiral Van Tromp in the Channel with a broom aloft, proclaiming ‘brooms for a bob’. Cheap John, in a cart ornamented with Chinese lanterns and hung around with saddles and bridles and bundles of clothes pegs, is suby selling a packet of envelopes, lett-erpaper and sealing wax by Dutch auction. The great competition is in apples. We hear a man roaring at the top of his voice, ‘Heating happles, three pounds a shilling.’ Another not less noisily announces, Baker’s and boilers, four pounds a shilling.’ Next we come to a miniature drapery shop, where a man in a white beaver with a blue paper of pins fastened round it is inviting attention to his wares: ‘Now’s your time ladies, a Paisley shawl for three and sixpence,’ and then he wraps it round him to show its beauties. Looking over the shoulders of the crowd, we see a man selling soap, to which he ascribes miraculous cleansing powers. Not the least among the attractions of the market is a book-stall. But the feature of the Market is the confectioners’ stalls, blazing with light and glittering with wonderful feats in the art of making sugar candy. (*Leader*, 31/7/1858)

Some poorly-built wooden shops had sprung up along the Bourke Street frontage of the Eastern Market site, but rather as at the Western Market, sixteen of these were destroyed by fire in 1855, and Council then ordered the removal of the rest because of their poor condition. The market site still formed an L-shape around the old female penitentiary, which had become a gaol hospital in 1845, when the prisoners were removed to the new gaol in Russell Street. In 1858 the government approved the transfer of the site to the market (though it was not officially granted until 1881), and a shed was built over it in 1860. Meanwhile in 1854 the Council began to prepare designs to let the [market] site on ten-year building leases, but encountered various difficulties in this... [In 1856]... a public petition to the Legislative Council inspired the government to make the improvement of the market a condition of the Council’s next grant money, and this resulted in the construction of covered sheds with open aisles between them in 1858-9. (Miles Lewis, *Melbourne: The city’s history and development*, pp. 49-50)

Better arrangements for vendors were made in 1858, when the City Council paid John Moore £3,400 to build four long corrugated-iron arcades over most of the site. Each of these shed-like structures was 42 feet wide, with flagstones laid to protect shoppers from mud and manure. All 224 stands were occupied by market gardeners, fruit growers and general dealers by the opening date in May 1859.

The site soon became known as ‘Paddy’s Market’, a noisy jumble of shouting tradesmen, haggling customers, squealing animals, and fervent political orators. The open-air arcades were demolished in 1877, and a much more solidly-built Eastern Market erected with regular lockup shops and gas-lit walkways. (Cannon, *Melb After the Gold Rush*, p.187)

On Saturday nights ‘a moving mass of boys’ conducted a ‘pigeon exchange’ in Stephen Street, outside the market. On Friday nights the growers’ carts overflowed into Bourke Street, extending along the gutter nearly as far as the White Hart Hotel. (*Argus*, 18/3/1939—‘Bygone Days’)

...the great early-morning centre for the sale of garden produce, to become later in the day a hay and corn market—on Saturday nights a popular fair, on Sundays the battleground of religious enthusiasts, and in between times the ‘people’s forum’ for the discussion of political grievances and for gatherings of unemployed...

Although a single row of stalls had been built there in 1847—the first year of its occupation—by 1855 the place had become cluttered up with ‘miserable shanties’ of wood and canvas, most of which were swept away by a fire which occurred on October 30 of that year. In the vacant space thus created the process of buying and selling still continued, gaining an impetus from the virtual closing-down of the older Western Market about this time, and soon ‘long rows of stalls, carts, and wheelbarrows’ sprang up, ‘selling everything’.

About the beginning of 1859 the City Council commenced the erection of a proper market, providing four long sheds running parallel to Exhibition st., and running a row of brick shops along the western boundary of the market-place a little later. The regular routine at this time was the occupation of the sheds in the early morning by market gardeners, whose place was taken later by the farmers with their hay carts.

The latter held the field from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and on Saturdays, at 3 p.m., about 300 dealers of all descriptions crowded into the place and transformed it into a bazaar. It was this last-named phase of activity which gave rise to the name ‘Paddy’s Market’, first applied about the middle of 1851.

Twelve months later we find the Illustrated Melbourne Post giving a graphic description of this week-end commercial orgy, stating that ‘cries from Whitechapel, the Saltmarket, Dublin, and every kind of marketable and unmarketable commodity seem suddenly mixed in one monster incantation, in which brass bands and nigger melodists, nasal prophets and itinerant wizards, gongs and drums, make up one terrific din and grotesque pandemonium.’ The writer goes on to comment on the variety of goods offered for sale, the ‘dazzling’ display of gas jets, and the background of human noise provided by the continuous hum of human voices, and singles out for description the ‘cheap John’ on his van—a youth ‘with a florid complexion and possession extraordinary volubility’—Chinamen selling ‘tea, silk handkerchiefs, and walking-stick pipes,’ and, ‘to complete the scene, the ever-remembered performance of Punch and Judy.’

Political meetings at Paddy’s Market reached their climax in August 1860, when inflammatory speeches on the vexed question of ‘unlocking the lands’ brought about something in the nature of a riot in the vicinity of Parliament House.

‘When these tribunes of the Eastern Market began to gasconade about rifles, and to incite their deluded followers to acts of open violence,’ says ‘The Argus’ of September 1, 1860, ‘indifference was rapidly replaced by indignation in the public mind, and this found emphatic expression in the spontaneous enrolment of between 2,000 and 3,000 persons as special constables.’

The threatened outbreak came to nothing, and within the next two or three years the political importance of the ‘people’s forum’ declined. ‘The trade of the agitator is gone,’ says The Argus on January 1, 1864, ‘the voice of the Eastern Market is hushed—the oracles of the stump are dumb.’

Then there were the open-air preachers who made use of Paddy’s Market—turbulent as politicians and provocative as demagogues. About 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 13, 1862, there was a scene between two rival orators, one of whom, having finished his own address, devoted himself to the task of constantly breaking in upon the discourse of another ‘with texts from Scripture, calculated to rate an angry controversial discussion. Two years later, in July, 1864, we hear of a regular pell-mell fight among the congregations of no fewer than four rival preachers who were in the field at once—and

these are only samples of the disturbances which were constantly recurring.

Pressure on the resources of the Eastern Market for its legitimate uses continued to increase, and in June, 1864, a deputation of market-gardeners to the acting president of the Board of Land and Works, stated that upwards of 600 of them attended the market, which only had accommodation for 200. The City Council lengthened the existing sheds and added a new one in 1865, and about the same time suburban markets came into existence and helped to relieve the situation.

In 1877 the City Council decided to rebuild the Eastern Market, and the Victoria Market was made ready for the occupation of growers, who were transferred thither in March 1878. Two years later a new Eastern Market was opened—but 'Paddy's Market' was gone for ever. (A.W. Grieg, in *Herald?*, 1930s—in FJA maroon scrapbook, p. 101)

50s-70s In the gold digging era, this space, which had from the first been kept vacant as a reserve, began to be frequented by dealers of all sorts, and it grew into what was known as the 'Paddy's Market'. Subsequently the corporation erected light sheds, and charged a rent for occupation, yet still it was the same miscellaneous place, thronged on Saturday nights by crowds who were densely packed, but who moved slowly along beneath the flaring wicks of rough oil lamps to the crowing of poultry, the barking of dogs, the hum of innumerable voices, but above all to the stentorian invitations of sellers, who mostly worked themselves red in the faces in the hopes that superior noise would lead to prompter business. Here also, in the times of great political excitement of the sixties and seventies, many a great open-air meeting was held. Often have Sir Graham Berry, the present Speaker of the Lower House, and other men now in prominent places, held forth from the rear of cart or dray to vast crowds whose upturned faces were dimly lit with the yellow glare of a few oil lamps. All these humours of bygone times are replaced [in 1897] by tameness and quite order. No longer does the Cheap Jack and the vendor of miraculous pills, the patent-cement man or the thimble-rigger, ply his vociferous trade. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp. 27-8)

At the Eastern Market the Council extended the existing sheds in 1865 to fill the site to the maximum possible on a single level, but was soon considering plans for a major redevelopment. In 1871 a competition was held for designs for a building to cover the site, while at the same time increasing the accommodation for 'market gardeners'. Designs were selected and published, but the issue became a hot potato due to concerns that the wholesale market would be removed permanently from the site. A new competition was held in 1875, and in January 1876 it was announced that the entry of the architects Reed & Barnes had won. ...most tenants had to move to the Victoria Market by 1 February 1878. The new building was opened by the Governor on 22 December 1879, and then for three months the lower level, which was intended as the wholesale market, was occupied by the Intercolonial Juvenile Industrial Exhibition. When, finally, the growers were invited back to the market, few of them appeared. The Queen Victoria Market, to which they had so much objected, was now the established and preferred location... The Eastern Market was finished as a wholesaling venue, but as a general market and amusement centre, it had a long career ahead of it. (Miles Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p. 74)

Market designed in 1877—a series of great arches, supported by cast iron bracket which incorporated the Coat of Arms of the City of Melbourne—effect not unlike great 19thC English railway stations. (Rogan, p.66)

1865- Mr Isaac Selby in his 'Memorial History of Melbourne', relates that Mr Henry Gyles Turner once told him that he lent Mr Cole the money to begin his bookselling business.... He began to purchase secondhand books at the rate of about 1/ each a day, sometimes a little more, and in September 1865, he opened in a small way in the Eastern Market with a stock of books and periodicals valued at £17/10/. This market was known in those days as 'Paddy's Market'. It was the only fruit and vegetable market in the city. Mr Cole began to supply the market-gardeners with early morning refreshments. To enable them to while away the waiting hours before the market opened he tried the experiment of lending them some of the books he had bought secondhand. He found the gardeners very responsive to this enterprise. For some time his gross profits were only about 13/6 a week, but from this obscure beginning of his business career in Melbourne he went steadily forward. For years he put up and took down his own shutters and acted the part of owner, handyman and office boy... At the age of 51 years [date?] he opened his first book arcade in Bourke street, just above Russell street, and his secondhand book department was transferred to Dwight's old building near Parliament House. (Argus?, 9/6/28)

1874 **Pic** aerial view of Eastern Market from SW shows rows of tin-roofed stalls. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.167 RHSV)

1879 The Eastern Market was one of the architectural marvels of Melbourne in its day. Designed by Joseph Reed and Frederick Barnes, it was a remarkable market building not only for being an entirely enclosed structure, but also for being built on two levels. Extensive galleries within were available to market stallholders, while the street frontage comprised permanent shops for daily retailing....
The redevelopment of the Eastern Market was ambitious and unlucky. It reopened in December 1879 with much civic fanfare, but the new Queen Victoria Market had recently opened, and quickly became the preferred sale-ground for Melbourne's market gardeners. The Eastern Market never regained its role as a produce market, but lived on as a flower market, and as a rendezvous for promenaders and curiosity-seekers... (A New City, p.36)

1879+ ...the patchwork history of the Eastern Market, so rich in memories of jesting Jim Crilly and Charlie the Tattoo Man, and all those forgotten sideshow men of yesterday. The Market was opened with full civic honors in the spring of 1879. It was intended for the sale of vegetables and fruit, but Destiny had market it out for a more romantic life. It proved nothing of the financial success the City Council had expected, and, in 1881, Mr E.W. Cole, founder of Cole's Book Arcade, leased it for three years. The brave day of the Eastern Market had dawned.
Almost overnight, the market came to life. Sideshowmen were on every hand. A brass band blared there every night. Quaint little shops sprang into being. Melbourne's imagination was caught.
The bright lights were fewer in Melbourne in those days. The strong woman who challenged any man to fight her, the Yankee doctor who pulled teeth in full public gaze, the cheap-jacks, Aunt Sallys and shooting galleries were the city's passing show. Those who remember tell some grim tales of the old Market, tales of clashes between the Crutchies and the Flying Angels or any other push that was handy, when crowns were cracked and eyes blackened. (Herald? 4/2/33)

The late Mr E.W. Cole was the first to see the possibilities of the Eastern Market as a place of entertainment and a market at the same time. In 1881 he took it over on a three years' lease after the City Council had discovered that it was likely to be anything but a

gold-mine. To attract stallholders Mr Cole offered reduced rentals and other concessions as inducements. As a result the market became as lively as it had been dull previously. A brass band played every night, and side shows of all kinds were opened by enterprising people. One of the most ingenious of the showmen at that time was Jim Crilly. His showmanship was a never-failing source of amusement. A poster which he displayed on one occasion urged the public to 'Walk in and See the Man Eating Shark'. When they did walk in—and it was surprising how many did—they saw a man seated at a table eating a piece of what they were told was shark. It was the same bright spirit in the show line who worked another amusing stunt on the public by inviting them to 'See the horse that has its tail where its head should be'. Those who responded to the lure felt very foolish when they saw a horse standing with its tail in the manger.... Gas and lamps made the illuminations there seem wonderfully alluring when compared with the dimly-lighted streets of that period. (Herald, 25/6/36)

1881 An 'Australian Electric Company' was formed, and secured a contract for the new Eastern Market, where six arc lamps, each with its separate dynamo, came into operation on 1 July 1881. (Argus, 12/6/15, p.6)

1890s Back in the days when Bourke st was Bourke st and the old glittering thoroughfare was the Saturday night promenade of bowler-hatted blokes and bustled donahs the Eastern Market was the spot where life began....

It was during the craze for indoor markets in the excitable 'eighties that the Eastern Market was built at a cost of £33,000. It was to be the very latest as a business-amusement centre. Today the senile old building, full of echoes and strange twilight, has little in common with the raucous, anguine market of the 'eighties and those naughty 'nineties.

There were peep-shows where blushing but unashamed young bucks could drop a penny into a slot machine and see pantalooned bathing beauties frolicking and leapfrogging on the seashore. It was a common occurrence to see a whole line of droopy-moustached youths gazing into these machines and grinning with perfect contentment.

There were other ways of spending money. Hoop-las, electric shocks, and shooting galleries. When the Boer War broke out market habitues were swept with patriotic frenzy. Effigies of 'dirty old Kruger' were set up in aunt sallys and patrons took pot shots at the old bounder for Queen and country.

Another attraction was provided by Madame Zinga Lee, the fortune-teller. In regal robes madame sat on a throne in a darkened shop with just a pale light above her head. Electricity was only in its infancy in those days, and madame, who had a weak current of electricity running through her body, was able to give clients a 'funny feeling' when she shook hands with them.

Madame was very proud of her fine, buxom arms. One day a modeller from the old Bourke st waxworks who was modelling a figure of Queen Victoria noticed madame's arms and said, 'By jove, they are just the arms I need for Queen Victoria.' So he modelled Madame Zinga Lee's arms on to Queen Victoria's figure....

...Forty-eight years ago [1898?] Frank Cartwright, vaudeville artist, ballyhoo man, and go-getter, was the central figure in the 'Eastern Market Tragedy', a murder that was to occupy the newspaper headlines for days... Frank Cartwright, known professionally as Stevens, had a score of shops and stalls. He was the 'big shot'. Next to his wife's fortune-telling shop was the astrologer's shop of 'Professor' Medor. But while Cartwright, the go-getter was a 'business man', Medor, the astrologer, was a 'crackpot' who believed his own prophecies. The 'professor' soon became the butt for the practical jokes of the 'local

lads'. One afternoon when Medor was out on the spree the 'local lads' hung two carrots above his door. Medor arrived back, saw the carrots, and thinking Cartwright's wife had put them there, rushed at her with a revolver and shot her in the arm. He then turned and ran into his shop.

Cartwright was at the other end of the market, but rushed to his wife's rescue. Cartwright rushed at Medor in the darkened shop, but was blinded by the sudden darkness. Before he could recover, Medor shot him in the head and then with a knife nearly decapitated him. The 'professor' was tried and convicted, but because of doubts of his sanity he escaped the hangman's noose, but only to commit suicide later.

Cartwright was one of the best known figures in Melbourne show business, and the case created a tremendous sensation at the time. The appetite of the reading public was further whetted by the facile and dramatic pen of young Monty Grover, a young newspaper police roundsman, who was one of the first on the scene. (Argus, 12/10/46?)

1897 ...a space of about three acres is occupied by the extensive corporation buildings called the Eastern Market. On three sides these are surrounded by two-storey shops, facing the various streets. Inwardly they present an upper floor and a lower, the under one lighted by frequent spaces left in the upper floor, which, however, is the more important, presenting a long series of asphalted ways flanked by stalls, whereon are displayed in profusion stocks of cheap merchandise, which look gay in their brilliant masses. By day the whole is lit from a great roof of glass; at night there is a sufficiency of electric lamps to illuminate the great space with a cold blue splendour....

Next to the Eastern Market stands the Eastern Arcade, a quiet recess, wherein is no great sign of business. It once was the site of the Haymarket Theatre, opened in 1862, and the scene of dramatic triumphs of Mr and Mrs Charles Kean, of Anderson, and other Shakspearian stars. But after nine years it was burned down, and the situation being regarded as not wholly propitious, it was never rebuilt. The ground for a long time was used as a market for the mingled sale of poultry and second-hand books, till the present arcade with its music-hall above it was erected. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp.27-8)

29/8 Many happy returns of the day to the Eastern Market—50 years old today, and showing more dignity now than in the early spring of 1879, when the Civic Fathers threw open its gates for the sale of vegetables and other produce. The market was hailed as a big forward move in the progress of the city. But it was to become known not only for its general utility so much as a place wherein all the romances of a growing city were to be reflected. Here it was that 40,000 people used to shop on a Saturday night. The Eastern Market was the first place in the city to be lit by electric light. The late Mr Cole, of Cole's Book Arcade, began his meteoric rise by selling second-hand books in the market. ...On Saturday I discovered Mr Robert Barnes, who has a hairdressing business within the precincts of the market, gazing at the big glass roof that envelops the building. 'Funny place this,' I said. 'Funny!' he said indignantly. 'To me it's hallowed ground, every inch of it. I began business here two years after it opened, and my fortunes and misfortunes have been the fortunes and misfortunes of the old market.' ...A woman—wife of a tattoo artist—was once fought for and won in its congested alleyways. Who that knew the old market in its great days does not remember the strong woman who nightly threw out a challenge to fight any man. A man once accepted the gauntlet, but there was only one hit. The crowd then dispersed before she developed a grudge against the world. Further down towards where the garage is now, there was Charlie the tattoo man. Many a youth has gazed in Charlie's window, and with imagination fired, has been martyr to the pin. But

that was nothing to the whippings when they got home. Down at the southern corner was the American doctor. He hailed from Virginia, and in the quaint phraseology of his land, was said to be full of PEP. He extracted teeth in full gaze of everybody to prove the simplicity of the business. He had a band to play, and it would strike up to a terrific pitch during the crisis. Along the western end were the shooting galleries, where an attendant was once shot dead by one of his own guns, and the ice-cream stalls and Aunt Salleys. There was a place where you could buy a plate of peas for twopence. Down in the basement the din from the poultry and canine sections was terrific. Monkey were sold by the dozens and possums and squirrels, too, before they were banned. The Eastern Market has now lost much of its pristine splendor, and, as its name implies, almost Eastern atmosphere, but its memories are many. They are still treasured by the early people of Melbourne, and even by the members of the Angels and the Bouvieries gangs who used its crowded byways to settle their unending feuds. (Sun, 12/8/29)

33/1 Schoolboys of the last generation may recall the golden days when they squandered their coppers on boiled peas and ice-cream in the roomy old Eastern Market at the top of Bourke street. It is a joy which schoolboys of to-day will never know, for the glory of the market has faded. In place of the hall of wonders there is now a motor garage. It is many years since the ingenuity of the late Mr E.W. Cole converted the market from its role of white elephant to oriental bazaar, but there are stallholders to-day who can recall the palmy days of 30 years ago when it was still a ... in itself. With a mournful shake of the head one veteran pointed to the basement, where a row of motor-cars were receiving their beauty treatment from waters and greasers. 'That is the spot where the rotunda used to stand,' he sighed. 'Well I remember the days when the band gave its concerts while the coconut-shies and rifle ranges were in full swing.' He pointed to a solitary weighing machine. 'In those days,' he added, 'you could try your strength on a punch-ball or feel an electric shock or see your horoscope for a penny. All you can do now is to weigh yourself.' The side-shows which brightened the basement are no more, but there has been less transformation among the shops upstairs. There are still fox-terrier puppies and cockatoos to delight the eyes of children. The acquisitive may even watch a prolific artist completing canvases in a picture shop as quickly as they can be framed. Side by side with the art gallery where are displays of old books, wax flowers, and gilt love-knots. In one quiet alleyway the herbalists still practise their mysteires. The spirit of the times reveals itself clearly in the large modern stores in the main thoroughfares. Coconut-shies and rifle ranges have given place to the more hectic amusements of St Kilda. The old market is no longer a rendezvous for the youth of Melbourne, but it still retains vestiges of its archaic glory. (Argus, 23/1/33)

Bursting through the high, domed roof in the south-eastern section of Eastern Market... at 9.55 pm yesterday, fire swept through shops and stalls, and threatened to destroy the whole of the historic building. Fine work by the brigade confined the outbreak to the southern corner. The firemen stopped the spread of flames and, at 10.30 pm, the fire had been extinguished. Extensive damage by fire and water was caused to more than 50 shops... Fireman had a perilous task, for large sheets of glass and stonework kept falling from the interior roofing. ...the following shops and stalls must have suffered most: □ Ireland's florist shop, Capp's music stall, Hyland's poultry shop, Barker and Sons, cane chair manufacturers, Smith and Reeves, booksellers, J. Fraser, wireless shop, Wallpaper supplies, Fawcett's picture framers, Le Page, herbalist, Albert Fox, fruiterer, Bye's seed shop. The majority of these premises were destroyed. Shops facing Exhibition Street, Bourke Street, and Little Collins Street escaped the flames, but were damaged by water.

- The Eastern Market garage and 200 cars belonging to theatregoers... were endangered, but were saved... Many theatre patrons left shows to see the blaze. The flames swept through the flimsy walls of the stalls and with many windows reflecting the glare, the burning section of the market seemed like an inferno. Flames leaped 100 ft above the eastern tower. Sparks fell on shops and the roadway in Bourke Street, and in Exhibition Street as far as Little Bourke Street. It was a brilliant spectacle.... The cause of the fire is not known. The first man to reach the scene was the caretaker, Charles Lennon, who has living quarters with his wife and family near the burnt out section. 'I closed the markets at 9.35 pm, after going over the whole area. All the tenants had gone, and there was not a sign of fire anywhere. I returned to my quarters and was having a cup of tea, when the alarm went off at 9.55 pm. There have been frequent false alarms caused by rats running over the wires, and I thought it was another false call,' said Lennon, 'but when I looked out I saw a small blaze in the centre of the stalls. I pulled my boots over my bare feet, and rushed out.... In five minutes four shops were ablaze. I thought nothing could save the whole building, and I called out to the wife to save what she could. I opened the gates in Little Collins Street and Bourke Street, and had everything ready for the firemen to get at the fire.' Mr Lindsay, Station Officer, said that Lennon's prompt action in opening the gates greatly assisted the brigade in stopping the fire, and probably saved the greater portion of the markets. (Herald?, 4/2/33)
- 33/2 The magic of yesterday has become the fustiness of today. Phonographs grind, dogs yap, dejected birds chirrup... (Herald?, 4/2/33)
- 33/3 It is an open secret than an extension to the Eastern Market Garage is intended by the City Council. The feelings of burnt-out stallholders, some of whom have built up business during 40 years of tenancy, are hardly deemed worthy of consideration. (letter to Herald, 10/3/33)
- ...legislation in 1933 granted it the Eastern and Western Market sites with power to lease them out for up to 21 years. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.112)
- 33/7 With the acceptance by the Melbourne City Council of the Government's proposals for handing over the Eastern and Western markets to civic control... (Herald, 26/7/33)
- 33/12 ...in the Legislative Assembly in the course of the second-reading explanation of the Melbourne Markets Bill. The Premier stated that a Crown valuation of the two market sites was made in April last. The present value of the Eastern Market reserve was set down at £241,875. (Age, 12/12/33)
- 35/9 In the case of the Eastern Market and the proposal that has been under consideration since November last, the council committee received notification that the Australian Broadcasting Commission did not now seek portion of the area for its proposed new offices. (?, 7/9/35)
- 36/6 With radio sets and phonograph records doing their best to make the visitors forget that there is any depression, suitcases and portmanteaus giving pleasant hints of packing for sunny isles, love birds chirping chumily and tables spread with attractive-looking books and magazines, the erstwhile doleful Eastern Market has taken on a new lease of life these days. It wears now a companionable air. In place of the desolation of a year or so

- ago, it has assumed a new and more cheerful character. Were any of the old pioneers to revisit the market they would be amazed at the change which has taken place. They would admit, however, that the old market has managed to recapture some of the glory that it possessed in the 'good old days'....In later years the market fell on hard times. Its former glory had departed. The place wore a look of shabbiness. When the City Council repainted and modernised it outside and inside recently the revival was begun. (Herald, 25/6/36)
- 37/11 Dissatisfaction with the handling of the Eastern and Western market sites, for which many schemes for garages and office buildings have been formulated and rejected during the last few years, was expressed at a meeting of the City Council today... The Council acquired the two properties from the Government in 1932, on the undertaking to maintain the Shrine area, the Royal Australian College of Surgeons grounds, and other small pieces of garden that the Government previously had maintained. Development of the new sites was left for a year to the Markets Committee, which controls the Fish and Queen Victoria markets, but then the Council formed a special committee of chairmen of other committees. This committee has prepared ... several [plans] for the Eastern Market site, including a 225,000 plan for a Broadcasting House, to be let to the Australian Broadcasting Commission. None of the schemes has been proceeded with. (Herald, 9/11/37)
- 45/8 Here is the Eastern Market, a vast, rambling monstrosity, half waste and given over to the decayed stalls of forgotten corn-curers and poulterers. This dreary morgue, apart from its sepulchral atmosphere, must be a pretty poor asset to the Corporation of Melbourne. Best thing would be to raze it and make a square, as we need all we can get and have none now. (Herald, 25/8/45)
- 45/10 \$2 million building proposed for Eastern Market site. (Argus 30/10/45, p.1)
- 46/6 The development of the Eastern Market site, of more than two acres..., is planned by the post-war committee of Melbourne City Council, to utilise it for a large civic theatre [4000-seat capacity], a small theatre [1000-seat], banquet and exhibition hall [seating 3000 when used as a cabaret], garages [for 195 cars], new arcade of shops and offices. The complete scheme is estimated to cost £2,000,000.... from 1920 to 1945 the average gross rentals from the present building totalled £14,025, the highest being £19,958 in 1930.... A new street, linking Little Collins-street and Bourke-street, is provided in the plan.(Age, 8/6/46)
- 46/7 The City Council's Eastern Market structure will not contain a theatre or auditorium—a proposal aimed at helping to relieve the present acute shortage of auditorium space in the city—because an entirely commercial building will give a greater return... (Herald, 3/7/46, 21/8/46)
- 46/8 Early in July the Council agreed to offer £12,000 in prize money for the best architectural designs of a £1,260,000 building suitable for erection on the Western Market site. It is likely that the Council will approve expenditure of a similar amount in prize money for the Eastern Market building. (Herald, 21/8/46)
- 49/2 Constuction of a £4,000,000 office building on the Eastern Market site is being considered by the City Council town-planning committee. The building envisaged by the

- committee would be the largest in the southern hemisphere, with a base area of two acres and a height of 132 feet. The City Council is expected to announce within the next few months details of a competition for the design of the building. It will probably be conducted on similar lines to the Western Market architectural competition, which closes on June 30.... City councillors claim it has outlived its usefulness. They add the council is losing revenue because shops there are not of a sufficiently high standard. (Age, 10/2/49)
- 53/7 ...the council's Eastern and Western market sites□priceless heritages from Colonial days□offer an opportunity possessed by few other of the world's large cities for large-scale down-town development. (Herald, 3/7/53)
- 53/11 ...the Melbourne City Council has decided to 'freeze' tenancies at the Eastern Market. This means that ...tenants will not be able to sell their businesses. (Herald, 10/11/53)
- 53/11 Until the City Council can decide what to do with the Eastern Market, no new tenancies will be allowed in the 74-year-old building which was once the greatest, wildest and most romantic place in Melbourne. The council hopes that amendments to be made to the Landlord and Tenant Act will give it power to evict the present rentals. (Herald, 20/11/53)
- ...a market of this nature has no place in the middle of a modern city and prior to its removal it had become a complete anachronism. (Rogan, p.66)
- 1955 The Eastern and Western Market sites presented unusual issues for Melbourne, for they were owned by the City council and could be leased out for up to 21 years.... Because a 21-year lease was insufficient to attract private investment, legislation was amended in 1955 to allow leases for up to 99 years... (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.112)
- 60/1 On the Eastern Market site a £5 million hotel of 18 or 19 storeys will be built for Pan American Airways. Named the Southern Cross, it will... have a wide central plaza planted with gardens and underground parking for 300 cars. (Herald, 9/1/60, p.5)
- Jim Parker was foreman at Eastern Market. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)
- 60/5 Demolition of stalls commenced 7.45 a.m., Monday, 2 May 1960. Official handing-over, Tuesday, 3 May. Power then cut off. Ireland's Florists were last tenants to leave□Thursday, 5 May. (SLV/WW 30/3 & Herald, 3/5/60, p.2)
- Jimmy Whelan always used tell me, he said, 'You know,' when we were pricing the place he said, 'You know, this place is dead. But,' he said, 'I used to come up here with your grandpeople as a kid, and,' he said, 'they'd always shout me something special.' I said, 'What would that be?' He said, 'A plate of peas for a penny.' Isn't that amazing? Anyhow, when I was doing my rounds and I called in to see Gordon, our time-keeper [at Eastern Market site office], and Gordon said, 'Oh, why weren't you here half an hour ago?' He said, 'A big Rolls Royce pulled up, just parked down the street, and a well-dressed, well-spoken gentleman came in and he inquired whether he could look around.' And Gordon said yes, he could, but be very careful. And he said, 'As a kid, I sold papers

on this corner and, when I'd finished, I'd nick inside and shout myself a plate of peas for a penny.' (Owen Whelan interview)

Work began with western side of market—pulling down walls and stripping caretaker's premises. Despatched bricks by the 10,000. (SLV/WW 30/3)

Pic—photo of wrecker pulling down market shops—'G. Chugg' sign above shop. (Sun?, 8/5/60, in SLV/WW 30/3)

A man called Robinson used to take pictures of city buildings (as a hobby) in the 1950s-60s. Took pics of Eastern Market demolition. Later issued as a book. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

60/5 The wreckers are in and Melbourne's dingy old Eastern Market is crashing in ruins to make way for a 14-storey hotel—the Southern Cross (with 445 bedrooms). Mr Myles Whelan, who is wrecking the market, has started on the Little Collins-st face of the old Building. Demolition will take about six months... **[pics**—original Eastern Market, present Eastern Market roof (photographed from above, looking east), 2 x wrecking pics] (Herald 23/5/60, p.17)

26/5/60—During this week most of the mirrors were removed from the showcases. Discovered what is believed to be the Foundation Stone. Further investigations tomorrow.

27/6—Further investigation revealed, what we thought to be the foundation stone, in effect was, and worded as follows: 'This foundation stone was laid by the Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor John Pigdon, 9th May 1878'. It was discovered on the corner of Bourke and Exhibition Streets, hidden by showcases. [Black granite] (SLV/WW 30/3)

And we couldn't find the foundation stone. Here's a public building minus a foundation stone. It couldn't possibly be. So anyhow, when we took the mirrors off the showcases, underneath there were several thicknesses of old placards, and—lo and behold—here was the foundation stone of the old Eastern Market. Well, it was commerce, you know, and somebody's said, 'Oh, bloody stone,' you know? Nobody gave two hoots and they plastered placards, posters over the top of it. Then they kept on putting posters on the posters on the posters. The posters were *that* thick. ... And it's very interesting that the stone itself—well, you wouldn't read about it—is a replacement stone... oh, where would it be now, because the building's been demolished, hasn't it? But the original stone they mucked up and somehow or another they broke it and, unbeknownst to anyone, the builders made another one. And as you went down the Bourke Street hill, there was Geiger's shoe store on the left and, on that first return-wall, here was this... what was supposed to be the original foundation stone. ... it was put back and it purported to be the original stone, but it wasn't because they broke it. (Owen Whelan interview)

Jim Parker (foreman) found foundation stone at Eastern Market in a brick pillar right on the very corner of Bourke and Exhibition streets. There was a 45° cut-off where you walked into the shop on the corner. Display cases (about 6" deep) had been set into the pillar there, and the foundation stone was found behind one of them. There was a bad crack in it. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

At the Eastern Market Whelan's have found the original foundation stone laid by Melbourne's Mayor, John Pigden, on May 9, 1878. It was hidden behind a mirror on the corner of London and American stores. Owen Whelan says a slice will be taken off it and the writing will be incorporated in the new building. But they can't touch that stone until some folk come down from the Town Hall. You never know what might be under it. (news cutting (n.d.) in SLV/WW, 64/7, p.4)

Jim raised the stone before the opening ceremony, to check that there was a box underneath it. For a joke, he slipped a cardboard sign with 'Foo was here' under the stone. As the crane raised the stone, he whispered to Owen about his joke. Owen was horrified and instructed Jim to get hold of the sign as soon as the stone was raised, before anyone saw it (there were TV cameras present). Jim managed to get the sign and screw it up, but people wondered what he was doing. (Owen would have been particularly sensitive, as WW had been accused of pilfering contents of the box under the Fish Market foundation stone.) (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

And the Lord Mayor (I don't know who he was at the time) and a couple of councillors came down to witness the lifting of the stone, and again we had a couple of Lewis pins stuck in the thing. And they stick a bit and then it swings away and we all run forward to have a look at what's underneath the stone—because tradition always demands that something of value is placed underneath the stone. But in this case there was a copper canister and it had a copy of the *Argus* of the day, featuring the coming ceremony, and a few simple coins of the Realm. And they took them, so they've got them in their possession. (Owen Whelan interview)

Hank Rowland (Intercontinental Hotels) requested that WW keep all 'crests' the or Southern Cross would buy them. (SLV/WW 30/3, 10/6/60)

City of Melbourne crest—cast iron—stood outside front door of Owen's home in Templestowe, 1972. (Australasian Post, 11/5/72, p.8) **Pic**—Sun, 4/8/64

...up in the top and the cornices of the big columns, there was some beautiful wrought iron work. There were these beautiful cast iron crests and surrounds of the coat-of-arms of the City of Melbourne. And we sold those on to—oh, almost gave them away when I look back on it there—to the architect of the site, Tiger Lyon. He's still alive; I still see Tiger. And he put those around the wall in the Club Grill at the Southern Cross. I've got one of them. And John Connell, the engineer, put a couple on his gates on his property. So there were quite a number of them. (Owen Whelan interview)

60/6 2/6/60—work began on demolishing roof—'men employed breaking the glass, prior to stripping and pulling down.' (SLV/WW 30/3)

Pic—photo of WW worker, Bill Haines, beginning demolition of tin roof. (Sun, Friday, 3/6/60—SLV/WW 57, p.54)

4/6/60—Started removal of Bourke Street verandahs.

5/6—pulled down section of front wall in Little Collins

6/6—Demolishing big archway—centre arch in courtyard—wrought ironwork. (SLV/WW 30/3)

Little Collins side finished first□in preparation for builders to begin on 1 July. (SLV/WW 30/3)

60/7 Last Bourke Street verandahs to be removed were the two nearest Exhibition Street□formerly Rankin’s Pharmacy & the London-American Stores. (SLV/WW 30/3_

A nightwatchman fired four shots over the heads of two intruders in the Eastern Market... last night. The watchman, Gordon Leslie Rawlings, 34... captured one man who put his hands in the air. The second scaled a 7ft fence around the site and escaped down Collins-st. ...Mr Rawlings said that the demolition contractor, ‘Whelan the Wrecker’, had lost several hundreds of pounds worth of scrap metal and the wheel of a crane on the site in the past few weeks. **[pic]** Nightwatchman Mr G.L. Rawlings shows how he used his pistol to fire over intruders in the Eastern Market last night] (Herald, 25/7/60, p.3)

60/8 **[pic]** No it’s not a picture of war-torn London. It’s today’s shot of the demolition work on the Eastern Market, looking through one of the few remaining walls at the city skyline. (Herald, 9/8/60, p.3)

Pic□Aerial view showing demolition well underway□‘Gloomy, dirty and out of keeping with a modern city, the Eastern Market is now only a memory.’ (Herald, Aug? 1960□SLV/WW 57, p.87)

17/8/60□One of the men found on the premises (basement) a hand safe that had been broken open. I contacted D24 and they came and took particulars plus the safe. (SLV/WW 30/3)

20 & 21/8□Blasting pillars in the basement.

6/9□went to work with the ball on the cellars.

23/9□The last walls were pulled today. Nothing remains standing. [Then took weekend off.]

27/9□WW site office closed and removed. (SLV/WW, 30/3)

Total material removed from site by WW:

1,088,500 bricks

68 loads of rubbish

64 loads of timber

26 loads of firewood

31 loads (30 tons) of steel

2,813 loads of rubble

5 loads of cast iron scrap to Brooklyn

79 tons of cast iron (sold?) to Naylor

4 loads of galvanised iron to yard

43 tons of pressing steel

7 loads of pipes to Brooklyn

30 tons of lead. (SLV/WW 30/3)

Oh, there was about 30 tons of lead on the roof, you know. See, there’s always... in the old days, you know, all the gutterings were lead on the decent buildings—slate roofs and lead coping pieces and what-have-you. Jimmy always used say, ‘When you ever get up

there, always look down at the buildings and see which ones've got lead on the roof.' Of course, over the years, when they leaked, the plumbers used take the lead away and just charge them for replacement but copped the lead, which was very... quite valuable. (Owen Whelan interview)

- 61/4 It would appear that the big increase in profits had been caused by the financial success of the Eastern and Western Market jobs...' (WW Pty Ltd minute book, 11/4/61□MJW)
- 62/8 There are tangible reminders surviving from Melbourne's Victorian edifice. They include the foundation stone, now incorporated in the new [Southern Cross] hotel; the iron shields bearing the coat-of-arms, and the bricks forming the arches in the [Southern Cross] grill. (Daily Telegraph, 27/8/62)

PADDINGTON HOTEL, 101 Little Collins Street□S side, rear of Eastern Market□W corner of first right of way W of Exhibition (used to be SW cnr Gun Alley)

Licensed 1854. Closed 31/12/1911. (Cole Collection)

c.1912 Twenty-five years ago, while the old Paddington Hotel was being pulled down, one of the men discovered a dozen old-fashioned belltoppers between the ceiling and the roof. It was learned later that these had belonged to the members of an English Test team, and had been stolen from them when they were touring in Australia many years before. (Herald, 21/6/30)

‘There was great joy among my men for a while, Each one wore a belltopper while he worked. When they got tired of them they started to kick them about. I rescued two and took them home, but they are gone now. Real John Bull hats they were.’ (Herald, 16/1/33)

For top hat story, see also Menzies□difficulty of obtaining a top hat.

PARIS THEATRE/TIVOLI/HUNT CLUB HOTEL/RICKARD'S BUILDING

19thC Hunt Club Hotel originally Friend in Hand Hotel in 1842—licence transferred from Flinders Lane to Lt Collins in the same year. In 1862 the new licensee, G.G. Woinarske, changed the name to the Polish Arms. A livery and letting stables were run in connection with the hotel, specialising in hunters. In 1865, the new licensee renamed the hotel the Hunt Club. (What's Brewing, Dec 1952, p.15)

[see also Baker's Arms for account of early hunt]

1895 The cinema reached Melbourne in 1896 when Carl Hertz treated the audience at the Opera House to views of a 'skirt dance', street scenes, and the sea dashing over rocks, the latter gaining great applause. For the next few years the motion picture was only a feature in a vaudeville program of a short-term demonstration in a hired hall, but in 1906 a cinema industry began to emerge.... In 1901 the Opera House in Bourke Street was burnt down, and rebuilt as the Tivoli, a music hall which became a popular landmark. (Miles Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.90)

1897 ...with a chocolate coloured front of nowise dignified appearance, stands the Opera House. The site was in the digger days occupied by a music-hall known as the 'Varieties,' but in 1872 Henry Hoyt built this theatre of moderate size, which he called the Prince of Wales Opera House'. It was long occupied by W. Saurin Lyster, who in 1857 had brought out the first regular opera company to the colony, with Madame Lucy Escott as the *prima donna*. For many years he leased whatever theatre was vacant, but after 1873 he confined himself to the Opera House, and gave seven years of delightful representations, including 'Lohengrin,' the first performance of Wagner in Australia. He died in harness during the year 1880, after having given many a treat to the music-loving people of Melbourne. His portrait was placed in the National Gallery by those whose gratitude he had thus so fully earned. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp. 29-30)

1915+ Paramount Theatre 'darned nearly Melbourne's first proper picture theatre'—opened 26/12/1915—cost £12,000—1500 capacity. Renamed Lyceum (1933), then New Lyceum (1937), Cleopatra (1964, reopened for Burton-Taylor epic), Paris (1965). (APITS, Sun, 12/2/70)

57/11 A first-class residential hotel and a colonnade of shops similar to those along the Rue de Rivoli, in Paris, will be built on the site of the Lyceum Theatre, Bourke Street, and the Hunt Club Hotel, Little Collins Street... Tivoli Freeholds...purchased the site at auction... By acquiring the site and amalgamating it with the existing Tivoli Theatre property, the company had possibly the largest single site in the heart of the city. The company's immediate plans [include]... A high-class residential hotel on the site of the Hunt Club Hotel and Rickards Building, with small specialty shops at ground floor level [and] 'A unique colonnade' of shops in Royal Lane. **[pics: Lyceum/Paris Theatre & Hunt Club Hotel]** (Age, 13/11/57)

Hunt Club Hotel—originally licensed as Friend in Hand Hotel, 1842—Polish Arms hotel, 1864-5—Hunt Club, 1865+ (Cole Collection)

64/7 The Hunt Club Hotel **[pic]** and Rickards Building in Little Collins St., near the Town Hall, will be knocked down next month. The Melbourne City Council bought the

properties... early this year. A multi-storey office block for Town Hall administration is the long-term proposal for the site.... When the two buildings were demolished the area would be used as a ground level park for City Council vehicles. (Herald, 27/7/64 ,p.3)

- 64/9 Demolition permit□218-224 (Hunt Club Hotel) & 236 Lt Collins (Rickard's Building)□wrecked for MCC carpark. (MCC 167/3 Box 19 D2211)

- 70/2 Demolition permit□235-51 Bourke Street□3-storey + 4-storey brick and concrete buildings□\$18,500. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3145)

- 70/2 Tivoli Theatre (249-51 Bourke) demolished. **Pic**□Jim Bridges demolishing Wall. Houdini, George Formby, Roy Rene, all performed there. All that remained to be demolished was the foyer□rest was knocked down (not by WW) after fire in 1967. Foyer was used as a flea market for about 18 months. (Sun, 10/2/70)

Tivoli demolition commenced 10/2/70□to be completed by end of May. (Herald, 10/2/70)

- 70/2 Paris Theatre (235-37 Bourke) demolished. (APITS, Sun, 12/2/70)

- 79/8 Art deco?/nouveau? wrought iron work from Tivoli incorporated into verandah of WW office. (Age, 22/8/79)

PALACE HOTEL

- 19thC Originally licensed as City Buffet Hotel, 1861. William Stutt became licensee in 1866—was a bullock-driver at St Leonards for many years, later a member of parliament—died Doncaster 1912, aged 98.
- 1865 ...at one time two lions were kept in a cage in the backyard, or 'tea garden', as the proprietor called it, of a hotel in Bourke street. This was the City Buffet, kept by William Stutt... An advertisement of 1865 shows that, besides the lions, there were an aviary of singing birds, a cheetah, and some monkeys. Mr Stutt, who came from Canada, was a member of two Victorian parliaments between 1866 and 1870. (Argus, 18/3/1939—'Bygone Days')
- 67/5 ...some months since the Acclimatisation Society were anxious to enlarge the sphere of their operations by forming a zoological collection, and on the matter becoming known, Mr Stutt, of the City Buffet, wrote to the society, offering them his collection of lions and tigers for the sum of £450. ...the Chief Secretary... pointed out that the vote for that year was for acclimatisation purposes only, that no portion of it could be applied as proposed... On the 10th of April last, the vote of £2,950 for the Acclimatisation Society came before the Legislative Assembly for consideration. The vote was agreed to, and... an addition was made to the terms in which it was framed, to the effect that the money might be devoted to zoological as well as to acclimatisation purposes. The difficulty which had prevented the purchase of the Bourke-street menagerie having been removed, Mr Stutt again communicated with the Acclimatisation Society upon the subject, but, singularly enough, the owner of the animals had raised his price £100, and instead of £450, he now demanded £550 for his carnivorous stock. ...at the same time a letter was received from Mr Arthur O'Connor, formerly a distinguished member of the Legislative Assembly, stating that if the society determined on forming a zoological collection, ten gentlemen whom he named [MLAs and others] would subscribe £10 each towards its funds... It would be interesting to know whence arises this deep and new-born interest in matters zoological displayed by the gentlemen we have named... Mr McLellan [MLA]... may be an admirer of the gentle manners of Mr Stutt's specimens of animated nature, but if so, he could study them more conveniently at the Buffet in Bourke-street than at the menagerie in the park, and would scarcely give £10 to secure their removal. The whole case wears a very suspicious aspect—so suspicious, indeed, that the Council of the Acclimatisation Society unanimously resolved to have nothing to do with the affair, and we believe refused to purchase the beasts on any terms whatever... Those not in the secret may be somewhat puzzled to imagine... what advantage Mr Stutt expected to reap by receiving an additional hundred pounds for his animals if he expended it in paying subscriptions for which other individuals were to obtain the credit... The vote to the Acclimatisation Society is dependent upon a certain sum being collected by private subscription, the society receiving £3 from the Government for every £1 otherwise obtained. Consequently, had the society accepted the offers of Mr Stutt and Mr O'Connor, they would have received £300 from the public treasury on account of the £100 subscribed by the gentlemen taking so warm an interest in the matter, and the lions and tigers would thus pass into their hands at a cost to their legitimate funds of only £150. (Argus, 17/5/67)

Mr Stutt in Explanation.—...About nine months ago the Acclimatisation Society requested to know upon what terms I would dispose of my zoological collection... and knowing that the funds of the society were rather low, I named the sum of £450. ...The

next offer I made, after a lapse of nearly nine months, was £550, intending to return the society £100 of that amount as a donation [which would attract matching funding from the govt]... So much for the price of the animals; now for their value. The lion Wallace is the finest and largest caged lion in the world at present, and for him alone about two years ago I was offered £500 by a member of the London Zoological Society. The lioness is a truly fitting companion for this noble monarch. An Indian bear, a leopard or cheetah, with a number of smaller animals complete my collection and are at least unsurpassed in their several kinds. The Acclimatisation Society could not procure such a collection as mine for at least double the amount asked by me. (Argus, 18/5/1867)

76-83 [Among the business ventures of James Hosie (of Hosie's Hotel) was] the Academy of Music Hotel and Café (later the famous Palace, Bourke-st, 1876... (Sun, 15/8/53; Cole Collection)

...the new Academy of Music, which is in course of erection by Mr J. Aarons... promises to be alike an ornament to the city and a most agreeable place of public amusement. The new structure will be a combination of the *utile* and *culce*. In addition to the proposed theatre there will be a handsome arcade, similar to those constructed in other parts of the city. The site is in Bourke-street, a short distance above the Opera House, and immediately opposite the Theatre Royal. The Bourke-street frontage is sixty-six feet, and the depth through to Little Collins-street is 3134 feet 6 inches. The scheme embraces an arcade twenty feet wide, extending from street to street, and having shops on both sides, an hotel fronting Bourke-street, and an academy of music or opera house. The elevation in the main street will be in the Italian style, three stories high. The hotel bar and parlor will be on the left-hand of the arcade entrance, and a shop on the right hand. On the first floor there will be a club room, thirty feet by thirty feet, and sitting rooms, while in the storey above will be bed rooms and kitchens, &c. Behind the hotel, and over the eastern range of arcade shops, will be a large billiard saloon, while the western side will form the main entrance to the opera house, the approach being from Bourke-street, and up a noble flight of steps from the right side of the arcade. The flooring over the shops will be laid with tiles or tessellated pavement, and the whole corridor will be ornamented with flowers and shrubs. From this floor a few additional steps will lead to the entrance to the dress-circle of the house, while from the level of the corridor on each side a passage will lead to the stalls, the floor of which will be only seven or eight feet below the front parapet of the dress-circle. There will be no pit, but above the dress-circle there will be another circle, at the back of which will be a gallery. The dress-circle *salon*, 100 feet long, will have an ornamental tessellated floor. The whole length will be divided into bays of twelve feet by bronze statues standing on pedestals, and representing emblematically music and the drama, and celebrated composers and writers. The bays themselves will be filled in alternately with mirrors and a splendid collection of large-sized photographs of classical subjects. The building will have a stage of moderate depth, with all necessary dressing and bathrooms and other offices, and entrance and escape stairs are abundantly provided for all parts of the house. That part of the arcade between the hotel and the opera house will have an ornamental circular iron and glass roof. Messrs Reed and Barnes, the architects, have furnished the design, which is in all respects worthy of Mr Aaron's inception of a structure, 'the primary use of which... will be the cultivation and development of music and the drama in their higher manifestations.' The building was actually commenced some weeks previously to the ceremony of laying the memorial stone, which took place on 23rd May with great *eclat*, his Excellency the Governor laying the stone. (Illustrated Australian News, 12/6/1876, p.90)

- 1880 Three rooms including ladies' and gentlemen's dining rooms etc., 5 bars, billiard rooms, 3 tables. The establishment is one of the most perfect in Australia, employs 30 hands and will accommodate 150 people and upwards to dinners and/or other meals. (Cole Collection)

The Palace Hotel was the wonder-of-wonders. That was the first place they had hot and cold water in every room. (Owen Whelan interview)

Palace Hotel, 1889-1913
New Grand Central, 1913-14
Closed 1914 (Cole Collection)

- c.1905 Between 1904 and 1909 there was a push whose members sallied forth under the perhaps self-effacing but very appropriate designation of 'Bourke Street Rats'... as tough a gang of hoodlums as the 'Flying Angels', the 'Bouveroos' and the 'Coffin' push. But unlike those corsairs of the night the 'Rats' made Bourke Street their exclusive stamping ground. And Theodore Lester Joseph Taylor [born 1883] was the most crafty member of the 'Bourke Street Rats'. He scorned his more grandiose Christian names and became just Leslie or 'Squizzy' [later 'The Turk']. Bourke Street then was a flaring city canyon that seethed with life. In more than thirty glittering bars, long since vanished, young barmaids ranging from the buxom to the voluptuous, dispensed brewage until nearly midnight. Pianos tinkled merrily in the hotel parlours. They had not then coined the word lounge. There were all night supper rooms, discreet and intimate, for the roysterers and their floosies, and plenty of surreptitious all night drinking. It was a boisterous street particularly on Saturday nights when everyone appeared to be 'out to see the elephant and hear the owl'. (The Real John Wren, p.176)

During his apprenticeship in crime, Taylor joined a gang of vicious youngsters generally known as the 'Bourke Street Rats'. Unlike the retail trade centre it is today, Bourke Street was then Melbourne's main street of amusement, crammed with theatres displaying names like Bijou and Gaiety on flaring facades; abundant with sporty hotels such as the Bull and Mouth, the Albion, and the Orient, all staffed with hand-picked, attractive barmaids; and rich in mysterious Chinese cafes and cavernous wine saloons with craked mirrors and sticky tables. The wide, bright street was the natural habitat of tout, lout and basher, pimp and prostitute, of magsman, thief and urger. (Hugh Anderson, Larrikin Crook: The Rise & Fall of Squizzy Taylor, p.8)

- 1910 Bad Language in an Hotel—City Barmaids Fined. In the District court yesterday, before Mr Dwyer, P.M...., Licensing Inspector Davies proceeded against Addie Schultz, a barmaid in the American bar of the Palace Hotel, Bourke-street, of which Mr John A Wilson is the proprietor, on the charge of having used indecent language in the bar on November 9. The same charge was laid against May Nicholls and May Davidson, employed in the same bar, in respect to November 8. Defendants pleaded not guilty, and were defended by Mr Bryant....

In the case of Addie Schultz, Constable A.F. King deposed to visiting the bar on the evening of November 9, in company with Constables Grieve and Scurry. All were in plain clothes. They had drinks at the bar, and he paid for drinks for the defendant and the two other barmaids.

Witness gave the language alleged to have been used by the defendant.

Answering Mr Bryant, witness said they were there for the purpose of watching the premises. They did not draw the defendant on with the idea of getting evidence to

challenge the proprietor's licence.

Constables Grieve and Scurry corroborated King's evidence as to the language complained of. They stated that they had only recently joined the force, and were under King's orders on the night.

Defendant denied having used the language.

May Nicholls said she had not heard defendant use the language.

Mr Dwyer said the Bench accepted the police evidence and would reserve their decision until the other cases were heard.

The constables then gave evidence as to what occurred during their visit to the bar on November 8.

Mr Bryant said he would not call the defendants to give evidence. It was a fact that the police were sent to the hotel to get evidence in order that Mr Wilson's licence might be challenged, He protested against the constables banding together to present a revised version of their evidence against the defendants. It was not an honest way to present evidence.

Mr Dwyer.—These constables went into this public bar, and apparently gave no encouragement to these women to behave as they did, and to make use of such language. One would think that even in the lowest quarters in the city worse language could not be indulged in. We must express our sense of misconduct by inflicting a substantial penalty. The case of May Davidson is the worst. She is fined £5, in default one month's imprisonment. The others are fined 60/, in default 21 days' imprisonment. The fines were paid. (Argus, 25/11/1910, p. 10)

1913 An application for the transfer of the licence of the Palace Hotel, Bourke street, from Grosvenor Henry Ellis to Samuel Aaron Marks was made to the Licensing Court, consisting of Judge Moule, and Messrs P.J. Dwyer and V. Tanner, P.M.s, at the sitting of the Metropolitan Licensing Court yesterday. The transfer was opposed by the licensing inspector, Sub-Inspector O'Sullivan. Mr I. Macfarlan... appeared for the applicant, and Mr. J.S. Meagher appeared for the police.

Mr Meagher said that for the last 20 years the Palace Hotel had been conducted under the direct supervision and control of Mr J.A. Wilson, and during that time its character had been exceptionally bad; there was nothing like it in Melbourne. It was a relic of the old days.

Judge Moule.—We have granted the Palace Hotel licence before; at present this is an application for a transfer... The Licences Reduction Board will deal with this hotel.

Mr Meagher.—The peculiar circumstances of this hotel are such that the whole conduct of the place may be gone into. The licensee is not this man who nominally appears before the Court. The real licensee is the man whose conduct is complained of. If my friend thinks 'dummy' is too harsh, I will say that he is a trustee.

Judge Moule.—If the transferor is as bad as he can be, and the new man is a good one, that is a strong reason for giving it to him, to be carried on well. The character of the hotel is only open in so far as you can show that the transferee is not a fit person to take charge of such a house.

Mr Meagher.—He was formerly he manager of the hotel, and it was during his occupation of the place that the conduct of this house—

Mr Macfarlan—Well, that is all right.

Mr Meagher.—I claim the right to go into the whole history of this hotel. Mr Wilson has said, 'I do not allow my licensees any freedom at all.'

Judge Moule.—Apparently you do not want the house to be licensed at all. The application is to transfer the license to a man who has to be shown to be fit to hold it.

Mr Meagher.—I will show that the house has been badly conducted under this licensee

and other transferees for 20 years. Mr Wilson was here in 1910, and promised reformation; but for the last two years the conduct of the house has been exactly the same. Would it not be for the Court to say that the license is not to be renewed in these circumstances?

Judge Moule.—I am going to deal with the transfer.

Mr Meagher.—We say there is nothing to transfer at all. The transferee is a dummy for Mr Wilson, as is also the transferor, and quite apart from that, the transferee is not a proper person to hold the licence of the Palace Hotel. For a quiet suburban retreat he might make an eminently suitable licensee. (Laughter.)

Mr Macfarlan.—The court has already accepted one man as a trustee for another, and Mr Marks is in precisely the same position as Mr Hendy, to whom the Court granted the licence in 1910. He will take the lease, and will account to Mr Wilson for the proceeds, or, rather, to the proprietary company, into which the business has been formed since 1910. It is necessary to have somebody accountable to the Court. Marks gave up the hotel to take up a position in the Commonwealth service. The only complaint while he was licensee was for selling whisky which was too strong. (Laughter.)

Judge Moule.—Has he had any other experience?

Mr Macfarlan.—Not as a licensee; but he has been connected with this hotel for 12 years, keeping the books, and assisting in its conduct.

Judge Moule.—I think that, in view of what we were told before, you should have as transferee a very strong man, who has had control of hotels before.

Mr Macfarlan.—Mr Wilson has been trying to sell this hotel, and there are four or five persons who have been negotiating, one of whom is a well-known financial man, and Marks has agreed to go out in the event of sale or lease to this person.

Samuel Aaron Marks, bookkeeper and secretary of the Palace Hotel Proprietary, said:—I have been connected with hotels since 1906. I became licensee of the Palace Hotel in June, 1911, and continued for seven months. During that time I had no complaints at all. I took charge of the bars, and found myself able to manage. I have entered into an agreement with the proprietary.

Mr Meagher.—What other hotels have you been in?—The Sunbeam.

Continuing, witness said that while he was licensee he slept at the hotel two nights a week. The value of the stock would be something like £3,000 or £4,000. He would receive 1 per cent of the gross profits from the sale of liquor.

Mr Meagher.—Who gets the rest?—It goes to the company.

Do you know the members?—Mr J.A. Wilson, Mr I.H. Moss, Mrs I.H. Moss, Mrs Poulson, Miss Wilson, and Mr A.E. Jones.

During the time you were licensee were you employed by Mr Wilson?—Yes; I received £3 a week.

Did he take any part in the collection of the money.—I collected it, and paid it to the Palace Hotel Proprietary.

Who operated on the account?—The managing director, Mr Wilson.

Did Constable McCaffrey on several occasions complain of the way in which the house was conducted while you were licensee?—He came in several times, and said that there was a drunken person or a lot of hooligans in the arcade.

Did he complain about the conduct of certain barmaids?—I do not think so.

McCaffrey will swear that he complained of the barmaids lying on lounges in front of the bar, whistling after men, and fondling them, and taking familiarities that no respectable house would tolerate?—If he drew attention to anything of that character, I immediately stopped it.

Did he complain that he had seen barmaids with their arms round men's necks hanging over the counter?—I have no recollection of it.

Were they in the habit of drinking with men?—I have seen them. I used to admonish them, and if they repeated offences I reported them to the managing director.

It is a pretty hot place. I mean larrikins go there?—Yes.

And you are not able to take care of yourself as well as a big man?—Sometimes moral suasion is just as effective. (Laughter.)

Do you know that three of these barmaids were fined for indecent language, and Constable Berriman complained of the character of one of them?—I have no recollection.

Do you know she is back in the same house?—Yes, she was a perfect lady otherwise. (Laughter.)

Were barmaids frequently drunk?—They were not drunk and incapable.

Oh, they were drunk and capable? (Laughter.) What will your wages be if you get the licence?—Two pounds a week, and 1 per cent of the gross profits from sales. It will be between £3 and £4.

Were three robberies in the bar reported to you?—Not in the bars; there were reports of robberies in the arcade.

John Alfred Wilson said:—I am managing director of the Palace Hotel Proprietary, and was formerly sole owner. In the event of the licence being granted to Mr Marks I am prepared to give him entire control, but I like to know who is employed.

Mr Meagher.—Had he the same control before?—That is a wide question. I gave him complete control, but what am I for as managing director? (Laughter.)

Judge Moule.—We are unanimous that in view of what has taken place we will not grant the licence of the hotel to anyone who is not absolutely independent.

Mr Macfarlan.—I think that if Mr Wilson had consulted his legal advisers they would have told him the same thing. We have another man in mind to whom there can be no objection.

The transfer was refused, with £10/10/ costs against the applicant. (Argus, 4/12/1913, p.7)

- 14/5 The Licences Reduction Board yesterday opened the hearing of cases in the depreivation sittings of LaTrobe licensing district, and was occupied with the case of the Grand Central, formerly the Palace Hotel, Bourke-street. On behalf of the police evidence was given of three convictions within three years, and that under previous licensees the conduct of the hotel had not been satisfactory in some respects, but it was admitted that this had changed since it came under the control of Mr M.A. Galvin. A number of witnesses were called, who gave evidence that the hotel was a satisfactory and comfortable place to stop, and that visitors had been properly tended to. The board reserved its decision. (Argus, 20/5/14, p.7)
- 14/10 Interesting questions have to be decided by the Licences Reduction Board with respect to the licence of the Grand Central Hotel (formerly the Palace Hotel), in Bourke street. When the matter was mentioned yesterday at the compensation sittings of the board, at which Messrs Barr and Lock were present, and adjournment was applied for till November 6, and was granted.
- Mr Meagher appeared for Francis Graham (trustee in the estate of Mary Hannah Brewster), owner, and Mr Lewers... for John Alfred Wilson, owner of the premises. Mr Brayshay appeared for Henry Jacob Wendt, licensee.
- Mr Meagher, in applying for adjournment, explained that the case was a very complicated and troublesome one.
- Mr Lewers.—The trouble here is separate ownership.
- Mr Meagher.—We may come to some agreement, and so save time.
- It appeared that Francis Graham, trustee in the estate of Mary Hannah Brewster, claims

ownership of part of the licence. Leases were produced which went back many years. They practically originated with the building lease to a person named Aarons, deceased. Aarons's lease was from 1876 to 1906. He covenanted to put up different buildings, costing £25,000, and maintain them as an academy of music, and hand them back if required to do so, delicensed and with the ground floor reinstated for ordinary commercial purposes. In addition to this building contract there was a rental of £1,300 a year. It was subsequently increased to £1,400. John Alfred Wilson took over from Aarons about 1882, and built extensions on adjoining land which he purchased about 1886. He is now owner of the bedroom portion of the hotel and the Gaiety Theatre, which is on the ground floor beneath the bedrooms. As owner of part of the lease of the licensed premises he also claims compensation in respect to proposed deprivation of the licensed benefits in connection with the bedrooms. In the years 1903-4-5 Wilson was also the licensee. He has since let the licensed portion of the premises to Wendt, who has the remainder of the lease up to 1926. The rent now for the licensed premises is £3,000 per year for the first two years and £3,500 per year for subsequent years. Wendt is claiming compensation as licensee for the lease of the premises.

One of the questions that may arise is as to whether, in view of a licence having been granted in respect to a piece of the property, an owner adjoining who takes a lease of the licensed premises can claim for his adjoining block a continuance of the licence.

The late Mr E.J. Brewster, who owned the main portion of the land and building now known as the Grand Central Hotel, was chairman of the Quarter Sessions and the first commissioner of the Court of Requests in Port Phillip in 1939. He lived in a house on the bank of the Yarra, and had an office in Little Collins street. In 1853 he was ordained a clergyman of the Church of England. He died on his way back from England in 1898. (Argus, 7/10/1914, p. 11—see also 10/11/14, p.8)

Compensation was granted as follows: Brewster's Estate £525; Wilson £1,450; Licensee £700. (Argus, 7/12/14)

1934 [JPW's] largest job was clearing the site for the Commonwealth Bank building in Bourke st. In one sweep he removed the Bijou and Gaiety Theatres and the Palace Hotel. (Argus, 14/10/49, p.2)

34/2 ...the Palace Theatre [Hotel?], which in 1889 was built on what is now the Fullers' freehold site, was a structure of seven stories, and was fitted with elevators. Reasons for its decline in public favor were known [?] to Melbourne residents, but the site, which his firm had held for twenty years, was eminently suited for a modern hotel, run on the best lines. (Age, 3/2/1934)

A building of several floors, containing 300 bedrooms, which have been locked and unused for five years, is being demolished in Bourke Street, to make way for the St James Theatre building. Part of what was the Palace Hotel until about eight years ago, and then a coffee palace for a time, the rooms are on floors above the Roxy (formerly the Gaiety Theatre. (Sun, 27/2/34)

The old Palace Hotel where the Commonwealth Bank now stands in Bourke Street was one of our big demolitions in the twenties. We discovered a secret room in it where Squizzy Taylor, the racketeer, used to hide. (Owen, press cutting, n.d., scrapbook, p.3)

...a tastefully furnished bedroom in the basement of the old Palace Hotel in Bourke Street. Further inquiries revealed it was a hide-out for Squizzy Taylor, when he wasn't inclined to leave the city. (Owen, in Sandringham newspaper, Dec 1975)

BIJOU THEATRE & GAIETY/ROXY THEATRE

1845/6 52 Bourke Street (Sec 12, allotment 15)—Peter Miller, brewery—owner Thomas Wills. (MCC ratebook, LaTrobe Ward)

1876-89 The Bijou Theatre has had a comparatively short, but nevertheless, a somewhat eventful history. It was built between 12 and 13 years ago, the foundation stone being laid by Sir George Bowen, then Governor of the colony, on May 23, 1876, and the building opened on November 6 of the same year. The theatre formed part of a new arcade extending from Bourke-street to Little Collins-street, and was on a scale somewhat smaller than the Theatre Royal or the Opera-house. Its adjuncts and fittings were carried out, however, in a style of elegance which was considered deserving of high commendation, and the theatre was regarded as being admirably suited for modern comedies and plays wherein great display was not essential. The internal arrangements were designed differently from either of the other theatres in several particulars. There was no pit, the lower portion of the house being entirely occupied by the stalls, which formed a very comfortable portion of the theatre. The floor of the stalls was only about 8ft below the dress circle, and the stalls entrance was reached by two passages running along the side of the building and under the dress circle. The family circle and gallery were placed above the dress circle, and the admirable arrangement of the theatre rendered every word audible, and every gesture visible in every part of the house. The original drop scene, and the ceilings of the auditorium and the proscenium were painted by Mr Harry Grist, the well-known scenic artist. There was sitting accommodation for 1,500 persons. The main entrance to the theatre was from Bourke-street, the visitor having to ascend a flight of stairs, and pass along a corridor, which formed an admirable promenade between the acts. It was handsomely decorated and adorned with theatrical pictures and photographs, while the floor was a tessellated pavement.

The opening of the theatre was celebrated by a grand concert, at which the ill-fated Mdlle. de Murska, then at the zenith of her fame, was the leading artiste. This gifted songstress had just returned from a tour of New Zealand and Tasmania, where she had achieved her most distinguished success... The theatre was originally called the Academy of Music, and its *raison d'etre*, as explained by His Excellency the Governor, was 'the cultivation and development of music and the drama of their higher manifestations'. To this object, it was said, the new theatre would be devoted. Its proprietor—the late Alderman Joseph Aarons—volunteered to place a portion of the building at the disposal of any organised society for the practical cultivation of music, and also offered to make other concessions with a view to facilitate the studies of qualified musical students. In order that these generous proposals might bear fruit in due season, it was necessary that some kind of national training school for music should be established, but as this *sine qua non* was not supplied the idea of the founder was unfortunately not realised. The inaugural address, which was delivered by Mrs G.B.W. Lewis, wife of the first lessee, was written by Dr Neild, and it opened as follows:—

“‘Another theatre, and wherefore, pray?
When we are told that two will hardly pay.
Another theatre!—the scheme's absurd;
Two do not fill; then, why erect a third?’

Thus spake a grumbler, one of those who show
How better always is the status quo.
' 'Tis courting ruin!' said my gloomy friend,
'Your project only in collapse will end.'
To whom, in answer, thus I made reply:
'My melancholy prophet, let us try,
At any rate a novelty 'twill be
To have, at last, some real rivalry.'"

The piece concluded with an assurance that an effort would be made to provide real enjoyment for the patrons of music and drama, the final lines being:—

"No place for dulness this, so let it be
Or theatre or an academy,
The time shall pass so pleasantly within it
That every hour shall seem as a minute.
Here will we teach at least heart-music, gentlest, best,
That lulls the daily sorrows of this life to rest."

Mdlle de Murska was described as 'The Queen of Song,' and the new Academy of Music as 'De Murska's College'.

Thousands of persons will experience a pang of real sorrow at the sudden destruction of the elegant little theatre in which they have spent so many pleasant evenings, and have witnessed such a succession of excellent performances. [Many examples follow, including 'the late J.L. Hall as Captain Gingaw, ... Miss Dargon as Queen Mary, Mr Wybert Reeve as the Crushed Tragedian, ... the Majeroni season, with its masterly presentaitons of 'Jealousy', 'Camille', 'Fedora', ... Miss Genevieve Ward's farewell benefit when she played 'Lucrezia Borgia', ... the comedy season of 1885-86 with 'Nita's First', 'The Magistrate', 'Betsy', and 'Forbidden Fruit', filling the house with laughter night after night...] All these were rendered additionally enjoyable by the cheerfulness and compactss of the bright little theatre. No person in any part of it was so remote from the stage as to be out of touch with the *dramatis personae* on the boards. Waves of laughter did not die away into distant ripples, but seemed to ebb back to the company, and animate them in their efforts to amuse. It was essentially a comedy house, with just such limitations of dimension as released the actors and actresses from the necessity of exaggerating, either tones or gestures...

The Bijou Theatre is likewise associated with the political history of Victoria, for it was in that place of amusement in the year 1879 that a local production was witnessed of an adaptation of Gilbert's burlesque, which was a travesty upon the politics of the day in England, in which Mr Gladstone and his two colleagues, Viscount Cardwell and Mr Robert Lowe (afterwards Lord Sherbrooke), were caricatured by the three leading actors engaged in the piece. The late Marcus Clarke wrote the local adaptation, which was entitled 'The Happy Land,' and which substituted for the three English notabilities Mr (now Sir) Graham Berry, Coloney (then Major) Smith, and Mr John Woods, three prominent members of the 'Black Wednesday' Government. At that period in the history of the colony political feeling ran high, and an announcement of the burlesque attracted much public attention, and greatly exasperated members of the Berry Government. Mr Berry, in his capacity as Chief Secretary, which carries with it the functions of censor of the stage—a position similar to that of the Lord Chamberlain in England—exercised his Ministerial powers, with a view first to the emasculation, and afterwards to the prohibition of the burlesque. By his direction, Captain Standish, the then chief commissioner of police, served a notice on the proprietors of the theatre intimating that if they allowed the piece to be produced on the stage the licence of the building as a theatre would be forfeited. Naturally this did not diminish public interest in the proceedings.

Even his political friends considered that the Chief Secretary of the day was ill-advised in creating such an abnormal interest in a theatrical production which, by its own merits, was not likely to meet with much public favour. The proprietor and lessee of the theatre endeavoured to ascertain what parts of the burlesque were regarded as objectionable, and the piece was revised, with a view to the expurgation of such passages as were deemed likely to bring members of the Government into contempt. The revised version of 'The Happy Land' was produced, but the actors took care that the piece did not lose in popularity by the excisions which had been made under the direction of the Chief Secretary on the grounds of morality. When an actor reached a proscribed passage he coughed significantly, and remarked to the audience, 'Prohibited!' This device had the effect of bringing greater ridicule upon the Government than was likely to have been caused by the original text... The press notices of the performance incensed the Berry Government to such an extent that the Chief Secretary issued an absolute interdiction of the burlesque, either in the original or in its mutilated form, and when an attempt was made to bring the matter under discussion in Parliament, Ministers took the extraordinary course of calling attention to the presence of strangers, and had the press and other galleries cleared. This prohibition did not reach the proprietor of the theatre until immediately before the hour at which the performance was announced to commence, and the audience had assembled as usual, the house being crowded in every part. In the face of the official interdiction, however, it was deemed inadvisable to proceed with the burlesque, and what should have been a theatrical performance was transformed into a public meeting, at which the action of the Government was vigorously denounced.

The first lessee of the Bijou Theatre was Mr G.B. Lewis, who was succeeded after some few years by Signor Majeroni. Nearly two years ago it was leased to Messrs Brough and Boucicault at a rental of £5,000 per annum, and the lease has still six months to run, with the option of renewal for a further period of two years. In the earlier stage of its existence the new theatre was not prosperous... The whole building is now leased by Mr J.A. Wilson, the lessee of the Palace Hotel... He is the owner of the block and buildings known as the Palace Hotel, and the site on which it stands, but he leases the Bijou Theatre from the Rev. Mr Brewster, a wealthy investor, who does not reside in the colony, at a rental of £1,300 per annum. His lease of the theatre has yet 40 years to run. It was acquired from Mr J. Aarons, who had erected the building at an outlay computed at over £60,000. (*Argus*, 23/4/1889, p.6)

1889/4 BURNING OF THE BIJOU THEATRE. TOTAL DESTRUCTION. FIRE BRIGADE DISASTERS. TWO MEN KILLED. MANY FIREMEN INJURED. DAMAGES ESTIMATED AT £50,000. EXCITING SCENES AND EPISODES. Easter Monday in Melbourne had a fiery close. The day, which had displayed all an Indian summer balminess, had hardly begun to die when from the very centre of the city a pillar of smoke was seen to ascend which attracted the attention of hundreds of thousands of eyes... On the East Melbourne Cricket-ground a very large attendance were witnessing a very exciting game of baseball. Suddenly the banner of the fire was announced, and a rush was made to the pavilion roof and to the gates... So on the MCC ground. From all the rendezvous about the city the people were flocking like long flights of sea-fowl to the meres...

At half-past 4 a wildly excited man burst in *The Argus* office with one shout of fire and another for the telephone. The Palace Hotel was on fire. And even before that in the front bar of the hotel Mr Wilson, with a couple of friends, were enjoying a social glass when a maid of the hotel rushed in with the news that a chimney was on fire. Mr Wilson's glass was full, and probably remains untasted yet, for he hurried out and found that it was a very big chimney indeed. The fire fiend is a very foul fiend, and takes every advantage he

can, and therefore made his assault on a day when... probably, the hotel and the theatre and the fire brigade offices, and even the police barracks, were as lightly manned as on any day of the year... There are at least two dead witnesses now, one killed by falling through the [glass] roof, another crushed and killed by a falling wall. There are nearly a dozen maimed...

By 5 o'clock there was a broad banner of smoke in the sky, and great tongues of fire rushing upwards. And though the engines were in full blast, and the hoses in full play, flames and smoke increased steadily. And the crowd gathered fast. Little Collins Street was packed for a hundred yards on either side of the Arcade, Great Bourke-street was slowly filling. A crowd began to assemble in Russell street, a splendid vantage point, and up Collins-street, from the Swanston to the Russell street crossing, groups gathered, looking curiously through the narrow, high-walled channels at glimpses of the great fire.... Despite all the efforts of the brigades,... the black smoke cloud grew thicker and higher, the tongues of flame shot out with fiercer intent and more intense power, and it was evident to all that the theatre was doomed.

But what of the Palace Hotel? That question occurred to every one familiar with the locality of the fire, and happily it was soon made clear that the Palace Hotel was all right. The thick brick wall which makes the rear of that vast structure was well roasted, but not seriously burned. The lift caught, and window sash or two, but the long hose pipes werre right through the building, and water was playing wherever danger appeared....

Along Russell-street there was ...a dense crowd, and from the higher pavement there by the old monumental mason's yard at the back of the Independent Church a splendid view was obtained. The ruins of the theatre showed singularly picturesque from this standpoint. The roof fallen in, all the gables, peaks, and various ornamentations of the walls, stand clear against the inky blackness of the sky. Spark, smoke, and flame belched constantly up from the centre and the exposed cap of the Little Collins-street facade showed like the minarets and cupolas of an Eastern mosque—bare, bald, jagged ruins of shaft and tower, and gable and parapet beside. ...from the upper windows of the Town-hall a grand view was obtained right into the heart of the fire. It was seen thence that the Bijou was gutted, and that the fire had obtained absolute mastery of the premises of Messrs Marshall and Co., printers...

Two hours later it was possible to make a way into the front of the Palace Hotel, and wading along that beautiful corridor whereby we used to approach the circle of the dainty little theatre, water descending like rain from the roof, great hose pipes coiling like boa-constrictors on the floor, vases and statuary overthrown; to reach the verge of the ruin, the edge of the pit....

The most conflicting statements are made as to where the fire originated, and the origin of it is wrapped in mystery. The first alarm appears to have been given by a housemaid named Kate Wadsworth, who is in the employ of Mr Wilson. She was sitting in a pantry on what is known as 'A' floor of the hotel. This is situated immediately above the dress circle of the theatre.... The girl... hurried downstairs to the bar, where she found Mr Wilson, who was talking to some friends. She told him that the theatre was on fire, and he sent the alarm on to the fire brigades. He also determined to use his own appliances, and passed through the billiard room as that was the nearest way to the theatre. He communicated the alarm to the billiard-marker and some gentlemen who were playing billiards in the room, and they went to assist him. ...He hurried out into the vestibule, and thence into the theatre. The fire was then burning between the stalls and the side-boxes in the front of the circle.... Miss Ward, the costumer of the theatre, was at work in the wardrobe situated under the stalls... and her attention was also attracted by the smell of burning.... There was no one else in the theatre at the time except the stage door-keeper, a man named James Hendy, and he was down on the ground floor. Miss Ward states that

through she had the gas burning in the wardrobe, the fire did not originate there, and she suggests that it was either due to the fusing of the electric wires, or was caused by the kitchen chimney of the Palace Hotel catching fire. On the other hand, Mr Wilson blames the [??] of Messrs Breough and Boucicault, and denies that it is possible for the fire to have originated from the kitchen. Mr Boucicault, one of the lessees, was in the theatre soon after 4 o'clock, and crossed that stage on his way out. Everything was then all right, and there was not the slightest sign of fire. He had not reached his home, in East Melbourne, before he heard that the theatre was on fire, and he returned at once to find the whole place in flames. There has not been the best of feeling between the parties concerned, and the proximity of the kitchen of the Palace Hotel to the auditorium of the Bijou Theatre had been the subject of legal proceedings. [Theatre lessees and performers complained of cooking fumes from the Palace kitchen.]...

The flames having once obtained a good hold they spread with marvellous rapidity, and were soon beyond control. The brigades assembled in great force, upwards of 100 firemen being on the ground with their appliances. All attempts to save the theatre were at once recognised as futile, and attention was devoted to saving as much of the Palace Hotel as possible. The inflammable material with which the stage was laden afforded splendid food for the progress of the flames. Soon the whole interior was on fire, and the flames broke through the roof, rising to an enormous height.... The premises of messrs Wm Marshall and Co., which are situated in Royal-lane, immediately adjoining the theatre, were the next to be doomed. The flames soon had hold of the roof, and then all was over. Messrs Marshall and Co. carry on business as theatrical and general printers, and their premises were stored with piles of paper which stimulated the flames still more. It appeared at this juncture as though the whole Palace Hotel must go, and there was also fear expressed that some sparks might communicate with Garton's stables immediately opposite, and if this had occurred nothing could have saved the Opera-house. The grooms from Garton's and the attendants from the Opera-house stood on their respective roofs with hose and wet blankets ready at hand, and watched, with anxious faces when any gentle gust of wind wafted some portion of burning material in their direction. All this time the flames were playing dangerously round the framework of the windows in the new portion of the Palace Hotel.... Towards 8 o'clock, after three hours and a half of solid work on the part of the brigades, the strain was relieved. ...the fire had burnt itself out. ...In the Palace Hotel, the damage by water was very considerable. The floor immediately over the Arcade was flooded, and the water filtered through the ceiling, spoiling the new designs that have just been painted upon them, and damaging the carpets on the floor. Above that again, on floor 'A', where the fire was first noticed, the beds and bedding were soaked with water, all the window frames are severely scorched, and the uprights and rope of the lift will have to be replaced.

[Word sent first to the Insurance Companies' Brigade]... The men all worked with a will, and if they erred at all it was on the side of recklessness. After the worst of the fire was over several of the men made free with the refreshments provided for them in the bars, and not a few of them were sufficiently intoxicated to disgrace their brigades....

Mr J.A. Wilson will be the greatest loser by the fire.... Mr Wilson estimates that he expended over £70,000 in connection with the theatre, including the purchase money for the lease, while his expenditure in acquiring and furnishing the Palace Hotel has involved an outlay of £130,000 additional. ...his insurances reach a total of £90,000... he will be at least £20,000 out of pocket through the fire.... Mr Wilson fears also that his hotel will be affected as a place of resort, and that his present list of 170 lodgers may dwindle down until he can ensure them such comfortable quarters as will induce them to return to the hotel.

Mr W. Marshall, trading as Messrs W. Marshall and Co, printers, estimates his losses at

£6,500.... Mr Marshall states that he will suffer most in consequence of the destruction of valuable pictorial posters, a large accumulation of valuable wood blocks of engravings...

Messrs Brough and Boucicault are in the most unfortunate position. They had in the Bijou Theatre the accumulations of stage properties which they have amassed since they first embarked in business, together with most valuable collections of manuscripts, music, and a number of extensive wardrobes. Their immediate loss upon these effects they estimate at £10,000, not a penny of which is covered by insurance.... In addition... the members of the orchestra will suffer to some extent by the destruction of their instruments, all of which were kept on the premises....

THE STAGE DOORKEEPER'S STATEMENT. James Hendy, the young man who was in charge of the theatre when the fire broke out, made a statement to the following effect:— I am in the employ of Messrs Brough and Boucicault, at the Bijou Theatre, as stage doorkeeper. It is my business to see that no one enters the theatre during the day who is not entitled to do so, and also to attend to letters and telegrams, and do some other routine work. I had a little office at the stage door, just off the right-of-way, by which access is gained to the back of the theatre. A little before 5 o'clock I was alone in the place, and was doing my best to wile away the time, when I heard a curious rumbling noise, but I set it down to the dynamos in the electric light engine house, along the lane, and took no notice of it at first. A minute or two afterwards I heard something crackling as well, and with that I walked out into the right-of-way to see what it could be. It never entered my head that anything was wrong with the theatre; but I had scarcely got outside the door when a young fellow, who is employed about the place, ran towards me and called out, 'Jim, the theatres on fire,' and pointed up to where he could see the smoke. We both rushed up the flight of stairs that led to the stage, and there was the whole place ablaze. There's an alarm apparatus fixed close to the stage, connecting with the fire station, and I rushed to give the alarm, but through I cut my hand badly in smashing the glass, I was unable to found the alarm before I was driven back by the flames. Then we rushed for the hose from the cellar, but we couldn't make any use of it, for at that time the whole inside of the theatre seemed to be on fire, and the falling glass and burning scenery made us run to save ourselves.... The stage employes were all away at tea... I don't know that there are any firemen employed during the day, until about 7 o'clock, when the regular firemen came on, and remained on duty till after the theatre was closed. I can form no theory at all about the origin of the fire. it's as great a mystery to me as it is to you. (Argus, 23/4/1889, pp.5-6)

The Bijou is the sixth theatre which has been burned down in this city during the last quarter of a century. ...it is deplorable to think that instead of receiving crowds of holiday-makers last night, it was a black and yawning ruin before the time arrived for opening the doors. (Argus, 23/4/1889, p.6)

- 1897 Three theatres stand to the left, the first two opening from what was once an arcade, but is now converted into a sort of vestibule, surrounded by the theatre bars. The larger theatre, called the Bijou, has been for years the home of comedy, the popular firm of Brough and Boucicault having therein delighted the theatre goers of Melbourne with a long series of sparkling modern dramas. The place when first built was called the Academy of Music, but when it passed into the hands of the Majeronis on a long lease it changed its name. The other hall of this pile of buildings is known as the Oxford Theatre, wherein are given entertainments of the higher-class music-hall variety. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp.28-9)

- 27/7 Proposal by Union Theatres to build picture theatre for 4000-5000 capacity on Bijou/Gaiety/Palace Hotel site. (Argus, 16/7/27, p.32)
- 30/3 Bijou and Gaiety to be converted to talkie theatres. Gaiety would be renamed Roxy and re-open on Easter Saturday. 'Long-run' talkies would be shown at the Bijou at the conclusion of the current season of Mr Gregan McMahon's company. Interiors would be partly redecorated. (Argus, 10/3/30, p.7)
- 1934 [JPW's] largest job was clearing the site for the Commonwealth Bank building in Bourke st. In one sweep he removed the Bijou and Gaiety Theatres and the Palace Hotel. (Argus, 14/10/49, p.2)
- 34/2 Formerly a home for revues and vaudeville, the Gaiety, which was a neighbour of the Bijou, was remodelled with the advent of the talkies and re-named the Roxy. Pictures were screened there on Saturday night for the last time. The Bijou Theatre has already been demolished. (Sun, 27/2/34)

One of Whelan's wrecks, the building housing the Bijou and Gaiety theatres in Bourke Street, laid bare the hide-out of Melbourne's one-time top gangster, Squizzy Taylor. It was the old Gaiety basement. (Herald, 31/12/55)

Pleasant Creek Cemetery—'Whelan the Wrecker, an old Stawellite, presented the cemetery gates, that came from the Bijou Theatre in Melbourne. Part of these same gates are at the Deep Lead Cemetery.' (internet)

- 34/2 To cost £250,000 for building and an equal sum for furnishing and equipping, the biggest theatre in Australia and the largest hotel are to be built together on the site now occupied by the Bijou Theatre, with frontages of 118 feet to Bourke and Little Collins streets. Demolition of the present theatre was begun today... It was proposed also to construct in the basement a theatre-lighted swimming pool, built to Olympic measurements, but that proposal would remain indefinite until a guarantee could be secured that mixed bathing would be permitted by the authorities.... The Melbourne theatre almost certainly will open with a lavish stage production, but will be built to permit quick transformation into a talkie theatre. (Herald, 2/2/34)
- 34/2 Fullers' Theatres Limited has prepared a scheme of building on the site of the old Bijou Theatre and Palace Hotel, which provides for an up-to-date theatre and hotel of nine stories, with a solarium roof garden, and a swimming pool of standard Olympic measurements.... It was hoped to have the buildings completed by October for the Centenary celebrations. The theatre, to be known as the St James's, will be opened with a season at popular prices of grand opera in English.... The theatre will seat between 4000 and 5000 people. It is proposed to call the hotel the Prince George, if there are no legal obligations. There will be 400 rooms in the hotel, which will be conducted without a liquor licence... Every bedroom will be fitted with a bathroom... (Age, 3/2/1934)
- 34/2 After defying every effort to locate it for several weeks, the foundation stone of the old Bijou Theatre in Bourke Street was discovered today under the entrance to the dress circle. The inscription on the stone read: 'This stone was laid by His Excellency Sir George Ferguson Bowen, KCMG, Governor, Commander-in-Chief, and Vice-Admiral of the colony of Victoria, on the twenty-sixth day of May, 1876.' Under the stone the workmen found a —d casket containing an official programme of the opening ceremony,

copies of all the local daily and weekly newspapers, photographs of the Governor and Mr Joseph Aarons, the then-proprietor of the theatre, and Political and Statistical Registers of Victoria for 1874 and 1875. Sir Benjamin Fuller intends to have the casket relaid with the foundation of the new St James Theatre. (unidentified news cutting)

Deep Lead Cemetery, near Stawell—Whelan the Wrecker an old Stawellite presented the cemetery gates, that came from the Bijou Theatre in Melbourne. Part of these same gates are at the Deep Lead Cemetery.

- 34/2 A building of several floors, containing 300 bedrooms, which have been locked and unused for five years, is being demolished in Bourke Street to make way for the St James Theatre building. Part of what was the Palace Hotel until about eight years ago, and then a coffee palace for a time, the rooms are on floors above the Roxy (formerly the Gaiety) Theatre. Formerly a home for reviews and vaudeville, the Gaiety, which was a neighbor of the Bijou, was remodelled with the advent of the talkies and renamed the Roxy. Pictures were screened there on Saturday night for the last time. The Bijou Theatre has already been demolished. (Herald, 27/2/34)
- 35/11 Bijou site—about 1 acre, bounded by Bourke, Russell Place, Little Collins & Royal Lane—sold by Fuller's Theatres to F.J. Cook, boot manufacturer. To be site of 'palatial block of buildings 132 ft in height'. 'The erection of the block of buildings will change the face of old Bourke Street. Almost the whole of the block [?] has been rebuilt during the past [?] years, and Mr F.J. Cook recently carried out alterations to the Melbourne Coffee Palace [opposite side of Bourke]... more than half a million pounds has been spent on buildings on the north side of Bourke Street since the depression, but the Bijou side has remained as it was 10 or 20 years ago.' (Herald, 21/11/35, p.1)
- 35/11 Big new buildings, such as that planned for the site of the old Bijou Theatre, are striking evidence of the stimulus which has been given to the building industry in the last year or two. (news cutting, 23/11/35)
- 39/3 [Plans for]...a branch of the Commonwealth Bank in Bourke Street on part of the Bijou Theatre site. Plans are in preparation to erect on the rest of the site a theatre to seat 1100 and display shops. Limit-height building along Russell Lane, which will be widened to 20ft—basement + 10 floors. (Herald, 11/3/39, p.6 & 15/5/39, p.1)
- 46/2 A complete entertainment centre, comprising theatre, cabaret specialising in big floor shows, sideshows and shops, which will cost £500,000, is planned for the Bijou theatre site in Bourke street. ...Sir Benjamin Fuller, of Fullers Theatres Ltd,... [said] that the new building would have 'everything, from Punch and Judy to a circus'. (Argus, 23/2/46, p.8)
- 54/4 ...excavations for the Grand Central Car Park project on the site of the old Bijou and Gaiety Theatres. In the Bijou theatre half a century ago Melbourne theatregoers were being entranced by that most 'daring and imaginative' melodrama 'A message from Mars', one of the great hits of the day.... It would have required more daring imagination than that of the author of 'A Message from Mars' to forecast that the site of that old-time theatre would in less than a life's span become a kind of glorified coach house for the vehicles of the auto age. The Grand Central Car Park now under construction will be the first stage in a £750,000 project, including a limit height, 10-storey building on the ...

frontage to Bourke St, extending back to Little Collins St. Fullers Theatre Pty Ltd, owners of the valuable site, propose using the 10-storey building for tenant office space... The first second of the Grand Central project, costing £160,000, comprises a three-storey structure with accommodation for 400 cars to occupy the ... Little Collins St frontage. It is planned to be ready before the end of this year. (Herald, 30/4/54)

ROYAL MAIL HOTEL

- 1840s 'At first it was an uncouth-looking, large, rough edifice, built by a road contractor who had made a good deal of money out of broken stones.' Bought in 1848 by E.B. Green, 'a well-known and well-liked mail contractor', who converted it to a hotel. (Garryowen, p.971)
- 1848 Built & licensed. (Cole Collection)
- 18? Cobb & Co's coaches started from the Royal Mail Hotel... (Herald, 25/3/46)
- 19thC The Royal Mail can almost be classed as an historical landmark of Melbourne, as it was one of the earliest buildings to be erected, and virtually grew up with the city. Although extensive renovations have been carried out on the hotel, the original building still stands. Early in the 1850s, when it was already an established concern, it was purchased by the late Edward Bernard Green, a young British soldier, who came to Australia as a member of a British regiment. Securing his release from the army, Green undertook the task of running the mail from Melbourne to Yass, and it is believed the hotel derived its name from this. Later, he made extensive property investments, one of which was the purchase of the Royal Mail. (Age, 30/7/47)
- Edward Bernard Green came to Sydney with the 39th Regiment. Bought property and became a Victorian squatter in the 1840s. During 1840s-50s had 10-year contract for carrying the Melbourne-Sydney mail—also Melbourne-Portland mail. (Kenyon press cuttings vol. 7, p.50)
- 1849 E.B. Green, mail-contractor, started a four-horse coach on the route between Melbourne and Sydney—'smashes and mishaps of some kind were the order of every second or third day'. (Garryowen)
- William Johnson Sugden was Melbourne Town Constable for several years from 1844. Retired to become the first landlord of the Royal Mail Hotel. A tall, straight, good-looking man, 'who strutted like a retired dragoon through the streets. He once served in a cavalry regiment, which accounted for the half-cavalier manner in which he did other things besides walking.' He was 'partial to "blowing" about himself'. Also superintendent of Melbourne's first fire brigade—was good at keeping out of harm's way—cowardly?—erratic in his discipline with subordinates in police force. Chief-Constable Sugden initiated the detective system in Melbourne. (Garryowen, pp. 53-4)
- 1870 3-storey brick building. (Cole Collection)
- 1914 Today we turned up a 1914 Royal Mail counter-lunch menu. Choice of roast beef, ham, fish, rissoles, sheep's trotters, ox tongue, corn beef, sausages, cheese, Vienna rolls plus a full pint of beer all for 3d! (Herald, 22/10/59)
- 33/12 That one of the fast-vanishing hotels of Bourke street, the Royal Mail, is planning improvements, including provision for a saloon bar and a Continental luncheon-room, suggests that the demolition of hotels in this neighbourhood, which 30 years ago boasted 17 hotels all within a stone's throw of one another, has ceased at least for a time. (Argus, 26/12/33)

- 34/2 Partial demolition by WW. (MJW notes re. bricks [SLV/WW 64/3])
- Old bricks from wall demolished during remodelling works bore thumbprints. Hotel built c.1865. A.S. Kenyon of Vic Hist Soc believed bricks came from Port Arthur [view supported by a visiting Tasmanian, who believed that the fine texture of the clay was identical with that of Port Arthur bricks. (Sun, 28/2/34 & 1/3/34)
- 47/7 The property has remained in [Edward Green's] ownership and estate ever since... Shop's adjoining the hotel, which are part of the Green estate, were included in the sale [to Richmond Brewing Co.] (Age, 30/7/47)
- 51/3 Customers at the Royal Mail Hotel yesterday smashed or stole nearly 40 dozen glasses, wrecked a wash-basin and paper-towel machine and shattered three doors and a looking-glass. The Royal Mail was one of the few hotels that served beer throughout the [Labour Day] holiday. The manager (Mr Eric Richardson) [pictured above with a cleaner tidying up] said... 'If I can keep open why can't other hotels?...' (Sun, 13/3/1951)
- 51/3 '...Another public holiday crowd like Monday's and I'll have to close on holidays,' [Mr Richardson] said. (Sun, 14/3/51)
- 59/10 [Royal Mail is] on a site regarded as the best left in the city for retail development. (Herald, 21/10/59)
- 1960 Royal Mail bought by British property group, Hammerson, for \$430,000+.
- 60/2 A British firm hopes to build a £6 million multi-storey retail building on the site of the Royal Mail Hotel within 18 months. The firm... plans to begin demolition of the hotel... on October 1. (Sun, 25/2/60)
- Demolished by WW, following Eastern Market job. (SLV/WW 30/3)

REFORM CLUB HOTEL

Originally licensed as Farmer's Arms, 1849 (10 well-aired bedrooms & to which is attached a spacious bullock yard & large sheds [Argus, 13/4/49]. Kildare Hotel, 1865-7. Farmer's Arms, 1868. Perseverance, 1869. Suffolk, 1870-79. Freemason's, 1880-83. Reform Club, 1884+ Closed 31/12/1914. (Cole collection)

1890s [Among the business ventures of James Hosie (of Hosie's Hotel)] In the early nineties, he held the licence of the Reform Club Hotel in Little Collins-st... (Sun, 15/8/53)

1930s Demolished c.1932-37 by WW. Replaced by York House. **Pic** shows JPW (bareheaded, laughing) with wrecking crew. (SLV/WW 54/17)

THEATRE ROYAL, 232-36 Bourke Street

1837 Mr Thomas Halfpenny was then (March 1837) a publican in a wee wattle-and-daub bunk of a tavern, perched on ground now occupied by the Theatre Royal... Halfpenny's William Tell was in the first instance a wattle-and-daub cottage hovel where the Theatre Royal now flourishes; but the stand was then so bad for business, *in consequence of its distance in the bush...* [that in 1838 the tavern moved to Collins, near Queen] (Garryowen, pp.415, 544)

Theatre Royal site was originally a timberyard. (Garryowen, p. 904)

1841 Preceded in 1841 by Pavilion Theatre the Royal was the setting for Australia's first season of Grand Opera. (Rogan, p.66)

1855 The first Theatre Royal was built in 1855 by John Black, who in three years had acquired a fortune by acting as carrier between Melbourne and the diggings. His long lines of drays were the chief means of supplying a hundred thousand men with necessaries, rates were high, and so his fortune was easily made. But his prime ambition was to own a theatre, and he erected a fine structure regardless of expense. It was the first building in Melbourn that was lit with gas, for our first gas company was unprepared to start operations until many months after the opening night. Black set up his own retorts, and delighted Melbourne with the brilliancy of the new illumination. He nursed the vain conceit of managing his own theatre, but after a year of small successes and crushing failures, he leased it to Mr Coppin, who transferred to this fine stage those magnificent Shakspearian delineations of G.V. Brook, then going on at the Olympic. These were the grandest ever seen in Australia; the memory of them is sufficient even now to make the veteran playgoer light up with enthusiasm whenever they are mentioned. At this time began the career of Hennings, who, as scenic artist for the Theatre Royal, displayed a rare and poetical talent for the mounting of plays. In these early digging days this theatre was thronged with audiences of great numbers and wild enthusiasm, under the spell of Catherine Hayes and her delightful voice. At a later date G.V. Brooke bought a share in the proprietorship, while the droll comedian J.R. Greville became the manager. To how many do these seem the palmy days of the drama in Australia! (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.29)

1855+ Theatre Royal and Café de Paris opened 6/7/1855. **Pic** 1850s. Lola Montez performed there. John Black, who built it, had made his fortune as a carrier between Melbourne and the goldfields. (magazine article, n.d., SLV/WW 57, p.43)

1855+ It was in July of 1855 that the original Theatre Royal was opened. **[photo of original theatre]** Melbourne then saw the full blaze of gas footlights, and applauded the production of Sheridan's The School for Scandal... But the builder of the theatre—a Mr John Black, who had made a fortune as a carrier on goldfields roads—was not successful as a producer. The theatre struggled on for a year. Then it revived, under new management, in which was associated the famous George Coppin.* The play this time was She Stoops to Conquer. And so the show went on. During the sixties, the theatre was renovated... The dress circle was enlarged so that it could accommodate the most expansive of crinolines. The stage emerged with gilt pilasters, open columns, and a pannelled proscenium surmounted by the royal coat of arms. The front of the house had three tiers of boxes in white and gold, and a ceiling decorated with dancing muses. Melbourne was very proud of its Theatre Royal. But disaster followed a few years later.

In 1872 George Coppin was once again manager, and had advertised Boucicault's 'Streets of New York' with sensational effects, even to the scene of a theatre fire. It was soon after 11 pm, however, that fate took a hand. Real fire broke out—within a few hours the theatre was a smouldering ruin. It was but a temporary setback. Within four months the theatre had been rebuilt. The structure, more like that which the present generation knew, had in that short time replaced the old theatre that went back to gold-digging days. At that time, the Theatre Royal was acknowledged as Melbourne's truly magnificent house of entertainment. It was gas-lit throughout. The theatre extended from Bourke Street right back to Little Bourke Street, and was equipped in the most up-to-date fashion. ...in 1882... George Coppin had retired from management, and the lease of the Royal had been taken over by [J.C.] Williamson, Garner and Musgrove.... After the 'nineties had seen the return of George Coppin to the head of affairs and a production of Rob Roy, the Bland Holt Period came. For several years his name was closely associated with the theatre and he thrilled Melbourne theatre crowds with his effective use of the great stage.... The extent and situation of this great stage later made possible one of Bland Holt's most spectacular turns of realism—an effective stunt that was sensational for the times. He arranged for horsemen to ride up Little Bourke Street, enter the theatre through a large door that opened on to the road, and canter right down-stage almost to the very footlights, before turning off through the wings. In his production of 'The Derby Winner' he had horses galloping along Little Bourke Street from Russell Street for their all-in finish on the stage of the Royal.... In 1904 the theatre was again remodelled. One of the three galleries was removed, and the stage was altered. It is not so many years ago that Tom Walls, the English actor, ...used to ride on to the stage in ['The Arcadians'] on one of Sir Rupert Clarke's horses. But one evening he was the victim of a strange yet humorous mishap. He lost the bridle—his mount moved adventurously down to the footlights. One by one the electric bulbs began to pop off, as the actor desperately strove to prevent his horse from toppling over into the orchestra pit. The musicians could have had no great confidence in his horsemanship, for they quickly deserted their instruments and scrambled for cover. (Herald, 7/10/37)

- 1872 When the original theatre burnt down in 1872, it was quickly rebuilt, with some of the original materials used in the large, four-level interior. (A New City, p.40)
- 1897 ...the Theatre Royal, with no very notable frontage to the street, the entrance to the theatre being by an iron gateway and a long passage. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.29)
- 19/8 Theatre Royal Hotel (bar?) closed 19/8/1919. (Cole Collection)
- 30/6 Theatre Royal sold. New building contemplated. (Argus, June 1930)
- 1933 The old theatre died in a blaze of glory. Perhaps never in its heyday did it experience such a night as its last [17 November 1933]. The Maid of the Mountains, which held the long-run record for the famous house, was revived for the final performance. Gladys Moncrieff, who had played in the title role and risen to stardom in this musical show in the old theatre, once more took her accustomed part.... Before the last of the crowd had gone, workmen were already beginning to carry out some of the furniture. It was not long before the wreckers were at work. What was once the Theatre Royal became a din of pick and hammer, and a cloud of dust. (Herald, 7/10/37)
 *Link with Pine Lodge, Richmond[]mansion of George Coppin & one of JPW's early wrecking jobs. (Rydges magazine, October 1972)

pic□ engraving by Winston, c.1870s?

pic□ photo, inside theatre bar, c.1870s?

pic□ photo, early 20thC (all in Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, pp. 435-6 (RHSV))

- 34/4 A triumph for Australian workmanship, architecture and building construction, Manton and Son's new store has arisen from the ruins of the Theatre Royal in just 17 weeks from the time the first bricks of the old building came down under the wrecker's pick. The actual construction time was only 15 weeks, which, it is claimed, is a record for the erection of any building of comparable size in Australia. [Full description of store] ... Mr William M. Green... was engaged as interior store-planning counsel.... Green has been selected as the 'store color' and predominates in all decorations.... Manton's is a 100 per cent daylight store.... The carpet is in two shades of beige—a natural color which will enable sales girls to show colored frocks without any fear of clashing.... A customers' roomy, well-lit writing and rest room has been furnished in the ultra-modern fashion with chromium steel furniture and a GPO posting box which is cleared twice daily... At the rear of the building comfortable staff quarters have been provided, with men's and women's dining rooms and rest rooms, a kitchen and a circulating library of more than 1200 volumes consisting mainly of fiction, but containing also biographies and technical works on salesmanship and store-service. (Herald, 5/4/34)
- 37/10 Though Manton's in their march of progress have swept away the Theatre Royal which had such an intimate place with Melbourne's historians and theatre lovers, the firm does not intend to allow the passing of the theatre to go unmarked. In the new section of their store where the stage once stood will be erected a memorial plaque. This fine artistic tribute will be the work of an Australian sculptor, and will cover a lead lined cavity in which will be sealed for posterity eight articles typical of 1937 life. Choice of the wording of the plaque and the articles has been left to 'Jonathan Swift' of the Sun News Pictorial, who in turn has invited newspaper readers to express their views. Tremendous interest has been taken in the choice of articles, and Melbourne's humorists have given full reign [sic] to their inclinations. In satirical vein one reader wrote that a neighbor's cat and dog, a bridge revoke, a factory whistle, an embalmed politician, a cable tram, loud speaker, motor horn, and copy of all our income tax acts should be sealed up. ... Another suggested a copy of all policy speeches, and samples of our scientific foods. Manton's have contributed a serious suggestion—that one of the bricks from the original theatre should be one of the objects. One of the most popular suggestions is that a powder compact and lipstick cartridge should be included... Many men have voted for a bottle of whisky. (Herald, 7/10/37)
- 54/7 Manton and Sons Ltd... [has] bought the old Theatre Royal site in Bourke Street for £500,000. The site, which has a frontage of 66 ft on the north side of Bourke Street, extending back to Little Bourke Street, is already occupied by Manton's. ... Here is the history of the Theatre Royal site:—
1838—Bought by Robert Campbell for £61/4/.
1840—Mortgaged to Sir Ralph Darling for £1000.
1849—Sold by Darling under terms of the mortgage, to John Robert Murphy, for £1000.
1882—Conveyed by Murphy to his son Michael for the 'love and affection I bear him.'
1954—Sold by the Michael Murphy estate for £300,000. (Herald, 14/7/54)
- 54/8 MCC finally gave its reason for its determination to pull down pillar verandahs: some people were hurt when a verandah collapsed 29 years before, outside old Hoyts de Luxe

Theatre in Bourke Street. But it was a *cantilever* type verandah! People leapt from the Hoyts verandah onto the old Theatre Royal pillar verandah next door, and it stood the strain. (Herald, 16/8/54, p.3)

HOTEL DOUGLAS/PALACE THEATRE, 30 Bourke St N side

- 53/2 National Hotel licensed to Frank Arthur Ham (or Harris), 13/2/1853. (Cole Collection)
- 1854 National Hotel, Great Bourke Street, East.
F.A. Harris
(Late of the British Hotel, Port Adelaide)
Begs to inform the Inhabitants of Melbourne, and its Vicinity, that he has opened the above
Commodious Hotel,
Which will be found unsurpassed for comfort and moderate charges by any house in Melbourne.
The Sleeping Accommodation is very superior, every gentleman being provided with a Separate Bedroom;
The view from the Bedrooms is unsurpassed, embracing a
View of the Bay,
With its magnificent fleet, Richmond, Flemington, the Romantic Yarra, Williamstown, etc.; in fine, the position of the Hotel is so commanding that every place within twenty miles of Melbourne can be seen.
The articles supplied will be selected from the best stocks in Melbourne.
The Commercial Room,
One of the largest in Melbourne, is Always Open for the Accommodation of Merchants, Tradesmen, and Others.
(Mt Alexander Mail, 27/5/1854, p.1)
- 1854 Had an extensive cellar, rented by Pond and used as a night restaurant called the Chop Cellar. (Cole Collection)
- 54/12 [Peter] Lalor, after the Eureka scummage, was hidden for months in an attic of Tom Mooney's Hotel, Bourke street east the 'Excelsior', we think... (Observer, City & Suburban Advertiser, 14/2/1889, p.9)
- 60s-01 Hotel operated as the Excelsior; Meredith's Excelsior from 1882. (Cole Collection/S&M)
- 1880s William Stutt's Excelsior Hotel with his restaurant next door. (A New City, p.34)
- 1901 Meredith's Excelsior changed name to Hotel Douglas, 1901. (Cole Collection)
- 1902 Douglas Hotel, James Robertson (S&M)
- 04/3 Hotel advertised for auction (land) 66 x 191 ft with ROW from Lt Bourke 2-storey brick with mansard roof bar, bar parlour, kitchen, laundry and bedroom on ground floor, and 14 bedrooms on 1st floor, + 2 shops and separate entrance to billiard room. (Cole Collection)
- 1908 Douglas Hotel, Miss Annie G. Morris
09/10 Douglas Hotel, Patrick Cox
1911 Douglas Hotel, Mrs Catherine Cox
1912 No # 24 but #30 Vacant
13/14 #30 National Theatre & Pastoral Hotel, Patrick Cox

- 1918 Fuller's Pictures—National Theatre & Pastoral Hotel
- 1919 Fuller's Palace Theatre—no hotel (S&M directories)
- 1912 Name changed to Pastoral Hotel on 16/9/1912. (VPRS 8159 Unit 2)
- 1916 Pastoral Hotel closed 31/12/1916. (Cole Collection)
- c.1916 Where the Palace Theatre now is, at the top of Bourke Street, there used to be the Hotel Douglas. When demolishing this building, Mr Whelan was amazed to find that the servants' quarters at the top of the building were only 4 ft from floor to ceiling. A person had practically to crawl into the room. (Sun, 9/1/32)
- 1922 The Ward-Fuller group 'brilliantly' renovated the Palace Theatre in Bourke Street, c.1922—at a time when the 'flesh and blood' theatre was losing out to the cinema. (The Real John Wren, p. 154)
- 31/9 Palace picture theatre closed—'will probably reopen with "legitimate" [theatrical?] productions'. (Argus, 14/9/31, p.9)
- 34/6 Palace Theatre renovations planned—biggest neon light in Australia will illuminate front of building, and right-of-way on west side of theatre will be turned into a winter garden. To be complete by 23/6/34. (Herald, 2/6/34, p.10)
- 1938 Site of Apollo Hotel/Theatre? (scrapbook, p.38)
- 1970s Theatre again called the Palace—now Metro nightclub.

COLE'S BOOK ARCADE/G.J. COLES

I was much perplexed in fixing the *situs* of the first theatre in Bourke Street... and... I procured a rough sketch showing that [it]... was situated in the centre of the area now [1888] jointly occupied by Cole's Book Arcade and Hosie's Pie Mart [Rubira's]. [Several different spots were pointed out to him as the site, including the GPO corner] (Garryowen)

1840s ...towards the end of 1840... Where the big Bull and Mouth fattens and flourishes on public favour, there nestled a ...hostelry called the Eagle Inn, a drinking rendezvous of some note, kept by a Mr J. Jamieson... The barman was a Mr Thomas Hodges, much given to boasting of the confidential relations that subsisted between him and the elder Charles Kean in the Mother-country... Hodges became partially stage-struck, and began whispering some of his theatrical musings in the ear of Jamieson... and it was at length resolved to start a theatre—Hodges to be the ostensible proprietor, and Jamieson to supply most, if not the entire, sinews of war. In January 1841 it was publicly announced that a wooden theatre, or pavilion, was to be erected. Its dimensions were to be 65 feet by 35 feet, the sum of £1000 was to be expended on its construction, and it was to be completed in two months; but it was not until the end of February that the foundation was laid. The finishing touch was at length put to the Pavilion, which stood on the centre of the ground now occupied by the Spanish Restaurant and Hosie's Scotch Pie Shop, and it was one of the queerest fabrics imaginable. Whenever the wind was high it would rock like an old collier at sea... The public entrance from Bourke Street was up half-a-dozen creaking steps; and the further ascent to the 'dress circle', and a circular row of small pens known as upper boxes or gallery, was by a ladder-like staircase of a very unstable description. Internally it was lighted by tin sconces, nailed at intervals to the boarding, filled with guttering candles... A swing lamp and wax tapers were afterwards substituted, and the immunity of the place from fire is a marvel. It was never thoroughly water-proof...

[A licence for the theatre was twice refused]... occasionally, the authorities, from motives of compassion, winked to the giving of a public concert now and then, but no application for a regular licence would be listened to. One evening in January, 1842, a so-called concert was given, but of such a very low class as to outrage all the proprieties.... [Eventually] Six gentlemen... enrolled themselves as an Amateur Theatrical Association for charitable and benevolent purposes... and so, in the beginning of 1842, the Sydney authorities granted permission to open the Pavilion for theatrical representations for one month. [For its first theatrical performance, in February, the theatre was billed as the Theatre Royal. The theatre continued to operate in a largely amateur capacity, with visiting professionals. In 1843 it called itself the Royal Victoria Theatre.]... The 24th of April, 1845, beheld the last of the Pavilion as a theatre... Several subsequent attempts were made to obtain a licence, but to no purpose. The name underwent a further change, for the place was styled the 'Canterbury Hall', where low-class concerts, and an occasional pulpit meeting were held; but its doom was sealed, and in a short time it was pulled down... (Garryowen)

...Melbourne's first theatre, the Pavilion, stood on the same site, or part of it, in the long ago, remaining there until John Thomas Smith's Queen's Theatre was built in Queen Street. This is described by historians as Melbourne's first proper theatre, which indirectly casts a reflection on the Pavilion.

True, the very first playhouse in the city was not as well appointed and conducted as it might have been, but with all its faults, and notwithstanding its reputation at one period,

- the fact remains that the Pavilion was the pioneer establishment of its kind in Victoria. And for some years it was the only one. So much as that, at least, it deserved recognition and appreciation. (Argus, 25/2/33, p.2)
- 1865- Mr Isaac Selby in his 'Memorial History of Melbourne', relates that Mr Henry Gyles Turner once told him that he lent Mr Cole the money to begin his bookselling business.... He began to purchase secondhand books at the rate of about 1/ each a day, sometimes a little more, and in September 1865, he opened in a small way in the Eastern Market with a stock of books and periodicals valued at £17/10/. This market was known in those days as 'Paddy's Market'. It was the only fruit and vegetable market in the city. Mr Cole began to supply the market-gardeners with early morning refreshments. To enable them to while away the waiting hours before the market opened he tried the experiment of lending them some of the books he had bought secondhand. He found the gardeners very responsive to this enterprise. For some time his gross profits were only about 13/6 a week, but from this obscure beginning of his business career in Melbourne he went steadily forward. For years he put up and took down his own shutters and acted the part of owner, handyman and office boy... At the age of 51 years [date?] he opened his first book arcade in Bourke street, just above Russell street, and his secondhand book department was transferred to Dwight's old building near Parliament House. (Argus?, 9/6/28)
- 27/5 Proposal that MCC buy Cole's Book Arcade for thoroughfare between Bourke & Collins streets. (Argus, May 1927)
- 27/12 G.J. Coles buys Cole's Arcade, Bourke Street, for £200,000. Collins St/Howey Place portion also for sale, but passed in at auction. (Argus, 7/12/27, p.30)
- 28/6 When the bell tolled from the musicians' gallery at Cole's Book Arcade, Bourke-street, on Thursday afternoon [7 June], it marked the passing of a building which has been associated with one of the most picturesque of many successful business enterprises established in Melbourne during the last half century. The property has now passed to the ownership of G.J. Coles and Co. Ltd, who purchased it at public auction on December 7 [1927] for £200,000. The trustees of the estate of the late Mr E.W. Cole will continue business on the Collins street frontage, but the Bourke street site, to which many quaint and pleasant memories are attached, will soon be demolished to make way for six-storied premises for cash stores.... It was on Cup Day, [November 6] 1883, that Mr Cole opened the book arcade which has just been closed. It is on record that the first book sold there was 'Our Mutual Friend' [Dickens], a household edition, for 4/6. The bookseller had then only the Bourke Street frontage with a depth of 200ft to the fernery.... By dint of unremitting labour, force of personality, and a remarkable flair for organisation, Mr Cole built up his business until it ranked among the largest bookshops in the world. ...in 1915 the Bourke street site, which hitherto had been leased, was purchased.... In the 'nineties the book arcade revealed many quaint sights. Children found a perpetual source of interest in the fernery, where Mr Cole kept a collection of monkeys and parrots. Every afternoon for 40 years he had a band of musicians playing on the gallery of the arcade. One of the conditions imposed upon the conductor was that the band should play a certain number of hymns at each sitting.... At one time in the old book arcade it was possible to obtain biscuits and tea in the refreshment-room for threepence, and at the same time to see oneself reflected in the mirrors placed all over the room.... In an upstairs room of the old arcade Mr Cole compiled some enormously successful publications. 'Cole's Funny Picture Book' was a children's classic of its day. Its sales amounted to more than

400,000 copies, all of which were printed for the compiler in Melbourne.... (Argus?, 9/6/28)

The arcade was 300 feet deep, 50 feet wide, its walks were a third of a mile long, there were two galleries supported by 140 brass pillars, 20 miles of shelving, 3000 classification drawers with provision for 5000 more.... The Arcade was opened in 1878.... Many of us 'old timers' heard our first phonograph recording there. Six or seven people stood in a half circle, applied an apparatus similar to the stethoscope to our ears, and paid the cost of 1d. (C.A.J. Dollman, letter to Herald, 17/12/43)

- 29 Bourke Street premises wrecked 1929. Collins Street frontage continued business, but Bourke Street site demolished to make way for 6-storey G.J. Coles cash stores. (scrapbook, p.8; F.J. Annear scrapbook cutting, 9/6/28)
- ?? G.J. Coles moved from their premises at 298-304 Bourke St□next to Buckley & Nunn□upon completion of extended store, opposite. Buckley's then took over their lease. (Herald, 1/6/38, p.14)
- 32/9 Collins? Street premises demolished September 1932. Arcade still operating in Swanston Street, below Lonsdale□little mechanical men moved to new shop. (Herald, 21/9/32, p. 13)

Dad said he remembered being in there and, he said, around the end of the counter where the cash-register was, and underneath the floorboards, he said there was a big pile of brummy coins. Ever heard the word 'brummy'?... Of course, they'd give them a handful of change, I suppose, and the cash-register people, when they were counting them at the end of the day, they'd find theses. There must've been a hole and they've stuck them in a hole in the ground.... oh, and there was an ornamental chook that used lay tin eggs filled with boiled lollies for the kids with a penny. We had that in our possession for a long time, and Jim said that they lent it to someone and never got it back.... And there was the windlass, the sailors winding over the catalogue. Well, they're still going [at the Museum?]. And they had a little dark fellow dressed up as an Indian prince, outside. And then inside, wonder of wonders, they had a monkey cage. And I couldn't wait to see Jimmy and say, 'Did we pull down Cole's Book Arcade?' And he said, 'Look, of course we did.' He said, 'You know those lovely flagstones?' that stretched from his house, you know, the footpath at the front to the garage at the rear. I said, 'I do. I've admired them many times.' He said, 'They came from the bottom of the monkey cage.' How 'bout that? And when Tony, his son, when they ultimately sold the old place and he couldn't bear to... so he thought, I'll hang onto these beautiful flagstones. And he went to the expense of having them pulled up and we stored them in our quarry down there in East Brunswick. And then, about a year... he said, 'I don't know what I'm going to do with them, but I'm going to hang onto them.' And then there was an enormous flash-flood and the Merri Creek burst its banks, and the whole... there was water right up to the road-level. You've never seen anything like it. But then there was clunk and mud and silt. So the thing finished up... so they're still there. They're about 100 feet underground, you know.... And also, the monkey cage itself... there's a place out in Essendon, one of the reception houses, and it's got this ornamental sort of a thing. And someone said to me, 'That's the monkey cage from the Cole's Book Arcade.' (Owen Whelan interview)

71 Tony Whelan building a house at Templestowe—slate in entrance hall comes from his dad Jim's house, built in Carlton in the 1930s—originally from Cole's Arcade. (Herald, 26/11/71)

UNION HOUSE, 284 Lt Collins St □ W of Cole's Book Arcade

- 39/7 Union House, in Little Collins Street, which is to be demolished, sets new problems as a wrecking job. It is the first large modern steel reinforced concrete building listed for demolition in Melbourne, and neither the architects nor wrecking firms are quite certain how the wrecking will be carried out. Their comment is that the work will be 'tough going'. Wrecking will be attempted by using compressors, power drills and reinforcement cutters. Another problem will be disposal, for, unlike average buildings, concrete structures contain little of resale value. This adds also to the cost of wrecking. The tentative plan is to rebreak all slabs on the site, then cart the concrete and dump it as junk on the city tip. A £35,000 addition to the headquarters store of G.J. Coles & Co. will be constructed on the site. Tenders for construction and for the wrecking of Union House are to be called by the Office of Harry A. Norris, architects, for the work. (Herald, 4/7/39, p.8)
- 39/6 Union House to be demolished August 1939 □ £1800 fee. 'I will demolish and remove Union House in Lit. Collins St and brick buildings at the rear in Union Lane. ...anticipating that in the near future concrete buildings of Union House [illegible] would be demolished, we purchased two new concrete breakers (1 diesel, 1 electric). It is only with the aid of these machines that we will be able to demolish Union House in the quick time of 8 weeks. (Letter, 16/6/39 □ in SLV/WW, 65/2)
- 'The big Union House' □ G.J. Coles holds lease. Tenancies to expire August 1939. Demolition will give G.J. Coles stores 85 ft frontage to Lt Collins St. (Herald, 28/1/38, p.2)
- 39/8 Architect, Harry A. Norris, wrote to WW on 11/8/39: 'It will be necessary to take greater care in the demolition of Union House than is now being given this work. The walls and beams of Coles Store Building are being damaged and a quantity of plaster has fallen. (letter in SLV/WW, 65/2)
- 39/8 Lift donated to Anglican Church for Girls Friendly Society building, to be erected at cnr Spring and Lt Flinders St, 'in place of the old three-storey brick building' (demolished by WW). (Letter of 7/7/39, in SLV/WW, 65/2)

ATHERTON BUILDINGS, 272-4 Lt Collins [N side, E of Sugden Lane & Coles

1978 Demolished for Centrepoint Mall. **[pics]** [SLV PIC LTFBN 163] (SLV catalogue)

[pic] [showing WW sign] [SLV/WW 62/6]

MELBA & BRITANNIA THEATRES, 283 & 287-91 Bourke St[S side, just W of Leviathan, E of Bull & Mouth

1844 First infant school opened in a house east of the present Bull and Mouth Hotel. Soon found inadequate—transferred to a larger site—with room for a playground—on NE cnr of Bourke & Swanston. (Garryowen, p. 634)

c.1840 Peter Perkins, pioneering oysterman, kept a shop in Bourke Street, ‘near the first wooden theatre, on the site of Hosie’s popular [Scotch] pie-shop’—maintained a lively rivalry with James Clegg, whose oyster shop was behind the PO in Lt Bourke Street. Little Bourke became oyster-sellers’ HQ. Clegg claimed to introduce turtle soup to the colony, but ‘it was found to be a heterogeneous home-brewed compound, which was “mock” turtle in the most unrestricted sense of the epithet’. First real turtle soup was served at the Royal Hotel, Collins Street, in 1845. (Garryowen, p.758)

First known ‘turtle visit’ to Port Phillip Bay—caught and killed off beach near Williamstown—weight about 300lb—sold to Peter Perkins, ‘an oyster-selling celebrity, at the rear of the present Theatre Royal.’ [?] (Garryowen, p.970)

19thC The Britannia Theatre, in Bourke Street... has occupied for many years land that is somewhat sacred to the history of the theatre in Victoria.

Melbourne’s first theatre, the Pavilion, stood on the same site, or part of it, in the long ago... [see Cole’s Book Arcade]

In later years the Victoria Hall, for vaudeville, covered the ground now marked by the Britannia and Melba Theatres, which are monuments to the enterprise of the American showman, J.D. Williams. (Argus, 25/2/33, p.2)

1912 The story of the Britannia Theatre is largely the story of the motion picture industry. Built in 1912 by the Greater J.D. Williams Amusement Company, it was at the time one of the finest film theatres in the world, and the product of remarkable enterprise. The opening of the adjoining theatre, the Melba, in the previous year, had created a sensation in the amusement world and had brought a calbe message from Dame Nellie Melba in London: ‘All success—Nellie.’ When the Britannia Theatre opened on June 28, 1912, excitement was so great that a crowd besieged the entrance hours before the time of opening, and ‘half a dozen policemen and a score of employees’ were needed to control it. So eager were people to see what was proudly described as ‘the most luxurious and gorgeously decorated theatre in the world’ that although 1,200 succeeded in gaining admittance an equal number had to be turned away. The theatre, it was reported, was built in so admirable a fashion that ‘not even a picture hat’ could obscure the view of the patron. On the opening day 6,000 tickets were sold. The first film, Christopher Columbus’, was received very favourably.

For many years the Britannia, like the Melba, continued to be one of the most popular places of amusement in Melbourne. It was said that for 18 years the receipts were greater than at any other theatre in the world.... With the remarkable increase in the popularity of the cinema, however, the Britannia became inadequate for the accommodation of all the people desiring to patronise the new form of amusement. In recent years it has been a ‘second release’ house... and its once large seating capacity of 948 has been rendered almost negligible by comparison with that of such huge structures as the State Theatre, the latest theatre of the company in Melbourne, which seats about 4,000 people. (Argus, 23/2/32, p.7)

- 32/2 Plans are being made for the demolition of the Britannia Theatre in Bourke street and the erection in its place of a large department store. The store will be built by Woolworths... (Argus, 23/2/32, p.7)
- 32/9 Melbourne's first 'baby' theatre will be opened to-night. It is beneath the Melba Theatre in Bourke street and is 145ft long, 36ft wide and 13ft high. The excavation necessary before the theatre could be built formed the most interesting feature of the work. Day and night for two months workmen drilled and dug out the soil without interrupting the screenings in the theatre above. The old bluestone and concrete walls of the Victoria Hall—now the Melba Theatre—had to be heavily underpinned as the excavation went on. ...When the Victoria Hall was a place of vaudeville entertainment a liquor bar, almost on Bourke street, was one of its most popular attractions. Even bar floors sometimes have cracks, and the workmen excavating the little theatre found a number of old coins, including one dated 1757, beneath where the bar had been. The stump of a gum tree, 2ft in diameter, was found, as it had been left when the tree was sawn through and the floor of the Victoria Hall was built above it years ago.
The theatre, known as the Times Theatrette, ...will be used for the screening of news reels and educational 'shorts'. (Argus, 15/9/32, p.7)
- 32/12 Woolworths Limited... [will] erect a new store on the site of the Britannia Theatre... The building will contain a basement, ground floor, and one upper floor only, but in several years it will be extended. Woolworths recently obtained a lease of the site adjoining the Britannia Theatre on the west, and when the leases of the Bull and Mouth Hotel, which stands on the site, expire about 30 months hence, the store will be extended across the two sites. ...The site now occupied by the Britannia Theatre was purchased in 1847 for £350. Seven years later the site changed hands for £5,250, and when it was sold two years later the price had increased to £6,300. The theatre was built in 1912, and for 18 years it was probably the best paying theatre in the world. ...The lease of the land for the use of the theatre will expire in January, and demolition of the theatre will begin at once. Its removal will not interfere with performances in the Melba Theatre, which adjoins it, as the ventilation plan for the Melba was removed from the Britannia and installed underground when the Times Newsreel Theatrette was built beneath the Melba Theatre. (Argus, 22/12/32, p.5)
- 33 Tutter Ryan (p.2 of 1989 interview) says WW pulled down the Britannia & Melba Theatre 'when I first come there' [about same time as Bull & Mouth demolished (1933)].
- 33/2 Theatre-Wrecking on Site of City's First Playhouse.—The Britannia Theatre, in Bourke Street, ...is being wrecked... (Argus, 25/2/33, p.2)

BULL & MOUTH HOTEL

‘there stood in olden times a smart-looking, cottage-like tavern known as the Eagle Inn.’
(Garryowen)

...towards the end of 1840... Where the big Bull and Mouth fattens and flourishes on public favour, there nestled a small single-floored, weather-boarded, shingle-roofed, cottage-like hostelry called the Eagle Inn, a drinking rendezvous of some note, kept by a Mr J. Jamieson who though he reigned, did not govern, for its consitution was an absolute gynocracy, administered by the hostess, known far and near as ‘Mother Jamieson’. The establishment was specially patronized by a not very fascinating, though lively, Cyprian [prostitute], named Jenny McLeod, and acquired a questionable popularity. The barman was a Mr Thomas Hodges... (Garryowen)

19thC James Jamieson arrived from Scotland in 1840. On Block 12, allotments 12 & 13, he built a neat, cottage-like place of four large rooms, two storey-detached kitchen, and outhouses—spacious verandah at front, building standing back from street. Licensed as Eagle Tavern. Some time later, built a large brick room, in front of and detached from original premises, on Bourke Street alignment—used as bar. Renamed Britannia Inn in April 1848 by new licensee, David Stevenson. In September 1848 he removed the licence to his new house on SW cnr of Queen and Bourke streets. (R.K. Cole in What’s Brewing, Dec 1952, pp.14-15)

1845/6 38 Bourke Street—House, brick: 6 rooms, shop, kitchen, offices, public house—ratepayer: James Jamieson—owner: William Walker. (MCC ratebook, LaTrobe Ward)

19thC Built as Eagle Hotel, 1840 (named after barque *Eagle*)—shared site?/next door to? Pavilion Theatre, which closed 24/4/1845—became Canterbury Hall, a low-class concert hall, pulled down soon after.

Hotel changed name to Britannia, 1848—licence & name transferred to cnr Bourke & Queen.

Bull & Mouth, Matthew Cantlon, 1850.

Victoria Hotel, 1863

Bull & Mouth, 1864+

1871—20 rooms, about to be extended.

1880—40 rooms, accommodating 50 persons—2 full-size billiard tables, night porter.

1925—alterations

Closed April 1933. (Cole Collection)

33/5 Demolished May-June 1933. (Source?)

64/8 Wooden bull’s head from façade still in WW yard in 1960s—**pic**, see Sun, 4/8/64

RUBIRA'S HOTEL, 305-307 Bourke Street□S side, 2 door W of Cole's Book Arcade, cnr Union Lane

I was much perplexed in fixing the *situs* of the first theatre in Bourke Street... and... I procured a rough sketch showing that [it]... was situated in the centre of the area now [1888] jointly occupied by Cole's Book Arcade and Hosie's Pie Mart. The finishing touch was at length put to the Pavilion, which stood on the centre of the ground now occupied by the Spanish Restaurant and Hosie's Scotch Pie Shop... (Garryowen)

(1880s—Hosie's Scotch Pie Shop (E cnr Union Lane); Augustine Barbeta's Spanish Restaurant next door (east). (S&M directory)

1845-6 36 Bourke Street—Wooden theatre. (MCC rate book—LaTrobe Ward)

19thC Licensed as Union Hotel, 1853. Took various names. Fell into disrepair by 1870. James Hosie took over. 1880□30ft frontage x 200ft deep□300 persons to meals, 14 rooms, bar, lounge, dining hall, one especially for laides on first floor. (Cole Collection)

1886 Became Rubira's. Closed 1938. (Cole Collection)

38/2 Demolition of hotel commenced 16/2/38□will take five weeks. Building to begin in March 38 on Rubira's site□extension of G.J. Coles store. New store will have Bourke and Lt Collins St frontages□30 ft x 155 ft along Union Lane, back to Union House. New store on Rubira's site will exactly match the present Coles' headquarters store adjoining it□designed by Harry A. Norris, architect, of Swanston Street. (Herald, 28/1/38, p.2; 16/2/38, p.8)

COX BROS DRAPERS, 128 Bourke St & 134-36 Bourke □ N side, between Exhibition & Russell

64/12 Demolition permit □ 128 Bourke □ wrecked for Greater Union Theatres, £1800. (MCC 167/3 Box 19 D2256)

67/9 Part demolition □ 1st and 2nd storeys □ 134-6 Bourke □ brick & timber warehouse □ for Hoyts, \$1900. (MCC 167/3 Box 22 D2758)

KING'S THEATRE, cnr? Bourke & Russell Streets

1908 King's Theatre built on site of King's Hotel, 73 Russell Street—originally Holmes' Hotel, 1866. (Cole Collection)

The cinema reached Melbourne in 1896... For the next few years the motion picture was only a feature in a vaudeville program of a short-term demonstration in a hired hall, but in 1906 a cinema industry began to emerge.... In 1908 the Kings Theatre was opened, and exploited the cinematograph from the beginning. (Miles Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.90)

c.1910 **Pic**—street-scene postcard shows Theatre on site of Russell Cinemas—next to laneway beside Austral Hotel (ex-Darrell Lea site) on Bourke Street cnr. (SLV/WW 54)

31/1 Fire at King's Theatre—extensive damage to rear portion—£14,000 damage—to be restored by June 1931. (*Argus*, 21/1/31, p.7; 6/5/31, p.9)

1930s? Workmen on night shift making no progress on the front wall—decided to give it a bit of a break up with explosives—some rubble broke large window in Singer Sewing Machine showroom opposite—JPW displeased, but men eager to keep to his timetable. (Jim Doyle, aged 83, 1976—notes in SLV/WW 64/3)

LEVIATHAN, SW cnr Bourke & Swanston

An early WW job. (Sun, 9/1/32)

- 10/6 ...Mr Lewis Sanders, the senior partner of the Leviathan Clothing Company..., who arrived here in 1856, soon afterwards opened the business of the company on the site they have occupied ever since. The lease was obtained from Mr W.F. Platt, a wealthy squatter, of Victoria, who sold out the freehold to the late Mr J.B.Watson in 1873, and from that time the property did not change hands until Tuesday last, when, as reported in 'The Argus', the Leviathan Company purchased it from the trustees of the Watson estate. ...[Mr Sanders recalled the early days] 'With such inadequate police protection as we had then, there was a great deal of drunkenness and crime.... We business people had to protect ourselves. One method we had of keeping the rough element in bounds was to go out at nightfall, stand in front of our premises, and fire revolvers. This was to show we were armed; and it generally protected us from attacks. '...I remember on one occasion a miner rode right into the shop and demanded a suit of clothes. 'You let the horse stand where it is,' he said, dismounting, and lurching up to the counter. 'Give me one of them suits of yours. here, I can pay for it,' he said, pulling out a handful of notes. We fitted him with a suit, and he got on his horse and rode out again. 'The Leviathan was considered a good building—that is, for those days. The contractor afterwards boasted that he had brought 20 barrels of lime with him, and that he had carried 20 barrels of lime away when it was erected. We found it necessary to remodel the structure before long.' (Argus, 30/6/1910, p.9)
- 13/5 New Leviathan building opened—pneumatic cash system—only two or three other stores have it—fine view of the city from the flat roof. (Argus, 17/5/13, p.22)

MELBOURNE COFFEE PALACE, 214-18 Bourke Street □ N side, E of LaTrobe Place

1934 Mr F.J. Cook (boot manufacturer) recently carried out alterations to the Melbourne Coffee Palace... (Herald, 21/11/35, p.1)

1962 Wrecked for Walton's □ £30,000 (WW minute book □ MJW)

PARER'S CRYSTAL CAFÉ HOTEL, 198-200 Bourke Street

19thC Originally Royal Charter Hotel (1855), then Royal Surrey, Tattersall's, Casino de Venice, Nissen's Café, Crystal Café (1887+). Hotel was neighbour to the Waxworks. (Cole Collection/S&M)

Crystal Cafe was owned by the Parer brothers, a well-known Spanish family of five brothers who emigrated from their native Barcelona in the 1850s with little money and no English. In 1860 Estaban opened a Spanish restaurant in Bourke Street; over the next 25 years he and his brothers expanded the business and, in 1886, built the Crystal Cafe. It had a sumptuous interior in keeping with the boom times of 1880s Melbourne. With a capacity for 695 guests, it included a saloon, cafe, club-rooms, a banquet hall, private dining rooms, billiard rooms and offered overnight accommodation. The walls were lined with mirrors, the windows framed with heavy curtains, the floor was tessellated and there were interior fountains. (A New City, p. 40—pic p.41)

50/3 When building restrictions are removed Parer's Crystal Café Hotel, Bourke-street, will be converted into a large modern emporium. Yesterday Sharpe Bros, city drapers, bought the property at auction... The hotel, a four-storey residential, has more than 100 rooms, and was sold with licence, furniture and plant, and three tenanted buildings fronting Little Bourke-street. Frontage to Bourke-street is 132 feet, with a depth of 315 feet. (Age, 23/3/50)

1951 Crystal Cafe continued until 1951, when it became Ushers Hotel. (A New City, p. 40)

1950s Parer's renamed Usher's.

1950s Parer's Crystal Palace Hotel [north side of Bourke, b/w Russell & Swanston] replaced by Paterson's (Herald, 21/10/59)

c.1963 At the old Parer's Hotel, where Walton's store is now, one of my workmen found £5 in a rat's nest. There was a tremendous scuffle and quite a lot of sixpences and threepences rolled on to the floor before a couple of fellows took a day off on the proceeds.' (Owen [press cutting, n.d.] scrapbook, p.3)

PAYNE'S BON MARCHE DRAPERS, 138-44 Bourke Street□between Payne's & Brien lanes

66/8 Demolition permit□1 x 5-storey + 1 x 4-storey brick storerooms□wrecked for Hoyt's,
\$24,000 (MCC 167/3 Box 21 D2571)

(OLD) WHITE HART HOTEL, SW cnr Bourke & Spring

1850 New Year's Day at Old White Hart Inn—The lovers of the good old English merriment are invited to witness the different sports opposite the above Inn... [including] Goat Racing—Prize, a suit of clothing; Climbing the Greasy Pole—Prize, hat and gun; A Pig Race with Greasy Tail; Quoiting and skittles. (advertisement reproduced in Garryowen, p.763)

19thC Hotel licensed to Samuel Halfpenny in 1847. Originally a two-storey brick building, 25ft high. Rebuilt after 1855. Had 30 rooms in 1871. Became Windsor Annexe c.1923. (What's Brewing, March 1953, p.9)

Pics □ Antoine Fauchery photo, 1857; photo c.1890 (RHSV) (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.164)

1897 ... a well-known old hostelry, the White Hart Hotel, much frequented by the steady-going veterans who cling to an old-established place. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.26)

c.1900 Original hotel replaced at end of 19thC by a 3-storey brick building which, in its turn, was demolished in 1960 to make way for the modern extension of the Windsor. (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, p.90)

c.1923 Old White Hart became Windsor Annexe c.1923. (What's Brewing, March 1953, p.9)

60/6 MJW: But the great story of [the Eastern Market] was... all the bricks. At the same time they were doing that, we pulled down the... what was the extension of the Windsor? The hotel, the old...

RA: The White Hart, the Old White Hart?

MJW: The Old White Hart Hotel, yeah, on the corner. They pulled that down.

RA: Now, that *was* an old hotel.

MJW: Oh, it was a very old hotel. Very old. But the architects there... I think it was Harry Norris. Yeah, it was Harry Norris, H.A. & F.L. Norris... But he wanted the bricks from the Eastern Market and we had to... because they weren't ready for them... He wanted an incredible number of bricks in the extensions to the Windsor. He wanted all to use these old handmades, secondhand bricks, and they were before the machines.

RA: Why was that? Were they going to be exposed?

MJW: No, well, I'll tell you why. We had to clean them, stack them, and hold them, and then bring them back into town for them to use in the extensions. Now the reason was, that bricks—new bricks—always have movement. And that's plaster-rendered and they wanted it to be exactly plaster-rendered in sympathy with the old Windsor. But with new bricks, once you put the plaster on, of course, it cracks. And he didn't want any of that: he wanted a brick without movement. And he got it all right: they were a hundred years old. And of course the bricklayers went crook because they'd break and all this business. And Don Swanston, though, of Swanston Brothers, I think he was chairman of Glen Iris Bricks. And he put huge pressure on me. I mean, he tendered on that basis but he was chairman of... trying to sell new bricks and here he was, on his job, using old, secondhand bricks. And it was (a) proving embarrassing to him and (b) also it wasn't very rewarding to him, because he wanted to sell them the bricks. And he was quite miffed about the whole... But guess what? You look at that plaster job and there's not a crack in it, even today.... I forget how many was poured into it. It was just unbelievable.

RA: What a pity, though, that you had to take them and clean them and everything off-site, because it's such a nice short distance between the two jobs.

MJW: Oh, at the same time they were pressing for us to get off... We couldn't have cleaned them at the Eastern Market... we had to get off there because that was a rush job. (Myles Whelan interview, 6/8/03)

RICHARDSON'S HOTEL, NE cnr Bourke & Russell

19thC Built in 1846 as Australia Felix Hotel—licensed in Dec 1847, after several refusals—
licence withheld in May 1852, until house put in better order—rebuilt 1860, billiard room
in basement, concert & dance hall on first floor (The Alhambra)—renovated
1871—renamed Stutt's, Salkeld's, Willmore's, Morrell's (1873). (Cole Collection/What's
Brewing, March 1953, p.9)

c.1955 **Pic** with WW sign (MJW papers)

3. CITY SQUARE (GENERAL)

In 1794... Granville Sharp published in London his tract entitled *A General Plan for Laying out Towns and Townships on the newly-acquired Lands in the East Indies, America, or Elsewhere*... Sharp's 'Annexed Plan' showed a grid of one square mile, with a central open area of two and a half acres which was surrounded by 'church, town hall and public lots'.... Granville Sharp's plan of a two-and-a-half acre open area in the grid's centre had no chance of being realised for Melbourne. How different was Governor Gipps's idea, firmly held if not original, that 'all towns laid out during his term of office should have no public squares included within their boundaries, being convinced that public squares encouraged the spirit of democracy'. Gipps's term of office was yet to come, but the plan of a squareless grid was long entrenched. ...For the omission of a central city square Hoddle has ever since been blamed. Melbourne was planned, wrote Manning Clark disparagingly, by a 'man with geometry in his soul'. ...When later Hoddle made provision for a square in an appropriate site, the opportunity was not taken up. From time to time, when an empty block fortuitously appears, it is interesting to watch the forces of mammon defeat the citizenry's clamour, and lo! another grand hotel or office-cum-shopping block materialises, allowing perhaps a token clearing in the concrete. (Berris Colville Hoddle, *Robert Hoddle, Pioneer Surveyor*, pp.183-5)

- 1840 A visitor of 1840 wrote of St James' Church enclosure: 'this, the only square in Melbourne, at the West end of the town, and decidedly the healthiest, cannot fail to become the select spot for fashionable residences and gay promenades.' (Garryowen, p.766)
- 1850 Anonymous author of *Melbourne as it is and as it Ought to be, with Remarks on Street Architecture Generally* 'stressed the need for squares and broad open spaces to "ventilate and purify the most crowded quarters [of the city]"... Londoners... "are now spending hundreds of thousands in opening main lines of communications and ventilation through the towns." English town planners were embracing the open, well-ventilated squares of France and Italy and renouncing the more enclosed and secluded courts and squares that had been traditional in their own country. Rather than follow the English example and make posterity pay the heavy cost of such improvements, Melburnians were urged to make provision for ample squares and open spaces from the outset.' (Jenny Williams, 'The Search for a Square', in *Melbourne Centre Stage*, p. 51)
- 1851 Robert Hoddle (government surveyor and original planner of Melbourne's streets) advised Melbourne City Council against extending Little Lonsdale through block bounded by Lonsdale/LaTrobe/Swanston/Russell 'set aside for public purpose' 'already part-occupied by Melbourne Hospital' 'it would cut what would otherwise form a very handsome square in two parts.' (Williams, p. 51)
- 1850s **pic** 'City Square block from NW cnr Collins & Swanston' 'painting? (copy on file' 'SLV pic?' 'from Charles Hotham biog)
- 28/7 Prince's Bridge Square.—It is the considered opinion of a select committee of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects... that the widening of Swanston Street by only 33ft, as proposed by the Railway Commissioners, and the erection of booking-offices over the railway yards to the proposed new alignment would yield very little extra space for traffic in Swanston street and would destroy the opportunity of opening out a vista revealing the

Cathedral facade and spires to all approaching from St Kilda road. ...the architects said that the view of the Cathedral could be obtained only by demolishing the present unsightly railway offices at Prince's Bridge and setting back the building line 138ft 6in. By this means the whole front of the Cathedral would be revealed to the approach from St Kilda road and the open space made available over the railway yards could be converted into a beautiful city square.... A feature of the proposal is that a water-fountain should be erected in the centre of the square. Melbourne, it was remarked, possesses remarkably few fountains for civic decoration... It was also proposed that groups of statuary emblematic of the city and the State should be placed on the northern and southern sides of the central fountain...

The acquisition of a civic square, subways leading to the station, and a clear and aesthetic view between the Cathedral and St Kilda road, comprises a unique combination of results in civic constructional work. The square as proposed would cover an area of nearly an acre, and this added to the area included in the adjacent street junction, would make almost three acres of open space in front of the Cathedral and the railway station. The valuable ground thus gained in one open area without buildings would cost some hundreds of thousands of pounds if it had to be purchased from private owners in any other part of the centre of the city. [Pic—Plan of proposed Cathedral Square] (Argus, 3/7/28, p.7)

- 29 Metropolitan Planning Commission report, 1929—'strongly influenced by contemporary American practice, especially in its concern with the adaptation of the city to the automobile and schemes of civic beautification.' Recommended that city hall be centrally situated in spacious city square. Most suitable site: in front of Parliament House. (Williams, p. 52)
- 29/1 MCC wished to gain title to Western Market site and built a tall building on it. The Premier (Sir William McPherson) suggested 'several years ago' that the Western Market should be the site of a civic square—now reiterated that view. (Argus, 16/1/29, p.7)
- 31/6 Cr Nettlefold proposed a civic square on the Western Market site. (Argus, 30/6/31, p.6)
- 33/7 With the acceptance by the Melbourne City Council of the Government's proposals for handing over the Eastern and Western markets to civic control, interest has been renewed in Council and architectural circles in proposals to improve the Western market site. Inquiries today showed considerable differences of opinion as to how the area might be used. As an architect Mr Leighton Irwin strongly supported suggestions made for transforming the Western market into a civic square. 'It would be unfortunate,' he said, 'if we did not now avail ourselves of this opportunity. It would be a tragedy if building were allowed on the only open space available in the city.'...Even crowded New York had its open spaces near the centre of the city, such as Washington Square, and squares extended through London, from Bloomsbury towards the East End.... Alderman F. Stapley said that he did not think that there was need for a civic square. Such breaks in the city might, he thought, tend to interfere with the spread of business activities.... For beautification schemes on such lines, he said, we had a river frontage area below Queen's Bridge that was 'crying out' for attention. (Herald, 26/7/33)
- 35/4 A £200,000 city square on the Western Market site, with lawns, shrubs and fountain, and a basement garage holding 600 cars, is being planned for formal consideration by the Special Properties Committee of the City Council. If adopted the city square scheme

- would replace that already approved by the special committee for a modern five-storey parking station, holding 1200 cars... The city square would take up more than one acre and a half of the Western Market site, for which the Council has been trying to find a suitable use for many years. The flowering gardens, native trees and green expanse, set off by dignified arches of stone and soft-toned pavements, would provide a parkland setting and place of rest in the heart of the city.... Powerful pillars are shown [on the plans] supporting the square above, and the entrance to the garage is gained through dignified arches of stone. This masonry is shown in the plans to continue up above the level of the square to provide picturesque balustrades around those sides where there is a fall to the existing streets. (Herald, 12/4/35)
- 35/11 Plan to relocate Town Hall to Queen Victoria hospital site when Melbourne Hospital moved to its new site. The new Town Hall could be set in gardens, etc., forming a City Square. (Herald, 15/11/35, p.2)
- 37/9 E. Keith Mackay, architect, recently returned to Melbourne after 6 years' study abroad—urged the need for central square or open spaces 'of some monumental or civic grandeur'. Collins Street should have two—Mackay suggested Town Hall and Western Market sites. (Herald, 9/9/37, p.38)
- 39-41 MCC mooted new Town Hall (and city square?) site as a possible post-war project. Options canvassed included: Wirth's Circus site, Prince's Bridge station, Melbourne Hospital site, Western Market, Exhibition. (Argus)
- 1940s? Inside WW wages book 1935-46 (attached by modern paperclip to page for July 1938) are rough scraps of paper [copies on file] labelled 'Jim Whelan Pricing of area bounded by Swanston, Lonsdale, LaTrobe & Elizabeth—for MCC—Estimates'. Every lane and building within the block (except for churches) is costed—e.g. 'Shot Tower [£]2,500'. Total price of demolition estimate ran to £275,000. Actually, Jim's figures added up to £256,900, which he rounded up to £265,000, then to £275,000.
- Estimate is written in ballpoint pen (1940s+) and the buildings listed remained largely unchanged until the 1960s. Jim died in Dec 1965 and \$s replaced £s in 1966. 'MU' is listed—WW wrecked the Manchester Unity Hall in Swanston Street in 1941, but the building which replaced it kept the name 'Manchester Unity' until the 1960s. The key to dating the estimate may rely on a 'Sub Station' listed in Knox Lane or St Francis Street. According to the S&D directories, the MCC sub-station disappeared from that site c.1947. A 1976 map [on file] shows that the MCC owned numerous properties through the central portion of the block.
- Theory: that MCC proposed acquiring the block for relocation of Town Hall and establishment of surrounding civic square.
- Pic** of shot tower looking SE, towards QV Hospital—roofs of buildings neighbouring shot tower. (FJA maroon scrapbook, p.126—copy on file)
- 45/8 Best thing would be to raze [the Eastern Market] and make a square, as we need all we can get and have none now. (Herald, 25/8/45)
- 49/0? Choice by the City Council of the design for the proposed great new building on the Western Market site is a step forward in our civic history. It is to be regretted that both the Western and the Eastern market sites have not been reserved permanently for city

- squares, which Melbourne so strangely lacks.... This market site is valuable and unique. The Council must ensure that we make noble use of it. (Herald, 10/9/49)
- 54 Proposed Civic Centre in front of Parliament House, Bourke Street, recommended by Melb Metropolitan Planning Scheme report. (see **pic** proposed plan of square, on file) (MMPS report, p. 125)
- 58-9 In 1958 plans for an underground railway were released and in June 1959 they were approved by State Cabinet. In the 1970s the Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority was established to acquire the necessary property and construct the loop. It was completed and opened in stages from 1982. ...the plans for the loop were important in relation to... the various proposals for the block which is now the site of the Melbourne Central development. (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, p.133)
- 61 ...the City Council resolved to prepare a planning scheme for the 'Central Business Area' of Melbourne... E.F. Borrie was engaged for the purpose. He proposed the redevelopment of the block bounded by Lonsdale, Elizabeth, La Trobe and Swanston Streets as a way of linking the existing retail area through to the proposed route of the underground railway along La Trobe Street... He believed that there should be a central area of open space—a square—as well as smaller rest areas, and that land should be reserved for the future development of a civic centre, which was not practicable at the existing Town Hall site. The site he chose [for the civic centre] was the block bounded by La Trobe, Elizabeth, A'Beckett and Swanston Streets. [This plan came to nothing; but in 1974 a new MCC strategy plan]... failed to pinpoint the area north of La Trobe Street as ripe for development.... The city today would have been a different place, the northern arm of the rail loop more effectively used, and Collins Street still its elegant old self. (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, pp.132-3)
- 61 MCC Building & Town Planning Committee report: 'a civic centre in which the Town Hall, the municipal offices and related agencies, and the most important church buildings are conveniently related in... harmonious composition thus forming at the centre of civic government a meeting place for the population as a whole, for public celebration, and remembrance and thanks to God.' (Williams, p. 54)
- 61 In 1961 the search for a civic square began in earnest. Attractiveness of square grew in proportion to the decline in the amenity of the city retail district. 'It was as though all those desires for a sense of community, civic pride and beauty which had been repressed by the unfettered play of the property market would be met in one special place.' Retail trade in city declining and rise of motor care and suburban shopping gaps in city filled with office blocks.
1961 ANZ Bank proposed building new office at cnr Swanston & Collins streets. MCC called for report on creating a city square. (Williams, p.53)
- 61-65 Sites considered for a city square included Queen Victoria Market, Exhibition Buildings, opposite Spencer Street station front-runners were Princes Bridge (roofed-over railyards) and next to Town Hall. In August 1861, the Town Hall site seemed abandoned in favour of Princes Bridge but advocacy by Lord Mayor Sir Bernard Evans (architect) put it back in contention site bounded by Collins, Regent Place, Flinders Lane & Swanston Street. MCC Building & Town Planning Committee report: 'a civic centre in which the Town Hall, the municipal offices and related agencies, and the most important church buildings

- are conveniently related in... harmonious composition thus forming at the centre of civic government a meeting place for the population as a whole, for public celebration, and remembrance and thanks to God.' Sites to north and east of Town Hall also mooted at this time. In December 1964, Evans and the Building & Town Planning Committee recommended MCC pay £12,500 to the Hammerson Group to delay their plans for a multi-storey block on the site, so that MCC could study feasibility of a city square. Cost of property acquisition estimated at 4,500,000—eventual cost was \$27,337,560 in site costs, plus \$16,353,855 in development costs. Council gave support to site proposal in 1965. (Williams, p. 54-60)
- 66/5 **[pic]** Aerial view of City Square site—showing partly demolished Victoria Buildings, and other buildings still standing. Photo taken from top of Capitol Building, Swanston St. (Sun or Herald, 31/5/66—scrapbook, p.7)
- 66/7 **cartoon**—'...and we erect this statue as a tribute to the man who first uncovered this beautiful spot...' (Herald, 6/7/66, p.29)
- 66/7 Headline re. proposed City Square: 'Whelan's Square?' (Herald, 12/7/66)
- 66/7 The City Council expected no difficulties in obtaining the Cathedral Hotel and the Andrews Building for Melbourne's City Square... The Cathedral Hotel... is owned by Carlton & United Breweries Ltd. The Andrews Building fronts Flinders Lane at the corner of Quirk Alley. ...council had not yet contacted trustees of the estate which owned Green's Building in Swanston Street next to the cleared Hammerson site. (7/7/66)
- 66-76 Site of Victoria Building and adjoining City Club Hotel went up for auction in 1966. MCC purchased and began negotiations for other buildings. By 1968, land purchases were complete. MCC bought Regent Theatre in 1969—sold interior fittings with a view to demolishing the building to make way for a multi-storey development by Star Holdings. This development would help finance construction of City Square. In 1976 a nationwide competition was held for design of the City Square—winners were Denton, Corker & Marshall. (Williams, pp. 60-61)
- 67/11 The City Council has bought the Cathedral Hotel... the purchase was part of the council's plan for its proposed Civic Square stretching along Swanston Street, from Collins Street to Flinders Lane and up to Regent Place. The council had already bought the Chandris Line building next to the Cathedral Hotel and Green's Building next to the existing City Square and also Wentworth House in Collins Street. The Chandris building would be demolished at the same time as the Cathedral Hotel. ...only one building—Guy's Building, with a frontage of about 20 ft., remained to be acquired in Swanston Street... (Sun, 15/11/67)
- 68/3 Cathedral Hotel & Chandris Lines Buildings to be demolished in 1968, to 'create a plaza at the corner of Flinders Lane'. (Sun, 7/3/68—scrapbook, p.10)

...by 1968 [the City Council] has bought up the rest of the properties through to Flinders Lane. In 1969 it bought the Regent Theatre, with the idea of demolishing the building to make way for a multi-storey development by Star Holdings. This was thwarted by pressures to conserve the theatre, and some concern also that the proposed development

- would destroy the value of the square by turning it into just another forecourt to a high rise building. (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, p.132)
- 71/1 **[pic]** Dudley Moore, posed with grand piano on demolition site (complete with WW signs) off Swanston Street, near cnr Flinders La. (Herald, 20/1/71, p.3 scrapbook, p.39)
- [pic]** ‘Jeff’ cartoon: statue of wrecker in city square, with inscription, ‘This statue was erected as a tribute to the man who left no stone unturned in the search for a civic square ...THE WRECKER’. Caption: ‘And we erected this statue as a tribute to the man who first uncovered this beautiful spot.’ (Sun, n.d., SLV/WW, 64/2 copy on file)
- ? **[pic]** B&W print from Age Norm Marshall wrecking. (SLV/WW, 62/4)
- 71/2 Proposed demolition of Regent Theatre. (Herald or Sun, 22/2/71 scrapbook, p.29)
- 71/5 Temporary City Square site cnr Swanston & Lt Collins. Permit to demolish Town Hall Chambers, Lt Collins (N side, b/w Rainbow Alley & Swanston) MCC paid WW \$44,750. (MCC 167/3, Box 25, D3328)
- [pic]** Town Hall Chambers photo of decorative detail on upper storey c.1967-8 SLV accession no.H97.108/1 (copy on file)
- (Town Hall Chambers on site of Rainbow Hotel licensed 1848 licensee in 1849-51 was Lewis John Michel, discover of gold at Anderson’s Creek T& G Insurance built there in 1887 later Town Hall Chambers.) (Cole Collection)
- Temperance & General Building **[pic]**—Basement of dressed Malmsbury bluestone, ‘and on it rest a number of polished red and grey granite columns, one of the latter, from harcourt,... weighing ten tons. That portion of the building facing Swanston-street is six stories high, but the number gradually decreases to three stories at the other end, fronting Little Collins-street, owing to the somewhat sudden rise in the level of that thoroughfare in this particular part.’ Building cost £15,000. (Vic & its Metropolis, 1888, p.551)
- (MCC bought old T&G building in 1928—renamed it Town Hall Chambers) (Argus, 12/11/28)
- Buildings demolished in Swanston Street (in order, from north to south): Victoria Buildings/Queen’s Walk, Green’s, Guy’s, Chandris Lines, Cathedral Hotel. In Flinders Lane (from west to east): Cathedral House, Andrews Building, Regency House. In Collins Street (from west to east): Victoria Buildings/Queen’s Walk, Wentworth House, Regent Place. (Sun?, 18/6/68)
- 73/12 BLF put a ban on demolition, c. December 1973, when MCC decided to close City Baths and Beaurepaire Pool. Cost of wrecking Regency House rose 49.5% in the interim (to September 74). Regency House would be demolished by Christmas, replaced with a temporary garden. (Sun, 10/9/74)
- 74/9 Regency Place closed to make way for original city square project shops could now reopen. Black bans on city square demolition lifted, provided that ‘council does not erect any building on the area demolished until settlement is reached over the future of the Regent Theatre.’ (Herald, 2/9/74)

80 City Square opened 1980.

VICTORIA BUILDINGS & QUEEN'S WALK & CITY CLUB HOTEL

1838 The corner opposite the Town Hall is occupied by a handsome pile of offices with a small thoroughfare behind them, which is known as the Queen's Walk,. The land on which it stands had a history in the early time, which shows how often the most fortuitous circumstances may shape a man's fortunes. In September, 1838, some seventy central allotments of Melbourne were put up to auction in Sydney. Dr Thomas Black, then practising as a physician in Penrith, was down in Sydney for a short holiday. He saw a crowd round a dingy shed in King-street—he went in to see the cause of the excitement—he heard for the first time of Port Phillip and the settlement called Melbourne—he the auctioneer looked at him with an inquiring glance—he nodded his head in a spirit of jocularly—and subsequently found himself called on to pay £167 for an allotment knocked down to him. He regretted his folly; but hearing good reports of the new settlement, paid up the money and became the owner. It made him comfortable all the rest of his life, and during his declining years he drew from it £3000 a year merely as ground rent. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.24)

1838 Dr Black, original purchaser of SE cnr of Collins & Swanston streets was one of the founders of the Acclimatisation Society and also on the committee of the Royal Society that organised Burke & Wills expedition. (Argus, 4/9/20, p.6)

Dr Thomas Black, a physician of high professional and social status, occupied, in 1852, the mansion at Richmond, well-known as Pine Grove (now, 1888, the residence of Mr George Coppin)... (Garryowen, p. 325)

1840s Dr T. Black, the original purchaser [of Section 6, allotment 18 = northern half of City Square] erected a row of five single-fronted shops [facing Swanston Street, from midway between Collins and Flinder Lane], with arched windows composed of small panes of glass. To this row he gave the unexpected name of Charlotte Place. [Illustration from Ham's Illustrated Australian Magazine, July 1851] (Argus, 9/2/1935)

On the Collins Street corner of Black's block [City Square corner] Matthew Neave, a former market gardener and stall-holder in the old Western Market, opened the Prince Albert Hotel in July 1846. [Renewal of licence refused in 1852] (Argus, 9/2/1935)

1853 The Bank of Victoria, which was the first successful attempt to form a bank in Melbourne, came into being in 1853, at the suggestion of Dr Thomas Black. It was housed at first in a row of three houses owned by Dr Black in Swanston Street, where Queen's Walk is now... [moved in 1863] (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement p.3)

1850 Richard Spence, corn dealer in Swanston Street next to [later?] Germain Nicholson's—'a well-to-do individual, with a wife and three children, and one of the last men in Melbourne, to all appearances, likely to make away with himself. On 18 October 1850 he was found covered with blood, and a large Dover knife in his hand.' Died soon after. (Garryowen, p.978)

1854 Two young Danish farmers, George and Gustav Damman, opened their first tobacco shop on the south-east corner [of Collins & Swanston] in 1854. **[pic]** In 1882 the shop moved to the present site of the Manchester Unity building. (Herald, 24/6/64, p.4)

- c.1860 **Pic** Collins St corner Neave's Buildings. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.105
RHSV pic)
- City Club Hotel originally licensed as Yorick Club Hotel, 1870. Oliver's Café Hoel, 1876. City Club Hotel, 1882. (Cole Collection)
- SE cnr Collins & Swanston—'known almost from time immemorial as Germain Nicholson's corner'. (Garryowen, 1888, p.904)
- 1888 Freehold Investment & Banking Co.—'The company erected some two years ago extensive premises, comprising shops and offices, on the site long known as 'Nicholson's Corner', opposite the Town Hall...' (Vic & its Metropolis, p.543—**pic** p. 544 [on file])
- 1880s Victoria Buildings build c.1886. Freehold Investment Co. built on land leased from Dr Thomas Black of St Kilda for £3000. Huge office block—large statue of Britannia[?]
£10,000 a year in rent from shops in Queen's Walk and offices above. After the crash, the property fell into the hands of the banks. (Cannon, Land Boomers, pp.318-20)
- Freehold Investment Co. in liquidation by 1893 (S&M Directory)
- 1905 The Athenaeum Café, Gregory Matoorekos proprietor), 68 and 70 Swanston Street, and [cnr] Queen's Walk, Melbourne. When this café was first established in 1887 it was situated in Elizabeth Street, near Flinders Street, but in 1893 was removed to its present commodious premises in Swanston Street. Mr Matoorekos, who is the pioneer of this class of business in Victoria, personally supervises his business, in which some forty hands are employed. His premises have been considerable enlarged, and he now has some ten rooms, comprising ladies' room, gentlemen's room, and ladies' and gentlemen's rooms, etc., and which he can accommodate 400 persons. He is a native of Greece, and has been in Victoria for about twenty-five years.... His wife is a native of Victoria. (The Cyclopedia of Victoria, 1905, p?—**pic** [on file])
- 45/8 At the Collin-Swanston Streets intersection—the heart of Melbourne—there is such a jumble of tramway wires, posts, stays, doddering verandahs of different heights, some sustained by posts, others cantilever, as to remind one of the back street of a provincial town.... Can't the City Council do something about the verandahs and generally seedy appearance of too many of the buildings in this quarter? (Herald, 25/8/45)
- 54/7 One of the most spectacular sales of city property to occur in Melbourne for a generation or more will be announced next week. ...Swanston-Collins Streets SE corner block comprising the Victoria Buildings, Queen's Walk Arcade and the City Club Hotel. The vendors are the trustees of the estate of the late Mr Sol Green, sportsman and philanthropist. These buildings occupy one of the most desirable business sites in the whole British Commonwealth.... Victoria Buildings and the City Club Hotel have a combined total frontage of 131 ft 8 in. to Collins Street and 158 ft 10 in. to Swanston Street. Victoria Buildings, an old fashioned but imposing structure, has been a prominent landmark of Melbourne for more than 60 years. Built in 1889, it numbered among its tenants, Melbourne's Yorick Club, celebrated meeting place of artistic, literary and public figures—earlier this century. The corner shop has been occupied by two generations of pharmacists. The most notable tenant of Queen's Walk was perhaps the Government Tourist Bureau, now in the Block... Henry Buck's store have long occupied most of the

- Swanston Street front. **[pic—the old City Club Hotel before rebuilding in 1925]**
(Herald, 2/7/54)
- 54/7 The block, which has been called ‘the best in the British Empire’... **[pic]** (Sun, 3/7/54)
- 54/8 A property opposite the Town Hall, in Collins Street, has been sold for 660,000. **[pic]** It is one of the biggest property deals in Melbourne’s history. The buyer is the ANZ Bank.... The ANZ Bank is known to have revolutionary plans for establishing a branch in the present building and for extensive remodelling.... The last comparable sale of a city property was in 1928-29 when the Manchester Unity lodge paid 343,167 for Stewart Dawson’s corner... The sale was advertised in London and throughout the United States.... After buying the property in 1920... Mr Sol Green spent £60,000 modernising it, including £20,000 on rebuilding the City Club Hotel. (Herald, 17/8/54)
- 54/8 Victoria Buildings, an old city landmark... has been sold for £660,000. ...the vendors [were] the trustees of the estate of the late Mr Sol Green.... Included in the property is the City Club Hotel, Collins st., a modern building... The late Mr Sol Green bought the property in 1920 for about £120,000. He later spent about £60,000 on rebuilding the hotel and modernising the shops in Queen’s Walk and on the two streets. The property is one of the largest corner sites in the city... Victoria Buildings were built in 1888 by the Freehold Investment and Banking Co. Ltd, which went into liquidation in the land boom of the early 1890s. The life-size figure of the late Queen Victoria in her robes is a feature of the parapet on the corner. The banking chamber on the corner was used by the Government Tourist Bureau for many years. The building has ground and four upper floors... (Argus, 18/8/54)
- 63 ANZ sold Victoria Buildings in 1963. (Cannon, Land Boomers, pp.318-20)
- 65/7 Right in the busy heart of Melbourne a ‘little street’ has died... It is Queen’s Walk, the arcade through the old Victoria Buildings... The arcade and building were closed about two months ago because the London-based Hammerson Group of Companies plans to build a 16-storey office block on the site. And this week, the City Council withdrew an offer to buy the site as part of a long-range plan for an open area between the Town Hall and St Paul’s Cathedral. The company will decide in about a month whether to go on with its planned 16-storey building. Meanwhile, city retailers are concerned about the derelict appearance of the corner. Yesterday, wooden barriers blocked both ends of the arcade which once had 16 busy shops. **[pic]** (Sun, 24/7/65)
- 65/10 ...a dusty, deserted building opposite the Melbourne Town Hall. **[pic]** Since the last of the ‘stay-put’ tenants were evicted by police in May, the building—once known as the Victoria Buildings and more recently the ANZ Centre—has been tenanted by pigeons... (Herald, 14/10/65)
- c.66 ...it’s been gathering dust for a year. Owen Whelan says his grandfather first tendered for it in the thirties, his uncle tendered five years ago, and his firm tendered again last year. (Place in the Sun, n.d.□in SLV/WW, 64/7, p.32)

I think we got something like £33,000 to pull it down, and I think they built it for £28,000, which is quite remarkable. ...they started to quote for the demolition of that right... in my grandfather’s day. (Owen Whelan interview)

- 66/3 Demolition permit□68-86 Swanston St: 2 x 5-storey□207-219 Collins: 1 x 4-storey. (MCC 167/3, Box 20, D2475)
- 66/5 **Pic**□photo of wrecker, rubble, remnant of façade (including words ‘Queen’s Walk’), with Town Hall clock in background. (Sun, 27/5/66)
- 66/5 Statues□Queen Victoria, who stood with orb in one hand, sceptre in the other, crashed into thousands of pieces with one whack of the wrecker’s 2_-ton ball last week. But careful chipping has enabled some of the smaller statues and moulds which adorned the building to be saved. (Sun, 27/5/66)
- 66/5 **Pics**□Queen Victoria statue x 3. (Sun, 28/5/66, p.5; scrapbook, p.8; People, 3/5/67, p.45□scrapbook, p.14)
- 66/5 Victoria Buildings being pulled down to make way for a 16-storey office block for London-base Hammerson Group. **[pic]** (Sun or Herald, 31/5/66□scrapbook, p.7)
- 66 **[pics]**□Victoria Buildings site, nearly cleared□aerial view□2 x 6x8 b&w pics] (SLV/WW, 65/4)
- 67/5 Queen Victoria statue in WW toolshed, 1967. ‘...the English investors were very keen to use that statue on their new building. So we took it down very carefully. But I’m afraid the old girl came apart at the seams. ...she doesn’t look too graceful and I don’t think she’ll ever be used again. But we’ll hang onto it. It’s not stone, but cement over plaster□not very good, really.’ (Owen, in People, 3/5/67□scrapbook, p.14)

CATHEDRAL HOTEL

- 19thC **Pic** photo of Cathedral Hotel site photo from W, showing cnr Swanston & Flinders La Robt. Owen, Retail Store on cnr Joseph Ellis & Co., Spouting mfr & importers of gal. Iron, 3 doors up. (Victoria Illustrated, 1834-1984, p.135 RHSV pic)
- c.1911 The Cathedral Hotel was John Wren's favourite dining place on nights when he worked back late at his Bourke Street office. (The Real John Wren, p. 157)
- 67/11 The City Council has bought the Cathedral Hotel... the price was \$340,000. ... The council had already bought the Chandris Line building next to the Cathedral Hotel... The Chandris building would be demolished at the same time as the Cathedral Hotel. (Sun, 15/11/67)
- 67/12 'Life without the Cathedral Hotel won't be the same,' said Mr Jack Anstee of Frankston last night behind his raised glass. 'I've been coming here for 20 years,' he added, 'though I shifted to Frankston to work I still drive in daily for a nip of companionship.' ...the hotel, built in 1883... Mr Anstee's companion, Mr Bob Devlin, who used to manage the Turf Club Hotel in Sydney, claimed that Sydney had nothing to compare with the atmosphere of The Cathedral. Mr Chris Snowman, 21-year-old casual worker in the bottle ship, said it was 'a wonderful pub'. Its mid-Victorian look reminded him of stories of the old days when the bar girls used the stepway to the bar.... The Cathedral's licensee, Mr Jim Ryan, will shout a free round of beer for his regulars at The Cathedral's dying hour tonight. (Age, 30/12/67)
- 68/1 Where now will Archbishop Woods have coffee and crumpets with Bishops Sambell and Arnott on Tuesday mornings? His favourite Tuesday haunt, the Cathedral Hotel in Swanston Street, closed on Saturday night. In fact, it closed two hours early at 8 p.m. because it ran out of beer. The 84-year-old hotel, on the corner of Flinders Lane and in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral, will be demolished to make way for the second stage of the... City Square project. Among those who will miss it most are the clergy from St Paul's. 'There was such a quiet and pleasant atmosphere,' Dr Woods' chaplain, the Rev. J. Grant, said yesterday. 'Dr Woods always found it very relaxing before the 8.15 service. I think he had other meals there occasionally, too.' The Cathedral is the 11th city hotel to close in the last 10 years. Only one new hotel, the Southern Cross, has opened in that time. (Sun 1/1/68)
- 68/1 The famous Cathedral Hotel collection of Australian paintings is up for sale. The collection of more than 20 prominent works will be auctioned on February 1 and 2.... Works in the collection include a Venice waterside scene by Will Ashton, two works by noted landscape and still life artist Ernest Buckmaster and two works by Allan Thos Bernaldo. Other artists represented include portrait painter John Quinn, Robert Johnson, Septimus Power and Jo Sweatman. The paintings, which were displayed in the hotel's diningroom and upstairs lounge, were acquired by Mr John Carlson, licensee of the hotel from 1944 to 1965.... Furniture, kitchen and bar equipment and other fittings will be auctioned with the paintings. (Age, 8(or 18)/1/68)
- 68/1 But among the piles of pillows, sheets, knives, forks, spoons, reading lamps, glasses, beds and chairs that go to make up the paraphernalia of a pub there are 22 items out of the

ordinary. These are a collection of oil paintings which will be sold at 2.30 pm on February 1. Among the paintings are works by ...C. Salis Lloyd, and Dora Wilson, who painted a view of Swanston Street as seen from a window of the hotel. (Age, 24/1/68)

Two pictures painted by the Australian artist Dora Wilson, have been stolen from Cathedral Hotel... during the last three weeks. On July 2 an oil painting of Collins Street disappeared from outside the hotel office and on Wednesday night thieves took a pastel portrait of a Norwegian lady in national costume from the hall in the residential section of the hotel. The pastel portrait measured two feet by two feet and a half, and is valued at £60. The wife of the hotel licensee (Mrs R.J. Carlson) said last night she 'would think twice' before hanging in the hotel any more pictures by this artist. Mr Carlson said he had paintings valued at £3000 in the hotel. Detectives are investigating both thefts. (Age, 30/7/54)

68/3 Demolition permit□44-56 Swanston St□2 x 5-storey buildings□hotel & offices (Cathedral Hotel & Chandris Lines Building). \$12,000 (MCC 167/3, Box 25, D2859)

68/3 Cathedral Hotel & Chandris Lines Buildings to be demolished in 1968, to 'create a plaza at the corner of Flinders Lane'. Contract awarded to WW. (Sun, 7/3/68□scrapbook, p.10)

68/11 **Pic** of demolition□worker on wall, swinging pick. Northern aspect of St Paul's revealed for first time in more than 80 years. (St Paul's built 1880-188?□Cathedral Hotel built 1884) (Sun, 22/11/68□scrapbook, p.26)

Cathedral Hotel now half-demolished. 'Remember that little bar off the lane? It was more private than the others and, no doubt, the special well for bishops, deans, archdeacons, deacons, vicars, vergers, precentors and choirmasters. Well, the old cedar bar, the foot rail, the bottle racks, the mirror, the whole works were bought by the Swan Hill Folk Museum.' Plans to rebuild the little bar into 'a pioneer log-cabin style pub'. (Sun or Herald cutting, n.d., in SLV/WW 56)

68 **Pic** of Cathedral Hotel in course of demolition, viewed from north, with Cathedral in background. (Herald, 1/4/71)

[**Pic**□Cathedral Hotel demolition, with sign 'Bricks for Sale'□b&w print] (SLV collection□copy in SLV/WW, 62/6)

'Trevor (Turner) and Alex MacDonald finished off the French champagne. Rusty Johnson started here.'□Myles Whelan's comments on **photo** of hotel under demolition. (SLV/WW, 62/6)

Hotel on city square site, behind St Paul's cathedral. WW worker found a sovereign, and Jim Parker bought it off him at market price. But the man still ribs Jim that he got a bargain. It's the only sovereign Jim found on the job. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

CATHEDRAL HOUSE □ 210 Flinders Lane

- 1877 **[Pic]** Messrs J. Ellis & Co.'s New Galvanised Iron Works, Flinders Lane □ wood engraving, 31/10/1877. (SLV accession # IAN31/10/77/172)
- 19thC **[pic]** Photo of Cathedral Hotel site & Flinders La, looking E. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.135 (RHSV pic) □ copy on file)
- 1928 J. Ellis & Sons □ builders, plumbers & merchants of galvanised iron □ occupied the site for 72 years, until 1928. Sons still operating business. Moved further up Flinders Lane. Site (bought for a few pounds a foot) sold for £1000 a foot to Mr A.E. Hocking, owner of the adjoining property, with frontage to Swanston Street. He intends to extend his premises, known as Surrey House. Ground level will be shops facing Flinders Lane and round the corner into adjoining lane. 'It is hoped that the latter may one day become an extension of Queen's Walk.'
- 'I was born here 59 years ago,' said one of the retiring partners, Mr John Ellis. 'All my life I have lived here, watching the changes take place... It was not in this building that I first saw the light, but in the old premises □ a two-windowed shop with house upstairs □ that preceded it. ... When this building was built it was spoken of by the public and in the press of that day as one of the finest buildings in Melbourne. Before my father took over the house it was known as the Dublin Boarding House. With my brothers I attended St Paul's school, across the road, which was later pulled down and re-erected at St James.' Used to be a lolly shop on site of Cathedral Hotel. Mr Ellis remembered the old Fish Market where the clocks of Flinders St station are now, and the Morgue on the opposite corner. (Herald, 10/3/28, p.4)
- 68/3 Demolition permit □ 6-storey building, brick, concrete, steel, timber □ offices. MCC paid \$9500. (MCC 167/3, Box 22, D2860)

CHANDRIS LINES BUILDING (ex Surrey House)

- 65-66 Facelift planned. Chandris Lines bought the building (and one behind, fronting Flinders La [Cathedral House?]) for \$500,000 in 1965. (Herald, 15/6/66, p.11)
- 68/3 Demolition permit [44-56 Swanston St] 2 x 5-storey buildings [hotel & offices (Cathedral Hotel & Chandris Lines Building)]. \$12,000 (MCC 167/3, Box 25, D2859)
- 68/3 Cathedral Hotel & Chandris Lines Buildings to be demolished in 1968, to 'create a plaza at the corner of Flinders Lane'. Contract awarded to WW. (Sun, 7/3/68 [scrapbook, p.10])

GUY'S BUILDING

- 68/9 Guy's Building to be demolished 1969. ANZ were occupants. (Sun or Herald, 19/9/68, scrapbook p.15)
- 68/11 Demolition permit□3-storey brick building (offices)□\$14,000. Café & fruiterer on ground floor. (MCC 167/3, Box 23; Sands & McDougall directory)

ANDREWS BUILDING, 206-208 Flinders La□N side, b/w Argus Alley & Quirk Place

70/11 Demolition permit□1 x 5-storey + 1 x 6-storey brick building. MCC paid \$23,000. (MCC 167/3, Box 25, D3235)

GREEN'S BUILDING, 62-66 Swanston St

- 71/1 Demolition permit□6-storey brick & concrete building. MCC paid \$30,000. (MCC 167/3, Box 25, D3267)
- 71/2 Demolition just beginning□adjacent buildings flattened□will complete Swanston St frontage of City Square. (Herald or Sun, 22/2/71□scrapbook, p.29)

REGENCY HOUSE, Flinders Lane

- 19thC Former site of Beath, Schiess & Felstead—clothing factory/warehouse—dating back to 1861. [pic—Illustration of 1861 and later building (in 1912)—see advertisement in Victoria Old & New (red folder). Probably demolished c.1927 for Regent Theatre and Regent Place.
- 73/12 BLF put a ban on demolition, c. December 1973, when MCC decided to close City Baths and Beaurepaire Pool. Cost of wrecking Regency House rose 49.5% in the interim (to September 74). Regency House would be demolished by Christmas, replaced with a temporary garden. (Sun, 10/9/74)

WENTWORTH HOUSE, Collins Street

1975? Demolished c.1975 for extension of city square. Demolition of Regent Theatre next stage. (press cutting, n.d., SLV/WW, 66/5)

REGENT PLACE

74/9 Closed to make way for original city square project—shops could now re-open. Black bans on city square demolition lifted, provided that ‘council does not erect any building on the area demolished until settlement is reached over the future of the Regent Theatre.’ (Herald, 2/9/74)

OLD ARGUS BUILDING, Regent Theatre site

1897 ...though successful [the Argus] long remained housed in a building of humble aspect, externally. The present fine premises are of comparatively recent date. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.24)

27/3 Old Argus/Australasian building to be demolished for new office building. New theatre to be built next door (E), with laneway/arcade between. **[Pic of proposed 11-storey building]** (Argus, 29/3/27, p.16)

Demolished July/August 1927.

27/12 The large site formerly occupied by 'The Argus' and adjoining property has been cleared back to Flinders lane. Here a great pile of buildings is to be erected, including a picture theatre, an arcade of shops, passing through to Flinders lane, and several stories of offices. (Argus, 27/12/27, p.17)

28/2 Rock face[?] collapsed during excavation for Regent Theatre□eastern side of site, on Watson's Lane (dead end running from Flinders La towards Collins). Due to water from sewer tunnel running along Watson's Lane, just behind rock face. (Herald, 11/2/28, p.2)

T & G BUILDING

Known as 'Touch & Go' Building

- c.1927 Burke & Wills Chambers, cnr Collins & Russell—demolished c.1927 for T&G Building—tenants of Burke & Wills Chambers included Alf Peters, the masseur. (Smith's Weekly, 19/2/27)
- 27/12 At the corner of Russell street the Temperance and General Bulding, the most extensive office premises in Melbourne is nearing completion. (Argus, 27/12/27, p.17)
- c.1937 [JPW] notoriously relied on 'brute strength and stupidity'—'cats' on the top and 'bulls' on the ground for his work of destruction. His son challenged this not long before his father's death. Jim and his brothers persuaded Whelan I to a trial of strength. Whelan I employed 40 brick bruisers to pull down the Advocate Press to make way for the Franciscan Monastery in Little Lonsdale Street and the younger Whelans used the equivalent in compressed air and power plant to flatten Anzac House for the T and G building in Collins Street. The compressors won hands down—four months to six and with great saving in expense. (Herald, 31/12/55)
- 37/38 Anzac House, 151 Collins—demolished 1937 or 38 for T&G building—site cost £70,000—60-ft frontage. (Herald, 6/7/38, p.20)

71/1 Ernest Hillier's soda fountain in Collins Street... [closed] on December 31. ...seeing Hillier's being pulled apart yesterday,... it again reminded you of how pushy and determined the City Council is in its fixed idea about the City Square, how close it is to being The Mob in Melbourne, and also how quickly there has come forgetfulness about its destructive attitude.... The old red and yellow signs were still in some of the street windows. The leadlight doors and leadlight top windows were still there and so were the red and gold velvet drapes.... Inside all was wreckage. The floor was covered with old twisted pipes, presumably from the fountain.... The tops of the old tiles on the counter were smashed and the soda taps strewn around like they mattered no more... The high cashier's counter, surely passed on from Dickens, was gone... Worst, they had broken the big mirror... Away from this corner on a dying lane and the old Regent with hoarding out front and three strands of barbed wire.... Goodbye to another essence of Melbourne,... of an old-fashioned sense of being inside a home inside a city. (John Larkin, Age, 7/1/71)

SCOURFIELD CHAMBERS, 163-65 Collins Street—S side, E of Regent Theatre

- 26/2 Rebuilding Scourfield Chambers, for Zercho's College—to be known as Charteris House. Upon removing some covering interior brickwork, workmen found the walling of a single-storey bluestone house, which had been used to form part of the ground floor. Also a bluestone supporting pillar—part of the same pioneer structure. (Argus, 20/2/26, p.37)
- 26/5 **Pic**—One of the oldest buildings in the business part of the city is shortly to be pulled down, to make room for larger premises. It stands next to the Auditorium, and has been occupied for 25 years by 'Darge', photographer. This building and the one next to it [Scourfield Chambers?] were standing before 1853, and in the above reproduction of an old lithograph of Collins street, they are seen on the extreme left. The original shingles which formed part of the roof of the building are still in place [photo], though now covered by sheets of iron. (Argus, 24/5/26, p.9)

4. CML BUILDING

- 1837 CML site sold at Melbourne's first land sale to Thomas Browne [Rolf Boldrewood father?] for £41. (Herald, 29/4/37, p.14)

...in June 1837, the same blocks had been bought for just £64 at the first public auction of Crown land in Melbourne. (Melb Museum website)

- 19thC I am old enough to remember, as a very small boy, the sweets shop built of iron which stood on the site now occupied by the Equitable Building... (Letter from Nahun Barnet (architect), Argus, 23/10/20, p.22)

The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the USA was at the tall-building vanguard in New York, as in Melbourne. Its landmark headquarters building was built in 1868-70. **[Pic on file]** From 1871 'an allegorical sculpture group called 'Protection' was placed over the entrance portico. Designed by the famous sculptor J.Q.A. Ward, this Carrara-marble group represented the Society's emblem: the Guardian Angel of Life Assurance protecting the widow and the orphan.' (Rise of the New York Skyscraper, 1865-1913, Landau & Condit, p.68)

In the late 1880s, fuelled by riches from the Victorian goldfields, the price of land in inner Melbourne skyrocketed. In 1890, the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the USA paid £360 000 for a rectangular block of land, measuring 132 by 79 feet, on the NW corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets. The Company wanted to erect the 'grandest building in the Southern Hemisphere' and spared no expense doing so. A noted Austrian architect, Edward E. Raht, was engaged to design the building. The general contractor was David Mitchell, who had constructed many other fine Melbourne buildings. (Melb Museum website)

- 1891 The first contract for excavations and foundations was let on 3rd November, 1891... (Clive Turnbull, *The Old CML Building* (booklet), 1960)

- 1892 Notice of Intent to Build (#5388) approved by Melbourne City Council on 5 March 1892. Builder: D. Mitchell, Olivers Lane. (Burchett Index)

Commercially, Melbourne is not what it used to be. It has lost the sparkle, the animation of other days. Yet, whatever else it has lost, it has retained its consciousness of former prosperity. (Alfred Buchanan, *The Real Australia*, London, 1907)

- 93/3 What will certainly be one of the most conspicuous architectural features of Melbourne is the building now in course of erection at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth streets, for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States of America. Possession of the ground was given to the society last June, and at 3 o'clock to-day the foundation stone of the structure will be laid by Mr J.B. Patterson, M.L.A., the Premier of Victoria, in a quiet and unostentatious manner...

...The huge blocks, which are already fixed at the building, and of which the foundation stone is one, weigh up to 10 tons and more each.... The style of architecture is the early Italian Renaissance adapted to the purpose of the building and to the peculiarities of the materials selected. The latter is to be granite from the footpath to and including the top cornice. The first seven stone courses are highly polished and of these the five lower are

from Cape Wollamai, Phillip Island, within 30 miles from Melbourne. ...it certainly comes up in every respect to the colored granite that used to be imported from Aberdeen, Scotland. Mr Raht is quite proud of having been able to obtain this splendid stone within the colony, and thus, instead of spending the money in other parts of the world, he has benefited several hundred colonial workmen and their families during a number of months. ...The foundations were started at a considerable depth below the footpath, on a solid bed of clay, in Portland cement concrete, mixed by machinery. Upon this rest the foundation piers and walls, the former being connected by inverted arches, so as to equally distribute the weight of the superstructure over the whole of the concrete foundation. The cellar walls and piers are splendidly executed in brick work laid in Portland cement. Mr Raht assures us that in none of his buildings (and he has built many in different parts of the world) has he had the opportunity of procuring such good brick work as here in Melbourne. The selection of the materials for the fronts has been a difficult and deep study on the part of the architect... There could not have been a more solid and handsomer material than the granite which he has adopted. The shading of the colors of this material is a most happy one. The darker polished Phillip Island granite first, then the two courses of the base of the building in polished dark Harcourt grey granite, and after that for the next three floors Harcourt granite with picked faces, and above that to the top the same material with axed faces.

...The front line on Collins-street has in its centre a projection of 18 inches, which contains a large arch with a very deep reveal of real gigantic proportions.... This archway actually extends through the basement and three floors above. Under it, in the centre, is the main entrance to the building, flanked by the entrances to two magnificent banking chambers. Above this great arch are located handsomely proportionate columns with carved Corinthian caps, which feature is also carried through on the sides of the Collins-street front as well as along the front on Elizabeth-street, though here the columns take the shape of pilasters....

The main entrance to the building is marked by a portico to be executed entirely in polished red granite, the same as the basement piers of the building. On it will rest the emblematic group of the 'Equitable', artistically executed in bronze, after the model by the famous sculptor, Professor Tilgner, of Vienna. Through the main entrance and the short vestibule, which is to be handsomely decorated with marble, the main staircase hall with its elevators is reached. ...we are told that the entire structure is to be as near fireproof as modern science and experience can possibly make it. There are to be no wooden joists in the whole building, and all the supports of the iron joists and steel girders are steel columns wrapped round with fireproof material... The first floor of the building will be occupied by the offices of the proprietary society... The floors above this—five in number—as well as the ground floor and the basement, are expected to be let as offices and banking chambers.... The heating of the building throughout will be accomplished by gas fires arranged in the most approved manner. The ventilation is so arranged that every room individually has its separate ventilator. The illumination is to be accomplished, by gas or electricity, as the tenant may select. The dimensions of the building are 133 feet on Collins-street and 80 feet on Elizabeth-street. The investment will amount to fully £450,000, including both building and land. (Age, 6/3/1893, p.6)

...the whole actual building has been constructed in its outside walls and inside floors from 6th March, 1893, to 29th November the same year, on which date the last stone of the main cornice was fixed... (Age, 24/3/96, p.6)

94/2 The majestic granite arch which has been the admiration of the passing public since the fronts of the building have been dismantled of their scaffoldings forms the centre motive

[motif] of the design of the main front on Collins-street. It practically reaches through four floors of the building with its bold, but still gracefully carved, keystone 60 feet above the foot path. The span of this arch is about 42 feet, and it alone contains over 7000 cubic feet of granite. This arch, so to speak, forms a frame to the recessed entrances to the building. The main entrance in the middle is over 9 feet wide and nearly 20 feet high.... The portico for the main entrance is perhaps the culminating point of the whole design of this most effective building, simple and pleasing in its proportions, yet rich and genuine in its material and workmanship. This part, like the base of the entire building, is built out of Victorian red granite from Phillip Island. All surfaces of the stones of this portico, even the carvings of the Ionic capitals of the columns and pilasters, are highly polished. This splendid piece of workmanship and material argues well for the skill of colonial workmen and for the natural resources of the colony. ...we are told that the cost of production of this splendid work in the colony is less than if it had been imported...

The crowning piece of all this magnificence, however, is an allegorical group of statuary, cast in real bronze, which will stand on this portico. It represents the 'Equitable', a stately female figure, protecting a widow with a child on one side and a lad seeking shelter on the other side. The famous sculptor, Professor Tilgner, of Vienna,* was entrusted with the modelling of this work... This group of colossal proportions, it being nearly 14 feet high, was cast at the Imperial Art Foundry at Vienna, but lately arrived in Melbourne, and will be put in position as soon as the progress of the work about the building will allow. The railings of the two flights of steps on either side of the portico are also of real bronze. **[Pic]** (Illustrated Australian News, 1/2/94, p.22)

*Edward Raht, the architect, was Austrian by birth. (Clive Turnbull, The Old CML Building (booklet), 1960)

...the huge projecting cornice stones which topped the building. Models were made showing how the cornice stones should be jointed, especially at the corners, so that no stone should exceed 15 tons which was the greatest weight David Mitchell's steam traveller or gantry would bear—if jointed in the usual way the corner stones would have weighed more than 100 tons....

The material used for form the joints of the great arch was a composition of lead and antimony, run in when hot, instead of the usual grouting with cement composition. 'It was an expensive jointing material but proved a perfect job.' Nails were barred in Mr Raht's plans. The floor boards of tallow-wood rested on a coat of cement composition laid on terra cotta floor blocks; the boards were fixed to the cement bed only with a thin coat of bitumen.

...The joinery was made of the best cedar obtainable.... All the window frames and sashes were likewise of the best cedar and all windows were glazed with the best British plate glass. The roof was covered with copper, the roof gutters and downpipes were of copper, and the original galvanised iron water pipes were taken out and replaced by 'practically everlasting' tinned copper pipes. (Clive Turnbull, The Old CML Building (booklet), 1960, pp. 4-5)

Even the two passenger elevators... were notable, the first electric elevators in Melbourne permitted to run at a speed of 300 ft. per minute. The by-laws which restricted the speed of lifts to 200ft per minute had to be amended to accommodate them. (Clive Turnbull, The Old CML Building (booklet), 1960, p.7)

The Equitable Building had a complete iron frame, but masonry bearing walls were still mandatory (under building regulations). At ground level these were 3ft 6in thick and the rentable floor area was correspondingly restricted. Since brick or stone walls had to

become progressively thicker as they neared the ground, the monumental arched entrances were often dictated as much by the demands of construction as by those of current fashion. However, steel frames were soon to be accepted. (Builders of Melbourne, p.32)

The building is entirely fireproof. All the frame-work is of steel, and the iron floor-joists are filled in between with porous terra-cotta, and this material is also used in the partitions. ...[In his speech at the building's opening, the Governor said:] '...Nothing that could be said could give a greater proof of the skill of the artisans of Melbourne than the construction of this noble building. ...I should like to feel assured that the day will shortly come when there will be found a full revival of business enterprise and full employment at good wages for all classes of men, whom I am sure thoroughly deserve to see prosperous days come....'

Mr E.E. Raht... said the building spoke for itself. Nothing was concealed about it, and the construction and materials were the most solid that could be devised and selected.... The whole reflected the character of the institution that owned it—there were no dark corners, no weaknesses in certain parts, no clumsy or misleading embellishments. ...a monument to commercial enterprise of the present age. (Argus, 25/3/1896, p.6)

The building, it was popularly believed, would last 'for ever'. This was not a mere striving for commercial immortality. The form of the building, it was expressly stated at the time, was designed to reflect the stability of the Equitable Life Assurance Society and to emphasise the permanence of its investment in Australia.... The Equitable Society did, indeed, remain firmly entrenched in Australia for nearly 40 years. (Clive Turnbull, *The Old CML Building* (booklet), 1960)

96/3 The magnificent and finely proportioned building of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, which has stood prominently forward as almost a solitary example of life in the building trade in the city since the community plunged itself into its penitential sackcloth and ashes, has now been completed... the composition being bold even to audacity, and of massive proportions adaptable only to such broad thoroughfares as Melbourne possesses.... The base of the building, taking in the whole height of the basement, is of Australian red granite, highly polished, which is here employed for the first time. Above the base molding come two deep courses of polished grey granite and thence rise the ponderous piers carried up in rustic blocks of three stories. On the third floor level is a solid molded belt supporting a perisyle of handsomely proportioned Corinthian columns and pilasters extending through the next three stories. The sixth or top floor of the building forms the frieze of the order, the whole pile being crowned by a boldly designed and magnificently constructed cornice of proportionate depth and projection.

...a group of bronze statuary... It consists of a central female figure of classic beauty, protecting a widow, whose babe rests on one side of her lap, while on the other a half grown lad is hiding beneath the strong right arm of the 'Genius of the Equitable'. This group was modelled by Professor Tilgner, of Vienna, and cast at the Imperial foundry of the same city....

The main staircase is constructed of steel, with white marble steps and polished veined marble dado, and the two passenger elevators, with a hoist way for goods between, are enclosed in a well of steel and bronze bent work of exquisite beauty.

Lavatories are provided on each level, and the floors throughout are of Victorian polished hardwood on a bed of bitumen, spread on the solid fire proofing beneath.

The Architect of the building is Mr Edward E. Raht, of New York, who is the chief architect of the society. ...he speaks in eulogistic terms of that much abused individual,

the Australian working man—the carnivorous ruffian who demands eight hours' work a day, and who has consequently fallen under the disfavor of Rudyard Kipling and other eminent English economists. The architect of the Equitable Life, however cannot say too much in praise of the ability of Melbourne carpenters, masons and bricklayers... (Age, 24/3/96, p.6)

Ruling rates of pay at the time were: carpenters and bricklayers, 8/- per day; plasterers, 7/6; plumbers, 8/- to 9/-; French polishers, 5/- to 5/6. Bricks were 19/- per 1,000. (Clive Turnbull, The Old CML Building (booklet), 1960)

Site cost £363,000 (£2,700 per square foot)□but building [labour?] cost little more than £40,000 □due to low labour costs during depression? (Cannon, Land Boomers, p.107)

Equitable Place used to be named Collins Place. (Directory)

Pic of Equitable Building at time of opening shows a huge US flag flying on roof, while a large Union Jack hangs behind the sculpture group above the portico, with a Victorian Ensign hanging below, over doorway. (Building & Engineering Journal, 27/6/1896, p.188)

Raht opted for an 'Americanised Renaissance' style for the building. For such a mammoth construction, he wanted traditional materials in vast quantities, so contracts were let for local granite and imported marble. Like a palace, the building was supposed to last forever, so innovative construction techniques were needed to lift and lock together the giant granite blocks. ...As far as is known, the Equitable Life Assurance building was the only Melbourne building constructed from Cape Woolamai granite. Pieces weighing up to 10 tonnes were used to make pillars and blocks for the base-courses and portico. ...The interior woodwork - ceilings, doors and window frames - was of the best cedar, joined to perfection. Not a nail was used anywhere. The interior stonework, mostly marble, was just as lavish. White Italian marble was used for the floors and many walls. Elaborately carved and polished Belgian marble was used in skirtings, dadoes and architraves. The roof and downpipes were of copper. The all-up cost of the building was £233 000, including £72 000 for the supply of the granite. (Melb Museum website)

Unusual variety of stone used in the building□Cape Woolamai granite, Harcourt granite, Belgian grey and black marble, Italian marble, and Carrera stone. Not a single wooden joint in the building□all are concrete, steel and stone. (Herald?, n.d., in SLV/WW, 64/7, p.12)

Granite blocks for the parapet were installed by cumbersome steam winch. (Sunday Review (magazine), Sun, 13/1/91, p.9)

Owen W. estimated the building contained 30,000 tons of granite□the heaviest stone weighing 14 tons□'This was a building built to last for a thousand years and it only stood for 60.' (People, 3/5/67□scrapbook, p.13)

Woolamai's pink to dark pink granite attracted notice from builders as early as 1873. Monumental masons considered it equal to world's best. Quarrying began in earnest in 1891, for Equitable Building□required 26,000 cubic feet in blocks from 5 to 10 tons each, and large pillars weighing up to 14 tons□the biggest piece of red granite used in Victoria

til then. A quarry was set up on sheltered E side of the cape, with tramlines, jetty and crane. 80-100 men employed. Little sailing ships were brought in to the jetty at high tide, loaded with about 50 tons of rock, and sailed on next high tide for the two-day trip to Little Dock, at the foot of Spencer Street. A new skipper and crew took over the *Kermandie* in 1892□on second trip failed to secure cargo against shifting in high seas. Disappeared without trace, probably capsized. After this disaster, quarrying ceased at Woolamai□quarry reverted to nature. (Phillip Island and Westernport, Jean Edgecombe, 1989, p.85)

...during construction seven men were killed on the building itself, one in the street below, one in the stone quarries, and three on board the lighters which carried the Woolamai stone from the Phillip Island quarry to the city. (Clive Turnbull, *The Old CML Building* (booklet), 1960)

During the lavish construction many workmen were killed and injured (some say at least 20), and the boys around town called it the 'slaughterhouse', and said it was doomed by the devil himself. They said the building was 'a monumental piece of nonsense'. (Age, 27/1/60)

1892? In the first days of the history of the building a man was killed in quarrying the granite for its walls. (Age, 12/7/93, p.5)

92/4? ...the narrow escape from serious fatalities such as was that last year [1892], when the crane broke and fell across the footpath amongst a number of pedestrians... (Argus, 12/7/1893)

Some 12 months ago, singularly enough, about the same hour [12.45pm] and also on a Saturday, a man was killed by the falling of a crane which was hoisting the heavy timbers for the scaffolding. On the same occasion, a young lady, who was passing at the time, narrowly escaped a violent death, some of the falling timbers actually pinning her dress to the ground, although the wearer escaped without the slightest injury. (Age, 10/4/93, p.5)

92/11 When the walls had been raised 20 feet, a workman named Whannel fell from the masonry and was killed. (Age, 12/7/93, p.5)

A CRANE CHAIN BREAKS. Professor Kernot was called upon at an inquest in Melbourne last week to give expert testimony in connection with the breaking of a chain, through which a workman named John Whannel met with fatal injuries at the building now being erected for the Equitable Assurance Society of New York... The evidence of a fellow-workman was that an iron column was being raised into position by means of a crane; when the column struck a 'shore' which supported the wall of an adjoining building, causing the chain to break, in consequence of which Whannel—who was on the wall steadying the column—was knocked off the wall by it, and fell a distance of 20ft. His injuries consisted of two severe wounds on the chest and a fracture of the spine. Professor Kernot said that the broken link of the chain was half an inch in diameter, and should, when new, stand a steady strain of from 5½ to 7 tons. The broken part had a crystallised appearance, but he was unable to say whether this was so when the chain was new, or whether use had brought it about. It was very desirable to anneal chains by making them red hot and allowing them to cool slowly. No one could have detected that the chain was crystallised from an outward examination. William Sinclair, foreman of the works, said that the plan was frequently inspected to see that all was right. The chain had not been annealed. The weight of the column was 1 ton 3 cwt. The coroner..., in summing up, said no negligence had been shown, nor had any defect been seen in the chain. Accidents such as that under review were occasionally unavoidable. (*Building and Engineering Journal*, 19/11/1892, p.216)

John Whannell, labourer, aged 56, lived in North Carlton. (BD&M index)

Whannell was killed on Thursday 10 November 1892—inquest on Friday, 11 Nov. (Argus & Age reports—small paragraphs only)

This Shirt was laid hear [sic] in Memory of William Ellis Plasterer who Departed this life 8/8/92. Rest in Peace. Amen. (note found by WW on city demolition site, 1960s?)

re. convict shirt found in ceiling of Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney—‘it’s pretty save to say that it was probably stashed away so that it could be retrieved and sold later. But there’s another theory. The shirt may have been placed as a ritual object, a kind of supernatural insurance policy, if you like, so that it would ward off evil spirits as they entered the building. But that’s just a theory.’ (Rewind, ABC TV, 22/8/2004)

93/4 SHOCKING FATALITY IN THE CITY—TWO LIVES LOST—MANY NARROW ESCAPES. Unhappily several accidents have happened at the mammoth building which is being erected at the corner of Elizabeth and Collins streets for the Equitable Insurance Company of the United States, the contractor for which is Mr David Mitchell. The last and most serious of the series took place on Saturday [8 April]. Everything went well until 12.45, or within a quarter of an hour of the time at which those employed on the building would have ceased work. A huge block of granite weighing some seven tons was being hoisted by means of one of the donkey engines used for the purpose from the ground to to the top of the first storey, where it was to be placed in position... The donkey engine was situated on the very summit of the scaffolding, at a height of 108 feet from the ground, and was fixed on a ‘traveller’ or movable platform, which is used for hoisting and placing in position the large and very heavy blocks of stone utilised in the construction of the building... Mr Mitchell, the contractor, states...that to the engine which was concerned in the accident on Saturday, there was attached three steel wire ropes, each of which was recently tested up to a capacity of 26 tons... they are still intact, not a strand being broken. The engine, the boiler and all the working gear were said to be in excellent order.

The person in charge of the engine was a young man named Henry Rogers [Rodgers]. He was a certified engine driver—a steady, careful man, who was of markedly temperate habits, and always regarded by his employer and those immediately in charge of the work as being in every way capable and trustworthy. He had been specially trained for the work on which he was engaged, and had been in the employ of Mr Mitchell since he and the members of his family came to the colony some seven years ago. Mr Mitchell, while on a visit to England about that time, was so struck with the ability of Rogers’s father, that he engaged him to come out to the colony to enter his service. The father has for the most part been engaged at Mr Mitchell’s lime kilns near Lillydale, while the son has been variously engaged in the same service, and never before had he been associated in any way with an accident of any importance... It is...surprising that so little damage to property was wrought. Beyond the breakage of a window in the first floor of the Federal Building Society, on the opposite side of Collins-street, no appreciable damage was done. This is all the more surprising, from the fact that the broken parts of the machinery were hurled great distances, some of the fragments being thrown so far as Bourke-street, several pieces falling on the roof of the Vandyck Photographic Studio, on the eastern side of the General Post Office. One piece of metal, whether part of the driving cog wheel or not is not known, struck a man named William Ellis, who had been passing along Elizabeth-street, near Flinders-lane, with such violence as to break his arm, and inflict what proved to be fatal internal injuries. He was removed to the Melbourne Hospital...[where] the unfortunate man gradually sank and died yesterday morning about 6 o’clock. Ellis was a resident of 148 Stawell-street, Burnley, a painter by trade, in the

employ of Messrs Briggs and Snider [W. Brettschnieder], of Flinders-lane [235 Flinders Street, east of Fink's Building], to whose place of business he had come for the purpose of drawing his wages. He was proceeding along Elizabeth-street, leading a little daughter 5 years of age when he was struck down. He leaves a wife and four children, who are entirely without means.

An idea will be given of the force with which the fragments were hurled when it is stated that the point at which Mr Ellis was struck, according to a measurement made by Constable Wall, is 190 yards from the building, while the General Post Office, beyond which, as has been stated, pieces of iron had been thrown, is distant no less than 300 yards. Several pieces of metal were found in the vicinity of Bourke and Elizabeth streets, but happily no one was injured as far as has been ascertained, the only victims being the men Rogers and Ellis.

...The block of granite which was associated with the accident is not exceptionally heavy, several weightier pieces having been lifted and adjusted by the same gear without difficulty. At the time named above on Saturday, all having been made fast on the ground, the signal was given in the usual manner to Rogers to hoist. The height to which the stone was to be hoisted was only 28 feet, on the top of the first storey, and as showing that no danger was to be apprehended, it may be mentioned that almost, although fortunately not quite, underneath there was a laborer engaged on the works when the huge mass came down with such a crash as may be imagined from the falling of 7 tons of solid stone.... New and horrible interest was given to the proceedings by the discovery of a portion of the skull of the hapless engine driver, Rogers, in the water channel on the eastern side of Elizabeth-street, a discovery which very disagreeably affected many of the bystanders. Other portions were found further up the same thoroughfare.... It is said that the probability is that Rogers may have made a mistake by throwing the winding drum out of gear by releasing the 'clutch', or coupling which forms the connection between the winding drum and the engine. There was no necessity for that step, as the engine is a reversing one, so that if its burden had been raised too high nothing was necessary but to reverse the engine to so far an extent as might be necessary. It is thought that possibly poor Rogers, finding the stone had got under way, and was with every inch of its descent gaining, as it naturally must, increased velocity, attempted either to throw the winding drum again into gear or to apply the brake, either of which attempts must have been utterly futile, and that the tremendous speed attained by the heavy block caused such rapid rotation of the driving and spur wheels that something gave way, causing the general wreckage. (Age, 10/4/93, p.5)

At the time mentioned Collins-street and Elizabeth-street, near their intersection, were thronged with pedestrians, and almost blocked by vehicle traffic. The huge scaffolding, which towers to the height of above 100ft. and which in itself is typical of the magnitude and solidity of the building to be erected by the Equitable Society, was not attracting more than casual notice, and the operation of lifting a seven-ton block of granite, then proceeding, was passed by with unconcern, because larger and heavier blocks of Harcourt granite had often been lifted into position in the building. But when the pass had reached a height of 32ft. above the level of the street, and was being swung round into position on the cap of the doorway on the first floor fronting Elizabeth-street, there was suddenly a terrific noise as of machinery running at a wild speed, then ripping and tearing of iron, and in the next second the block of granite had fallen to the ground with great force. Scraps of flying iron came from the engine at the top of the scaffolding and distributed themselves round about the neighbouring streets.... Here and there in Elizabeth-street pieces of a human skull and brains were picked up, and it was evident that at least one life had been sacrificed, if no more. But even all this dreadful evidence

was unnecessary. All eyes had turned to the little iron building perched at the top of the 108ft. of scaffolding. It was there that the ripping and tearing noise arose, and it was there that the engine was located prior to its destruction. It appeared impossible that the enginedriver, Henry Rogers, shut in there could have escaped... But his body decapitated, and horribly mangled, removed all uncertainty. It could be seen partly protruding through a rent in the structure. The hundreds who were present at the outset had now been swelled to thousands, and the intersection of the thoroughfares was completely blocked with people... The scene was strangely moving. Women sobbed and cried without attempting to hide their emotion, and men turned apart, sickened by the contemplation of the decapitated body and the scraps of skull and brains, which were being gathered on the roadway and amongst the timber of the scaffolding. ...word reached the police on duty there regulating the traffic that a man had been struck down in Flinders-lane by a piece of flying metal and had been badly injured. Constable Wall went at once to the spot, near the intersection of Flinders-lane and Elizabeth-street, and found there a man as described with his right forearm shattered. The constable removed the sufferer, whose name was William Ellis, to the Melbourne Hospital...

Although the man at the engine was plainly past all hope, his comrades in the building below... at once hastened to see if by any chance their assistance could be of any avail. One of them, at the risk of his life, ran at full speed along the plank which led to the engine-house, and he was followed anxiously by the eyes of the crowd below. ...he waited patiently and out of observation until joined by some comrades. Then a box was procured. In it were placed the mangled remains of the driver, and it was lowered at the end of a rope slowly to the ground, where the police took charge of it, and handed it and the rest of the remains that had been gathered together to the coroner's orderly, Constable William Davidson. It was subsequently removed to the city Morgue...

...the case of Ellis. Upon his admission to the Melbourne Hospital... one of the medical officers, who admitted him found that he was suffering from a much worse injury than a broken arm. The limb was so much shattered that it was at once apparent it would have to be amputated or loss of life would necessarily follow. ...honorary surgeons... decided that amputation was necessary, but they found that the shock to the system from the injury to the arm, combined with an internal injury, probably rupture of some organ, was so severe that the operation would have to be postponed till the following morning. ...when in the morning the surgeons again consulted regarding him they agreed that the case was hopeless. If they operated he would undoubtedly die under the operation... the patient died at 6 o'clock in the morning. Ellis... came from Morayshire, Scotland, half a dozen years ago, and his experience of the colonies so unhappily terminated was never bright. A painter by trade, he settled first in Sydney, and then, attracted by the prosperity of Victoria, he came to Melbourne. This was just before the briskness of the boom period had ceased. He had constant employment for a while, but it did not last long, and for a considerable time past he had lived a hard life through want or insufficiency of employment, and also through family bereavement, two of his children, who might soon have been an assistance to him, being stricken down with fever, to which they succumbed. He had latterly been employed by Messrs Briggs, Snyder, and Co., painters and decorators, of Flinder-lane, and on Saturday, at noon, he went into the offices of the firm to draw his week's wages. He took one of his children with him, a little girl five years of age, and he was just returning from the office holding her by the hand... when the arm by which he held her was shattered by the falling metal. He was felled to the ground by the blow, and kept prostrate by a feeling of powerlessness consequent upon the injury to the arm, but more largely due to injury to his abdomen, against which the metal had crushed with terrible force. The little girl bent over him, cried out to him to get up, and when he did not do so and she failed to get any answer from him, she dropped down

beside him, weeping bitterly, and believing him to be dead. Ellis quickly recovered his senses... being ignorant at the time of the accident in Collins-street [he] had, of course, ascribed his injury to a piece of iron or something which had fallen from a building in the lane along which he was passing. By his death his wife and family will, it is said, be left utterly destitute.

Rogers, the enginedriver, was a man of 25 years of age, and unmarried. He resided in lodgings at Richmond, but is better known at Lilydale, where his parents live. He was a certificated enginedriver, and well skilled in practical engineering. Those who were employed with him and those who had the direction of him are united in saying that he not only knew how to do his work, but might have been trusted to always be fitted by reason of his steadiness and sobriety to do it. He came to the colony seven years ago with his father and the remainder of the family, and has since that time been constantly employed in some capacity by Mr David Mitchell...

...The engine is a vertical travelling steam hoisting engine, and of the ordinary type. It had been some time in use, and it was used recently in connection with the erection of the premises of the Commercial Bank in Collins-street.... The nature of the accident and the noise which accompanied it suggested an explosion of the steam boiler... but an examination of the engine made subsequently showed that the boiler was the only sound portion of it.... The enginedrivers employed on the building... have all agreed that the accident was commenced by the drum getting out of gear and letting the stone descend with its own weight, and was completed by the sudden application of the brake by Rogers to check its descent. It will be understood probably that engines of the type used in haulage at buildings have a reversible motion, and that the drum round which the haulage ropes revolve is secured to the winding shaft by a clutch. If this clutch were removed the drum would be thrown out of gear, and any weight upon the chain round it would naturally descend. It is surmised that when the weight of seven tons had been lifted on Saturday to the required height, and when all that remained was to swing the stone round, this clutch was drawn in some way, and the drum, thus free, started to revolve and let the block descend. It had probaby got some way on before Rogers appreciated the danger, otherwise the immediate application of the brake should have sufficed to steady the descent until the mischief could have been remedied. Either he delayed too long and the brake was useless, or when he applied it he did so too suddenly, and the band broke in consequence.... The velocity which which the block descended was tremendous, and the strain of it was too great for the wheels of the machinery, and first the cog-wheels stripped, and then, as the block crushed to the ground, the whole of the parts collapsed, and were sent flying with tremendous velocity in all directions. The force may be better judged by the distance to which some of the pieces were thrown than by the more fearful evidence of the body of the driver Rogers. The head was struck upon the point of the chin, and from that upwards was shattered into small fragments, so that the body, as it now appares, has upon it the base of the head cut straight across through the chin. This of itself shows with what tremendous force the parts of the engine must have been scattered; but it seems almost incredible... that the spot where Ellis was struck down is 190 yards from the Equitable-building, and that two pieces of cog-wheel were found 300 yards distant, the one of the roof of the Vandyck Studio in Bourke-street, enxt to the Post-office, and the other on the tram blocks in Elizabeth-street, opposite the Post-office.... The weight of the portion which fell in Flinders-lane was about 6lb.

Mr David Mitchell, the contractor for the erection of the building,... said—‘This has been a most unfortunate building. It was commenced with disaster, and has continued with it, and though I do my best I cannot avoid accidents. The work is very heavy, and the scaffolding has to be all open. The liability to accidents is, therefore, greater than is usual, but the accidents have been more numerous than I can honestly say I deserve to

have had, seeing the care that I have taken to safeguard the men. Usually I have few accidents, very few, but, as I have said, this is an unfortunate building. The accident yesterday was terrible, and has quite unnerved me.' ... (Argus, 10/4/1893, pp.5-6)

Death Certificate 5732/1893—

Name, Rank or Profession: Henry Rodgers, Engine driver

Sex and Age: Male, 24 years

Cause of death: Accidentally killed by machinery. Verdict of inquest held by R. Youl, Coroner, Fourteenth April 1893

Name of Father & Mother: Thomas Rodgers, Engineer; Sarah Ann Rodgers, formerly Smith

When & where buried: Eleventh April 1893, Lilydale

Where Born, & how long in Australian Colonies: Yorkshire, England; 7 years in Victoria

If Deceased was married: Single

Death Certificate 5733/1893—

Name, Rank or Profession: William Ellis, House painter

Sex & Age: Male, 41 years

Cause of death: Rupture of the liver. Accidental blow by piece of machinery. Verdict of inquest held by R. Youl, Coroner, Fourteenth April 1893

Name of Father & Mother: John Ellis, Tailor; Elspet Ellis, formerly James

When & where buried: Eleventh April 1893, Boroondara Cemetery

Where Born, & how long in Australian Colonies: Elgin, Scotland; 2 years in New South Wales; 3 years in Victoria

If Deceased was married, where & at what age & to whom: Edinburgh, Scotland; 22; Johanna Findley

Issue, in order of Birth: John, 18 years; James, 13; Frank, 8; Daisy, 4.

His Excellency the Acting Governor has forwarded a cheque for £5 to Mrs Ellis, the widow of the man who whilst walking along Elizabeth-street, near Flinders-street, on Saturday, received fatal injuries... The widow is left penniless with four young children to support. Subscriptions to the fund which is being raised for the relief of Mrs Ellis will be received and acknowledged at The Age office. (Age, 12/4/93, p.8)

The ...allegorical group of statuary... represents the 'Equitable', a stately female figure, protecting a widow with a child on one side and a lad seeking shelter on the other side. (Illustrated Australian News, 1/2/94, p.22)

[According to another Age report, another passerby was hit in the leg by a piece of the wreckage, while a woman was hospitalised with severe shock.]

At the inquest, Mr James Moore, contractor, said he had sold the crane to Mr David Mitchell... and that he had lifted 17 tons with it as high as 120 feet. Verdict: accidental death. (Age, 15/4/93)

- 93/? One man died recently from injuries which he received at the quarry whilst dressing the stone intended to be used in the works. (Argus, 12/7/1893)
- 93? ...if anything were wanting to demonstrate the ill luck that seems to attend the work, and the fatalities that occur at almost every turn, it could be found in the details of the grounding of the Kermandie. The ketch was loaded with granite for the building, and ran

ashore when coming along the coast, with the result that three of the seamen were drowned. (Age, 12/7/93, p.5)

A new skipper and crew took over the *Kermandie* in 1892□on second trip failed to secure cargo against shifting in high seas. Disappeared without trace, probably capsized. (Phillip Island and Westernport, Jean Edgecombe, 1989, p.85)

93/7 By the breaking of the jib of a crane yesterday afternoon, at the new buildings in course of erection at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth streets for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, two of the workmen were killed instantly and a third only lived in agony for an hour or more when his death ensued at the Melbourne Hospital. ...The heaviest of the work in connection with the erection of the building had been completed up to the height of 116ft., and the massive scaffolding had been carried up to 166ft. It became necessary then to raise the beams for the steam traveller from the platform at 116ft. to the altitude of 166ft., so that it would be in a position to do all the lifting of the heavy granite blocks of which the walls are being constructed. The work of lifting the beams was commenced yesterday afternoon, a hand winch and jib-crane being used to effect the purpose.... The winch and crane had been tested in the course of the erection of the lower floors of the building to the weight of five or six tons, and when, therefore, the beams of the travellers, which weighed three tons only, were placed upon the crane no danger of an accident through the inability of the crane to carry the weight was apprehended. The task of raising the burden was half over at 20 minutes past 3 o'clock when the jib broke, the beam of the traveller smashed down upon the walls, and in an instant Pecaud and Delamert, who had been knocked off the stage, were lying dead beneath, Pecaud on the ground, and Delamert on one of the upper floors. Masson was suspended in the scaffolding, bruised and broken, 80ft. above the ground... A crowd rapidly collected, and their attention was focussed on the spot where Masson was hanging in the scaffolding. A workman who, during the crashing of the falling timbers, had sought by hiding his head in a cement barrel to protect himself from some danger of which at the time he knew nothing, left his hiding-place, and intrepidly climbed up the scaffolding to relieve Masson. This task was not an easy one... but he accomplished it quickly and successfully, and Masson was secured from a further fall and carried inside the building through one of the open windows.... He was promptly placed in a cab and removed... to the Melbourne Hospital.... Meanwhile the bodies of the other unfortunate men had been picked up and given into the charge of Constable Dalton, who removed them to the Morgue. Pecaud, who had fallen the whole distance from the platform to the ground (116ft.), was literally smashed up, almost every bone in his body being broken. He fell at the Elizabeth-street side, just inside the fence, and stains of his blood and portion of his brains still sticking to a post mark the spot. Delamert was found with his neck broken, and a gaping and horrible hole in his back lying on the permanent flooring of the story below that on which the accident had happened. As he fell he had pitched upon the back of his head, and piece of timber had impaled him.... When the jib broke portion of it swung round and struck Pecaud a violent blow, which caused him to stagger from the handle and swerve towards the outer edge of the platform overlooking Elizabeth-street. As he staggered he instinctively threw out his hands to grasp Masson and thus save himself, and Masson seeing the danger tried to catch him by the arm.... Pecaud fell over the outer wall; Masson, who had seized him but could not hold him, was himself overbalanced, and falling, paid for his gallant conduct with his life.... Mr Newbigin, the manager of the works, is at a loss to account for the breaking of the jib.... Masson died at the Hospital at 5 o'clock.... With his death, the record of deaths caused at or through the building reached seven. ...If to this are added the records of minor

accidents in which workmen have been disabled for weeks and months, and of the narrow escape from serious fatalities such as was that last year, when the crane broke and fell across the footpath amongst a number of pedestrians, it will be apparent that the building has been a most unlucky one. Mr David Mitchell, the contractor, when interviewed on the last occasion, said,—‘This has been a most unfortunate building. It was commenced with disaster, and has continued with it, and though I do my best I cannot avoid accident. Yesterday... he repeated his former words. He is quite unnerved by the disaster, and feels that he will not rest easy in his mind till the huge blocks of granite are in position and the whole building is out of his hands. (Argus, 12/7/1893)

TERRIBLE BUILDING DISASTER—BREAKING OF A JIB CRANE—THREE MEN KILLED—AN UNLUCKY WORK. Almost every step in the progress of the colossal structure... has been marked by accidents and disasters as appalling as they have been extraordinary. Yesterday a fresh step upwards towards the highest stories of the edifice was marked by the seemingly inevitable catastrophe, and it is a coincidence that as each upward move has been made measurable by accident, so each succeeding accident has been more terrible than its predecessor....

To understand how the [latest] accident occurred it must be known that the lifting of the stone, bricks and mortar used in the building is performed by means of a donkey engine placed on a platform, which is erected in the scaffolding some distance above the walls. As the building progresses, and the walls are built up to the level of the platform on which the donkey engine is situated, fresh scaffolding is elevated, a new engine platform is rigged higher up, and so the work proceeds. The platform is erected on two huge parallel beams, shaped something like an iron girder, and to each end of these beams wheels are attached. An iron roadway is laid down along the scaffolding, and the wheels of the beams rest upon it, so that the platform may be moved from one end of the building to the other. The whole structure of beams and platform is called the traveller.... The jib consisted of a piece of heavy timbering about 30 feet long, which sprung at an acute angle from the upright on which the pulley was fixed. The winch was located at the foot of the upright, and a chain was passed round the drum of the winch, through the pulley on the upright, and thence through a block fixed to the projecting end of the jib to the beam which was being elevated. The winch was situated right over the wall facing Elizabeth-street, and the jib projected towards the interior of the building. There were six men at the winch, three at each handle and the foreman of the carpenters was also on the platform watching operations.

Shortly before 3 o'clock the men began to work on the winch, and at 3.20 had raised the burden about midway towards its destination, where the jib in a moment, without a premonitory crack or creak of any sort, smashed to pieces. With a thundering crash the heavy timber dropped into the walls of the building, and the jagged portions of the splintered spar were scattered everywhere around. One of them struck Frenk Pecaud, one of the winchmen... Eye witnesses of the terrible event state that he turned two complete somersaults in his descent, and he fell to the ground a formless mass. He was fearfully shattered. Almost every bone in his body was broken, the brains lay scattered around, and the face was bruised and battered out of all shape. Masson... landed on the mason's floor, 30 feet from where he fell. He was not dead then, and willing hands swiftly bore him down to the ground and thence to the hospital. He... did not survive long... Frederick Clarkson, who was on the platform... saw Dallamar strike a projecting plank as he fell and receive a sickening wound that laid his back open from the waist to the top of the shoulder. As he reached the floor, which was 25 feet below, his head was downward, and he struck the boards with the back of his neck. He was quite dead when assistance reached him, his neck being broken....

Of those killed and injured only one, Joseph Dallamar, aged 40 years, was married, but it has not yet been ascertained whether he had any children, because his place of residence is unknown, and the authorities have been unable to acquaint his wife of the disaster. It is fortunate, however, that Dallamar, in common with all the men employed on the building, was insured in the Guardian Accident Insurance Company, and his widow will receive £50.... All the winch men had been engaged for some time on the work, and had been specially selected, as men who had led seafaring lives, for laboring at the higher portions of the structure.... Mr Mitchell is regarded among contractors, employers of labor, and even among the laborers themselves, as a scrupulously careful man, who spares no precaution to avoid accidents, and the present and preceding misadventures in connection with the Equitable Insurance Building are looked upon as the outcome of sheer ill luck. A remarkable feature in connection with the affair was the marvellous celerity with which a cloud gathered round the scene of the accident, within a few moments of its happening. Right across Elizabeth-street a maze of people stretched, almost stopping the traffic, and it was some time before they moved away. When Constable Dalton attempted to place the two dead men in a cab for the purpose of removing them to the morgue there was a most unseemly rush, and it was with difficulty that the task was accomplished. (Age, 12/7/93, p.5)

The scene of yesterday's catastrophe... was the object of much attraction today, large crowds of people being lined along the footpaths..., gazing on the ill-fated structure. ...Frank Pecaud... was the proprietor of two small coasting crafts. Owing to the dullness in trade, he hired out one of the crafts and docking the other, accepted a billet at the building where he met his death yesterday. (Herald, 12/7/93)

An inquest on the bodies of Francis Picaud, Joseph Dellamarta and John Masson... was held at the Melbourne morgue on Friday, the 14th inst., by Dr Youl.... William McMaster, baker, of North Melbourne, said Masson was a seafaring man, and was witness's nephew. He was 26 years of age, and left a wife and one child. Louisa Dellamarta said Joseph Dellamarta was her husband. He was 36 years of age, and a labourer. He had left herself and seven children. Edward Scumb said the deceased, Francis Picaud, was his brother-in-law. Deceased was about 45 years of age. By calling he was a seaman... He had left no family.... John Coutts, foreman carpenter at the works, said he was on the crane platform when the accident occurred. They were hoisting a beam of about 3 tons weight, and after getting it up about 30 feet the jib broke. The deceased were at the winch....

The Coroner, in summing up, said this was the second accident of the kind which had happened at this particular building, the only difference being that the previous one was in connection with the hoisting of stone. It was the first building of the kind in Melbourne, and that being so they could not say whether it was merely unlucky or not. It seemed that ordinary material or appliances were not sufficient to lift the weights which had to be hauled in this case. At all events, a greater margin of power was evidently required.... It had been proved that Mr Mitchell, the contractor, took the greatest care in having good materials and good men; but the building in question was a new departure of architecture in Melbourne, and it had been proved that the appliances used should be considerably stronger than they were. (*Building & Engineering Journal*, 22/7/1893, pp.37-8)

RA: But people were killed during the erection of it?

MJW: Yeah, eleven, including a citizen who was killed in Flinders Lane.

RA: Flinders Lane? That's a bit far from the mark.

MJW: Well, they lifted all those things with steam winches. And, you know, lifting 16 ton 132 feet in the air, which was the top parapet stones... When we pulled it down, we couldn't get a crane anywhere near to lift that. And apparently, under tremendous stress, they'd blow up. Now a fly-wheel took off and landed in Flinders Lane, and this fellow was just strolling along in the lane and was killed by this fly-wheel that took off like a rocket. [Laughs] Which is nothing to laugh about I suppose, but it seems incredible. Well, you can imagine him walking along there, minding his own business, and—WHACK!—he's been called to God.

The Council said to me later, there was eleven people killed arising from the construction of the building. They reckoned if we only killed three people during its demolition, we'd've done a good job. The building surveyor said that to me up at the Melbourne Town Hall. I was staggered! (Myles Whelan interview, 6/8/2003)

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 Edward E. Raht,
 Architect,
 First Floor,
 Equitable Building.
 (Age, 25/3/1896)

- 1897 ...a building which, though not the loftiest, is the most massive of all the business buildings of Melbourne. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.18)
- 1916 In 1916, when the Melbourne Building act made legal the use of steel frame construction as part of the main structural plan, the revolution began. By the same act the height limit was fixed at 132ft, which is the height of the Equitable Building, probably the best proportioned building in the city. Thus it came about that our limit is not one and a half times the width of the street, which is frequently the standard adopted. (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement p. 3)
- 1923 The Equitable Life Assurance Society... had begun, some years before 1923, to withdraw from the Australian field, discontinuing the acceptance of new business. In March 1923, it was announced that the Equitable had made arrangements for the transfer of business in force to the National Mutual Life Assurance Association of Australasia Limited and that the building at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets had been sold to the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited. The price was £280,000. (Clive Turnbull, The Old CML Building (booklet), 1960)
- 1923-59 The Equitable Company occupied the building until 1923, when it was sold to the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd. The new owners paid £280 000, less than half of the original total cost. (Melb Museum website)
- 28/9 By the purchase of the small furrier's shop on the north-west corner of Equitable place and Collins street, the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Company has secured one of the most interesting pieces of central city freehold... The block is only 18ft 8in in frontage, by 71ft 6in in depth, and is one of a row of old colonial properties of the original shop and dwelling type with which Melbourne was plentifully endowed in the early days. They offer a marked contrast with the massive proportions of the neighbouring pile of the Equitable Building... It is understood that there is no immediate intention of demolishing the old shop nor of placing a tall building on the site, as it commands the light of the

- Equitable Building on the west side. The contrast in height and design between the shop and its stately neighbour illustrates the extremely broken character of the skyline in Melbourne. The city building regulations have been framed partly with the object of 'levelling up' the architectural skyline... The desire on the part of the owner of a tall building to secure a dwarf structure next door to retain the daylight, however, opens another aspect of the height-limit controversy. (Argus, 11/9/28, p. 12)
- c.1930 Addition built next door to 328 Collins Street, yellow terracotta-faced, extended by five floors in height in 1939. (Letter from Reg Gay in CML booklet, SLV/WW, 64/1)
- 30/12 An old two-storey building is to be demolished, on site will be erected a modern 5-storey structure, reinforced concrete with terra cotta facing, on most modern lines. Ground floor: 4 shops facing Equitable Lane, 70' 6" frontage, and one facing Collins, 18' 6". Remaining floors: office accommodation. Owners bought site in 1928 for £30,000. (Herald, 4/12/30)
- 38/7 CML acquired 330 Collins Street for £40,500, possible extension? Also possible extension of same building over large site now occupied by old warehouses of W.&G. Dean Pty Ltd (11-15 Equitable Place, W side), purchased by CML. (Herald, 6/7/38, p.20)
- 1939 Following purchase of No. 330 Collins Street... and of the W.&G. Dean warehouse block adjoining at the rear of Equitable Place, a big programme is being finalised by the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd. (Herald, 11/3/39, p.6)
- 57/5 CML Ltd considering a new building 'worthy of this great Society', Chairman. 'The Equitable Building for many years was one of Melbourne's show pieces.' (Herald, 30/5/57, p.1)

It might well have stood proudly until the city was old, as the cities of other lands are old, and been a familiar landmark to our remotest descendants, but that those who built it reckoned without the abundant 20th Century with its leaping populations, its new ways of building and its new needs. Thus it proved that the building was not an end in itself, but one stage more in the story of our progress.

With its undeniable grandeur, albeit this took little heed of comfort, the old building was an object of admiration, and not a little affection. When the time came for it to go, eminent authorities declared that it was 'interesting', but not worthy of preservation as a monument. Be it so. (CML photo booklet, c.1960)

Jim Whelan: 'It just had to come down. Its old-fashioned construction involved a terrible waste of space and materials. For instance, the first floor of this building is level with the third floor of one nearby. Again, the ceilings are impossibly high, between 20 and 30 feet, when they should have been nearer to 10 feet. (Herald, 8/1/60)

Did you hear that story about the tax relief? For years, people in the building industry always went to the government to get a depreciation allowance on income-producing property, buildings. And every year they'd go up to Canberra, and every year they'd knock it back. And back in the '35s the minister of the day knocked it back on their traditional approach, and he said, 'How would you apply a principle like that to a building like the CML in Melbourne?' He said, 'There's a building that obviously will be there for some hundreds of years.' Now, look what happened. It didn't last 70 years. They

tried as best they could—he had mezzanine floors put in—but they only were butchering the place. So it just had, you know, virtually to come down. (Owen Whelan interview)

57/11 The largest office block in the city, with a big arcade, is planned... To make room for it the Colonial Mutual Life Building, on the north-west corner of the two streets, and several adjoining buildings in Collins Street, are to be demolished.... It would have a frontage of 226 ft to Collins Street and 79 ft to Elizabeth Street. It would be at least 190 ft high—58 ft higher than the old city limit—with probably 17 floors and at least 275,000 sq ft of floor space.... [pic—artist's impression of new bldg compared with old] In recent years [CML] bought three adjoining shops, including Werners building... 'The building suffers from most of the architectural drawbacks of the 19th century, and contains less than 40,000 sq ft of usable office space in its seven floors.' [says CML general manager]...

The old Equitable Building, which is to be demolished, is one of the city's landmarks. The building... is a monument to the fine building craftsmanship and to the more leisurely and more lavish age of the 1890s.... The granite blocks are probably as massive as in any building in Victoria. Their size will make the work of demolition a big undertaking. (Herald, 13/11/57, pp.1 & 7) [pic—portico, 1957]

57/11 [pic] Here is an artist's impression of the 'new look' in Collins-st when two new buildings are erected at the corner of Elizabeth-st. At the left is the 'skyscraper' announced yesterday by the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd. At right is the building planned on Altson's corner site. ...Colonial Mutual...intended to erect an office block which would be the largest in Melbourne and among the largest in Australia. Buildings on the north side of Collins-st., extending from Elizabeth-st to No. 336, now occupied by C. Werner and Co., opticians, will be demolished. The site has frontages of 226 feet to Collins-st and 79 feet to Elizabeth-st. (Sun, 14/11/57)

1959 Despite its status however, by the late 1950s the building was becoming uneconomic. While structurally solid, its very lavishness, especially its high ceilings, was its doom. Experts, including the National Trust, were consulted but, despite the building's grandeur and opulence, it was not considered worthy of preservation. In July 1959, CML's call for tenders for demolition was won by Whelan the Wrecker... (Melb Museum website)

Jim Whelan's quote and proposed timetable for CML job:

£63,000
11,500
3,000 Con[tingency]
3,000 extra insurance
£80,500

Tues Sep 1	start	1st stage
Nov 10th	finish	
Nov 10th	start	2nd stage
April 10th	finish	
July 10th	start	3rd stage
Aug 10th	finish	

(On CML 'Job File' in MJW CML box—copy on file)

...commencing early in 1959 discussions and negotiations on behalf of the Wrecker took place between myself and my two nephews Messrs Owen Whelan and Myles Whelan and

the... Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited... with a view to the Wrecker demolishing the building... (Jim Whelan affidavit, 18/2/1960)

OW: Now, the CML. Well, that was the toughest job we'd ever undertaken.

RA: And would you still... is it still the toughest job you ever undertook?

OW: I would say so, yes. (Owen Whelan interview)

59/7 [CML building] will start coming down on September 1. The new building will be started in February, and is expected to be finished about September 1962. It won't be a glasshouse—it will be set on a black granite base surmounted by a façade of Sicilian pearl marble, inset with bronze frames and spandrels.... The group of statuary in the Collins-st portico of the old building will be given to the University School of Architecture for re-erection at its 40-acre property at Mt Martha. The statuary will be used at a pool being built from an old dam. (Herald, 27/7/59, p.1)

The Contractor is advised that the Proprietor will donate to the University of Melbourne the statue at the Collins Street entrance to No. 314, and that the Contractor should allow for carefully removing the statue to the street level and for the transport of the statue, together with the base fixings, to the University of Melbourne School of Architecture property at Mt Martha....

The Proprietor proposes retaining, for historical records, small sections of wrought iron and timber mouldings. These will be particularly marked and the Demolition Contractor shall carefully remove these without damage and hand to the Proprietor for safe keeping until required for fixing in the new building.

The two commemorative carved panels at the corner of Elizabeth and Collins Streets shall be carefully removed and stored for later incorporation in the new structure.

The following equipment and fittings will remain the property of the Proprietor...:- House telephone system; master clock and slave clock system and attendance time recorders; two murals in board room; wall safe in board room; telephone brackets; two swing gates in Security Department with posts and fittings; door from basement strong room; all electric clocks not on master clock system....

The Contractor shall not lift the foundation stone until the Architects and representatives of the Proprietor are in attendance... All materials of historical interest or value under stone remain the property of the Proprietor.

Should the Contractor discover materials or items of historic interest or value, demolition in the area shall cease and the Contractor shall immediately inform the Architects and await instructions. Items of historical interest or value remain the property of the Proprietor. (Stephenson & Turner demolition specification, pp.19-20)

Pic—original blueprint plans showing buildings to be demolished (Stephenson & Turner demolition specification—CML 'Office File' in MJW CML box—copies on file)

Most of the marble would become WW's property—but CML would keep some of the 'interesting old carving work' to use in new building. Company official said: 'The contractor has the space to store the marble. You can't sell that sort of thing at a week's notice.' (Herald, 28/7/59, p.12)

RA: So who would've estimated on this job, and how would they've done it, seeing as it was so unique?

MJW: Jim did it in about twenty minutes, I think. It's the longest job he ever took to do it. He took Dad in and they said, 'Oh, this is about the figure.' I can't think of what the figure was now, but it was ridiculous. We thought it was enough at the time, but they didn't... he wasn't a great one on detail. (Myles Whelan interview, 6/8/2003)

George Parker was foreman on CML job. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

59/9 CML wrecking began Tuesday, 1/9/59. Completion deadline 1/8/61 (MJW job diary)

In obtaining permits for demolition of CML, WW dealt with officials in the Building Permit Section of MCC 3rd floor, Town Hall Chambers (later demolished by WW). (MJW CML files)

59/9 The wreckers have started work on the lovely old Colonial Mutual building.... Yesterday some character expressed his grief. He put a straw hat and a pair of briefs up the flag pole and left them at half-mast. (Sun, 4/9/59)

59/9 ...the wrecking of the Equitable Building. It was agreed that the imposition of a time limit made it imperative that the job be studied from all possible angles with a view to firstly being completed on time and secondly to ensure a profit to the Company. It was agreed that unknown factors quite apart from bad management could well cause the Company to lose some thousands of pounds in this venture. It was agreed that all present should study every angle of this job and that the combined knowledge of the organisation be pooled even at the expense of other projects to ensure the success of this one, firstly as a job and secondly as a means of making money. (minutes of meeting of WW Pty Ltd, 17/9/59 [MJW])

Just as the construction of the CML building was a monumental exercise, so was its demolition. The interior timber and marble fittings were stripped first and sold off. Whelan the Wrecker then had to develop special techniques to handle the giant blocks forming the shell of the building. Each block had to be angle-drilled then pinned in order to hoist it from its position and lower it to the ground. The largest capacity crane in Melbourne at the time was specified to lift only seven tonnes but handled blocks weighing eleven tonnes. Holes were punched through each floor so that the blocks could be lowered safely internally and not above the street. The keystone above the portico could not be removed intact and had to be jackhammered away. It took nearly twelve months to bring the building down and while seven lives were lost during construction, none was lost during the demolition. (Melb Museum website)

That had all-steel joists, granite blocks weighing up to 15 tons and cement mortar harder than the rocks it held. (Sun, 4/7/62)

...a tremendous job to knock down. It was meant to last 1000 years. (Scrapbook, p.3)

Myles called it 'The biggest demolition job ever undertaken in Australia.' (Myles speech, 1962 or 3 [SLV/WW 64/2])

59/9 Monday, 28/9, 8.20 a.m. first accident on site H. Smith of Oakleigh tore a pair of suede shoes on hoop iron projecting from crossing.
30/9 Myles opened site office at 328 Collins Street. (MJW job diary)

WW saved one of the Collins St shops attached to the building, for selling off stonework, fixtures, etc. (press cutting, n.d., in SLV/WW 64/7, p.4)

- 59/10 3/10 Inquiries coming in e.g. someone wanting two mantelpieces from 6th floor; another, 3 external lamps; rubber flooring, lockers, boiler. Sold two black marble mantelpieces for £70 most sold for £10 each. (MJW job diary)
- 59/10 Building Materials from CML Demolition, Cor. Elizabeth and Collins Sts.
Marble fireplaces, black Belgium, grey pink and grey.
Marble slabs, suitable for coffee and barbecue table tops, white Carrara, 'Bleu Belge', 'Rouge Belge', 'St Anne's Grey'.
Magnificent cedar panel doors, complete with architraves and frame, 8ft x 3ft x 2in.
Parquetry Flooring.
Modern office partitions.
Electric storage space heaters.
Fire extinguishers, steel frame windows for office or factory.
Fluorescent light fittings, fire proof doors, bannister rails, canteen equipment with stainless steel sinks.
Automatic door closers, &c., &c., &c.
Inspection by appointment for intending purchasers only.
Whelan the Wrecker Pty Ltd. (newspaper advert.—in CML diary, 31/10/59)
Also see Herald, 10/10/59, p. 2—pic?
- 59/12 The piece de resistance for Sidewalk Superintendents just now is at the corner of Elizabeth and Collins. Three buildings are coming down to make way for the new 17-storey Colonial Mutual Building. The wreckers have been using a 30 cwt. Iron ball, which bursts masonry like paper; marvellous for Sidewalk Supers to watch. This week Whelan the Wrecker started work on the massive Equitable or CML building, and many an old hand is feeling sad. Five years ago they wouldn't have conceived it possible. No building as magnificent as this has ever been wrecked in Australia. ...you ought to see the fine old lifts. You'd swear they were designed by Ronald Searle. The City Council refers not to the wrecking but the dismantling of the building.... The parapet around the top is made of 12-ton blocks. It juts 8ft over Collins-st. You could drive a Rolls-Royce around that parapet. It will be such a job getting those blocks down that the wreckers will do their work between midnight and 6 a.m., when the roads are clear. So the old Equitable will melt away during the dead of night. The eight-bob-a-day workmen must have been good to get those blocks up there at all. They say that one terrible morning a steam crane exploded under the strain of it all, and three workmen were killed. Back in 1893 there was a healthy rumor that there was gold in the stone of the foundations and sidewalk supers of the day tried to scratch off lumps of rock to take home... But why are they pulling it down? It's just too uneconomical. Ceilings as lofty as the Town Hall, marble fireplaces, 40-ton Ionic columns, passages like boulevards, alas, don't fit into this age of espresso bars, motor mowers and parking meters. (Sun, 4/12/59)
- 59/12 Stones at rear section of CML removed over Equitable Place using pins and plugs and feathers. Everything worked satisfactorily. Stones tied in with steel plugs on corners only. Heaviest stone measuring approx 56 cu ft weighed 74 cwt = 15 cu ft to ton. Removal of stone supervised by Bill Ferris and Dick Lodge of Lodge Bros.... First stone took 3 hrs to

remove□steel ties not detected. Thereafter 4 stones per hr at least. (MJW CML diary 6/12/59)

Granite blocks had been installed by cumbersome steam winch. There as no room to rig similar demolition equipment, so the blocks were split in situ, 40 metres above the street. Whelan's used a traditional stonemason technique known as plug-&-feather, splitting the rocks until they were light enough to handle. (Sunday Review (magazine), Sun, 13/1/91, p.9)

13/12□Chimney with granite capping dropped on roof. Shattered floor and bent RSJ. Too heavy.

16/12□Mr Ekberg called and wanted price for complete façade of CML□estimate £10,000.

29/12□Critical stage reached□will have to start shift work. (MJW job diary)

60/1 In January 1960 the task of demolishing the outer walls of the Building was commenced. (Jim Whelan affidavit, 18/2/1960)

60/1 Parapet stones removed by first night shift, January 1960□corner stones approx. 4_ tons each□arrow-shaped, approx. 5 ft at widest x 11 ft long (see diagram 10/1/60). About 30 ton of rock removed from parapet per night. Weight of parapet stones averaged 6 ton to the lineal foot. (MJW job diary)

Parapet stones projecting 12ft into street, 18 tons in weight. Had to be split into three sections. (Myles speech, 1962 or 3□SLV/WW 64/2)

60/1 **[pics]** Myles Whelan stands in front of a huge plate glass window looking out on Collins-st. Nearly all the fittings and stone in the building have been sold already; Emmanuel Sarantos on parapet; Myles on stairway] CML marble stairs went to Museum, to replace worn out stairs. (Herald, 8/1/60)

Belgian marble archway went to Maidstone church. **[Pic]** (Herald?, n.d. in SLV/WW, 64/7, p.14)

Window lintel (12 ft long & 2 tons) was later used as a table in WW office□also solid cedar doors. (People, 3/5/67□scrapbook, p.13)

60/1 **[pic]** Pneumatic drill operators Emmanuel Sarantos and Fred Castles have a job ahead of them, biting their drills into the top of the old Colonial Mutual Life Building... Behind the men at work is a glimpse of the financial section of Collins-st. (Sun, 19/1/60)

60/1 **[pic]** High above Collins Street Greek workman Emmanuel Sarantos removes a girder bolt on the historical Colonial Mutual Life office block. He is one of 20 men who are working 16 hours a day to demolish one of Melbourne's most picturesque 19th century buildings. Fifteen to twenty tons of material went into the building of the CML in 1892□now it is being pulled apart. The demolition is a particularly heavy job as several varieties of stone were used in the construction□not a single wooden joint was used. One of the main tasks is the removal of the huge cornerstones weighing more than 10 tons. They have been securely anchored to prevent them crashing into the busy street below, while workmen struggle to remove them. (Age, 22/1/60)

...the Harcourt granite. That was hazardous stuff to lift, because we'd work in the middle of the night, doing that... Well, see, what you'd do... say if you're pulling down a big stone [draws a diagram] and they'd drill a couple of holes, one there and one there [angling into the stone] and then they'd put a pin in—Lewis pins, as they used call them—with an eye on the end of it. And then they'd have the crane hook, and then a sling would go down that way. Now, when you lift it, those pins would be pulled in that way and then grip perfectly, so you lifted them down. Now that's interesting enough. But one of the stones had a shake in it—like a little crack—which wasn't visible. It might've been inside. And of course, when they lifted it... we'd just a brand-new compressor delivered on site, and one night this... when it got up in the air a bit, the bloody thing broke in two. And of course, when it broke in two, these pins weren't pulling that way; they just came straight out. It fell across the air compressor, bugged the air compressor. But that could happen, you know. But we had it all blocked off or there would've been a nasty thing. And the brickwork was so heavy, we were actually using explosives to try and break the brickwork. Not huge... we were doing that during normal working hours. We were just seeking to crack it. But we couldn't even crack it; we had to *chew* that stuff out. It was so hard! (Owen Whelan interview)

- 60/1 Whelan the Wrecker is having a worrying time. He reckons he'll really earn the £80,000, plus the materials. ...The Wrecker, in person—a third generation Whelan named Mr Myles Whelan—says: 'It's our most difficult job yet. I think it was built to last 15 wars and 10 centuries. The trouble is there isn't a single wooden joint in the building—all are concrete steel and stone. But we should be finished by August 30.' (Age, 27/1/60)

We thought we had a magnificent price to pull down the CML [quoted £80,500] but halfway through we thought, "Shut the gate. How much are we going to lose?"—Owen (Keith Dunstan, *Death of a Skyscraper*, Good Weekend, Jan? 1987)

- 60/2 Crane cannot reach further stones without more brickwork being removed along Equitable Place. George P[arker] unable to do this at moment until all stone and brick pillars have been removed along Collins St. Night shift will do this to-night and then may have to knock off for a couple of nights. Very heavy lintel [sic] on sixth floor level over top of fancy stone column will have to be shored. Agreed that probably best way is to call in Cyclone. Time will shortly arrive when more men will have to be employed on night shift mainly to assist 'stone men' in removal of brickwork. (MJW CML diary, 2/2/60)

- 60/2 The proprietors of the Hotel London in Elizabeth-st. asked...yesterday for a Supreme Court order stopping night demolition work on the Colonial Mutual Building... [and] claims that the insurance company has been negligent in failing to take sufficient precautions against unnecessary noise, vibration and dust... The hotel's managing director, Mr Norman Carlyon, said the wreckers had told him the work would take another eight months. (Sun, 16/2/60)

- 60/2 That around the top of the Building there is a cornice composed of granite blocks and brickwork... That part of the cornice... is at present being demolished at night... That the cornice stone marked 1, 2 and 5 on the Plan marked "A" is one single stone weighing in excess of ten tons and it derives much of its stability from the counter weights, that is the stones numbered 3 and 4 on the said plan. The whole of the cornice [stones]... overhang Collins Street to a distance in excess of six feet. After an examination of the Building I

formed the opinion that even if it were possible it would be an extremely hazardous and dangerous operation to attempt to remove the whole of any one stone at any time of the day or night. ...to remove the stone marked 1, 2 and 5 in one piece it would first be necessary to deprive it of the support offered by stones numbered 3 and 4. This operation would move the centre of gravity of the whole of the cornice further towards the street and away from the supporting wall beneath. This would create an added risk of the cornice stones falling into Collins Street about 132' below. ...two stone masons (Mr Dick Lodge and his foreman Mr Ferris) of the firm of Messrs Lodge Brothers... advised that in their opinion the only safe way to demolish the said cornice would be by stages. That is to say, to deal first with the stone marked 1, 2 and 5 by cutting the section coloured red from the section coloured blue after having secured the section marked red by means of steel dogs and sling attached to the hook of a crane situate on the adjoining building.... This portion of stone is momentarily suspended over Collins Street and... I consider that the work can only be done during such hours as it is possible to prohibit public vehicular and foot traffic from using the north side of Collins Street... The blocks of stone are lifted by means of these steel dogs which are inserted into two holes about 9" deep drilled into the top of each section. The holes are approximately three feet apart and each hole is drilled so that it converges towards the other. ...[The steel dogs] are held in their position by the inward pull of the sling and the consequent friction.... The stone in the second layer... is fastened to the section... which is comprised of brick and mortar, by means of steel ties... Further these stones in the second layer and below are tied together on each side as well as to the brick work at the rear. Moreover, each top stone has a lug cut into its side so that it either sits on top of the adjoining stone or underneath the adjoining stone.... This system of tying and interlocking necessitates the use of crow bars by two men standing on the cornice and finally the further use of the jack hammer during the process of dislodging the stones... The only alternative way... of cutting the stones would be by means of a stone saw which is a very much more noisy operation than the use of jack hammers and wedges. ...in my opinion quite apart from considerations of public safety it is a practical impossibility to demolish this cornice by removing the stones thereof without cutting the same into blocks. ...there is to the best of my information and belief no crane suitable for use in the demolition of the Building that has a sufficient reach... and which will carry a greater load than five tons. [Diesel compressors for jack hammers had been replaced by electric compressors, to reduce noise.] [Jim Whelan affidavit in Hotel London complaint case, 18/2/1960)

- 60/2 The dispute between Hotel London Pty Ltd and the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Pty Ltd over night work on the demolition of the massive CML Building... has been settled out of court. ...The Hotel company... claimed that the demolition operations of Whelan the Wrecker Pty Ltd were unnecessarily noisy, dusty and generally annoying. The hotel's staff and guests could not sleep. The insurance company replied that the City Council and Tramways Board (which was concerned with interference to traffic) would allow demolition work only between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. (Herald, 19/2/1960)
- 60/2 Barriers were erected to block traffic on N side of Collins Street during night work. During heavy rain on 25/2, a Volkswagon smashed into barricade[]severe damage. (MJW job diary)
- 60/3 Ran three shifts from March 1960. (MJW job diary)

29/3, 11.30 p.m. □ Myles received phone call at home from guest at London Hotel, re. noise. (likewise at 6.05 a.m. on 15/9/60) (MJW job diary)

[Letter from Stephenson & Turner to WW, 22/3/60] Enclosed is a copy of an old report which gives the weights and dimensions of the stones in the arch and portico. We cannot vouch for the correctness of the information, but are sending you the report in case it may be of some assistance to you.

[Report] ... The Arch is notable from the fact that the stones which compose it are set not in cement but the joints are filled up with metal. ... Within the Arch, the keystone of which weighs 15 tons, is erected a Portico of Ionic Pillars supporting a platform weighing 17 tons... (from CML 'Job File' in MJW CML box—copy on file)

The autumn of 1960 was the wettest on record since 1942 □ much time lost due to rain. (MJW job diary)

- 60/4 **Pic**—Looking east up Collins Street from the WW crane above the CML building, overlooking wreckers at work on parapet. (Industrial and Mining Standard, 21/4/60, p.12—copy in MJW CML files—original photo 'block' also in MJW CML box)
- 60/4 **[pic]** □ High above Collins Street, 140 feet to be precise, wrecker Tom Burrows works at the edge of a parapet on the CML building.] If you are looking for a piece of imported marble or a slab of granite as a reminder of Melbourne's famous landmark □ the CML building at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth sts □ you are a little too late. However, if you are interested, there are still a number of brass doorknobs, locks, hinges and letter boxes. Mr Myles Whelan... said most of the marble slabs and polished granite have been sold to stonemasons and coffee lounges for 6/ a square ft. (Herald, 29/4/60)
- 60/4 'People will buy anything if you give them half a chance,' [Myles Whelan] said. 'Since we started wrecking people have come and asked for a price on nearly ever item in the building. One person wanted a quote on the statue out the front. Another asked the price of the marble staircase. Someone even wanted to buy the numbers denoting the building's address in Collins Street.' Mr Whelan could not meet the request for the statue. It has been promised to the University architecture department for its summer school at Mt Martha. Nor could he sell the marble staircase, on which the National Museum had a prior claim. ... Now Mr Whelan is selling the hinges, brass door locks, keyholes, and letter boxes, samples of which are in the window. 'Generally we sell them in ones or twos, and to individuals and not companies,' he explained. 'The people who buy them are the sort who have a plain door they want to brighten up or feature.' (Age, 13/4/60)
- 60/5 3.30 pm approx. Myles returned to site from Phil [Port Phillip Hotel] Job. Ray Hodgkinson reported RSJ fell into London Hotel. Myles with Neville investigated matter. Mr Carlyon [London Hotel owner] supervising removal. RSJ removed by Whelan men. 1 Door damaged beyond repair. Mr Carlyon in genial mood. Not worried by incident and reported that he reprimanded neighbouring chemist for reporting matter to Herald. Don (Lewis Con[struction] □ CML building contractors) had matter in hand re. boarding up of door. No one injured. Spinning box on crane dislodged girder whose nuts had been partly burnt through for a quick removal. RSJ somersaulted down London Hotel Lane and speared through protective scaffolding. From there it hit door belting it into bar and approx 2-3' of RSJ protruded into Saloon Bar. Although it was remarkable that RSJ should hit this area of Hotel, it was most fortunate that no person was injured. (MJW

CML diary, Tuesday, 24/5/60) [Myles told me about this incident when I last saw him, on 9/10/03. He was, in fact, on the CML site at the time of the incident (or soon after). When informed by foreman, Neville Bowen, Myles' reaction was: 'I don't know anything about this.' And he promptly headed off on foot to check on progress the Port Phillip Hotel site. He had no wish to face the wrath of Mr Carlyon of the London Hotel, who had proved a difficult customer over the matter of wrecking noise at night. Returning from the PPH a couple of hours later, Myles was 'surprised' to learn of the incident—and appears to have been genuinely surprised by Carlyon's 'genial mood'.]

Carlyon had been aide de camp to General Thomas Blamey in the Middle East during WWII. (Tewksbury: Achieving a Vision, p.239)

60/5 Statue removed at 7 a.m. on Sunday, 22 May—weighed approx. 2 tons. Caretaker of building opposite CML (Mr Jago) complained of night noise—asked Myles: 'Would you like to visit my wife in Mont Park?' (MJW job diary)

Pic—Lowering of the sculpture 'Charity being kind to the poor' by Victor Tilsner, from the lintel above the entrance to the Colonial Mutual Life Building. [SLV H2001.145/34 / LTA 1603]

60/6 6 June 1960—Brick work removed from above arch. Attempt made to remove key stone. Stone broken into 1 section about 2 ton. Although work on this stone for 2_ hrs with gads, plugs and fethers etc. stone moved only about 3 inches. Will discuss matter further with Lodge Bros.

10.30am—Dick Lodge and Bill Ferris (Lodge Bros) inspect key stone with Myles and Neville. All agreed 3 proposals could further be adopted for its removal: (a) Jack up underneath on keystone and two adjacent stones with large jacks; (b) Cut adjacent stones on diagonal and remove stones; (c) Build outrigger off scaffolding and 'chew' stone away by boring pieces away from front of stone. This method very slow. The stone's removal will be done in above order.

9 June—Attempt made to remove key stone with jacks. 35 ton jack placed beneath main stone and 20 ton jack on each adjacent stone. 450 lb pressure exerted on key stone and still no great movement. After about 1 hr this given up and it was decided to build out platform and remove keystone in small pieces. This will be most tedious and will take at least 2 days.

11 June—Work continued on key stone. 2 men with drill and plugs and feathers. No great result from night's work and in Neville Bowen's words, it is 'an almost impossible task'.

12 June—Work on key stone much improved and Neville Bowen is confident of breaking through to-night.

13 June—Key stone almost removed—2 lifts to go.

14 June—Key stone finally removed. 2 lifts of this work only were to be done. 2 further stones on each side of arch removed. Lead joint in between stones extremely heavy and hard to remove from stone. Settlement on shoring key stone approx. 2 inches. Visible movement noticed by Neville who was standing on arch. Movement of arch was controlled and limited by steel ties in between stones and dogs and lead projection into stone of the lead jointing. (MJW CML diary, 6-14/6/60)

We were pulling down a big stone archway. The whole arch weighed about 450 tons. The stones were enormous. They averaged about eight tons. They had put them into position

and then poured the mortar down between them. The mortar, we found, was a mixture of tin and lead, and was worth about £1,000. (Myles in SMH, 28/5/65)

Demolition delayed because of ‘magnificent craftsmanship’ which included 11-ton cornice slabs of solid rock, buttresses and corner joints carefully interlocked, and a 400-ton lead-jointed archway that, even after the keystone (which weighed 15 tons) was taken out, settled only a few inches. (West Australian, 24/1/63)

[Arch stones held together with] Lead and antimony.... There was some 13 tons of the stuff. (Owen Whelan interview)

- 60/6 7 ton stone dropped while being lifted by crane. Narrowly missed spotter, Roger Aldridge, and damaged new compressor. Pin snapped—no reason. Stone dropped about 30’ and it was most fortunate that more serious damage didn’t occur. (MJW CML diary 18/6/60)
- 60/7 Sam Canali fell 40’ onto decking in Equitable Place at 11.55 pm approx. Accident should never have occurred and was careless resulting from inexperience of S. Canali. Canali lost balance, fell onto wall but due to the fact that he had both hands in his pockets (weather very cold) he was unable to save himself. Injuries broken wrist and internal injuries (not serious). (MJW CML diary 1/7/60)
- 60/7 11.45 pm—Ted Napier had a fall. Apparently fell off ladder when coming down to dressing room. Ted fell 34’ approx and was conscious when removed by ambulance. Inquiries later disclosed he had a compressed fracture in the spine and split tongue. (MJW CML diary, 28/7/60)
- 60/8 **[Pic]**—A three-ton block of granite being removed from what is left of the once-stately Equitable building... as wrecking operations continued yesterday.] Whelan the Wrecker has been racing against time to demolish the Colonial Mutual Life building... Whelan’s estimate the building will be down to ground level by September 1—a year after work began. They say the job is taking a month longer than they had expected, but is on schedule under the contract. Whelan’s attribute the delay to the ‘magnificent craftsmanship’ of the original building. When they inspected the building, they found... Eleven-ton cornice slabs of solid rock; Buttresses and corner joints painstakingly interlocked; Perfectly-fitting flues cut through solid stone chimneys; and A 400-ton lead-jointed archway constructed so perfectly that even after the 15-ton keystone was knocked out, it settled only a few inches! ‘It’s a masterpiece of construction,’ Mr Tom Whelan said, a trifle regretfully. ‘You wouldn’t get work like that today.’ (Herald, 19/8/60)
- 60/8 A 20 ft high, 10-ton cement column crashed within inches of dozens of pedestrians in Collins-st, City, today. The column was in the Colonial Mutual Life building which is being demolished. Workmen had just started to remove the column when it suddenly began to fall. It crashed against a makeshift office used by workmen on a gallery above the street and then against an air compressing machine at street level. It came to rest within inches of the footpath. **[pic]** (Herald, 5/8/60, p.2)
- 60/8 **[pic]**—CML site, wrecking nearly complete] For months the demolition work...has been one of the best free shows in Melbourne.... ‘Only a few walls and rubble remain,’ said

the wrecker, Mr Myles Whelan. 'We'll be out of here in early October,' he shouted above the noise as another wall was sent crashing by the great iron ball. (Herald, 22/8/60, p.18)

60/9 Accidents to date□

	L Sweeney	crushed finger	no time lost
18/11	V. Canali	bruised toe	5 days lost
	Flash	bruised toe	2 days
9/5	Roger Aldridge	bruised toe	10 days lost
	Kruzkowski	bruised chest	5 days
18/5	Canali, V.	pois. finger	6 days
	Pellarin, G.	bruised chest	1 day
	Canali, V.	burns from torch	no time lost

(MJW CML diary, 1/9/60)

60/9 The wreckers first moved in round December 1 last year. Since that time the Fish Market, the Eastern and Western markets have disappeared almost in the flicker of an eyelash. ...But the dear old CML building is hanging on, fighting the pneumatic drills, the oxy-acetylene torches, putting up a thoroughly decent fight for the 19th century. (Sun, 1/9/60)

60/9 The pneumatic drills have been going night and day for just on one year now, wrecking the old Colonial Mutual Life Assurance building... The job is almost completed. Another month or so should see the site finally cleared. ...on Friday the builders officially move in to start work. (Age, 7/9/60)

60/10 In an on-the-site ceremony to mark commencement of the £3,500,000 building, the CML chairman (Mr Allan Spowers) emptied a silver bucket of crushed granite from the old building into the first concrete for the new building. (Age, 19/10/60)

60/10 Whelan the Wrecker gazed down into the yawning hole that once held the Colonial Mutual Life building and said, respectfully: 'It was the toughest we ever pulled down.' The job was finished on Saturday. Whelan took 14 months to pull down the 60-year-old building... (Herald, 24/10/60)

61/4 'It would appear that the big increase in profits had been caused by the financial success of the Eastern and Western Market jobs... In addition the CML job had possibly not been as bad as had been anticipated previously.' (WW Pty Ltd minute book, 11/4/61□MJW)

61/5 This tower crane, specially imported from France, is being put up... for work on the new Colonial Mutual building. **[Pic shows empty site, looking west towards APA bldg]** (Herald, 22/5/61)

61/8 The famous marble pillars which graced the recently demolished Colonial Mutual building... are being built into the new war memorial Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, in Ballarat Road, Maidstone. **[pic□sketch]** Picture shows four of these Ionic columns in Belgian Rouge marble with black banding, forming the front entrance feature. The front gable facing is of similar marble and the internal columns to the Sanctuary arch are from the same source. (Age, 25/8/61)

61/9 Tomorrow... the company chairman, Mr Allan Spowers will hand a copper cylinder to US Consul-General, Frank S. Hopkins. This is the cylinder found under the foundation

stone of the old CML building when it was demolished last year. It contains coins and documents of 70 years ago. The cylinder will be received by Mr Hopkins on behalf of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, who erected the old building in 1893.... The container and its archives will be put on display at the dedication of Equitable's now home office in New York... (Age, 12/9/61)

61/10 CML demolition complete c.31/10/61. (MJW job diary)

WW's fee for the job was £80,500. Net cost at completion £110,225 £118,304, less £8078 received in sale of materials £73,385 man-hours. (MJW CML files)

It took WW a long time to recover financially from the CML job. A lot of the salvage lay at the Brooklyn yard for years before it brought in money. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

There had been 11 fellows killed putting it up originally. It had a terrible safety record. The City council said after we'd finished they'd expected us to kill three men, and if we had killed only three, we'd've done a damn good job. (Myles in Personal Success magazine, June 1987)

...in all that period [1960-80s], we were the dominant people. And I think it always sprang from the CML because, as I said, there were so many problems associated with that that we had to alter our thinking. (Owen Whelan interview)

61/10 Three riggers died when the jib of a giant crane fell 80 ft on to the partly-built Colonial Mutual Life Assurance building. (Herald, 27/10/61)

The new building erected in its place used some of the original grey Harcourt granite for exterior facing panels. (Melb Museum website)

When the original building was demolished in 1960, the statuary was presented by Colonial Mutual to the University of Melbourne. For many years it was situated on the University's School of Architecture property at Mt. Martha, on the Mornington Peninsula, before being moved to the Carlton campus in 1981. It was installed between the South Lawn and the Baillieu Library and is now a permanent feature of the landscape. (Melb Museum website)

...she was donated to the University summer school of architecture at Mount Martha.... I went down to see her there one year, and she looked pretty ordinary because she had an old hat on her head and a cigarette hanging out of her mouth, and... you know, various parts of her anatomy were very highly polished. You know, she was the butt of student jokes down there. Anyway, they ultimately gave her to the Melbourne University, and she's up there. And there was a bit of an outcry with the feminist students, I understand, because they reckoned that they didn't want her there: they reckoned that it was an unwarranted display of motherhood. (Owen Whelan interview)

66/5 Demolition permit Drummond's Building, 344-46 Collins Street 2-storey brick (jeweller's) shop wrecked for AMP, \$2550. (MCC 167/3, Box 21, D2517)

Demolition permit 1-7 Fleming Place, Melbourne (next lane W of Equitable, off Lt

Collins (ex Robertson & Mullen book warehouse) 4-storey brick and storeroom wrecked for CML Ltd, \$4,500. (MCC 167/3, Box 21, D2525)

The company demutualised in 1996, was listed on the Stock Exchange in 1997, then merged with the Commonwealth Bank in 2000. (Museum of Melbourne website)

2000 The statuary above the portico went to the University of Melbourne. Many of the original granite blocks had been purchased privately and survived until 2000, when representative pieces were acquired by Museum Victoria. They now form the sculpture on Colonial Square.

The 25 blocks making up the Colonial Square sculpture at Melbourne Museum represent most of the ornamentation seen on the former Colonial Mutual Life building, one of the grandest ever built in Melbourne. The blocks give an indication of the scale of the construction and the superb workmanship that went into the stonemasonry. The magnificent carved capitals are especially notable.... Most blocks on display can be sourced to a feature at a particular level on the building. The six pieces forming the northern cluster are from the two upper floors of the building, close to one edge. The central cluster is made up of random pieces, including a carved slab carrying part of the original lettering for the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the USA (this was subsequently covered by Colonial Mutual Life signs after the building changed hands in 1923). Pieces of pink Cape Woolamai granite from the portico make up the southern cluster, with one block from a section of the base-course.... Museum Victoria acknowledges the generous support of the Commonwealth Bank in the presentation of this significant sculptural installation. (from Melbourne Museum website)

ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1867 **[pic]** Photo showing tobacconist on corner. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.149[RHSV pic])
- 1949 Photo in Jack Cato, Melbourne, p. 21
- 1956 Colour photo in Frank Hurley, Victoria: A Photo Study, p. 25
- 1960 Good b&w print of three Whelan workers erecting WW sign on CML statue. (SLV/WW, 57, p.59)
- 1961 Aerial view, showing demolition almost complete. (Herald, c. August 1960[SLV/WW 57, p.87])

5. COLLINS PLACE DEVELOPMENT

19thC Eastward of Russell street... [Collins Street] was formerly an avenue of private residences, some of them with gardens coming down to the street line, and fences of the conventional suburban type. These houses were occupied by the earlier Melbourne medical practioners. They lived with their families in these city homes, and only removed to the suburbs when the introduction of the telephone system made it possible for them to reside out of town. After the doctors' homes and gardens had disappeared terraces of two-storeyed houses of the mid-Victorian type were erected on the pavement line. These were occupied by the doctors as professional chambers... but the ground still increased in value, and it became necessary to erect taller buildings in order to realise better revenues. At the corner of Collins street and Exhibition street, south side, are two modern professional chambers. One of these, Lister House, was erected a little before the war by a syndicate of medical men who used a number of the chambers for their own practices and let the remainder....

...several blocks of old-fashioned four-storey dwellings on the north side of the street here have lately been fitted with modern shop fronts on the ground floor. Similar changes have been made to residences on the south side. Collins street east is therefore assuming still another character as an exclusive shopping thoroughfare.... It is the belief of shopkeepers in this locality that all the old buildings will soon give place to residential flats after the style of Melbourne Mansions, and that the population brought in by these changes will provide them with a good clientele. (Argus, 24/5/1927, p.9)

The southern portion became Collins Place [in 1880] and was renamed Exhibition Street in 1963. (*Melbourne Miles: The Story of Melbourne's Roads*, Dr Maxwell Lay, p.8)

71/6 A \$90 million multi-level city project featuring twin towers of more than 37 storeys will be built at the Paris end of Collins Street. The development, believed to be the most radical of its kind in Australia, will be built on most of the block bounded by Collins Street, Collins Place, Spring Street and Flinders Lane. **[Pic of site proposed for Collins Place development] [looking towards Collins-Exhibition corner from NW]** (Age, 10/6/71)

72/? The stethoscope end of Collins St now looks like a cross between the London blitz and the ruins of Pompeii. The Oriental Hoel-Lister House area is just possibly the best stage show in town... Soon there will be a vacant scene right along the south side down to Exhibition Street. **[pic] Owen, with hotel wrecking in background** (Place in the Sun, n.d. [SLV/WW 66/5])

72/4 **[pic]** Demolition is well underway between Collins St and Flinders Lane for the \$87 million ...Collins Place. The site... covers 3-1/3 acres... (Herald, 13/4/72)

72/7 The Blitz of Collins St. [The area is being developed by three companies] the ANZ Banking group, the AMP Society and Mainline Corporation. The companies bought the site...for about #12 mil. **[Pic of cleared site] [looking towards Collins-Exhibition corner from SW; also pic of Flinders Lane? building under demolition, looking north towards Collins]** (Herald, 25/7/72)

74-75? Development stalled after the 'Mainline crash' □ looked for a while as if buildings would remain half-finished □ E.A. Watts took over □ building due for completion 1980-81. (Sun, 21/12/76)

ORIENTAL HOTEL, 41-53 Collins Street

- 1854 Bedford Hotel, late residence of Sir William a'Beckett, Chief Justice. (Cole Collection)
- 1850s Mr Charles Hotson Ebdon, MLA, resided in an equally large dwelling [as 13-15 Collins St], which also stood back from the street. This building was finally demolished to make room for the extension of the Oriental Hotel. (Argus, 4/9/20, p.6)
- 1863 Ebdon's house acted as Government House for three days in September 1863. The new governor, Sir Charles Darling, stayed there until his predecessor, Sir Henry Barkly, sailed for Sydney. (Argus, 15/7/1940)
- 19thC Bedford Hotel built by Porter in 1846. In 1870 Sir Charles Ebdon bought the hotel—lived in house next door—41 Collins—house later occupied by Dr L.L. Smith, architect. Oriental Hotel built on Bedford site in 1878. (Australasian Builder, June 1972, p.220)

Oriental Hotel, 1878—70 rooms, accommodation for 100. (Cole Collection)

The Oriental may be said to be almost a part of Melbourne's social history. A hotel has stood upon the site for 90 years, the original hotel, then known as the Bedford, having been built and licensed in 1846. In 1870 it was purchased by Charles Ebdon, one of the first of the overlanders of the thirties to establish a sheep station in Victoria.... Ebdon lived in an old house adjoining the hotel, later occupied by Dr L.L. Smith, father of Sir H. Gengoult Smith.* (Herald, 24/11/36)

*Dr L.L. Smith, architect, was on the Exhibition Building Board of Trustees from 1881 until 1909. A commemorative bronze bust (1914) stands near the Nicholson St entrance. His son, Harold Gengoult Smith, also an architect, was likewise a Trustee from 1929 until 1973—also MCC councillor for many years.

Many readers will remember its fluted columns and small garden with statues. [Smith's house] (Argus, 15/7/1940)

- 1883 Melbourne's best hotels—'Menzies' and the Oriental are most to be recommended...' (Twopeny, Town Life in Australia, p.13)

P.K. Tewksbury born at Yackandandah—family moved to Sydney—at c.20 yo he returned to live with sister and her family at Porepunkah—gold dredging was then just starting (1890s?)—PKT made his fortune from gold dredging on the Ovens River—eventually had 11 dredges working, yielding more than £1 million of gold. Tewksbury started the City Motor Service in 1910—chauffeur car service—then similar in Sydney—then introduced Yellow Cabs, the first meter taxi service in Australia, in 1923—travelled widely—big-game hunting, mining, philanthropic ventures—bombastic skite.

'With his operations firmly established in the Bright district, Pearson Tewksbury took his household to Melbourne permanently. [he was still one of the youngest of Australia's highly successful men'] He had his office in Equitable Buildings, Collins Street, from which he visited his mines every week.... For some time during 1909 Tewksbury stayed at the Oriental Hotel, in Collins Street, which was then owned by the Ebdon Estate. With his fortunes assured through his gold mining returns, he and his wife made the hotel their home. During one of his absences some little disagreement arose between Mrs Tewksbury and the manager of the Oriental, and rather than endure a feeling of strained

relationship, Mr and Mrs Tewksbury moved to the Grand, in Spring Street. But neither of them was as happy there as at the Oriental, to which they had taken a definite liking. So Tewksbury made enquiries about the possibility of buying the Oriental. It might seem that he was prepared to spend an enormous amount of money just to gratify a whim, but he had faith in Collins Street values, and sufficient money to take a chance if he felt so disposed. ...he took possession in 1910. He and Mrs Tewksbury moved back immediately into what they had come to feel was their home and which he has owned ever since....

On part of the Oriental Hotel property a former Governor's residence had stood and the site was occupied by Dr L.L. Smith. There was a 9-inch party wall at the north end, and Tewksbury was anxious to buy the other 4.5 inches. But the owner of the other half of the wall refused to sell his 4.5 inches of the Collins Street frontage to the owner of the Oriental. So things remained until March 1936, when Dr Edward Ryan, who had bought the adjoining property proposed to demolish the 70-years-old building and erect a modern structure. Once again the old garden wall of former Governors came into question. Tewksbury and the doctor discussed the problem, and Dr Ryan finally made an offer which Tewksbury accepted £135 for Tewksbury's 4.5 inches frontage. In other words, £30 an inch. This is the smallest land deal ever made in freehold property anywhere in Australia...

At the time Tewksbury bought the Oriental, he intended to float a company and turn it over, but after he had spent more than £70,000 on re-building, the Great War broke out and the chances of a flotation were not so good.... (*Achieving a Vision: The Life Story of P.W. Tewksbury*, Vince Kelly, 3rd ed, 1950)

When the Oriental was taken over by Mr Tewksbury in 1911, the purchase included the old house, and also the land now occupied by the City Motor Service, in Flinders Lane. The old house was demolished, and the new wing of the Oriental erected at a cost of £60,000. (Herald, 24/11/36)

27/5 ...room has been left for extension of the Oriental Hotel. It is the belief of shopkeepers in this locality that all the old buildings will soon give place to residential flats after the style of Melbourne Mansions, and that the population brought in by these changes will provide them with a good clientele. (Argus, 24/5/1927, p.9)

1925 ...the sumptuous Oriental Hotel. Practically the whole of it has been rebuilt on the newest cosmopolitan lines. The lofty dining rooms, the luxurious self-contained suites, and the restaurant café downstairs are reminiscent of the finest hotels abroad. (Melbourne Guide Book, 6th ed, 1925, p.25)

29/8 £20,000 to be spent on Oriental Hotel—rebuilt before WWI, but 'There have been changes since in modern hotel construction which leave the possibility of the Oriental being enlarged and brought up-to-date.' Oriental 'has an exceptionally good position for a residential house at the eastern end of Collins street.' (Argus, 24/8/29, p.10)

When the Oriental was enlarged by the addition of a new wing, this took in the site of the Ebdon/Smith home. Site had 132 ft Collins St frontage, 209 ft deep. (Australasian Builder, June 1972, p.220)

33/8 If the City Council does not frown upon such a picturesque Continental innovation, it is probable that before long an attempt will be made to introduce Australians to the habit of sitting at little tables in the open air before hotels and cafes instead of in the depths of

- hotel lounges. Mr A.L. Kent, manager of the Oriental Hotel, who has a long European experience, said today that he thought Australians would take to the practice 'like a duck to water'.... Mr Kent thinks that the only reason why Australians do not sit in the sunshine before their cafes and muse on life and art is that they have no chance to do so. 'Melbourne seems to me to have an ideal climate for such things,' he said today, 'with sunshine eight months of the year. In places where the sidewalk is broad, as it is in Collins Street, one row of chairs and little tables could make no difference. Then, in fine bright weather, guests and people waiting for their friends could sit there.' ...He does not think that Australians are too self-conscious to adopt the habit. 'At first the younger generation would not care if people looked,' he says. 'As for the others, they could stay inside.... I would be the first to introduce it here if I could,' he adds. 'In good time I think that I shall ask permission.' (Herald, 10/8/33)
- 36/11 The freehold of the Oriental Hotel, Collins Street, for many years one of Melbourne's leading hotels, is to be offered at public auction on behalf of its present owner, Mr P.W.P. Tewksbury, on December 17.... Mr Tewksbury said today that his only reasons for selling were that he was frequently absent from Melbourne, and he felt it was desirable to wind up his affairs here. Its registers contain many famous names, including ...Sir Douglas Mawson,... Dame Nellie Melba, Sir Rider Haggard, ...and Ellen Terry. (Herald, 24/11/36)
- 37/10 HOTELS LIKE MORGUES—LACK OF NIGHT-LIFE.—Agreeing with recent critical tourists, Mr P.W. Tewksbury, proprietor of the Oriental Hotel, who returned in the Orion after a business and pleasure trip to America and Europe, sees Australian hotels as 'absolute morgues' in the evening inevitably dull for overseas visitors because they are not given the privileges they would have in their own homes.... Much of the disparaging criticism of Australian hotels heard from overseas tourists could be traced to the licensing restrictions. Mr Tewksbury said he did not favour opening bars after 6 p.m., but privileges to guests should be extended. (Herald, 18/10/37)
- 38/11 Involving transfer of existing bars, the main entrance and offices, and the erection of five modern shops facing Collins Street, a £10,000 programme of building works was begun today at the Oriental Hotel. The reconstruction has been begun in the rear section on the eastern boundary, where modernised toilet blocks are being provided. Plans are for the eastern part of the hotel to be reconstructed for the full depth on a 40 ft. frontage, the present shops being displaced by a bottle department, a private bar, and a lounge bar, the complete unit being served by a double entrance from Collins Street, giving separate access to the bottle department and the bars. The present eastern bar, immediately adjoining this area, will be eliminated and the area transformed into a new main entrance for the complete hotel. The entrance will be in distinctive modernised classic styling, with terra cotta surrounds, and the featured metal canopy now covering the main entrance will be moved to serve the new entrance. The present front lounges will remain, but the next 52 ft. of frontage west from the lounge will be rebuilt, with five shops replacing existing bars. (Herald, 17/11/38)
- 1941 ...the Oriental was a fine hotel, and fashionable. It still had a gracious, pillared portico extending out over the pavement to the kerb, a civilised touch now frequently absent, that had the practical value of enabling someone alighting from a vehicle to walk across the footpath in the rain without getting wet. (The Music Sellers, Peter Game, p.251)

- 47/8 Immediately building restrictions were lifted, a £500,000 13-storey hotel would be built on the present site of the Oriental, Collins-st., the owner, Mr P.W. Tewksbury, announced yesterday.... It would have 500 rooms, and, in addition, a large picture theatre and a block of professional rooms. It would be air-conditioned, have reception halls, banquet rooms, and, if possible, a large car park underneath. He hopes to have the bedrooms convertible to sitting rooms during the day. The beds would change into couches and the dressing-tables to writing desks. The hotel would be built to attract overseas guests. (Sun, 2/8/47)
- 47/11 **[pic]** Sketch of the proposed £500,000 new Oriental Hotel, to replace the present building when restrictions are relaxed. The hotel will comprise 13 floors with 500 rooms as well as dance floors and reception rooms. Beside the hotel will be a theatre for live artist shows. The owner (Mr P.W. Tewksbury) said today that other features would be: □A block of professional rooms. An open air café on the ground floor. An underground garage. Mr Tewksbury said that he wanted to build something worthy of the city and worthy of the times. Before the plans are finalised, Mr Tewksbury will visit America in search of new ideas. The work will go ahead as soon as building restrictions are lifted. 'I am an old man now and I want to see the new hotel built before I die,' Mr Tewksbury said. (Herald, 1/11/47)
- 48/4 The hotel has a frontage on Collins-st. of 132 feet and a depth of 210 feet. It has 104 rooms and can accommodate 150 guests. Finance? The [Nurses' Memorial Centre] appeal just closing was for £250,000; I'm tipping that the State Government will hand over at least £100,000 to help out.... Mr P.W. Tewksbury has held the place for 38 years; in his older age I guess he would rather see it go to war nurses than anywhere else □even if it means the shattering of the dream to erect there one of the world's most modern hotels. (Sun, 7/4/48) **[pic of P.W. Tewksbury]**
- 48/4 The licence of the Oriental Hotel, most of which will be used for a cultural and administrative centre for nurses, will be disposed of with the property and the premises are expected to be delicensed. The proprietor (Mr P.W. Tewksbury) plans to retain the dining-room and winter-garden of the present hotel as a restaurant. Sir Thomas Blamey said today that a committee had searched all over Melbourne for a suitable building to house the centre. Mr Tewksbury... said he was not enthusiastic about parting with it, but was happy to let it go as a nurses' centre. The contract of sale would provide for a suite of rooms to be at his disposal in the building during his life. Before signing he would want assurances that the hotel's employees were cared for. (Herald, 7/4/48)
- 48/4 Mr P.W. Tewksbury, who agreed yesterday to dispose of the Oriental Hotel... **[pic]** for use as a War Nurses' Memorial Centre, will not sever his 38-year-old association with the property. Part of the agreement of sale, he said yesterday, would be the reservation for him of a private suite of rooms for use during his lifetime.... Although no definite sale has been arranged, Mr Tewksbury has no doubt that the Oriental will become a War Nurses' Memorial Centre.... 'I feel sad at parting with the property,' he said, 'but realise it is ideal for the purposes of the centre, which will be a memorial to those nurses who did such a splendid job during the war.' (Sun, 8/4/48)

His mother was a personal friend of Florence Nightingale and wanted to go with her to the Crimea, which possibly accounts for his gesture in relinquishing his hotel. (Bulletin, 28/4/48)

It hit the headlines in 1948 when Sir Thomas Blamey announced that it was to be bought for £200,000 for a nurses' memorial centre. But an appeal raised only £100,000. (Herald, 14/3/69)

48/4 The Oriental Hotel will not become a war nurses' memorial. It has been withdrawn from sale.... 'Our staff, number 100 or more, whose wages amount to over £28,000 a year, have petitioned me, asking that I consider their position, as they rely on me for their livelihood. We are also having to take bookings for the Cup and the coming visit of the King and Queen. Considering all the difficulties, I have decided that it will be best to consider negotiations closed.... The Lord Mayor (Sir Raymond Connelly), who is treasurer of the War Nurses' Memorial Centre, said that strong pressure had been brought to bear on him as Lord Mayor to have the Oriental Hotel retained as a hotel. ... Those opposing surrender of the hotel contended that hotel accommodation already was acutely scarce, and to take the Oriental's annual facility of 52,000 beds out of the city would be tragic. It would also mean that probably £500,000 less money would be circulaeted in Melbourne by visitors who could not be accommodated otherwise. ... He had suggested to Mr Tewksbury that, when rebuilding the Oriental Hotel, as planned, he perhaps might add two floors for the exclusive use of nurses. Members of the War Nurses' Memorial Committee are stunned by the tidings... Matron Sage of the Women's Hospital... was Matron-in-Chief of the Australian Army Nursing Service.... She said that [the committee] had hoped to be able to acquire the hotel for cash in a week or two. (Sun, 24/4/48)

Bad feeling between Sir Thomas Blamey and PW Tewksbury after Nurses' Memorial Centre fell through. Each blamed the other. According to the *Truth*: 'T.A. Blamey has an office on one side of Collins Street, and the Oriental is on the other. Relations between the two sides are about as cordial as though the street divided Tel Aviv and Jaffa.' (Achieving a Vision, p. 241)

[After WWII] Delays in obtaining building materials and labour were inevitable on almost every construction job... as the post-war years dragged by, Pearson Tewksbury... began to accept the probability that his plans for the reconstruction of the Oriental as a big modern residential hotel worthy of Melbourne could not be accomplished during his lifetime. Actually building costs between 1939 and 1950 had tripled... The plans and specifications for the new Oriental were drawn by a leading Melbourne architect, Mr Leslie Perrott. They provided for rebuilding at a cost of about £1,000,000 and for about 350 guest rooms and 150 professional suites. ... Pearson Tewksbury anticipated opposition to his own building scheme [by the govt and unions] and had provided for it. He had no desire to interfere with the housing programme, nor to draw on the pool of labour and materials necessary to it. ... the architect proposed that he should arrange for the importation of all the materials required for the new Oriental, also the importation of the skilled and unskilled labour required for its construction. [Govt said No.] This was in April, 1949... Tewksbury was... not concerned with having the Oriental rebuilt merely to absorb some of the influx of [Olympic] Games visitors. As he put it, 'I wouldn't spend tuppence on the hotel to provide additional accommodation just for the Olympic Games, which would be a momentary phase in our normal liffe. But accommodation for regular patrons and overseas visitors is both an urgent and permanent necessity.' ... When this edition went to the presses [1950] he was still battling to give Melbourne an hotel worthy of the city, one of the most modern, and probably the largest, in Australia. ... The gradual

abolition of trams was another plan espoused by Pearson Tewksbury. (*Achieving a Vision: The Life Story of P.W. Tewksbury*, Vince Kelly, 3rd ed, 1950)

Mr Pearson Tewksbury, one of the characters of this town, had plans to turn it into a 13-storey, 600-room hotel, but he died [in 1953] before he could push it through. (Sun 4/12/70; Herald 24/3/55)

- 54/12 **[Pic]** The Oriental Hotel's pillared verandah—one of the last in Melbourne, apart from those at the City Council's Victoria Markets—will be gone in about 10 days.... 'It's too stupid for words,' Oriental's manager, Mr E.E. Tewksbury, said today. 'This portico is as safe as the day it was put up early in the century. It will cost us nearly £200 to pull it down....' The portico is supported by five-inch square, cast iron posts and is all-iron construction. The posts are set back from the kerby to the same distance as telegraph and tram standards. Cars have hit them from time to time—and always come off second best. Removal of the portico brings another problem to the hotel—it is the trademark embossed on all its stationery and crockery. (Herald, 3/12/54)
- 55/3 Yesterday, with his wife and son, [Maurice 'Mick' Ress] acquired the Oriental Hotel... 'We've dreamed of owning the Oriental for 15 years.... I'm not saying what was paid for it—but it was plenty! We bought the whole 50,000 shares and have a long-range plan to spend £100,000 or more on its transformation into Melbourne's finest hotel. If building strikes clear up, we hope to have it ready for the Olympic Games.' (Herald, 25/3/55)
- 55/3 The Oriental Hotel, well-known city landmark at the east end of Collins st. has been sold and will be altered extensively in time for the Olympic Games. One proposal is to provide bathrooms for the 90 bedrooms... (Argus, 25/3/55)
- 56/5 The first of the Oriental Hotel's eight luxury suites is now ready for occupation—at £10 a day.... **[pics]** The new 'President' suite has everything from a chiming doorbell to a thermostatic-controlled shower.... Each suite is booked already for the Olympic Games. (Herald, 19/5/56)
- 58/2 Paris came to Collin-st. today when the Oriental Hotel opened this boulevard café **[pic]**—Melbourne's first. Nineteen pine all-weather tables with multi-colored umbrellas were placed between the plane trees in front of the hotel, hiding the forbidding row of grey parking meters. And for Mrs Leon Ress, the French wife of the hotel's chairman and managing director, it was just like being home again. 'This is wonderful,' she said. 'It is just like the Champs Elysees back home in Paris.' The outdoor café will seat 76 people. Two waitresses and a waiter will serve espresso coffee and Continental cakes and sandwiches. ...It is on a three months trial. Mr Leon Ress said no liquor would be sold outside the hotel. (Herald, 7/2/58) **[check Melbourne Street Life—first street café? Origin of 'Paris end'?!]**
- 60/1 The Chief Secretary (Mr Rylah) has instituted immediate inquiries into a police order to close Melbourne's picturesque sidewalk café at the top of Collins Street. Mr Rylah said yesterday he believed the café was a great asset to Melbourne.... The Chief Police Commissioner (Mr Porter) said last night he believed the order was made because the café hindered traffic.... Its gay sun umbrellas have stood under the trees during Melbourne's summer months since February, 1958. The café has been featured in books,

- pamphlets and posters throughout the world. It was once shown on British television... Mr Ress said the café did not run at a profit but has been kept going as a tourist attraction. It had become the hotel's signature and, often, Melbourne's signature in Australia and abroad. (Age, 6/1/60)
- 63/10 Fancy new eating and meeting places like the Rib Room and Harlequin Room at the Ress Oriental... (Sun, 26/10/63)
- 65/10 ...opening of the new Persian Room tonight. The dining room... is decorated in deep purples, reds, blues and gold and has dim lighting. Work on the room took five months. (Herald, 4/10/65)
- 65/10 The Premier, Mr Bolte, hitch-hiked last night on the dance-floor of the new Persian Room at the Ress-Oriental Hotel. Mr Bolte officially opened the richly-coloured restaurant-discotheque where 180 people can dine and dance to a library of 500 records. And having done that, the Premier was 'talked' onto the floor by dance instructor, Denise Drysdale, 18, of Richmond, to do the hitch-hiker, a new dance. **[Pic]** (Sun, 5/10/65)
- 69/3 ...a beauty contest to find the 'Casbar queen'... There are six girls in the final judging to be held at the Casbar at 10.30 tomorrow night. The judges will be Ross D. Wylie, Ronnie Burns, Leon Kamer, Tony Healey and myself [Sean Hanrahan]. (Herald, 14/3/69)
- 69/3 The Ress Oriental Hotel at the Paris end of Collins St. has been sold...and will be pulled down for a shop-and-office block. I believe the asking price was \$2 million and that the hotel was sold for just a little less.... The Ress family which formerly owned the Ress Astorial Hotel in Exhibition St. bought the Oriental in 1955 for an undisclosed price. It was said to have been about £250,000.... Now there's an American-style cocktail bar just off the foyer. And the pop groups that pound out nightly in the Casbah room would have Dame Nellie rolling in her grave. (Herald, 14/3/69)
- 71/3 ...the last day of the auction and the last rites at the Ress Oriental. It would be difficult to underestimate the extraordinary atmosphere of this auction. It took place in the Persian Room on the ground floor. Now the Persian Room was the grand old, very roast-beefish dining room converted to a discotheque. To do this Leon Ress installed great drapes, gold chairs, beaded screens, naughty intimate little alcoves and great gold Persian cats with triple-sided human heads. The whole idea was to make the place look like a Persian harem with overtones of a sense of sin. ...TV cameras roamed around the building upstairs while bidders watched the TV screens in the Persian Room.... [In the bar] First, the electric clock on the wall, a clock that had been somewhat guiltily watched from 10 a.m. on for at least 20 years, went for only \$6. All the shelves, cupboards, panels, drawers, etc. on the entire back wall went for \$15. All the veneer panelling in the main bar area fetched a mere \$10. ...the grand old bar, 39 ft. long, was knocked down for a miserable \$5. Ahhhh, the chances that are lost. One could have re-created the entire Oriental saloon bar at home for \$36.... As for the Persian Room... one of the cats brought \$30 and a whole wall with the little alcoves, tables, drapes and five cats thrown in, went for \$400. (Sun, 22/3/71)
- 72/1 Demolition permit 6-storey building wrecked for ANZ, \$30,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3403)

WAVERLEY/ASTORIA HOTEL

- Originally licensed as Waverley Hotel, 1883. 50 rooms in 1931. (Cole Collection)
- 61/12 It will be 'business as usual' for two historic city hotels—Scott's in Collins-st. and the Astoria, in Collins-pl—which are closing today. (Sun, 30/12/61)
- 68/10 Another large residential hotel of this time [1880s] was the Waverley (north-east at Exhibition). This building, too, still stands, but as a hotel it saw out its time in recent years as the Ress-Astoria. (Herald, 12/10/68)
- 72/7 Demolition permit—44-50 Exhibition Street—Roma Fountain Snack Bar/Madrid Cabaret—wrecked for AMP, \$10,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3497)

52-56 COLLINS PLACE/EXHIBITION STREET (Collins Place Parking)

72/8 Demolition permit□2-storey building□\$16,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3506)

FREEMASONS' HALL (and adjoining buildings), 17-31 Collins Street through to 22-34 Flinders La

1885-7 Freemasons' Hall foundation stone laid 19/3/1885; building completed 10/3/1887. (Australasian Builder, June 1972, p.220)

55/7 Part of Melbourne's character and past is vanishing behind four shop fronts in [19] Collins Street. As a house—one of the few left in a street proud of its gentility—it was solid, formal, but beautiful in the style of more than 100 years ago. The ground floor, the front and everything that made the house remarkable are being 'altered' as the shop walls batter their way in. [pics—house before alterations & with shops under construction] (Herald, 25/7/55, p.4)

69/12 A Collins St. building [no. 19] which figured in the history of the Eureka Stockade is in danger of being demolished. The double-storey brick building—hidden from public view by a row of shops—adjoins the old Masonic Hall at the 'Paris' end of Collins St. The site of the old hall and the adjoining building has been bought by a Sydney company which plans to erect a 31-storey hotel. Historian Mr Eric Moorhead said yesterday the old brick building had served as the headquarters of the British military forces in Australia from 1854 to 1859. In 1854, when miners were revolting on the Ballarat gold fields, the then military commander, Maj.-Gen. Sir Robert Nickle, occupied the building. It was there, Mr Moorhead said, that Sir Robert planned a relief march to Ballarat to reinforce detachments of the red-coated 40th Regiment and the 12th Regiment, who were trying to keep order on the diggings.... Mr Moorhead said that workmen renovating the building for use as offices by the Masonic Order a few years ago had found a reminder of the role played by the building. They found behind an old cupboard the 1854 duty rosters of the 40th Regiment, kept in neat copperplate on age-marked blue paper. [A letter from Moorhead published a few days earlier stated that the papers had been lodged with the RHSV.] (Sun, 24/12/69)

70/8 Demolition permit—2 x 2-storey brick shop and factories; 4-storey brick hall. Wrecked for United Grand Lodge of Freemasons, \$49,750. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3210)

And the Freemasons' Hall—there was always a lot of chiacking going on, you know, with [us] being Catholics and the Freemasons... And we'd say to the blokes, our Masonic mates up at the golf club, 'Oh, we're doing it all for nothing.' I remember we found a box of black balls there, too. You know, the black balls and the white balls? You've heard of that expression, black-balled? Well, they'd take a vote: are we going to let Owen Whelan in? In other words, it'd be a way of keeping your opinion quiet. A lot of exclusive clubs, they'd say, 'Oh, so-and-so, he was black-balled.' I think if you agreed, you'd put a white one in, otherwise a black. (Owen Whelan interview)

OCCIDENTAL HOTEL, NE cnr Collins & Exhibition

19thC Edward England was granted a licence in May 1848 for the Duke of York Hotel. In 1863, G.D. Gallogly changed the sign to the Civil Service. (What's Brewing, March 1953, p.9)

19thC Originally licensed as Duke of York Hotel, 1848.
Civil Service Club Hotel, 1863-72
United Service Club Hotel, 1873 (rebuilding)-1911
Occidental, 1911+ (Cole Collection)

27/5 Plans have long been in existence for the rebuilding of the Occidental Hotel... and room has been left for extension of the Oriental Hotel. It is the belief of shopkeepers in this locality that all the old buildings will soon give place to residential flats after the style of Melbourne Mansions, and that the population brought in by these changes will provide them with a good clientele. (Argus, 24/5/1927, p.9)

71/12 A mysterious affair was inquired into yesterday by the city coroner, viz., the death of Mrs Gallogly, wife of the landlord of the Civil Service Club Hotel, at the corner of Collins-street and Stephen-street. It seemed that Mrs Gallogly went to bed, alone, on Sunday night, and on Monday morning was found dead in a bed in another room. There were bruises on many parts of her body, and a severe wound on the top of the head, which was the evident cause of death. The deceased was subject to epileptic fits. The mystery is that with a wound which must have been followed quickly by insensibility she should have been found lying composedly in bed, with the clothes drawn over her, if the wound was received during a fit. The door of her own room, though open when her candle was put out on the Sunday night, was locked on the Monday morning, and the key found on the stairs. The inquest, after several witnesses had been examined was adjourned for 10 days. (Argus, 20/12/1871) [No sign of resumed inquest 10 days hence. However, Mrs Gallogly's mysterious death excited an amount of correspondence re. other deaths in similarly queer circumstances. Speculation that Mrs G must have taken a fit and fallen down stairs.]

72/6 When his lease expired in June 1872, he refused to leave. An ejectment order was obtained by the owner, Patrick O'Brien. (What's Brewing, March 1953, p.9)

1883 [Melbourne's best hotels]... Menzies' and the Oriental are most to be recommended; after these try the United Club Hotel, or, if you be a bachelor, Scott's. (Twopeny, Town Life in Australia, p. 13)

Pic photo (Early Melbourne Architecture, p. 34)

56/11 The Occidental Hotel...was old-fashioned in many respects, a Licensing Court supervisor said today. He told Licensing Court the hotel's ventilation was inadequate, the bar room too small and the glass-washing facilities insufficient. The supervisor... said he found the hotel clean, but he did not think it conformed to Board of Works sewerage standards or the Uniform Building Regulations. Mr Moran said that when he inspected the hotel on July 25, he saw a man washing dishes and cooking utensils in a galvanised-iron tub. He thought the toilet facilities should be improved, the bathrooms modernised, and the vestibule used for food-serving should be renovated and fly-proofed. [He] was reporting

on an application by the licensees, Mr and Mrs A. Greening, for renewal of their licence. (Herald, 2/11/56)

- 57/2 The Occidental Hotel, a city landmark..., will be auctioned about April 10. The Licensing Court was told yesterday that the trustee of the hotel was not prepared to carry out structural alterations and improvements... which would cost more than £10,000.... Yesterday... the court renewed its licence for the current year so that it can carry on pending the proposed disposal of the property. The property has a frontage on Collins Street of 52 feet and 130 feet on Exhibition Street. Dr [M.B.] O'Sullivan [life tenant and trustee of the property] said last night that the Occidental was more than 100 years old. It has been owned by his family since 1905. Among the celebrities who had stayed at the hotel were Madame Melba and the late Madge Elliot. Melba always stayed there when she came to town. (Age, 4/2/57)
- 57/12 The Occidental, one of the oldest hotel buildings in Melbourne, is to be pulled down. Plans for a luxury hotel on the site are being discussed. Balmoral Enterprises Pty Ltd has bought the property... for a price exceeding £100,000.... In the 1850s when it was built, the Occidental was the only hotel in the east end of Collins Street. It was originally the Duke of York Hotel and later the United Services Club Hotel. The name was changed to the Occidental in 1905.... The vendor was the trustee of the estate of the late Dr M.U. O'Sullivan, a well known Melbourne surgeon, who died several years ago. (Herald, 18/12/57)
- 58/8 After an ominous period of uncertainty, the official doom of the Occidental Hotel, Collins-st., has been pronounced. It will make way for an office building. People who remember it in its heyday will regret its passing. It was one of the last links with a more leisurely, easy-going Melbourne when Australians were content to be themselves and the customs and decorative schemes of Honolulu and Las Vegas were not regarded as necessarily the high peak of civilisation. The Occidental, before it underwent some remodelling, really looked as if it had been there since the Gold Rush. Its quaint upper gallery and its potted palms gave it an air of its own; you felt that people who appreciated it had been coming in for the best part of a hundred years, as indeed they had. I often stayed at the Occidental under the benevolent management of Mrs Baird, when it seemed to me a model of what a hotel should be. If you have stone hot-water bottles in the bed you don't care whether there is central heating. If you have excellent service you don't mind whether the passageways are narrow and twisting. If you have good food as well you have everything. Mrs Baird, of course, knew everyone who came to the Occidental and everything about their cousins and their aunts and their children. This was as it should be. This sort of hotel is apparently no longer profitable and is going out of fashion, at least with big hotel companies which, seemingly, can't get rid of any Australian atmosphere quickly enough□there have been notable acts of destruction in this direction in the past few years. Personally I think this is a mistaken attitude on all counts, and that even that glamorous figure, the hypothetical American tourist spilling dollars as he walks, would be glad to stay at a comfortable Australian hotel rather than one that looked as if it had just been run up in Hackensack, N.J. (Sun, 26/8/58)
- 58/8 [pic□artist's impression] Here's the new office building to replace the old Occidental Hotel... The whole 135 ft west side will e a glass curtain wall, but it will be screened from the direct western sun by a series of grilles.... The building will have seven upper

- floors... The top floor will be a restaurant to seat 102, with an open roof garden on the Collins-st end. (Herald, 26/8/58, p.3)
- 58/8 The man who will pull down the 100-year-old Occidental Hotel in Collins Street, Mr David Stern, Managing director of Balmoral Enterprises Pty Ltd, genuinely regrets its passing. He had hopes for a bigger and better Occidental Hotel, some 10 stories high, and even had plans and sketches drawn... Then Mr Stern made a discovery. For his one-man enterprise, the hotel's return compared with capital outlay would not be high enough. 'Melbourne is not a tourist terminal,' explained Mr Stern. 'If it were not for a few gay young people who have an occasional night out, more hotels would close.' (Age, 27/8/58)
- 58/9 At 6 p.m. on Saturday, a beer tap in the Occidental Hotel saloon bar gurgled and its flow trickled to a stop. And with it ended the century-long career of the hotel. With perfect timing, the last keg ran dry as the cry of 'Time, gents, please' sounded in the tiny, wooden-panelled bar for the last time. Drinkers—many of them old customers—packed the bar to drink a farewell toast. During the last hour, the crowd was so thick, the supply of glasses was exhausted. Last-minute trade in the bottle department was heavy too. When draught beer ran out, a group of drinkers opened several bottles, determined to quaff the last beers in the hotel.... The licence did not expire until midnight, but no drinks or meals were served after 6 p.m. All the guest rooms were empty. Balmoral Enterprises Pty Ltd, which bought the hotel for £100,000, will erect a seven-storey office building containing a savings bank and a shop arcade. Mr and Mrs Alan [and Alice] Greening,... held the licence for eight years... (Sun, 1/9/58)
- 58/9 Beautiful furniture went for a song when the Occidental Hotel's fittings were auctioned today. A hundred years of history disintegrated under the auctioneer's hammer as bidders nodded their purchase of glorious pieces of cedar and mahogany. Their bargains included: A mahogany de luxe combination wardrobe and dressing table for £25; A mahogany polished bridge chair in floral linen, 35/; Mahogany luggage racks, £1 each; Floral room carpets, £25 to £30; A triple-door mahogany wardrobe (fitted interior) £28. (Herald, 4/9/58)
- 58/9 The furniture and fittings of 27 bedrooms at the Occidental Hotel...were sold at auction yesterday. Next week wreckers will move into the building... there were no antiques in the hotel—oldest piece was a cedar bureau, about 70 years old. It brought £18. The former licensee... said that the hotel had been refurbished with reproduction pieces about 12 years ago... (Sun 5/9/58)
- 58/9 A lamp which hung outside the Occidental Hotel... for more than 80 years was sold at auction yesterday for 5/. It will become a garden ornament. (Sun, 6/9/58)
- 58/10 A major change will soon take place at the top end of Collins Street, when a projected seven-storey building, with its 'glass curtain wall', rises on the site of the Occidental Hotel... After seeing a design of the building which will replace the Occidental, Norman Lindsay, the great Australian artist, writes to me from Springwood, in the Blue Mountains...: 'This building, which will destroy Melbourne's most pleasing vista, is a final triumph to modernistic art, with its slogan of death to all beauty.... There is,' he writes, 'only one finality to such abominable glass anthills and that is a bomb. Any old bomb will do, not necessarily atomic. A dyspeptic contemplation of what such a creation

represents of moral retrogression under the name of Progress can only resort to the war-cry of anarchy: The whole thing is rotten! Destroy it!' (Sun 1/10/58)

58-59 **pic** Demolition of buildings on the corner of Exhibition and Collins Streets, Melbourne, to make way for the Reserve Bank building shows workers on slate roof, half-demolished walls, WW truck Lyle Fowler photo SLV accession no. H94.150/63 (copy on file)

Glass 'Residential Lounge' doors went to WW office. (People, 3/5/67 scrapbook, p. 13)

59/6 The Occidental Hotel site... and a three-storey building adjoining it in Collins-st., have been bought for the Melbourne office of the Reserve Bank of Australia for more than £200,000.... Under the new Federal Banking legislation the Reserve Bank of Australia must be completely independent of the other banks. It will play the role of a Central Bank. A branch of this bank will be set up in all State capitals. The Occidental site...is now used as a car park.... (Sun, 19/6/59)

60/10 Behind this fence which has just been erected in Collins-st. contractors will soon put up a house with a swimming pool but no one will ever live in it. The house on the Exhibition-st. corner once occupied by the Occidental Hotel will be a show house to raise money for the Heart Foundation of Australia Appeal. Then it will be demolished.... Yesterday, officials of the City Building Surveyors' Office could not remember the last house built in Collins-st. Records go back to 1916. (Sun, 5/10/60)

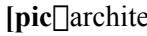
FARRER HOUSE, 24-28 COLLINS STREET □ N side


67/8 □ Demolition permit □ 4-storey building □ \$6875. (MCC 167/3 Box 22 D2730)

NATHAN BUILDING, 59 Collins Street

72/2 Demolition permit□2-storey building□\$1000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3429)

HARTNELL HOUSE, 60-70 Flinders La (next to Astoria Hotel)

56/8 Flinders Lane is having a 'face-lift'... One of the buildings to be rebuilt soon is 60-70 Flinders Lane... It will be called Hartnell House.  (Herald, 3/8/56, p.14)

72/6 Demolition permit  \$28,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3477)

ADMIRALTY HOUSE/CIRO'S RESTAURANT, 57-63 Exhibition St □ W side, S of Strachan Lane

[Pic □ Early Melbourne Architecture, p. 34]

[Pic □ SLV Accession # H92.20/10287-9 □ Lyle Fowler pic showing empty site, with WW sign]

67/9 Demolition permit □ 2-storey brick reception hall □ \$3700 (MCC 167/3, Box 22, D2479)

23-25 COLLINS PLACE (EXHIBITION STREET)

There is a possibility—even a strong probability—that... numbers 25-27 Collins Place are the oldest buildings in Melbourne... I have traced the history of these twin dwellings very closely, but have never been prepared to state definitely that they are the oldest remaining structures in Melbourne. They had many successive tenants before Mr J.A. Smith occupied them. One was a store for some time.... It is true that Mr Leach built them in 1844, but that does not establish them as the oldest in the city. (letter to Herald, 2/6/34)

- 41/9 The small, squat 97-year-old hermitage of one of Australia's greatest engineers, the late Mr James Alexander Smith, in [25] Collins Place, Melbourne, is being demolished by wreckers. Passers-by grew accustomed to the picturesque, bearded old figure that stood leaning in the doorway of the cottage, without realising that he was the man who propounded the scheme for roofing the Jolimont railway yards, who helped to select the prize-winning plan for Canberra, who with his scientific papers had a revolutionising effect on the design of steam turbines, and who built the Newport railway workshops. He lived for 16 years in the little cottage that remained unchanged while four and five-storey buildings of the new Melbourne rose around it. His rare excursions from the house were mainly to post letters in Flinders Street. In August, 1939, at the age of 76, he became too ill to care for himself in the cottage and was removed to hospital. He died in April 1940. The owners, the Australian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd will not rebuild on the allotment until after the war. (Herald, 6/9/41, p.3)

James Alexander Smith was a member of 4-man (2 x architects, 2 x civil engineers) committee which revised MCC Building Regulations, between 1909-16. (Age, 16/6/28)

[Pics] View of Exhibition Street, from SW cnr of Flinders La [10/11/38] cottages visible in lower left corner [SLV accession # H19639 [copy on file]
Cottages under demolition (WW sign on chimney) [SLV accession #H19968 [copy on file] [from Sun 30/8/41, p.12] caption: 'Tearing down cottages in Collins-pl., near Flinders-st. They were built about 80 years ago.'

LANCASHIRE HOUSE , 36-50 Flinders Lane☐NE cnr Henderson La (rear Oriental Hotel)

71/11 Demolition permit☐7-storey concrete building☐for AMP, \$28,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3392)

71/12 Lancashire House demolished. (Place in the Sun, 16/12/71, p.9)

JOHN HUNTER HOUSE, 55-57 Collins

72/5 Demolition permit for 5-storey brick and concrete building for ANZ, \$35,000 (includes another building). (MCC 167/3, Box 26 D3463)

RYAN HOUSE (or THIRTY-THREE), 33-37 Collins Street □ W of Freemasons' Hall

1910 'When P.W. Tewksbury bought the Oriental in 1910, he found it shared a parti-wall with an old Government building [33 Collins]. To gain full rights, he bought four and a half inches of land at £30 an inch!' (Australasian Builder, June 1972, p.220)

c.1930 **pic** □ Residences at 33-35 Collins St □ Lyle Fowler pic □ SLV accession no. H7700

1937 Built by Dr Edward Ryan. Building 1 inch too wide, encroached on Oriental Hotel site. P.W. Tewksbury sold the inch to Ryan for £120. (Place in the Sun, 16/12/71)

71/12 Used to house 40 doctors □ only one left. Closes forever on Christmas Eve. Wrecking to begin after Christmas. (Place in the Sun, 16/12/71)

72/1 Demolition permit □ 5-storey building □ for AMP, \$20,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3401)

LISTER HOUSE, 61-65 Collins Street□Exhibition St cnr

- 27/5 At the corner of Collins street and Exhibition street, south side, are two modern professional chambers. One of these, Lister House, was erected a little before the war by a syndicate of medical men who used a number of the chambers for their own practices and let the remainder. (Argus, 24/5/1927, p.9)
- 71/12 Used to house 87 doctors□only one doctor and a caretaker left. (Place in the Sun, 16/12/71)

ASCOT HOUSE, 52-58 Flinders La

72/6 Demolition permit□3-storey brick building□\$18,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3476)

FLEET HOUSE, 38-60 Exhibition St (S of Lister Lane)

72/1 Demolition permit [4-storey brick building] wrecked for ANZ, \$15,000. (MCC 167/3
Box 26 D3402)

13-15 COLLINS STREET—E side of Freemasons' Hall
(WRECKED BY WW?)

- 1850s Not far from from Dr Howitt's corner still stands, some distance back from the road, a large 2-storeyed house which was occupied in 1856 by the staff of the Imperial Commissariat Department... Mr Charles Hotson Ebdon, MLA, resided in an equally large dwelling, which also stood back from the street. This building was finally demolished to make room for the extension of the Oriental Hotel. (Argus, 4/9/20, p.6)
- 19thC Eastward of Russell street... [Collins Street] was formerly an avenue of private residences, some of them with gardens coming down to the street line, and fences of the conventional suburban type. These houses were occupied by the earlier Melbourne medical practioners. They lived with their families in these city homes, and only removed to the suburbs when the introduction of the telephone system made it possible for them to reside out of town. After the doctors' homes and gardens had disappeared terraces of two-storeyed houses of the mid-Victorian type were erected on the pavement line. (Argus, 24/5/1927, p.9)
- 52/7 A... 14-storey building—the most modern in Victoria—will be built in Collins-st, near Spring-st, early next year. ...It will be built on the site, 13-15 Collins-st, next to the Masonic Hall, now occupied by the only building in Collins-st with a flower garden in front of it. The house, now doctors and architects' offices will be wrecked when work begins on the new building... (Sun, 30/10/52)
- 53/11 Plans are proceeding for demolition of No. 15 Collins Street, an old city landmark, and erection on this valuable site of a seven-storey office building. The scheme was held up a long time because two of the present tenants could not be removed. But in October an ejectment order was obtained... with a stay of execution to May 31.... No. 15 is one of the last of the nearly century-old surgery-residences which early in Melbourne's history made Collins Street the headquarters of the medical profession. The courtyard contains one of the largest magnolia trees to be found in a private enclosure in Melbourne. Two camellias more than 20 ft high testify to the age of this old-fashioned corner of Melbourne. (Herald, 20/11/53) **[pic of house front—Herald, 21/11/53]**
- 54/6 **[pics]** Few people know this old courtyard with its huge magnolia tree, although it is in the heart of the city. The building on the left was one of Melbourne's first schools. Tree, schoolroom and building below soon will be removed to make way for a ... seven-storey building. The site—No. 15 Collins-st. (Sun, 5/6/54)
- 55/1 **[pics]** Brick by brick it comes down—the remains of an old city farm house that had been one of Melbourne's earliest schools—and—Beauty of this grand old magnolia tree, that once looked down on a coach house and stables, forms a strong contrast to the shambling wreckage of the building. The perfume from its blossoms filtered throughout every room of the old house. The tree, too, is doomed.
The picturesque Colonial building at 13-15 Collins Street is under the hand of the wreckers and in its place will be a car park. Set back about 20 ft from its original iron picket fence, the 17-room house has been photographed by tourists and camera enthusiasts hundreds of times. It was originally owned by a Dr Grey, an early medical practitioner of Melbourne.... Now the RSL has bought it and eventually a modern building will be built on the site. Two wells in the back of the building at one time supplied the household with water—and an old building in the grounds is the remains of a

farm house which was once used as one of the city's earliest schools. At the back of the house, a 75-year-old magnolia tree spread its branches over an old coach house and stables—relics of yesteryear. (Herald, 7/1/55)

[NB in 1965, 13-15 Collins St was the site of a carpark]

6. MELBOURNE MANSIONS / CRA BUILDING

- Silurian shale and sandstone overlaid by a comparatively thin layer of stiff clay. The rock starts approximately 40-45 ft below Collins Street level. (Institution of Engineers Journal, Jan-Feb 1962, p.15 [in SLV/WW 44])
- 1906 Geoffrey Syme, of the *Age* newspaper family, owned a site at 91-101 Collins Street, and late in 1903 he held an architectural competition for the design of a block of professional chambers and residential flats.... His building, 'Melbourne Mansions', finished up having medical consulting rooms in the basement and ground floor and twenty-seven residential suites above. There was a common dining room and kitchen, and serving pantries on each floor to deliver meals to the apartments. the larger suites also had their own small kitchens... [completed 1906] (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.105)
- Melbourne Mansions [5 floors + basement. First block of residential flats built in the city. (Herald, 14/4/49, p.3)
- Elegant building, similar in character to the Athenaeum Club, next door. Continued the same roof-line, but had nice balconies and arches and little round-topped turrets on the roof. Finest city apartments of their day [kept as Melbourne residences of Western District squatters. Downstairs was Mr Jonas, high-quality fruiterer. (Keith Dunstan, *Death of a Skyscraper*, Good Weekend, Age, Jan? 1987)
- 27/5 It is the belief of shopkeepers in this locality [Collins street E] that all the old buildings will soon give place to residential flats after the style of Melbourne Mansions, and that the population brought in by these changes will provide them with a good clientele. (Argus, 24/5/1927, p.9)
- 37/11 Demolition of 109-11 Collins Street to begin late 1937 (by WW?) [replaced by 6-storey building for Union Bank. Site measures 36 ft on Collins St x 87_ ft along George Parade. Acquired from Mr J.H. Tait, a director of J.C. Williamson Ltd. (Herald, 10/11/37, p.12)
- 49/4 Melb Mansions bought by 'big metals' group [future CRA]. Their present head office is Collins House. Agents in sale: Baillieu Allard Pty Ltd. No immediate plans for site. (Herald, 14/4/49, p.3)
- 50/1 **[Pic]** One of Melbourne's oldest buildings, No. 13 George-pde., between Collins-st. and Flinders-lane, which was nearly destroyed by fire this week. The building was erected 101 years ago. (Sun, 12/1/50)
- 57/7 **[Pic]** touched-up photo incorporating proposed new bldg] Consolidated Zinc's proposed 219 ft skyscraper on the site of Melbourne Mansions, 91-101 Collins Street. (Herald, 2/7/57, p.1)
- 1958 WW used their first machine on Melbourne Mansions job [a 10-RB diesel excavator with a half-yard bucket (tiny today, but really modern then). Less coins were found on the job after that, because everything wasn't cleaned up by hand. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

58/8 Whelan the Wrecker's sign is up on Melbourne Mansions... it must, in its time, have seemed to its inhabitants the very foundation of Melbourne stability[at 2 gns. Per week per room (furnished), plus 2 gns for service. (Sun, 26/8/58)

Melbourne Mansions had a 'very high salvage content', according to Owen Whelan. Rooms lined with magnificent bookshelves, all sorts of lovely doors, timber fittings and wonderful windows. (Keith Dunstan, Death of a Skyscraper, Good Weekend, Age, Jan? 1987)

It was a lovely building and great names from the Western District like the Landales and the Chirnsides used it as their Melbourne residence. Whelan wrecked it in about 1959 and in its place Conzinc Riotinto built the 26-floor building that was known variously as the CRA, Conzinc or the Comalco building. (Sunday Age, 8/12/91, Agenda, p.5)

60/11 Large pine tree mounted in steel box, welded to a girder 321 ft above Collins St[steel supervisor, Mr N. Sirocchini, said that the custom began in the Middle Ages, when the pine had symbolic meaning and builders believed it would scare away ghosts. Now it meant good luck, and was a sign that the job had been free of major accident. (Sun, 15/11/60, p.31)
[Pic]pine tree mounted on scaffolding of CRA building, under construction] (Herald, 25/11/60, p.1)

61 When completed in 1961 was Melbourne's tallest building[324 ft 6 in, 26 storeys. Melbourne's second skyscraper (ICI House was the first)[first to be demolished. (Sun, 26/11/86, p.4)

CRA was Melbourne's tallest building until BHP House built in 1972. (Sun, 7/1/88)

Keith Dunstan asked Jim Whelan, at he time it was built: 'Could you wreck that?' 'Oh, absolutely,' he said, and his eyes lit up with joy. (Keith Dunstan, Good Weekend, Age, Jan? 1987)

Just after it was completed I stood Jim Whelan in front of it there in Collins Street. It was just three years before he died. 'How would you like to pull that down Jim?' I said. 'It would be practically impossible, wouldn't it?'

His face lit up with joy: 'No, it'd be easy. I would just put a crane up the side and take it down layer by layer, like dismantling a wedding cake.' (Keith Dunstan, Sunday Age, 8/12/91, Agenda, p.5)

Conzinc Riotinto (later Comalco) building was first to break up the rhythm of Collins St and destroyed forever that charming myth about the 'Paris End' of the street. [But hadn't that myth only been born a couple of years earlier?] (Keith Dunstan, Death of a Skyscraper, Good Weekend, Age, Jan? 1987)

Among the first buildings with open space provided at ground level was the CRA (Conzinc Riotinto of Australia) Building, at 89-101 Collins Street... this curtain walled office building was set back along its entire face from Collins Street to provide a north facing garden entry. The breaking of the building line along Collins Street was the beginning of the 'lost teeth syndrome' of high rise development of the 1960s and 1970s.

Plazas of varying sizes came to be included as a quid pro quo for various dispensations offered to developers. (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, p136)

- 71/6 Brett House, 108 Flinders La (NW cnr Haskin La)□demolition permit□2-storey brick building□wrecked for CRA (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3329)
- 71/6 Leroy House, 110-116 Flinders La (W of Haskin La)□demolition permit□5-storey brick building□wrecked for CRA (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3329)
- 71/6 Henry George League Building, 18-20 George Parade□demolition permit□3-storey brick building□wrecked for CRA (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3329)
- 71/6 22-28 George Parade□demolition permit□2-storey brick building□wrecked for CRA (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3329)
- 1985 In 1985 Carringbush Pty Ltd acquired 101 Collins Street, Denton Corker Marshall designed a 53-storey office building to take its place and the sons of James I and James II had the enormous job of wrecking the CRA, just as James II had visualised. (Keith Dunstan, Sunday Age, 8/12/91, Agenda, p.5)
- 1987 CRA demolition job also takes in Barrett building next door and Red Cross building out the back. (Keith Dunstan, Death of a Skyscraper, Good Weekend, Age, Jan? 1987)
- 84-94 Flinders Lane□4-storeys + basement□concrete building□demolished 1987 as part of 101 Collins St development (SLV/WW 44)
- 103-105 Collins St□3-storey brick□demolished as part of 101 Collins St development (SLV/WW 44)
- ? Collins St□W of CRA building□demolished 1987□colour **pics** of front and rear views□3-storey red brick. (SLV/WW 44/6)
- 87/3 Melbourne's second skyscraper (ICI House was the first)□first to be demolished. Demolition to begin March 1987□will take about 4 months. (Sun, 26/11/86, p.4)
- Largest building WW had ever tackled. Building was designed to last 50 years; after 25, was already considered too old to refurbish. (Age, 16/1/88)
- Demolition cost \$2 million□took less than a year□CRA is a ghost site. (Sun, 3/5/88, p.9)
- WW has levelled the site four times□Myles. (Sunday Review (magazine), Sun, 13/1/91, p.9)
- pics**□Demolition of CRA building, 1987. (Herald, 8/6/87, p.4)
- 1988 Superannuation Fund Investment Trust office□55 storeys□95-101 Collins Street□constructed 1988.

7. FEDERAL HOTEL & WEST END WAREHOUSES

BOARD OF WORKS

1836 [Lonsdale fixed the police court] ... a little eastward of the Sailor's Home, between Collins and Little Collins streets... It was something of a 'betwixt and between' an aboriginal mia mia and a roughly made summer-house, formed of wattle-tree boughs and branches, and thatched, or rather heaped over on the top with reeds. [Earth floor, about 12ft sq—faced east—guard house and lock-up a few yards away in direction of Collins Street—burnt down by aboriginal inmates (charged with sheep-stealing) in 1837—moved close to King Street—site of West Melbourne police station (1888)—then to Western Market] (Garryowen, p.96)

1866 The Sailors' Home... has been opened scarcely two years, yet the conceptions of its originators, which savoured at the time of extravagance, have not only been realised, but require extension. We are indebted to the Chief Harbor Master, Captain Ferguson, for the idea which has been so far consummated as to be an established fact... No sooner was the movement mooted than a very warm interest was taken in it. The Chamber of Commerce lent assistance, and under its auspices and the favor of the consuls and vice-consuls, representatives of the commercial interests of European nations, public attention was excited, and the undertaking was entered upon with a fair promise of success. Subscriptions flowed in freely; the Government gave some assistance; a site was chosen in Spencer-street; a building was erected, and, within 12 months, opened. But the increasing wants of so important a seaport as Melbourne rendered additional accommodation imperative. (Illustrated Australian News, 4/2/1868, pp.12-13)

...the Melbourne Sailors' Home—was established ... for the purpose of sheltering and assisting sailors whilst in port... Of the money originally raised for the purpose of establishing the home, £6000 was provided by the Government, £6000 was subscribed by the merchant ship-owners, £5000 was lodged in trust by the late Sir Francis Ormond and £1200 was the amount of the proceeds of a ball given in Melbourne during the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh. (Weekly Times, 1/11/1902, p.14)

1868 The Governor's ball was justly entitled to be considered the grandest spectacle witnessed in the metropolis. The Civic Fancy Ball has not had its compeer. But the Sailors' Home Ball [held Feb 1868 at Exhibition Building, to raise money for SH extensions] claims the *pas* for spectacular effect. ...the committee of management... felt justified in fixing a high figure for their tickets of admission, in the belief, indulged in up to the last moment, that it would be the first Ball honored with the presence of the Prince... [but ended up being instead] what is generally considered the last appearance of His Royal Highness in a public ball room... Between 1200 and 1300 tickets were issued. But for the misunderstanding referred to, there was every prospect that not less than 3000 tickets would have been sold, had the arrangement to hold the ball on the third night after the Duke's arrival been carried out. ...The programme embraced 24 dances, comprising six quadrilles, six waltzes, six lancers and six galops.... The whisper went round that his Royal Highness was about to dance a Scotch reel, and the ladies were in a flutter of expectancy... After some delay, the brand struck up a galop, and the disappointment experienced was subsequently explained. His Royal Highness's piper had over exerted himself at the Caledonian Gathering, and did not put in an appearance... (Illustrated Australian News, 4/2/1868, pp.12-13)

The first city building the family firm brought down was an old tin shed which became a coffee palace. Later Whelan's destroyed the coffee palace to make room for the Board of Works. (scrapbook, p. 3)

JPW pulled down Waters' Coffee Palace in Lt Collins St [c.1902?]. Four years ago (c.1957) WW pulled down the 3-storey building that replaced the coffee palace. The site was used for the present Board of Works [8-storey] skyscraper. (Jim Whelan in article, c.1963 □ SLV/WW/62/21)

[According to Mahlstedt maps & MCC rates records, c.1902, 2x 2-storey buildings were replaced with a 3-storey—Waters' Commonwealth Restaurant]

That was the first stage for the re-erection of the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works offices. ...it was said to me... it was an old stables. (Owen Whelan interview)

00-04 609-613 Lt Collins St □

1900 Church of England Mission Rooms (609)

1901 Charles Livingstone restaurant (609-11)

1903 Thompson Bros, boarding house

1904 Mrs G. Waters, 'Commonwealth Restaurant' (S&M)

1902 In the course of a year something like 80,000 British and foreign seamen visit our bay, whilst about 1300 of them are discharged at the Port of Melbourne.

The building shown in our illustration **[pic]**, with dormitory and dining accommodation for 120 men, and reading, smoking and billiard rooms, was erected on a piece of land granted by the State in Spencer street, Melbourne, directly opposite the railway station. Seamen are accommodated here at the rate of 15s per week, if cash be paid down, and 16s per week if on credit. But for only four months of the year—during the wool and wheat season—does the institution pay its way. Just at the present time, owing to the shortage in the wool and grain freights, berths for seamen are difficult to obtain... Out of 30 men living at the institution at the time of writing this article, only one was able to pay for his board and lodging. The remainder, however, are not turned away so long as they behave themselves. Should any of these men be shipped by the superintendent the amount owing to the institution will be deducted from the 'advance'—that is the first month's wages, always handed over the captain when a man is engaged; but whether the amount is sufficient to pay his indebtedness to the institution or not, the sailor is always sent to sea fully equipped.

The present building is considered by the committee inadequate to meet requirements, and the building of a new home in proximity to the wharf is being considered. To pay for this the committee will hand over the £5000 now remaining in the funds, together with whatever amount may be realised by the sale of the present building....

The superintendent and secretary is Captain J.A. Robilliard, who is appointed by the Government as the only licensed shipping agent for the port... [part of his job is to protect sailors from unscrupulous *unlicensed* agents, known as 'crimpers', who sometimes shanghai drunken or unwilling sailors, taking as their fee the sailor's entire pay from his last voyage as well as his advance on the next] The captain of a ship applies for a crew of a given number. Captain Robilliard produces a number of men, from which the captain selects his crew, the articles are signed, in which the wages and conditions are set out, and the time is stated by which the men have to be put aboard, and the advance notes are made out and handed to the men. Those of the engaged crew living at the Sailors' Home in many cases hand the advance notes to Captain Robilliard, who

negotiates them, advances money, attends to banking accounts for those who wisely avail themselves of the arrangement, and generally befriends the seamen until they are placed on board ship...

In the management of the Sailors' Home mission work is not forgotten, and Captain Robilliard conducts this also, though he reminded the writer in the course of an interview, 'It is not often you find a Methodist preacher in an old sea captain.' The superintendent has been one for 42 years.

...Among the men generally found at the home are some of the roughest even of sailor men. The seaman's life and the seaman's pay on a sailing ship do not offer many attractions, and the best that can be done for the men during their short intervals ashore is done at the Sailor's Home....

An exterior view of the home is given in our illustrations, with interior views of the office, the baggage room, in which the seamen's kits are stored; the kitchen, the dining room, the smoke room, and reading room. Superintendent Captain Robilliard is seen standing at the corner of the office counter. (Weekly Times, 1/11/1902, p.14)

- 1903 The Sailors' Home...was purchased [by the MMBW] in February 1903 for £10,000. It was extensively altered, its capacity more than doubled at an additional cost of £15,950, and occupied in August 1903. [Pic of Sailors' Home as it was when bought by the MMBW] (*Vital Connections*, p.91)
- 03/10 Foundation stone of new Sailors' Home laid—in Siddely Street, at rear of Harbour Trust building. (Weekly Times, 3/10/03, p.12)
- 45/10 The unsightliness of Spencer Street station, compared with other public buildings in that street, will be further emphasized if the Board of Works decides late this afternoon to erect handsome new offices over a large site facing the station. (Herald, 30/10/45)
- 46/6 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works headquarters in Spencer-street—one of the most densely tenanted and obsolete, yet historic, buildings in the city—is to be demolished to make way for a modern edifice which will cost half a million pounds.... The need for modern accommodation has been pressing for many years, but depression conditions and then the war caused action to be deferred. With the large programme of new works that would be necessary after the war, however, the board looked ahead and purchased the Australian Hotel*, adjoining the board's existing freehold. The board now has a freehold with a frontage of 134 feet 8 inches to Spencer-street, between Little Collins-street and Francis-street, and a depth of 330 feet—one of the largest sites in the city. The new building will be erected to the municipal height limit, with a frontage of 134 feet 8 inches along Spencer-street and a depth of 230 feet. ...it was intended to build up to the building line in Spencer-street, so that the 20-foot-wide lawn would disappear. ...The board's main building was purchased in 1903, and was previously a sailors' home. With many additions, it houses the whole of the administrative and engineering staff... (Age, 7/6/46)
*Australian Hotel—cnr Spencer & Francis—originally licensed as Finlay's Hotel, 1872 (licence opposed by committee of Sailor's Home, adjoining). (Cole Collection)
- 48/10 Board of Works plans a giant new building on the site of its present historic, but crowded, headquarters. Cost has been estimated at near £1 million. (Herald, 11/10/48)
- c.48 MMBW took over premises of Commonwealth Coffee Palace, 609-13 Lt Collins. (S&M)

[Late 1940s] ...the hopelessly inadequate accommodation at head office as more and more people were squeezed in. Although the construction of a new head office had been approved and the Australia Hotel, which adjoined the existing offices, purchased for £80,000, it was clear there would be long delays before it could be built. Unsuccessful attempts were made to lease a suitable building. As short-term measures, the air-raised shelter was converted into offices and storage space, and the first floor of the Sailors' Home was extended over the lightwell. Tenders for a 'warehouse' type building of five stories' at the rear of the site of the proposed new office were also called. Meanwhile staff struggled on in cold, crowded and cramped conditions. (*Vital Connections*, p. 223)

- 55/11 One of the three buildings to be demolished to make way for the proposed eight-storey Metropolitan Board offices in Little Collins Street is the former Commonwealth Coffee Palace. A four-storey red brick building, the old palace, long used now by the Metropolitan Board, was built in 1902. Which explains the painted sign still legible high up on the eastern wall: 'Superior accommodation. Single room and breakfast 3/6, weekly 17/6'. (609-611 Lt Collins, sth side One of WW's first jobs?) (Age, 23/11/1955)

The Board had finally decided in 1955 to demolish the miscellaneous collection of buildings fronting Little Collins and Francis Street which it had bought in 1924. The building, designed by Leslie Perrott and constructed by E.A. Watts Pty Ltd was an eight-storey concrete and structural steel building which embraced all that was modern. Vinyl tiles covered the floors and acoustic tiles the ceiling. Movable partitioning allowed adjustable use of floor space.... There was also an underground car park for fifty vehicles. This was a great improvement on what had gone before. It was far from perfect, however, for one of its occupants noted that it was 'the cheapest office building ever built in Melbourne'. (*Vital Connections*, p.230)

- 56 Construction of new Board of Works building planned. (Herald, 31/12/55, p.2)

- c.57 Four years ago (c.1957) WW pulled down the 3-storey building that replaced [Waters'] coffee palace. The site was used for the present Board of Works [8-storey] skyscraper. (Jim Whelan in article, c.1963 SLV/WW/62/21)

Yes, Jimmy was alive when that happened [MMBW building wrecked—late 5s/early 60s]. And there was a fire there. My mate Tiger Lyons said, 'Oh, you can't beat that bloody uncle of yours,' and he said something about when they had fire there, he said, 'Oh, you'll be able to get the credit for that. It's half-gone.' Jimmy said, 'Oh no, we've lost all the salvage, Tiger.' He said, 'We'll need more money.' (Owen Whelan interview)

- 1960s The new building at 601 Little Collins Street was quickly filled. It had only temporarily relieved the pressure in the old Sailors' Home which became increasingly overcrowded and decrepit. By 1968 large cracks had appeared in the walls and one of the staircases had to be closed for a period because it was in danger of collapsing.... The MOA complained that the 117-year-old building was both a health and a fire hazard... Perrott, Lyon, Timlock and Associated designed a twenty-two-storey, \$11 million building which the Board approved late in 1969.... The old building was demolished and E.A. Watts began construction of what would, for a time, become Melbourne's second largest building after BHP House in terms of usable floor space. When completed nearly a year behind schedule in August 1973, inflation and industrial problems had pushed its cost up to \$16.5 million.... The building's shape and sombre bluestone cladding evoked powerful

images. One architectural critic noted: 'From the outside the Board's new building looks as if it has been carved out of a huge monolith... like a fortress it evokes a sense of impregnable strength and autocratic power.' ...Labor politician and former [MMBW] commission, J.M. Walton, dubbed the building Melbourne's Taj Mahal. (*Vital Connections*, p.341)

[At WW office] ...and the board room doors, where did they come from? They were in the Board of Works building, the old one, not the horror in Spencer Street now. (Keith Dunstan, *Sunday Age*, 8/12/91, *Agenda*, p.5)

- 70/2 Demolition permit 110 Spencer Street 5-storey brick, 3-storey brick & 3-storey reinforced concrete buildings demolished for MMBW, \$80,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 24, D3150)
- 71/4 Since mid-1968 12 hotels in inner Melbourne have pulled their last pot... The Australian at the corner of Little Collins and Spencer Sts. was in the path of expanding Board of Works offices... (Herald, 1/4/71)
- 73-79 MMBW building completed 1973 slabs of bluestone cladding began falling off 8 months later. Theory that stone had not been left to weather for 12 months after quarrying, to allow natural faults to reveal themselves. (*Sun & Age*, 4/10/77; *National Constructor*, 5-16 May 1980)

Several large cracks were discovered in the bluestone cladding almost as soon as it was occupied. In August 1974 small pieces began falling from the building. When in June 1975 several very large slabs landed in the street below, barricades had to be erected and Little Collins and Francis Streets were closed to traffic. Covered walkways protected the heads of pedestrians. This... sorry saga... would not be resolved for a decade. Initially it was hoped that the slabs could be cemented back into place relatively cheaply. After lengthy investigations however, consultants urged a complete recladding of the building in far-lighter sheets of anodised aluminium of a colour approximating bluestone... The scaffolding went up and the bluestone came down quite rapidly, but the exhaustive testing of the new panels was very slow... Behind-the-scenes manoeuvrings to win damages from the architect and others were similarly slow and unproductive... [In 1982] The aluminium panels still had to be fixed in place. The repairs ultimately cost \$17.5 million. (*Vital Connections*, p.346)

- 77 WW bought bluestone cladding (33,000 sq m) as part of its contract to remove it from MMBW building. MCC wanted it to pave Bourke St Mall and City Square. (*Sun*, 4/10/77; *Age*, 4/10/77)

AUSTRALIAN ESTATES WOOL STORE/FEDERAL BUILDINGS, 555-79 Collins

- One of the most impressive industrial structures in the city was ‘the great warehouse built for the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency between Collins Street and Flinders Lane, near Spencer Street’. Designed by Lloyd Tayler, 1883. ‘Its powerful arcading in brickwork rising through five floors reminded us of the great railway viaducts recently completed at that time. Many warehouses were built on a smaller scale in Flinders Lane... but few have such an uncompromising approach towards honesty of design.’ Neo-classical frontage. (Wilson & Sands, *Building a City*, p.99)
- 1888 Warehouses of the NZ Loan & Mercantile Co.—‘its present extensive and magnificent buildings... known as the Melbourne wool and grain warehouses. ...The area covered by the buildings extends from Collins-street back to Little Flinders-street, and with the exception of two roadways, being all occupied. The main building has a frontage of 200 feet to Collins-street, where there is an imposing elevation... There are six stories to the building, although a casual observer of the front might imagine there were but three. But notwithstanding the vast proportions of this building, the rapid increase of the company’s operations rendered the erection of a second building necessary almost simultaneously with the completion of the first. The additional building is attached to the main structure, and runs through to Little Flinders-street. ...the ground floor alone [of both warehouses] covers one-and-a-half acres... [but] a further important extension is in contemplation. (Vic & its Metropolis, 1888, pp.548-50—pic p.549 (on file))
- 46/2 Australian Estates Co. wool and produce store at the Spencer Street end of Collins Street was sold at auction today for £78,500. The building was bought by Federal Hotels Ltd, which owns adjoining property. With a frontage of 198ft to Collins Street... **Picture and story** □page 14.
- A link with the Melbourne of 83 years ago, the Australian Estates Company wool and produce store... passes under the hammer at Scott’s Hotel today, in one of the largest City land auctions for many years. This massive bluestone-fronted building occupies Nos. 555 to 579 Collins Street□a frontage of 198 feet and a depth of 132 to 135 feet. In its long history the building has only changed hands once. Since 1899 it has been a wool store for Australian Estates Company. Before then the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency occupied it. ...Underneath the stairs just inside the main entrance is an alcove with perforated doors, where in the old days itinerant drovers on business in the city kennelled their dogs. It has served as a banking chamber for wool and produce firms when gold was currency and has been a venue for section of the wool sales. The old clock, locals say, has kept excellent time, but yesterday it said, ‘What’s the use, the place is being sold anyway’□and stopped. A dome which covered a light-well in the original building was a casualty to the lust for lebensraum. Now three floors fill the light-well. Older inhabitants recall extensive damage to the dome during severe hailstorms. On the top floor, among bales, wicker baskets, trolleys and fumigation pumps, the grading of rabbit skins goes on as it has always gone on□except that now Crosby and Sinatra are amplified to the toilers. With staid Melbourne, the building went cosmopolitan in wartime. It acted variously as offices for the marines from Guadalcanal, depots for UNRRA and Toys for Britain appeals. The Customs Department took it over from March to November in 1842. British and Dutch servicemen occupied it at other times. Now part of it, made available by the company, serves as an annexe to Navy House, with accommodation for 250 sailors. Another part is a warehouse for Army stationery. (Herald, 7/2/46)

- 72/2 Demolition permit□5-storey + basement□timber and concrete floors and gal iron roof□\$40,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3418)
- 73/2 Demolition permit□ASMIC/Elliott & Dibb Building, 522-36 Flinders Lane□6-storey concrete warehouse□wrecked for ASMIC, \$95,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3587)

SIGMA BUILDING, 589-605 Collins Street (also 554-62 & 570-76 Flinders Lane)

- 1874 Built in 1874—4-storeys and an axed bluestone façade. (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, p.100)
- 53/9 Sigma Ltd, wholesale and manufacturing chemists, were the buyers of Parsons Bros building, extending from Collins Street to Flinders Lane, sold last week for £210,000. (Herald, 24/9/53)
- 79 Demolished—for State Superannuation Board? **Pics** (6x8" b&w) of demolition on file (SLV/WW 51/4—also 62/5—also Box 49)

SEPPELTS BUILDING (rear of Sigma), 565 Flinders Lane S side, near Spencer, E cnr Downie Street

72/3 Demolition permit single-storey brick building \$4059 (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3443)

FEDERAL HOTEL, 541-53 Collins Street

19thC Admiral Hotel licensed 1870. Federal Hotel, 1872-85. (Cole Collection)

pics Mary Turner Shaw, *Builders of Melbourne*, p.22 (floor plan, ground floor) & p. 23 (photo)

An architectural competition was held to decide plan and design. First and second placegetters Ellerker & Kilburn, and William Pitt both involved in erection. Builder: Messrs Cochrane & Co. £82,000. Building foundations enclosed half an acre. French Renaissance design. Carved inscription over entrance: RESTEZ ICI SOYEZ LE BIEN VENU. (*Australian Builder*, June 1972, pp.220-21)

The design for the Federal Coffee Palace was selected by a competition, where the architectural firm of Ellerker and Kilburn won first prize. However, the judges preferred the interior design of the second-prize winner, William Pitt. The building that was eventually completed was a combination of the two. (*A New City*, p.52)

The design for the Federal Coffee Palace was selected by a competition, where the architectural firm of Ellerker and Kilburn won first prize. However, the judges preferred the interior design of the second-prize winner, William Pitt. The building that was eventually completed was a combination of the two. (*A New City*, p.52)

A competition was held for the design of the proposed building and the two designs considered best were combined to produce an incredible piece of flamboyancy in two facades loaded with every conceivable decoration, even including mottoes. 500 rooms 7 floors and basements. Built by a company formed in 1885 with the express aim of providing Melbourne with a 'temperance hotel'. The fact caused a minor run on the resources of the Melbourne Savings Bank in 1890, when the Trustees of the bank were heavily criticised for advancing the sum of £70,000 towards the cost of building. The three Trustees responsible for approving the loan were rabid teetotallers. (Rogan, p.12)

1886 **Pic** *Illustrated Australian News*, 24/7/86 (see Cannon, *Land Boomers*, pp. 150-52)

1888 It was built by a group of temperance-minded men for the opening of the 1888 Centennial Exhibition. (*Age*, 20/3/71)

The influence and money of James Munro, temperance campaigner, politician and Premier from 1890-92 was responsible for several coffee palaces Federal, Grand (Windsor), Victoria. (Cannon, *Land Boomers*, p.244)

Temperance hotels & coffee palaces 'It arose from the very vigorous promotion of temperance at that time, and the need for accommodation and refreshment for the ordinary non-affluent citizen. (The Temperance and General Society was founded in 1876.) Ellerker, Kilburn & Pitt designed the Federal Coffee Palace in Collins Street in 1887. The building had 500 rooms, including 350 bedrooms. There were five Waygood-Otis suspended-type hydraulic elevators... It was crowned by a dome framed in angle-iron. It had 4 miles of bell-wire, 16 miles of skirting, 5 miles of gas piping and 5 million bricks... (Wilson & Sands, *Building a City*, p.90)

The building was seven storeys and topped with an iron-framed domed tower rising to 165 feet. The basement contained an ice-making plant and a cooking range over 20 feet in length. There were six Waygood and Sons 'accident-proof' lifts and the fit-out included gaslights, electric bells, fire hoses on each floor with taps and buckets, and a water supply on the roof.

An arcaded loggia supported by fourteen Ionic columns led to the grand vestibule. the main staircase was white marble with risers in red. It was eight feet wide before branching off at the sides into two flights. The floor was of black and white marble, with touches of red to match the stairs. The ground floor contained shops and offices and a dining room that was the largest in Australia, measuring 82 by 50 by 25 feet high, and was said to seat 600....

The exterior was decorated with sculpture, including four statues eight feet high near the corner entrance. Griffins, eagles, cornucopia and children were included, but the most opulent was a 'central pediment which has a ground work of sea and sky of 90 square feet, out of which are rising Venus, a nude figure of life size, drawn on the waters in a cloud chariot by four sea horses and accompanied by several other figures, the whole representing the *Aurora Australis*'. (A New City, p.52, quoting *Australasian Builder & Contractor's News*, 27/8/1887, p.25) (Pic—A New City, p.53)

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


An arcaded loggia supported by fourteen Ionic columns led to the grand vestibule. the main staircase was white marble with risers in red. It was eight feet wide before branching off at the sides into two flights. The floor was of black and white marble, with touches of red to match the stairs. The ground floor contained shops and offices and a dining room that was the largest in Australia, measuring 82 by 50 by 25 feet high, and was said to seat 600....

The exterior was decorated with sculpture, including four statues eight feet high near the corner entrance. Griffins, eagles, cornucopia and children were included, but the most opulent was a 'central pediment which has a ground work of sea and sky of 90 square feet, out of which are rising Venus, a nude figure of life size, drawn on the waters in a cloud chariot by four sea horses and accompanied by several other figures, the whole representing the *Aurora Australis*'. (A New City, p.52, quoting *Australasian Builder & Contractor's News*, 27/8/1887, p.25) (Pic—A New City, p.53)

Site cost £48,000, building £90,000, furnishings £20,000. Had 'the largest and handsomest dining room on this side of the world'. Planned and financed by politician James Munro and his close friend, Jimmy Mirams, financier of the Premier Permanent Building Society. Mirams was a teetotaler, as was Munro (one of the most notorious land-boomers). After the crash, Mirams was convinced he was innocent of wrongdoing—gaoled for 12 months. After his release, Mirams worked as a milkman. (Cannon, Land Boomers, p.146-54)

1888 The tower was built in 1888, and a light on top of it was a guide to shipping coming up the Yarra. (Argus, 3/2/55)

A blue star shone from the 'truck' of the flagstaff surmounting the dome—a beacon to sailors coming up the bay. (Australian Builder, June 1972, pp.220-21)

- 1880s - 90s Originally it was built as a temperance hotel in 1888 for 154,000 pounds and was supposed to be the greatest, most exotic hotel Australia had seen. It had its own ice plant in the basement, six 'accident proof' lifts, gas light on all floors, and, sensation of sensations, electric bells. The place went hopelessly broke in the depression of the 1890s. The guests were all slipping across to Menzies to get their liquor and the management had to plead for a licence to save them all from ruin. (APITS, Sun, 22/3/71)
- 1888 Canadian clergyman Daniel Vannorman Lucas struggled to describe the Federal Coffee Palace: 'The style of architecture...comprises a little of everything—Corinthian, Ionic, Doric, early English, late English, Queen Anne, Elizabethan and Australian.' (*Australia and Homeward*, p.137)
- 1897 Among all the conspicuous buildings in this part of Collins-street, none is more substantial than the Federal Palace Hotel, with its six stories of massive yet highly ornamental design. It was one of the outcomes of speculative excitement, a place superbly equipped, but suffering for a long time from the frost that nipped the forward shoots of too untimely a summer. Its proximity to the railway stations and the business centre of the city ought, however, to make it as successful as it is handsome. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.32)
- 1897 Coffee Palace became Federal Palace Hotel in March 1897. **Pic**  cartoon re. change to hotel 
- 37/8 ...the £10,000 interior remodelling of the Hotel Federal, now almost completed... (Herald, 11/8/37)
- 48/10 The Hotel Federal... is to be reconstructed with a new building on the adjoining block  (Herald, 11/10/48)
- 54/3 Present plans include the setting up of the biggest hotel dining room in Australia... All is expected to be finished well before the Olympic Games in 1956... The Federal 'face-lift' began about four years ago, and will cost £250,000 by the time it is finished. Work will begin this year on rebuilding a section of the Australian Estates old bluestone landmark which adjoins the Federal, and which the company bought about seven years ago... The proposed new section will house the 500-seater dining room, new kitchens and a laundry. (Herald, 2/3/54) **[pic** 
- 55/2 Housemaids on the top floor of the Federal Hotel screamed in terror when firemen rushed through their quarters last night to fight a fire on the roof of the building. ...police fought to control a crowd of about 10,000 people who gathered at the corner of King and Collins sts. to watch the spectacular blaze. The fire damaged the tower on top of the hotel, but did not spread to the rest of the building... Dozens of fire-fighters quickly isolated the blaze, but had difficulty in putting it out when their extension ladder ended about 40 ft below the flames... The fire is believed to have been caused by faulty electrical wiring on an advertising sign. **[pic of tower and ladder]** (Argus, 3/2/55)

- 67/7 A fascinating character in this town has just completed the bachelor's pad to end all bachelor's pads. He is now living in the five-storey tower of the Hotel Federal... the splendid tower with its little Corinthian columns, its copper sheeting, its cast iron balcony on top, complete with flagpole. Peter Janson was the first to spot this. He's an unusual character. He has been a captain in the British Army, a diplomat in Tibet, a driver who has smashed himself up racing Ferraris. He has been living here for 18 months, he is black-bearded and he is public relations manager for Chrysler. Six months ago he wondered about the possibilities of this tower which had never been occupied right back to 1888... One night this week I paid my first visit... Floor one had bedrooms, study and cellar. Then we went up a splendid staircase, sanded and polished back to the original rosewood, which spiralled all the way to the top of the tower. Floor two was the smoke room... Floor three is the living room, circular, with deep set 'Norman castle' windows to all points of the compass. But best of all there is a ladder which leads down to a roof garden and here Peter has installed seats, beach umbrellas and over 60 shrubs, rhododendrons, silver birches, elms, all watered by self-turning-off automatic sprinklers. 'Gardening is very pleasant in Collins St.,' he said. Floor four was right up under the dome and this was magnificent. It was lined with cedar. Look up and it was just like being inside a barrel. This was Peter's bedroom. In the centre was a great four-poster bed. Then, almost beside it was a sunken bath and shower... But wait, we hadn't finished. There was a ladder which went up through the top of the dome to... Floor five. This was right on the summit by the flagpole with a little cast iron balcony. ... You could... see all Collins St. to the Treasury buildings... (Sun, 29/7/67)
- 69/9 Guests, some wearing dressing gowns...gather in the foyer of the Federal Hotel in the city early today after a fire broke out in a warehouse next door. **[pic]** Police ordered the hotel's 276 guests to leave their rooms.... The fire burst out of an old warehouse between King Street and Knight's Pl., occupied by Stanley Rogers & Son Ltd and the Co-operative Dairy Farmers' Association. Glassware, crockery, cutlery and dairy products were destroyed. (Herald, 24/9/69)
- 71/3 Socialite Peter Janson who lives in the tower of the Federal Hotel said... 'I'm building a new pad in an old building right in the centre of the city. Janson, 33, an international rally driver... (Herald, 19/3/71)
- 71/3 The hotel now has four main bars, two diningrooms and 289 bedrooms. The Federal Group intends to go ahead with redecoration of one of the diningrooms and will carry on normal business for at least 12 months. (Age, 20/3/71)
- 71/3 The Federal was not one of those buildings to gain a top rating from the National Trust. But it should. It is an irreplaceable item in what I call the Victoria-gone-berserk school. It was once described [by Marcus Clarke] as being 'like a castle built for a Norman earl, by an architect who had been dreaming of Dore's illustrations to Balzac.'... I always loved the entrance. Over the door in Collins St. there are the letters RESTEZ ICI (stay here) and SOYEZ LE BIEN VENU (welcome), plus two massive females elbow to elbow, one of whom has a large breast exposed. Around the girls circle several cherubs. I've always felt it didn't look an entirely healthy temperance situation. (APITS, Sun, 22/3/71)
- 71/4 Maybe you remember the Regent Room, which used to be something akin to a Pharaoh's tomb. Today it has been transformed. In the middle there is an island bar with four mighty copper columns. The rest has been transformed into a French provincial square,

with chairs, tables, and so on under canvas canopies. On one wall there's a life-size nude by Renoir and on another a magnificent blow-up of a nude lying on her side. She's 10 ft long. (Sun, 2/4/71)

- 71 In 1971 it was sold for \$3.1 million and closed twelve months later. (A New City, p.52)
- 72/3 Demolition permit□8-storey brick building (Federal Hotel)□\$120,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3438)
- 72/4 Developers at the west end of Collins Street were promoting it as 'West End', soon to be as imposing as the Paris End. (Sun, 1/4/72)

High angular roof and tower sheathed with slates□very dangerous to remove. (Australian Builder, June 1972, p.240)

The old Federal is somewhat obstinate. It will take quite a bit of wrecking. Down below, the walls are solid brick and 5 ft thick. And up aloft you have to be careful with those slates. It could spray everywhere. It will take another 18 weeks to clear the site. [‘Gorgeous little tower’ occupied by Peter Janson. Empty champagne bottles and a Cinderella slipper.] ...it would break your heart to look inside the foyer. Remember that marvellous old staircase, the lightwell, the Corinthian columns, the lions, the dragons□it's all a shambles. One wonders whether it would be possible to save all those beaut, fat, formidable mid-Victorian topless females that adorn the outside. [Owen: We will try. But it's terribly hard. They're only made of plaster and they're apt to disintegrate as soon as you touch them.] (Place in the Sun, n.d., in SLV/WW 66/5)

- 72/9 **Pics**□6x8 b&w prints of demolition in progress□best pic, p.74. (SLV/WW 57, pp.72-5)

The euchre school began when WW was wrecking the Federal Hotel. There had been an auction house in the basement, and Jim found a chess set there, on top of a cupboard. He challenged Owen to a game, the winner (Jim) keeping the chess set. After that, they used to play every night□WE ended up with three chess sets. But after a while there were too many arguments, so they changed to euchre. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

- 72/6 Demolition permit□518-20 Flinders Lane/Knights Place□2-storey brick building□\$15,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3475)
- 73/1 Demolition permit□43-57 King Street, cnr Flinders Lane (rear Federal Hotel)□2 x 2-storey brick + 1 x 3-storey building□\$15,000 (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D 3578)

MJW: You should've seen the bluestone building we pulled down at the back of that. We had to pull it down first, because there would've been an outcry. It ran...

RA: What, along Flinders Lane?

MJW: No, it faced east.

RA: Oh, behind the Federal Hotel, in King Street?

MJW: Yeah, in King Street. ... And we had to pull it down first because, if we'd have pulled those buildings down and people looked up...

RA: It would've exposed it.

MJW: Because the whole façade... actually, the narrow part was on Flinders Lane, but the bluestone façade was huge, and it was beautiful—if you like bluestone. But they were sensitive... (Myles Whelan interview, 6/8/03)

KERRY FAMILY HOTEL, 37-39 King Street SW cnr Flinders La

Kerry Family Hotel licensed 1853 alterations 1913, 43 rooms. (Cole Collection)

69/9 Demolition permit 3-storey brick wrecked for MCC \$5750 (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3080)

71/3 Demolition permit 33-5 King Street (next to Kerry Family Hotel) 3-storey brick \$9,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3280)

COLONIAL STOREKEEPER'S BUILDING, 625 Bourke St & 149 King

- 1836 pre-Government block, the land bounded by Bourke, King, Collins & Spencer was 'then about the nicest spot in all Melbourne. Cut up by no watercourses, and flat as a pancake, spread out at the foot of Batman's Hill, it was covered with a verdure green as a leek, and soft as a Turkey carpet.' (Garryowen, p. 39)
- 1837 After original lock-up (behind Sailor's Home) burnt down by aboriginal inmates, new watch-house built on site of West Melbourne police station (1888)—then to Western Market] (Garryowen, p.96)
- 1839 (Feb) Clerk of Works office—one-roomed brick cottage, erected the year before in King Street, for the special accommodation of the then Public Works Department. Robert Russell was the clerk, answerable to the Colonial Architect and making 'the necessary drawings, &c., for the public buildings under his [Russell's] superintendence'. (Garryowen, p. 97)
- 1839 Clerk of Works office stood near the SW cnr of Bourke & King. Also on the government block were the police magistrate's house (near cnr Spencer & Lt Collins), soldier's barracks (cnr Spencer & Collins—temporary, cnr King & Collins), government mechanics' workshop (wattle & daub and brick), convicts barracks (for about 40 or 50), police office and lock-up, temporary hospital, overseer of roads, and scourger. The Clerk of Works' office and survey office (NW cnr Spencer & Collins) were the most sturdy (brick) of these buildings. The others were 'the most miserable, comfortless holes in which human beings were ever forced to live. (Garryowen, p.40)
- Robert Russell was the Clerk of Works. (Garryowen)
- 1830s The whole block to the left, numbered 16 in the plans of sale, was reserved for public purposes, one portion being used for the Commissariat Department. This corner, which stands to our left as we pass King-street, was the site of our first Court-House. Here, in July 1838, the first court of petty sessions was held, but it was not till the following year that Lonsdale took his seat in the building as Police Magistrate... The first Quarter Sessions, with the earliest jury trial of Melbourne, took place in May 1839. The first resident judge who presided in that old building was J.W. Willis. At first it had been decided to send from Sydney Alfred Stephens, so long Chief Justice of New South Wales, but, much to the general surprise, Willis, an able lawyer and very honest man, but marked by the most extreme eccentricities, was sent to take the position. Most of this land has long been sold to private owners... (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.33)
- 1840s 'A plain-looking, store-like, brick-walled, shingle-covered building', entrance faced Bourke Street—'nothing could be less pretentious, less comfortable, or uglier'. Crown Lands Department office, 1840-41. Early 1841, became makeshift first home of Supreme Court. Crown Lands commissioners and staff moved to a wattle & daub shed on Batman's Hill. 'So the barn underwent a partial process of fitting up; and the single-roomed cottage [which had been] a Clerk of Works' Office behind, was transformed into 'Chambers'. This 'rookery' then became the Supreme Court, and here it was that the wilful and wayward Judge Willis 'ruled the roost'. (Garryowen, p. 179)
- 1841 The Court-house was a modest building at the south-west corner of Bourke and King streets, consisting of a single room, with a skillion at the rear that did duty for the judge's

chambers. the first judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales resident in the Port Phillip district was John Walpole Willis, who opened his Court in that building in April, 1841. The only barristers then in Melbourne were [Redmond] Barry, Brewster, Croke (Crown prosecutor), Cunninghame, and Pohlman (later a judge in insolvency), and they were all on the first day of term admitted by Mr Justice Willis to practise in his court. (Argus, 21/9/1912, p.7)

John Walpole Willis, Victoria's first judge, arrived in Melbourne in March 1841, aged 48. Had been three years on the bench in Sydney. Had experience as a colonial judge in Canada and British Guiana. Said to be the son of Dr Francis Willis, mental diseases expert who treated George III during his periods of insanity. 'In many ways his Honour showed an unfortunate irritability of temper, and was not slow to express in emphatic terms his disapproval of conduct which displeased him. In those days a lawyer who wore a beard or moustache did so at his peril, for it was contempt of court for counsel to appear before Judge Willis unshaven. (Argus, 9/4/1910, p.6)

1842 MCC Mayoral swearing-in, 13 December 1842—courthouse overcrowded with spectators. Judge Willis on the Bench 'cut a rather grotesque figure. His coiffure was constructed upon an admixture of two or three orders of hat-architecture, a tripartition of the billy-cock, the shovel, and cocked-hat.' Mayor sworn in—'kissed the greasy, unsanitary looking Bible with a solemn face and a loud smack.' (Garryowen, pp. 265-7)

1840s After the change of venue [of the Supreme Court, in 1843] there was some intention of turning the old place into a Military Barracks, or a Police Station, but it passed into the official occupancy of the Court of Requests, where the polite and punctilious Commissioner Barry, reigned for several years... (Garryowen, p. 179)

Redmond Barry, 1840s—'a splendid specimen of masculine organisation'. Commissioner of Court of Requests (for recovery of small debts), 1840-51. During his tenure the court became known as 'Barry's Little-Go'. Between 1843-46 it occupied 'the brick tumble-down' at SW cnr Bourke and King—then 'transferred to a superannuated billiard-room, a portion of the appurtenances of the Lamb Inn... (Garryowen, pp. 92-5)

1850s It was next consigned to various purposes including that of an Immigration Office, until the time came when it was compelled to disappear altogether, and make way for the premises known as the offices of the Industrial Schools and Penal Establishment. (Garryowen, p. 179)

1850s Originally, a handmade brick cottage, built in 1838 and the home of Victoria's first residential judge, stood on the site. In 1854 [?], aboriginal prisoners burned down their lock-up next door and the cottage was also destroyed in the fire. The present building which was erected in 1857... (Herald, 28/4/64, p.13)

1893 Industrial and Reformatory Schools Department offices (S&M directory)

64/4 This 107-year-old building [pic, looking N along King St] on the corner of King and Bourke Sts will soon be pulled down to make way for a multi-storey block of Government offices.... The present building which was erected in 1857 is surprisingly intact, though its interior has been altered to satisfy various tenants. The thick bluestone walls insulate the building against the city's noise and provide 'air-conditioning'

- throughout the summer. But vibration from heavy transport in King St has cracked the plaster interior. (Herald, 28/4/64, p.13)
- 70/3 Demolition permit□143-53 King St□single-storey buildings□wrecked for Victorian Government Public Works Department□\$1,650. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3165)
- 70/3 Whelan the Wrecker, under the orders of the Public Works Department, started knocking down the 120-year-old bluestone offices at the corner of Bourke and King streets. Colonel S. Birch, administrator of the National Trust, resignedly sighed when he was told about it. ‘Again. No, we did not know anything about it.’ The single storey building was built in the 1850s as the office of the Colonial Storekeeper. Until recently it was used by the State Relief Committee. It is classified C—worthy of preservation—by the National Trust... (Age, 26/3/70)
- 70/4 Civil engineer Keith Nicholls has lost round one in his solitary battle to save the historic offices of the Colonial Shopkeeper [sic].... **[pic]** (Sun, 1/4/70)
- 70/4 The secretary of the Public Works Department... said today that the Colonial Shopkeeper would come down... The Minister for Local Government, Mr Hamer, said today that there was no real demand or use for the building. (Herald, 1/4/70)
- 70/4 But as he pinned ‘Save Our History’ signs on to the building’s verandah **[pic]**, Whelan the Wrecker men continued their job. ‘Somebody had to do something. I could not just stand by and see yet another piece of history destroyed for so-called progress,’ he said. (Age, 1/4/70)
- 70/4 The citizens of Melbourne are being deprived of another part of their heritage by some faceless bureaucrat armed with thoughtlessness and a rubber stamp.... Calling such historical rape ‘progress’ will not win my vote in May. (Keith V. Nicholls of Toorak, letter to Age, 2/4/70)
- 70/4 About 60 members of the Melbourne University Architecture Students’ Club took part in yesterday’s protest around the severely styles bluestone building. **[pic]**—young woman in miniskirt holds ‘Save our History’ sign, with WW sign in background] A university architecture lecturer, Mr George Tibbets, joined the students on the picket line. He said the Colonial Storekeeper’s office had been built in 1856 or 1857 on the site where the Supreme Court once sat.... Whelan the Wrecker’s site supervisor, Mr Harry McDonald, said that following protests, the Public Works Department had asked his company to ‘mark time’ on demolition of the main bluestone area of the building. His crew would demolish two annexes, one of wood, and the other of brick, but would leave the bluestone structure standing till at least Monday. (Sun, 2/4/70)
- 70/4 The students picketed the building for about half an hour **[pic]**, but it appears that their efforts have been in vain. The Secretary of the Public Works Department... said yesterday afternoon the building would come down. ... The foreman at the site, Mr M. Zita, said it was the oldest building he had seen in Melbourne. ‘The walls are in excellent condition and could last another 100 years. It is only the woodwork that is going,’ he added. (Age, 2/4/70)
- 70/4 A plaque commemorating the 120-year-old office of the Colonial Storekeeper will be erected on the corner of King and Bourke Sts.... The Victorian chairman of the National

- Trust... said last night '...as this building's greatest State-wide importance is its historical significance, the Government's action is quite appropriate.' (Sun, 3/4/70)
- 70/4 The Public Works Department has received alternative plans for the development of the site on the corner of King and Bourke Streets. The plans came from civil engineer, Mr Keith Nicholls and architect, Mr Peter Kortschak, who are protesting about the demolition... Last Friday, the Minister for Local Government... stopped demolition work on the site to allow any alternative plans to be considered.... The new plans would allow for the same height and floor space of the new offices, but the main entrance would be through the old building. (Age, 7/4/70)
- 70/4 He worked all night to save city relic. **[pic]**—Mr Peter Kortschak with a sketch of his plan for the development... and the preservation of the Colonial Storekeeper's building.] (Sun, 7/4/70)
- 70/4 Efforts to save the old bluestone Colonial Storekeepers building... have failed. ...One of the people who protested against the demolition, Mr Keith Nicholls, said today: 'It's Government vandalism. It's not the most beautiful building, or the oldest, but it must be saved.' And an architect, Mr Peter Kortschak, said: 'The Government is way out of line—they don't understand people.' (Herald, 10/4/70)
- 70/4 The Public Works Department will go ahead with plans to demolish the ...Colonial Storekeeper's building despite last minute attempts to have it preserved. ...preservation of the building... would make it impossible to properly develop this important site. (Age, 11/4/70)
- 70/4 Mr Hamer said the plaque with historic details would meet the major requirements of the trust. (Sun, 11/4/70)
- 70/4 Two walls and a pile of bluestone rubble is all that is left today of the 120-year-old Colonial Storekeeper's building. Whelan the Wrecker, back on the job again today, said it would be completely down in two days. (Herald, 13/4/70)

VICTORIAN PRODUCERS' CO-OP (Machine Dept), 523-27 Flinders Lane □ b/w King & Spencer, S side, E of Katherine Place

70/4 Demolition permit □ 2-storey brick factory □ wrecked for MCC, \$14,100. (MCC 167/3, Box 24 D3169)

H.S.K. WARD'S WAREHOUSE, 24-42 Spencer Street □ SE cnr Flinders Lane

1870 **Pic** □ photo □ Brunton & Gillespie, Australian Mills & Grain Stores. (Victoria Illustrated, 1834-1984, p.75)

1886 H.S.K. Ward, millers' merchants, established 1886.

68/3 Demolition permit □ 3-storey brick factory □ wrecked for MCC, \$5,100. (MCC 167/3 Box 22 D2855)

Pics of demolition on file at SLV/WW 54

DERRINAL HOUSE, 573-85 Flinders Lane□adjoining H.S.K. Ward's

68/3 Demolition permit□2 x 4-storey brick buildings□wrecked for MCC, \$5,300. (MCC 167/3
Box 22 D2854)

517-21 FLINDERS LANE S side, W of King Street

69/9 Demolition permit 4-storey brick warehouse wrecked for MCC \$11,275 (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3081)

YOUNGHUSBAND WOOL BROKERS, 98-100 King Street□E side, b/w Collins & Lt Collins,
NE cnr Fultons Lane

65/ Demolition permit□3-storey brick building□£880 (MCC 167/3 Box 20 D2379)

8. FLINDERS STREET

GASWORKS

1853-4 It now became apparent that the Collins Street site [of the Melbourne Gas & Coke Company's works, south side of Collins near Spencer, est. 1850] was inadequate, and this time it was decided to accept the government offer and to lease five acres on the Yarra to the west of Batman's Hill (taking up part of the original racecourse site).... The foundation stone of the great chimneystack was laid on 1 December 1854, and it was completed to a height of 59.5 metres in time for the directors to entertain two dozen special guests for breakfast on top of it on 24 October 1855. Batman's Hill suffered its first major physical assault when the gas main was taken through it during the later part of 1855, about half by tunnelling and half by open cut. (Miles Lewis, Melbourne: The city's history & development, p. 48)

1855 Gasworks opened 17/12/55.

1855 ...it was while performing the opening ceremony of the gas works that the Governor, Sir Charles Hotham, caught the chill from which he subsequently died. (Holroyd: *George Robertson of Melbourne*, p.19)

1897 ...the visitor will find it worth his while to go a little further on down the river bank, when he will come in view of the handsome walls of the Metropolitan Gas Company's Works. On application to the head office of the Company in Flinder-street, he will be permitted to see the furnaces, retorts, purifying and distributing apparatus of these great premises. (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, p.79)

32/1 The job of which [JPW] was proudest was that at the gasworks, in Flinders Street Extension. (Herald, 1/1/32)

32/1 [WW] recently pulled down a structure for the West Melbourne Gas Company in which 2,000 tons of iron and steel had to be dismantled.... (Argus, 23/1/32)

Another of [WW's] big jobs was the demolition of a retort house at the gas works. He took out 2000 tons of steel. (Herald, 16/1/33)

60/5 West Melbourne Gasworks wrecked by WW May/June 1960. (MJW/CML box □ Cahill's carriers receipts)

FISH MARKET

- 19thC **Pics**—old fish market, cnr Swanston & Flinders—1870 (Mitchell Lib, Holterman Colln); c.1900 (RHSV) (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.135)
- 1893 New Fish Market—old fish market was on Flinders St station site. (S&M)
- 1897 At the west end of the street, where the river bends away so as to leave a space, there have been built magnificent piles of buildings for the City Markets. Here at early mornings are held the auctions of fish and produce, and in another portion of the premises great chambers are kept by machinery at a freezing temperature for the storage of butter, poultry, rabbits, and so forth, intended for transmission to England. The visitor could spend a half-hour profitably... On application to Mr D. Wilson he will be shown the cool storage rooms, and have a chance of freezing himself in the midst of summer. (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, pp.40, 79)
- 1910s **Pics**—aerial view from W; view from E. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, pp. 192& 194—Port of Melb Authority)
- 1925 It is a long three-storey range in red brick, with white freestone facings and a clock tower in the middle. It cost a quarter of a million sterling, but has been well worth it for the convenience it affords to the city. (Melbourne Guide Book, 6th ed, 1925, p.42)
- 27/6 Members of the Royal Automobile Club are discussing a proposal that the Yarra wharves and approaches between Spencer street and Queen's Bridge should be converted into car parking areas when the Spencer Street bridge is built and that portion of the river is no longer used for shipping. A different suggestion is being considered by the Minister for Works..., namely, that the unused river frontages should be cut up and sold for factory and warehouse sites, or converted into public gardens. ...members of the Automobile Club... cannot see any advantage in selling land for building purposes on which it is said to be unsafe to build owing to the silt formation in this locality. For years, it is pointed out, the Fish Market building has been sinking and cracking through lack of solid foundations, and only light structures, not worthy of the dignity of the city, or capable of yielding a substantial rental, could be erected along the line of the old wharves. The idea of public gardens is also criticised on the ground that the site is not attractive, and is far away from any residential area. ...plantations there would probably become a haunt of 'undesirables'. (Argus, 14/6/27, p.7)
- 34/1 A plan to extensively alter the fish market... The plan entails the removal of the poultry cleaners to a place to be prepared specially inside the freezing works. The fish cleaners would be moved over to the section thus vacated, and in this manner more room would be made for buyers. The whole building would be repainted inside in cream, and other renovation work such as the replacement of tiles will be carried out. (Age, 12/1/34)
- 34/7 Until an entirely new fish market can be built, the markets committee of the City Council proposes to increase the existing facilities for freezing chambers and wharf space at the present market on the north bank of the Yarra, near Market and Flinders streets.... To make more space for fish marketing it is likely that the poultry market will be transferred to the Victoria Markets. Improvements to the fish market have been restricted ever since 1923, when the Railways Commissioners warned the City Council that the viaduct

between the Spencer street and Flinders street stations would have to be duplicated one day. The duplication would sweep away the present freezing chambers and engine room. (Star, 12/7/34)

35/5 After a visit to the fish and poultry market yesterday, the secretary of the Trades Hall Council... said it should be rebuilt immediately. ...The fish section should be separated in a building apart from the poultry and rabbit section. It was unsightly for four men to be killing poultry in the main portion of the market. (Age, 18/5/35)

38/8 ...plans for remodelling the Corporation Fish Market at a cost of £25,000. Plans... provide for rebuilding sections of the main market hall. Offices and stores would be renovated and rearranged. Modern fish cleaning troughs, with running water, display benches and modern lighting would also be installed. (Sun 12/8/38)

Pics—Cole, *Melbourne Markets*, p.126 (photo, 1912); Cato, *Melbourne*, p. 31 (photo, c.1949); *Early Melbourne Architecture*, p.55; Hurley, *Victoria: A photo Study*, 1956, p.23

57/12 ...the only truly curved building in Melbourne city proper. It is the inner part of the old Produce Market. ... some Sydney city buildings have at least curved facades because they face a curved street; but Melbourne's squared layout provided no necessity. Wrecking of the curved building is now underway... I wonder which came first—the curved railway viaduct or the curved building.... Perhaps both viaduct and Produce Market buildings were planned together. (letter to Herald, 10/12/57, p.4)

Pics—b&w prints of demolition beginning on spires at Spencer St end—complete with WW sign (on file—MJW stuff)

58/5 **[pic**—workmen demolish the arched entrance to the old Fishmarket] Smoke from burning mounds of broken timber blew through five acres of ruins in the heart of the city this week. The scene was part of the methodical smashing-down of the old fish market area. But the market itself covers only a small part, and is the last building on the destruction list. The City Council decision to demolish the three groups of buildings it owns in lower Flinders-st—the market, the warehouse buildings, and the viaduct stores—was probably one of the best-timed in its 116 years. It was a rare chance to restore more than 5_ acres of land in the Golden Mile, to use it in a new way nearly everyone approves, and to boost the morale of a dingy area.

Mayor Matthew Lang laid the foundation stone for the buildings in 1891... the strange, slate-covered conical tower on the corner of King and Flinders-sts, the massive, pillared arch that was the main entrance to the warehouse buildings in Flinders-st, and all the florid, pseudo-Gothic touches looked comically dated.

A small part of the 5_ acres will be needed for the King-st. bridge. The council will use the rest to park either 800 cars at ground level, or 1500 in a multi-storey parking station. It will also have the chance to harmonise the parking area with the nearby riverside beautification scheme being considered. (Herald, 10/5/58)

...under the stone at the Fish Market they found a sixpence, threepence, penny & a halfpenny. (news cutting (n.d.) in SLV/WW, 64/7, p.4)

MJW: Well, I'll never forget the Fish Market. The final wall we had to pull down was a massive wall. It would be the thickness of that wall there [*about 0.6 m*—just a huge,

thick wall. Because it was all based on volume, really, we sub-contracted this out to a fellow by the name of Normie Marshall, to look after the brickwork, pulling it over. Well, Normie was... lo and behold, he decided to do it on Friday afternoon. I said, 'Norm, for God's sake, why don't you do it on a Sunday?' Of course, we had to watch... one of the things which the Railways were very sensitive to was concussion and vibration. We had to watch sections to drop it, because we could've... the railway viaduct was just there. Anyhow we used to, as I said, pull everything over with trucks, loaded-up trucks. And anyhow, he got this great, huge section. He undermined it and he cut a chase, took a lot a brickwork out there, so that the wall can start moving forwards. You do that to make sure it doesn't kick back the other way, because when a wall snaps, it goes like pendulum. And sometimes it can go back the other way, which was out into Flinders Street. So I get down there and, 'Normie, what are you doing?' I thought, 'I shouldn't go back,' but I went back at about four o'clock and he still... I thought he must have it down, but he hasn't got it down. He's still working on it. He's got two trucks on it, trying to pull this wall over, and he's rocking it backwards and forwards and he can't. And he's stopped the traffic. Anyhow, the Country Roads Board... that's right, it was—they were doing some works there and they had a grader. So they hooked onto [*the wall*]. Trucks spinning wheels... and he finally pulled that bloody thing over.

RA: And it went the right way?

MJW: Went the right way. But you couldn't see Flinders Street for dust, of course. And I don't know what... the vibration and, of course, it went CHOONK down. I thought, ohh! But anyway, we never got a complaint. I said, 'Why would you do it on Friday afternoon at four o'clock?' I walked away in disgust. Your stomach would turn. I tell you what, there was a big row about the foundation stone at the Fish Market. Yeah, they were very cross. They accused Jimmy and Dad of pinching the sovs, because all they found was a penny, a ha'penny, and a farthing. And Matthew Laing, I think, (you know, I said Patterson, Laing & Bruce before?) he was mayor and he laid it, and they had a record of what they put into it. And they really... oh, Jimmy got hostile and there were very loud voices over the phone, I can tell you. They didn't really have to ring, you know; they just had to put their head out of the town hall and listen, because he was raging. How dare he question his integrity! Well, you know, the story of them lifting the sandstone is right, because at home... I mean, we were told that by a labourer at the RACV, that they'd lifted the stone. He said, 'Jimmy, you will not...' After the Fish Market fiasco. Yes, they'd come back at night, lift it, take out the sovs, and who was going to find out, you see? This old labourer at the original RACV building, which was adjacent to the Stock Exchange, where we found all the stock exchange seats. It was a very old building. And he came along to Jim, and Jim said, 'I'm not going to have...' He said, 'What are you doing? Jimmy, you're spending a lot of time here.' And he said, 'Yes, we're going to pull up that foundation stone. I'm not going to have the fiasco that we had at the Fish Market.' And he said, 'What happened?' He said, 'They accused Tom and I of pinching the sovs.' And he laughed. He said, 'Well, Jim, you won't find any money in that foundation stone.' And Jimmy was... 'How would you know?' You know, he was one of those pavement-foremen. Well, he'd worked with Jimmy in the old days, apparently an old labourer. And he said, 'Because I worked on this job and we came back that night and we lifted it and we took it—the money.' And he said, 'Jim, you know, who's going to find us out?' Well, guess what? Nothing. Oh, Jimmy was very doubtful. He's still a bit doubtful about it. But I've got... I found it somewhere... I've got a little glass jar which says (it's handwritten on a piece of paper in pencil), 'This stone was lifted by us. We did take the things. Times are pretty hard. See you later.' (Myles Whelan interview, 6/8/03)

...in the old days sovereigns would be placed in position at 12 noon and the foundation stone laid with great ceremony. Then, when the official party had gone, the workmen would raise that stone again, just for a second, say, at 5.10 pm. Drinks for everybody. (Jim Whelan, interviewed in Bulletin, 26/1/63)

60/2 The old Fish Market at Spencer-st is all but gone. All that stands now is the ornate old entrance archway waiting for the final coup de grace from the sledge hammer. **[pic]** Fish Market entrance & gate] (Herald, 4/2/60, p.17)

Mr D. L. Coughlin of Seymour contacted me in July 2003—one set of iron gates from Fish Market are at the entrance to King's Park footy oval at Seymour—a second set disappeared in recent years from the entrance of the town's swimming pool. Mr Coughlin's dad was a publican (Port Melbourne, Richmond, Fitzroy, St Kilda) and knew JPW/Jim Whelan? Moved to Seymour, where he became a town councillor. When he heard that WW was wrecking Fish Market, went down and 'snaffled' the gates for the Seymour Council. According to Myles, another set of Fish Market gates is located at Fawkner cemetery.

60/11 King Street bridge opened. (Port of Melbourne Quarterly, Oct-Dec 1958)

HOSIE'S HOTEL

19thC This well-known house was established in 1883 by a Mr Thompson, and was originally a bonded warehouse belonging to the Harketts Estate. Later on the late Mr J.S. Hosie purchased the freehold of the property, and in turn sold out, during the land boom, to Messrs Babetta and Parer for the sum of £85,000. The last-named owners carried on for some ten years, and on the 18th of May 1900 the present proprietor (Mr J.B. McArthur) took over operations. The building is constructed of brick, and presents a unique and imposing appearance. Public and private dining-rooms are provided, in addition to a ladies' dining-room, boudoir, etc., all of which are fitted up in a most luxurious style, while the front and Exchange bars are among the show places of the city. A very high-class business is carried on in the café, which is situated on the first floor, and is patronised by the leading professional and mercantile men. . . . During the visit of the Duke of York in 1901 over 17,252 three-penny meals were provided and served to the general public in one week (6th to 11th May). (The Cyclopaedia of Victoria, 1905, p.143—pic [on file])

1854- It was just over from Hosie's corner that the first train ran, down to Hobson's Bay and
1953 Sandridge, now Port Melbourne. The train was run by the Hobson's Bay Railway Company, so the little hotel was called the Hobson's Bay Railway Terminus Hotel. That was in 1869. It had been built earlier. It was occupied by Michaelis, Boyd and Co., merchants, and Buttner, Hallenstein, merchants, since 1854. (Two of these still famous merchant names here, in Michaelis, Hallenstein.) In 1868 George Harker, MLA, bought the place for a bond store. Then he fitted it as a hotel and leased it to Henry Thompson for 16 years. Host Thompson opened it with that long railway name in 1869. It then had four sitting rooms and six bedrooms, besides the licensee's apartment. James Hosie bought it in 1885, and during his three years' ownership made big changes. His licensee and manager was William Ackers. One of the hotel's features, the beautiful staircase leading up to the first floor, was made for Hosie by William Curtin, a man who made many famous staircases in Melbourne buildings. James Hosie was a very brief owner, but the name stuck. Hosie was a famous man in Melbourne. He began as a bootmaker at various addresses, and in 1860, in Bourke-st., opened a Coffee and News Room next to his shop. That was his first food venture. He was also in real estate (Elizabeth-st, 1872), confectionery (Bourke-st, 1873), the Turkish Bathing Palace and Baths Hotel (Bourke-st, 1875), the Academy of Music Hotel and Café (later the famous Palace, Bourke-st, 1876, a wine and spirit store (Lit Col, 1879), and the Union Hotel (Bourke-st, 1880). In the early nineties, he held the licence of the Reform Club Hotel in Little Collins-st.... Apart from Hosie's, his most famous venture was his Scotch Pie Shop in Bourke-st. In 1888 two now-famous names in Melbourne hotel keeping were noted as paying James Hosie £85,000 for his little hotel. The men were Parer and Barbeta. The price sounds enormous for then, but there was a land boom going strongly, and everything was way up. In 1900 John B. McArthur got the licence, and stayed for 25 years. The famous Melbourne hotelier Jimmy Richardson owned Hosie's from then until 1941, when he sold it as part of his chain of hotels, to the Carlton and United Breweries, who still own it. Hosie's has had no accommodation, and the law says it must have. So down it comes, despite our tears, and a limit height hotel is to be built. It must be limit height to make the most of the tiny block it's on—about a cricket pitch each way. Out of this small area you have to deduct two passenger and one goods lifts, plus stairs. That from each floor means you need those 13 floors. The old bluestone and brick will give way to colored glass and aluminium walls. (Sun, 15/8/53)

Michaelis, Hallenstein and Co., leather merchants, then two separate firms, were the first tenants of the premises in May, 1854. George Harker, an early member of Parliament, bought the building in 1868. He originally intended to use it as a bond store, but later decided on a hotel. In 1888 Barbeta Bros and Michael Parer paid £85,000 for Hosie's, and it soon earned a reputation for good food. Mr R.K. Cole, Victoria's leading hotel historian, says, 'You could get a magnificent plate of sausages and mash for 3d.' The meal was served on marble-topped tables... John B. McArthur, who held the licence for 20 years from 1901 to 1921, made Hosie's even more famous for its food by giving his patrons products of his own farm. In those days a beer cost 3d, and it was a man-size beer—20 ozs. Another 3d bought a steak an inch thick and big enough to satisfy the hungriest customer. Hosie's has always been a railwaymen's rendezvous, and 'Johnnie' McArthur was granted permission to open at 6.30 a.m. 'to cater for the needs of railwaymen and such other persons who had spent the night on duty.' (Herald, 20/7/53)

Most people are aware that Hosie's tradition of hearty eating took its origin in the humble, but characteristically Australian, pie. (news report, n.d., 1953?)

Who now remembers the famous occasion when one Morrissey, Melbourne snake-catcher, brought a hessian bag into Hosie's, and opened it to allow several of his snakes a trip round the bar? (Herald, 20/2/46)

- 45/8 But most of the pubs have succumbed to the occupational disease of brewers' architecture—shiny tiles and repainted fronts which contrive to convert a plain and agreeable enough colonial tavern into a typical vulgar 1945 adaptation. Hosie's, one is pleased to note, has no tiles and contrives to look itself. (Herald, 25/8/45)
- 46/2 Hosie's Hotel, on the corner of Elizabeth and Flinders Streets, is to be pulled down and replaced by a building of 14 storeys... It was in 1885 that James Hosie bought the Hobson's Bay Railway Terminus Hotel and gave it his name. In those days it was the starting point for the Moonee Ponds bus... More people will remember the days of Hosie's when it was kept by Johnnie McArthur. Beer was 3d a pot, and a pot held 20 ozs. A further 3d would buy a meal large enough to satisfy the hungriest customer. Food made Hosie's famous. Johnnie McArthur, who held the licence for 20 years from 1901 to 1921, fed his patrons with the products of his own farm. Steaks, an inch thick, and as large as the great silver dishes on which they were served, were popular, and even the hungriest customer could not clean up his plate. It seems odd in these days to read in the old records that McArthur was granted a special extension of his licence 'to remain open until 11.30 pm'—a full half-hour after the legal closing time. The extension was granted 'to satisfy customers who had been visiting the theatre'. And McArthur even obtained an extension at the other end of the day. He was granted permission to open at 6.30 a.m.—also an extension of half-an-hour—'to cater for the needs of railwaymen and such other persons who had spent the night on duty'. Those were gay days. Who now remembers the famous occasion when one Morrissey, Melbourne snake-catcher, brought a hessian bag into Hosie's, and opened it to allow several of his snakes a trip round the bar? (Herald, 20/2/46)
- 53/7 After 87 years, the diningroom at Hosie's—one of Melbourne's most famous hotels—has closed its doors. Closed, too, is the famous 'Business Men's Bar' on the first floor. ... The faloon bar will close on Saturday, and the main bar on Wednesday. Then the wreckers will move in. The new 11-storey hotel on the site will open about April or May next. The

- present building, 99 years old, was originally a block of business offices. Thomas Myles applied for the first licence on March 14, 1869. When James Hosie took over in 1885 the hotel was called the Hobson's Bay Railway Terminus Hotel. ...it has been Hosie's ever since. Hosie sold the hotel for £85,000 in 1886. (Argus, 30/7/53)
- 53/7 **[pic]** Who is Olivia in the old-fashioned fichu headdress in this picture? For almost a century, Olivia with her auburn hair has looked down from a fanlight in Hosie's Hotel, city. She became the 'girl friend' of thousands of patrons of the hotel's dining-room. But nobody seems to know who she was, or how she got there. She is believed to have been painted on the fanlight when the building was erected 99 years ago. ...The nominee of the hotel, Mr J. Dooley, believes nobody in Melbourne can solve the mystery of Olivia. '...The wreckers start here on August 10. I hope to buy her from them. It is too nice a piece of work to go.' ...Is she taken from Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' or Goldsmith's 'Vicar of Wakefield'? Or was she a barmaid in the hotel in the good old days? (Herald, 30/7/53)
- 53/7 Yesterday morning the woman who cleans the brass on the dining room doors was busy as usual polishing the brass on the dining room doors. Half an hour later workmen dismantled the doors and brass and all were gone for good. (Sun, 31/7/53)
- 53/8 Tonight the doors close□for about the 26,000th time. (Herald, 5/8/53)
- 53/8 **[Pic□Bill Whelan with coins found under floor]** Workmen who today began wrecking Hosie's Hotel... found 'treasure trove' under the floorboard of the main bar. Here is Bill Whelan with some of the 20-odd coins recovered. Within an hour of starting work, one bar room had been demolished. They spent their smoke-oh scratching for money in the debris. (Herald, 10/8/53)
- 53/8 Hosie's is coming down... a tall, shiny, glassy, super-Hosie's will rise in its place... (Sun, 15/8/53)
- 53/9 Wreckers working down at Hosie's Hotel unearthed a cache of money□silver and coppers worth a few pounds□when they ripped up the floorboards yesterday. (Argus, 18/9/53)
- 55/1 Today the Licensing Court granted the owners of Hosie's Hotel, Flinders Street, a licence to 'carry on business with less than the accommodation required by the Licensing Act'. Ten minutes later business began in the public bar□with a counter lunch. (Herald, 24/1/55)
- 55/2 New Hosie's□13-storey building of contemporary American design. (Herald, 3/2/55)
- 55/1 The basement public bar in the building now being erected was then opened. (Age, 25/1/55)

FLINDERS COURT BUILDINGS, 300-16 Flinders St & 1-5 Flinders Court (behind Hosie's)

- 68/7 Demolition permit□300-316 Flinders Street□1 x 4-storey + 1 x 3-storey brick office buildings□wrecked for MCC□\$40,000.
Demolition permit□1-5 Flinders Court□1 x 4-storey + 1 x 3-storey warehouses□\$6,250.
(MCC 167/3 Box 23 D2915 & D2914)

JOHNNY CONNELL'S RAILWAY HOTEL, SW cnr Elizabeth & Flinders Lane

- 1854 Royal Railway Hotel (late Shamrock Inn), Bartholomew Wheeler, Proprietor. also F. Mursaw begs to intimate to the public that he has opened the Railway Dining and Refreshment Saloon, on the premises, No. 23 Elizabeth Street, next door to the Royal Railway Hotel, and near to the Railway Depot. (Age, 17/10/54)

pre-1890 there were hundreds of fire marks on Melbourne buildings to denote that the building was insured. Fire marks had their origin in London, shortly after the Great Fire of 1666. Connell's Hotel had two old fire marks—a rare surviving example. (unsourced news item in Bibliography file—Fire Marks, LaTrobe Library)

- 62/11 The Australia and New Zealand Bank Ltd. Is planning to build a 12-storey, £600,000 building on the south-west corner of Elizabeth Street and Flinders Lane. This site, which measures 73 ft. by 66 ft., has been occupied since 1838 by 'John Connell's' Railway Hotel... The ANZ branch at 338 Flinders Lane would be transferred to the new building. The ground floor would include an arcade of shops. (Age, 28/11/62)
- 63/10 A fresh supply of beer had to be rushed to Johnny Connell's historic Railway Hotel for its last few hours yesterday afternoon. So many people came for a farewell drink to the hotel, originally licensed in 1838, that the beer threatened to run out and the nominee (Mr Austin Byrne) had to get 'a couple of hog's heads' (108 gallons)... Mr John Munday, who was associated with the hotel for 36 years and nominee for 10 years, said: 'I started here with Mr Connell. I did every job in the place from scrubbing the cellar floors to climbing the flag mast.'...The doors closed at 6.15 p.m. with the last customer being pushed and prodded out by a policeman. 'I don't expect this treatment after drinking here for 30 years,' he told anyone in Elizabeth Street prepared to listen. (Age, 5/10/63)
- 63/10 The wreckers moved into Connell's Hotel in Elizabeth-st. yesterday. (Sun, 22/10/63)
- 66/2 Johnny Connell's Railway Hotel—which occupied the south-west corner of Elizabeth Street and Flinders Lane for 124 years—will trade again. The hotel was demolished in 1962 in preparation for the building of a 13-storey office block for the ANZ Bank. Now, with the new building almost complete, it has been announced that the lower levels will house a new hotel—called Connell's Tavern. It will include a 'down under' tavern bar, a public bar in the basement and a street-level bottle shop.... Johnny Connell's original hotel served Melbourne's first free counter lunches—roast lamb and mutton—with every 3d. pint of beer. The site was bought in 1837 for £19 by Michael Pender. In 1962 the bank paid £195,000 for the same block. (Age, 24/2/66)

PORT PHILLIP CLUB HOTEL

A possible rival to the Chamber of Commerce building [as Melb's earliest brick building] may be found in parts of the Port Phillip Club Hotel in Flinders Street, which probably includes parts of the residence of Mr John Hodgson, also built in 1838. The residence, which was the largest in Melbourne, was known as Hodgson's Folly to the envious. Hodgson bought the allotment in 1837 for £65 (allotment 7 of Block 5). The dwelling afterwards became the Port Phillip Club, but was wound up in 1843. In 1849 it was known as the Yarra Boarding House, and in 1859 it became the Port Phillip Club Hotel. It is thought that much of the old building remains incorporated in the present hotel, which is the result of many alterations and additions. (Herald, 28/11/33)

Port Phillip Club founded 1839. Its members described in early 1840s as 'Impersonators of the tradition of old English gentlemen, buttoned up in black, and blue, and drab; drinking their decanter of port on the hottest days with abnormal dignity.' Originally a mansion, 'Yarro House', built in 1839 for John Hodgson—cost of building bankrupted him—known as 'Hodgson's Folly'. (Bearbrass, p.262)

Hodgson's Folly—'nothing at all to approach it as a private residence'. (Garryowen)

- 1842 Yarra House was in Fawkner's possession—he lent it for a short time to the Loyal Orangemen as a Liberty Hall. (Garryowen, p.620)

PETERSON'S BUILDING □ NE cnr Bond Street

1890 340-48 Flinders Street (E of Bond) □ all vacant

1891 346 Flinders Street = Petersen's Buildings. (S&M)

30/5 Claimed to be the largest building which has been demolished in Melbourne, an eight-storey concrete and brick building at the corner of Flinders street and Bond street, formerly occupied by Peterson and Co. Pty Ltd, has been razed to the ground... The 'wreckers' were in possession for more than three months. The site has been acquired by Felton, Grimwade and Duerdin Limited, and a building of 12 stories will be erected. The premises at present occupied by Duerdin and Sainsbury Limited at the rear will be included in the rebuilding project, and the new building will have a frontage of 66ft to Flinders street and a depth of 215ft along Bond street. (Argus, 13/5/30, p.10)

30/6 Whelan the Wrecker... has just finished his biggest job. Yesterday, he rounded off 40 years of active destruction by completing the work of pulling down a seven-storey cement and brick building at the corner of Bond and Flinders Streets, City. It is a coincidence that, 42 years ago, Mr Whelan helped to cart the timber used in its construction. (Herald, 21/6/30)

32/1 The first large building Mr Whelan demolished in Melbourne was one of seven storeys at the corner of Flinders street and Bond street. He considers that it was the best conditioned building he has ever handled. (Argus, 23/1/32)

53/11 Work has begun on a £180,000 four-storey building... It is being built for Federation Insurance Ltd. Excavations have begun on the site, formerly a carpark at the corner of Flinders and Bond-sts, near Queen-st. (Sun, 19/11/53)

55/12 Federal Insurance Building to be built in coming year on Flinders/Bond Street corner. (Herald, 31/12/55, p.2)

CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURERS INSURANCE, 382-88 Flinders St (rear) E side Foxton Lane

- 53/10 One of the few major city office projects carried out since 1938 is the remodelling of two old buildings in Flinders Street west to provide a workers' compensation claim centre for the Chamber of Manufactures Insurance Co. The remodelling scheme...has given 382 Flinders Street an entirely new facade. A concrete slab has also been poured beneath the existing timber first floor of the adjoining buildings, No. 386. These two buildings, among the oldest in the city, have been skilfully converted into a modern medical centre. During excavations an aboriginal wooden implement was recovered undamaged. It is now being preserved by the Chamber of Manufactures as a relic of Melbourne's primeval past. (Herald, 23/10/53)
- 66/10 Demolition permit for buildings at rear 2-storey stone & brick dwelling for Producers Citizens Co-op Assurance, \$1700. (MCC 167/3, Box 21, D2592)

MORGUE & CORONER'S COURT, Batman Avenue

- 1897 ...near the foot of Spring-street... Flinders-street here is bordered to the south by the Flinders Park, in which is contained... by the banks of the river a pretty building of fancy brick which forms the City Morgue. (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, p. 43)
- 36/2 Morgue□untouched for 50 years, except for occasional dabs of paint□being renovated at last. Verandahs demolished, laboratory built. (Herald, 18/2/36)
- 58/11 To be replaced with Children's Court and psychiatric clinic? Presently being used by Police Department. (Herald, 28/11/58, p.5)

PRINCES BRIDGE STATION

28/3 Railways Department ready to construct a single storey extension of Princes Bridge station, to house the Tourist Bureau and perhaps other departmental offices. However, Council considering widening approach to Princes Bridge—roofing over railway yards (as unemployment scheme). Council wanted to widen Swanston Street at that point to 33 ft, to avoid a situation where ‘high buildings’ would be erected in the future. ‘The day would come when only the tips of the spires of the Cathedral would be visible from the south.’ (Herald, 12/3/28, p.1)

28/7 It is the considered opinion of a select committee of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects... that the widening of Swanston Street by only 33ft, as proposed by the Railway Commissioners, and the erection of booking-offices over the railway yards to the proposed new alignment would yield very little extra space for traffic in Swanston street and would destroy the opportunity of opening out a vista revealing the Cathedral facade and spires to all approaching from St Kilda road. ...the architects said that the view of the Cathedral could be obtained only by demolishing the present unsightly railway offices at Prince’s Bridge and setting back the building line 138ft 6in. By this means the whole front of the Cathedral would be revealed to the approach from St Kilda road and the open space made available over the railway yards could be converted into a beautiful city square.... A feature of the proposal is that a water-fountain should be erected in the centre of the square. Melbourne, it was remarked, possesses remarkably few fountains for civic decoration... It was also proposed that groups of statuary emblematic of the city and the State should be placed on the northern and southern sides of the central fountain. ...It is also necessary that subways should be made under Swanston street so that the additional width of that thoroughfare shall present no increased difficulties to pedestrians passing in and out of the station.

The acquisition of a civic square, subways leading to the station, and a clear and aesthetic view between the Cathedral and St Kilda road, comprises a unique combination of results in civic constructional work. The square as proposed would cover an area of nearly an acre, and this added to the area included in the adjacent street junction, would make almost three acres of open space in front of the Cathedral and the railway station. The valuable ground thus gained in one open area without buildings would cost some hundreds of thousands of pounds if it had to be purchased from private owners in any other part of the centre of the city. **[Pic—Plan of proposed Cathedral Square]** (Argus, 3/7/28, p.7)

Pics—Melbourne, Cato (1949), p. 47; Victoria: A Camera Study, Hurley (1956), p.19

64/12 Demolition permit—single-storey building and cantilever verandah over footpath. (MCC 167/3, Box 19, D2251)

Demolition of station—first stage in roofing over part of Jolimont rail yards and putting station underground. **Pic**—wreckers, with St Paul’s in background. (Sun, n.d.—SLV/WW 62/21)

SARGOOD'S WAREHOUSES, 240-48 Flinders Street

pre-32 JPW listed among big WW jobs of the past. (Argus, 23/1/32)

9. FLINDERS/ELIZABETH CORNER

CRAIG'S & FINK'S BUILDINGS

- 13/5 Craig Williamsons premises to be extended over site of late Duke of Rothsay Hotel—purchased two years ago. Whole of block will be increased by two storeys—‘most imposing’ business premises—170ft frontage to Elizabeth Street—fire protection measures included fire-proof windows. (Argus, 10/3/13, p.21)
- 1914 Duke of Rothsay Hotel, 24-26 Elizabeth Street[]demolished by WW for extension to Craig Williamson. **Pic** on file (original) with caption: ‘With a rope around his waist, this old-time Whelan employee had a day to demolish the buttress on which he is standing, because he couldn’t be hauled up again and a ladder couldn’t be manoeuvred into position to let him down. His lunch was lowered to him by a piece of string. He finished the job in time to knock off. Traffic stopped in Elizabeth Street by crowd of watchers.’ (SLV/WW 54)
- 38/5 The Australian Natives’ Association arranged yesterday to buy the freehold of the northern portion of Craig Williamson’s buildings at 28--32 Elizabeth Street... On it is a nine-storied building with basement, which was built in 1926 to merge into the old Craig’s building.... Craig Williamson’s properties in Elizabeth Street have been vacant since the company closed in March 1937.... The firm of Craig Williamson was established in Elizabeth Street in 1845. (Sun, 26/5/38)
- 38/5 At the outset the whole building, which has a frontage of 199 feet to Elizabeth-street... was under offer... The ANA purchase... comprises a self-contained seven-storey addition to the original building... Established in 1874 [?], Craig’s was a Melbourne landmark, and... one of the city’s leading stores. (Age, 26/5/38)
- 38/6 The Elizabeth Street sky-line will be changed when this limit-height building [**pic**] is erected at the [SE] corner of Flinders Lane... [owned by Payne Estate] The building will adjoin the section of Craig’s that has been purchased... by the Australian Natives’ Association, and which is to be remodelled... (Herald, 1/6/38)
- 39/3 In Elizabeth Street, the £75,000 Yarra Building for the Payne Estate is rising to permitted building height adjoining the first section of the Craig’s Buildings, which is being reconstructed for the ANA... Tentative plans for conversion of the remaining Craig’s building into a shopping centre with direct subway to the railway station, include a scheme for a basement theatre. [Never built]
Central building of Craig’s being remodelled to house Royal Bank branch of ES&A (temporarily?). First section being reconstructed by ANA. (Herald, 11/3/39, p.6)
- 43/10 Fink’s Building, six-storied, corner Elizabeth and Flinders-sts, and the building adjoining, four-storied, in Flinders-st, opposite Flinders-st railway station, have been bought by the Commonwealth Bank as a site for a future city branch.... After the war the bank will either remodel the buildings on its purchase or demolish them... (Sun, 29/10/43)
- 46/3 The Commonwealth Bank has purchased the property, Nos. 8-26 Elizabeth-street..., known as Craig’s Building, having a frontage of 175 feet... The bank by its latest acquisition, now possesses a fine site of approximately 230 feet to Elizabeth-street,

having purchased Fink's building, on the north-east corner of Elizabeth and Flinders streets, several years ago. (Age, 9/3/46)

- 49/11 The final stages of the transformation of Craig, Williamson's building, in Eliabeth-street, into a modern bank... A branch of the [Commonwealth] bank already operates in the Craig building, which was bought by the Commonwealth Bank four years ago.... the building... has had many changes of tenancy since the Craig, Williamson firm had its warehouse and general store there. (Age, 25/11/49)
- 67/1 Demolition Permit [8-12 Elizabeth St & 274-76 Flinders St] also ANA Building [8-storey building] wrecked for Commonwealth Bank, \$29,000 [also 278-82 Flinders Street] [6-storey building] \$20,000. (MCC 167/3, Box 21, D2636 & D2637)
- 69/7 Demolition Permit [Craig's Building, 8-26 Elizabeth St] for Commonwealth Bank, \$45,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3060)

LEONARD HOUSE, 44-48 Elizabeth St

Built 1924-5 [Burley Griffin had his office there. (Wilson & Sands, *Building a City*, p.143)

W.B. Griffin's Leonard House, 44-6 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, of 1923-4 had what Donald Johnson has claimed was possibly the first curtain wall in the world, meaning the term in the modern sense. The façade contained a good proportion of glazing, and had a frame of rolled or extruded metal sections expressed as being continuous through the height of a number of floors.... Johnson's claim does not bear too close an examination, but it is true that this building, now tragically demolished, was of great importance, and that the evolution of the curtain wall was to be the most dramatic aspect of city architecture in the next few decades. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, pp.100-01)

56/8 Leonard House **[pic]**, 44-48 Elizabeth st, has been sold... eight-storey concrete building on land 25 ft by 70 ft... Leonard House, built in 1929, was designed by Mr Burley Griffin, who planned Canberra. Vendor was the estate of the late Leonard Kavenski... (Herald, 24/8/56)

1970s **Pics** on file—during demolition of neighbouring Strand and White's buildings. (MJW papers)

STRAND BUILDING, 50? Elizabeth Street—N of Leonard House

29/6 Owing to repeated subdivisions in city land in the last 80 years some of the most valuable sites to-day are so confined in frontage that only by skilful planning and designing can buildings be erected on them that will produce a reasonable return for money invested and present an appearance in keeping with the architectural aspirations of a great city. The new Strand building in Elizabeth street,... with a frontage of only 30ft, ... could not have been carried to a the height limit of 12 storeys and have provided the requisite space for lighting and ventilation but for the fortunate circumstance that the land has a right-of-way at the back. With access to the air on two sides it was found possible to carry the building to the height of 12 storeys. In a building so tall and relatively narrow careless designing might have led to the production of something more resembling a tower or a square chimney than an office building, but this effect has been dispelled by surmounting all the window openings with pointed arches and by the introduction of a little Gothic tracery into the frame. Further charm has been attained by carrying up the window bays in white cement and the main wall angles in brown terracotta. The problem of housing the lift machinery and the water cisterns and other services has also been cleverly ealt with. These adjuncts are screened in a neat tower with a Gothic facade in harmony with the general design of the whole structure. (Argus, 4/6/29, p.4) **Pic**, showing Strand and surrounding buildings.

1970s **Pics** on file—during demolition. (MJW papers)

WHITE'S BUILDING, NE cnr Elizabeth & Flinders Lane—S of Leonard House

1970s **Pics** on file—during demolition. (MJW papers)

1970s MJW: The place on the corner was even more interesting.

RA: On the corner of Elizabeth Street?

MJW: Yes. We pulled that down. It was alongside a place that caused a lot of controversy because it had a Burley Griffin... it was about a five- or six-storey building façade.

RA: The building that came down had a Burley Griffin façade?

MJW: Yes. But I reckon that they had their eyes on the wrong spot, because they could've saved these. Because on the corner were two buildings—two or three buildings—two-storeys high. They were bluestone buildings which I reckon went back to... were original. And they were fantastic. I mean, I have got photographs showing the workmanship and so on. ...But the age of these clearly was going back to the very early days of Melbourne.... They came down without a whimper.

RA: This was in the '60s—or later?

MJW: Probably later. The '70s, I think. I've got a couple of photographs of those features. Because, you know, they used to take their eyes off... and this other one next door couldn't have been sustained. They were trying to retain the wall, because it was built as a party-wall over the next one next door and they had a mixture of bluestone rubble walls—rubble walls down the bottom. I mean, even to get this building... they must've pulled down... they used the party-walls of an existing building, pulled it down and built a four- or five-storey with a façade on it. And on the top, I think it was... oh, I think they kept the bottom two and they put the render... and how they did that, I don't know, because it was... I wish they'd've taken it apart; it was quite dangerous. But the ones that they should've kept, in my view, were the ones down the... It was on the north-east corner. National Bank. (Myles Whelan interview, 6/8/03)

PATERSON, LAING & BRUCE, 282 Flinders La□NE cnr Elizabeth Place

1970s Wrecked by WW. (Myles Whelan interview, 6/8/03)

NORMAN BROS. BUILDING, Elizabeth Street□b/w Collins & Flinders La

1976 To be demolished to make way for National Bank building. Built c.1911□5 storeys□Norman Bros. Original premises opened next door in 1898. (Sun, 10/2/76)

10. HOWEY ESTATE

- 1837 William Howey bought to £120 four lots with frontages on The Block, still largely in the possession of his descendants—first Melbourne land sale. Buyers were bound to erect within two years some ‘substantial tenement, worth not less than £20.’ (Herald, 29/4/37, p.14)
- 19thC The estate dates back to the earliest days of settlement in Victoria. It was just 100 years ago that Captain Henry Howey, a former British naval officer, who owned a station near Goulburn, decided to take up land in Victoria. With a number of stockmen and a large flock of sheep, he arrived at Gisborne, where he selected a run. Soon after, he attended the first land sale held in Melbourne in 1837, and bought four blocks of land—two on the Swanston Street frontage between Collins Street and Little Collins Street, and the two adjoining blocks on the west, running right through from Collins Street to Little Collins Street. Thus the estate originally embraced the whole of the island area now bounded by Collins, Swanston and Little Collins Streets, and on the west by Howey Place. Four years later, Henry Howey, with his wife, children and the whole of his retinue, left Sydney in the Schooner ‘Sarah’, intending to settle permanently in Victoria, but were never heard of again. Captain John Werge Howey then came to Australia from India to administer his brother’s affairs, and when, some years after, the Supreme Court of Victoria presumed the eath of Henry Howey and his whole family, Captain J.W. Howey succeeded to the property, as his brother’s heir at law. ...when he died in 1868, he entailed the whole of his estate on his nephew, Major J.E.W. Howey, for his life, with remainder to his eldest son in tail male, in this way tying up the property as long as he legally could. (Herald, 30/11/36)
- 1859 Samuel Mullen opened a bookshop at 55 Collins Street East, near Swanston Street (Holroyd: *George Robertson of Melbourne*)
- 32/1 When the old Stewart Dawson building has been removed Mr Whelan will have wrecked the whole frontage in Swanston Street from Little Collins to Collins street. (Argus, 23/1/32)
- 35/11 Captain J.E.P. Howey, the fourth beneficiary in the estate, and Mrs Howey, will arrive in Melbourne next month to lay the foundation stone for a new building—230 Collins Street (Albany Court). £900,000 spent in building on estate since 1901. (Herald, 15/11/35)
- 36/11 For many years held in individual ownership by the heirs and descendants of the original ower, Captain Henry Howey, the property has now been divided amongst several members of the family.... Major Howey died in 1924, and his eldest son is the present Captain J.E. Howey... Since then, Captain Howey, who resides with his family in England, has been a frequent visitor to Melbourne... The estate... is now divided among the various members of the family. Captain Howey is the owner of Howey Court, and the properties at the corner of Swanston Street and Little Collins Street and Howey Place, while Mrs Howey owns Howey House. Presgrave Building is in the joint names of Captain and Mrs Howey, and sisters of Captain Howey own parts of the estate in Swanston Street and Little Collins Street, while Captain Howey has now given Albany Court to his children, Anthony and Gloria Howey. (Herald, 30/11/36)

- 38/3 ...[JPW] wrecked practically the whole of a city block, one example being his demolition of the site from Manchest Unity Building, along Swanston Street to Little collins Street and down that as far as Howey Place. (Herald, 2/3/38)
- 21-38 Howey Estate Building Schedule
 1921—Howey House
 1922—Talma Building (internal reconstruction of 1880s bldg)
 1930—Howey Court
 1935—Presgrave Building
 1936—Albany Court
 1938—Exchange Hotel, Craigies Building and Hewitt House [Century Bldg]
 (Herald, 30/11/36)
- 54/10 Glass in Howey Place roof being restored by Howey family (welcome, since council took away shelter of verandahs)□framework remains, though most of the buildings which originally supported it have been demolished. People in offices high above threw objects from windows and broke most of the glass. Framework a tribute to Victorian era engineers. ‘Before the turn of the century Howey Place was the private entrance to residences behind shops fronting Swanston and Collins Street. The glass roof was installed to give people living there privacy and dry doorsteps. (Herald, 27/10/54, p.3)
- 54/11 Mr Marcus R. Barlow, whose death at the age of 64 was announced on Friday, influenced the present appearance of Melbourne city more than any other man of this century. For included among the city office blocks for which he was architect were the several big buildings on the Howey estate. With the Manchester Unity building as its centre and the Town Hall opposite, this corner is the travel-postcard centre of Melbourne... The only big building on this busy section of the block which was not the work of Mr Barlow is Capital House. During and after the depression the rest was transformed under his guidance from low-level shabbiness to a great block of commercial activity solid to the 132 ft height limit and thrusting romanticised towers above.... Our manner of building and design moves away from the era which produced the group. But the buildings will remain, for as long as one can foresee, a focal centre to the city and a monument to the man who shaped the greatest period of expansion the central city has known. (Herald, 2/11/54, p.14)

HOTEL AUSTRALIA

19thC Originally licensed as City Club Hotel, 1872. Café Gunsler, 1885-90. Vienna Café Hotel, 1890-1921. Hotel Australia, 1934. (Cole Collection)

1879 Mullen's Bookshop & Library moved in 1879 to the site of the Hotel Australia. (Holroyd, *George Robertson of Melbourne*, facing p. 41)

79/7 Collins-street Improvements: The Café Gunsler, Fletcher's Art Gallery, and Mullen's Library.—The long-vacant and valuable block of land in Collins-street east, with which the name of the late Mr Petty was so long associated, has at last been utilised by the erection of a pile of buildings, so arranged as to form one harmonious design. The structure consists of three distinct tenement—that on the west side being the property of J.F. Gunsler and Co., now called the 'Café Gunsler;' that on the east side being devoted to the business purposes of Mr Mullen, and known as 'Mullen's Library;' and the centre portion, available for general business purposes, is at present only partially occupied by Mr Fletcher's art gallery. The style adopted is Romanesque, and the introduction of iron for the arcading and tiles for the decoration of the façade have been attended with a result which, while novel and pleasing, may be looked upon as a step in advance of the general street architecture of the city. ...the architect has endeavoured to satisfy the eye by the use of iron columns, so boldly placed in front of the plate-glass as to leave almost room to walk between the shop front and the columns... Under each tenement is a basement floor...

Gunsler's Café has on the ground floor a large restaurant, 23 x 77ft 9in x 15ft high, with counters for serving refreshments of all kinds to those whose time is too limited to seat themselves at the tables. The restaurant is lined all round with handsome mirrored and French polished cedar and Huon pine dado, 7ft high, behind which the fresh air for ventilation is introduced. The counter bar and departments for serving oysters and coffee, with their polished marble table tops, are all fitted up with curved and moulded Huon pine and cedar. Opening out of the restaurant are handsomely finished lavatories and retiring rooms for gentlemen. Behind them is the large backhouse, 36ft x 24ft x 12ft high, with the ovens and other necessary appliances. An elegant staircase conducts from the ground floor restaurant to two large luncheon rooms on the first floor—one, 24ft x 39ft x 16ft high, for ladies and gentlemen; the other, 17ft x 18ft x 16ft, for ladies only. Both these rooms are treated with dado all round, as the restaurant below, and above the dado and in the panels of the entrance doors are lights of tastefully and artistically embossed British plate-glass. Ladies' lavatories and retiring rooms are provided on this floor, and the former are in both cases furnished with Jennings' patent tip-up lavatory basins, and finished with white glazed tile wall linings. On the first floor, in the rear of these luncheon rooms, is the large kitchen, 41ft x 24ft x 17ft high, with kitchen range (14ft long), grill, steam boilers, chest, bains-maries, and every recent improved appliance for the production of those choice articles of food upon which the *chef de cuisine* prides himself. On the second floor is a fine banqueting room, 69ft x 24ft x 15ft high, and on the next floor living, smoking, and bathrooms. Lifts convey the food from the ground floor to the topmost storey, and much saving of labour is thereby effected.

The shop occupied by Mr Mullen is 109ft x 21ft x 14ft high, and behind it is a special apartment, 28ft x 21ft x 13ft high, devoted to educational works. Above this is a book store of similar size. Mr Mullen's premises are so arranged that in the cold wintry weather his customers can be warmed and cheered by the fires, which may now daily be seen burning brightly in his extensive library. At the remote end is the circulating library, the well-known 'Melbourne Mudie's'. The book-shelves are faced with polished kauri

pine, crowned by a Grecian cornice of the same material... Over the library is a large skylight... At the end of the shop a short staircase leads the visitor to the educational department... In this room also is the counting-house, so arranged as to overlook the whole premises. Over the educational department is a store for reserve stock, which is conveyed thither by means of an American hoist, a simple machine, now coming into general use in Melbourne. A cellar below runs under the whole length of the premises, and affords ample room for opening consignments of goods and or storing the library duplicates. These are sent upstairs by means of ingeniously-contrived lifts, which deposit their burdens under the counters in the shop.

Above the ground floor of Mr Mullen's shop the whole of the upper portion of the building is devoted to the carrying on of the photographic business of Messrs Foster and Martin. Above the middle building Mr Fletcher has his gallery for the exhibition of paintings. There is some probability of the centre shop being converted into a bazaar, conducting to an arcade in the rear... The contractor for the works is Mr Harry Lockington, and the amount expended in the erection and fitting up of these buildings is about £15,000. (Australasian Sketcher, 5/7/1879, p.55)

- 89/9 [Fire at George & George's] Two doors to the east of Messrs George and George's establishment, and separated from it by the warehouse of Messrs Allan and Co., is the well-known establishment of Messrs Glen and Co., music warehousemen. This establishment is undergoing extensive alterations, and the whole of the upper portion of it is in the hands of the contractors, who are adding an additional storey to its original height, and generally improving it... The upper storey was being prepared for a photographic studio, and the framing of the roof was of the lightest possible description, and on that account is afforded readier material for the fire. ...the beams which had been placed in position for the new roof were destroyed... [Mr Kemp, junior partner of the firm, was asked] Your concert room has not been destroyed? No, but it might almost as well have been urnt. There are a very large number of valuable pianos and organ in it, and they are all standing in about 4in. of water... The brass room—that is the room where we keep our stock of brass instruments—is a complete wreck. The roof caught fire, and has fallen in... Another almost historic establishment nearly annihilated by the fire was Allan's well-known music warehouse. [Descriptions of Allan's and George & George's premises] (Argus, 14/9/89 p.10)
- 1895 Inscription in footpath (near kerb) in front of 270 Collins Street tells that the Victorian Cricket Association was formed there in 1895. This would have been the Vienna Cafe—268 Collins Street. Link with Paddington Hotel (cricketers' hats).
- 03/11 [Pic] The judges of the High Court were entertained at dinner on Tuesday at the Vienna Cafe by the members of the Law Institute of Victoria. [Photo shows a large and elegant dining room] (Leader, 21/11/1903, p.36)
- 16/10 The finest café which has ever been erected in Melbourne was opened in Collins street yesterday afternoon. It is an extension to what was formerly called the Vienna Café, but which in future will be known as the Café Australia.
The building, which was formerly occupied by Messrs W.H. Glen and Company, has been altered, and except for the business frontages to Collins street, the whole of the building has been transformed into what is claimed to be the most beautiful café in the Southern Hemisphere. It is entered by a carpeted passage-way from Collins street. The Delft tiles used in the doorway set the keynote for the colour scheme in gold and ivory. Together with white quartz concrete and green pearl granite, they form a conspicuous

entrance of simple design. From the lobby, with its couches and dressing-rooms, one enters the Fern Room. In this room, whose colour, pleasantly toned by the glass of the ceiling, glows in the sunlight, one of the main structural piers is enriched with two unique pieces of sculptured landscape in high relief, by Charles Costerman, Port Phillip and Port Jackson, the wind-blown tea-tree and the splendid Port Jackson fig being used as motifs.

From the fern room one passes to the fountain court. It is brightly lighted through the enriched pattern in the ceiling glass, and is enclosed between four fountains, whose graceful spray is played upon by coloured lights beneath the water. The fountains are surrounded by greenery and flowers. Amongst the unique decorations are three life-sized figures, Persephone, Echo, and Daphne facing the grand staircase, at the entrance to the new portion of the building. The figures are represented as standing waist-high in fields of rye, barley, and wheat, and are treated in such an architectural manner as to form the pillars which support the upper floors; this style of treatment which has never been adopted here, and is new to Australia, has been introduced by Mr W.B. Griffin, and has been carried out by Miss Margaret Baskerville, sculptor, in a most successful manner. The main dining-room is a sunny, airy hall, restful and cosy in spite of its size, because of the illusive forms and varying light and shade formed by the balcony with its alcoves below. The mural decoration of tall eucalypts, by Miss Bertha Merfield, is an essential part of the colour scheme of the room.... Mr Lucas, the proprietor... [formerly of Lucas's Café, Swanston Street?] (Argus, 26/10/16, p.4)

- 1920 Café Australia, 270 Collins Street—designed by Walter Burley Griffin. (LaTrobe Lib indexes)
- 27/12 One of the most notable transactions of [1927] was the transfer of the freehold of the Hotel Australia... The vendor was Mr A.J.J. Lucas, and the purchasers Messrs Matear Brothers and Carlyon. (Argus, 27/12/27, p.17)
- 31/7 Fires in Lyon's Cafe & Hotel Australia. Lyon's Cafe, 309-311 Lt Collins St, almost behind Hotel Australia, 4 storeys—every floor severely damaged. Cafe has no connection with other Lyon's Cafes in city—bought by J. Muller before Christmas 1930. Hotel Australia—four attic rooms damaged + miniature gold course on floor below damaged by heat, smoke and water. Hotel Australia is property of W.H. Glen estate. (Argus, 6/7/31, p.9; 7/7/31, p.8)
- 31/9 Inquiry into fire. John Muller (cafe proprietor) was suspected of arson. Arrived from Austria, 1930. Bought cafe (business) for £400. Rent of premises = £35 per wk; losing £20 per week. Muller was last person seen on premises. Fire appeared to have been started on upper floor in a sudden blaze, 'as if some spirit had been set alight'. Judge found evidence insufficient to show guilt. (Argus, 10/9/31, p.5)
- 36/10 On the corner of the original Block Arcade the premises formerly occupied by the Singer Sewing Machine Company retain their original form. Here the ceiling, which was specially painted by Philip Goatcher, the scenic artist, remains in perfect preservation, though it now attracts little attention. The Singer Company paid £1000 for the work.... The building, now portion of the Hotel Australia, which will be auctioned next month, was formerly the Vienna Cafe... **[pic]**—A general view taken today of the properties involved in the £350,000 rebuilding scheme on The Block. The properties are the Hotel Australia, Harrington's and the Tatler Theatre.] (Herald, 31/10/36)

- 37/8 [Proposed building works in Collins Street include] ...the £350,000 arcade and buildings proposed to be built through to Little Collins Street from the Hotel Australia... (Herald, 11/8/37)
- 38/7 New Hotel Australia to cost £500,000□12-storey on 65 ft frontage to Little Collins St□building only cost £150,000. (Herald, 6/7/38, p.20)
- 38/9 Demolished by WW 1938. (Letter, 1/9/38 in SLV/WW, 65/2)
- 39/3 Now under construction is the 12-storey Hotel Australia, in Collins Street, including the adjoining Government Tourist Bureau... (Herald, 11/3/39)
- 39/5 Relic of the 'good old days' is the 80-year-old Glen Gallery, which has been hidden for more than 30 years by the later architecture of the old Hotel Australia, which is now being demolished for the new Government Tourist Bureau. The gallery is surrounded by paintings of musical giants of the past in a series of arches. Here are two of the panels exposed by the wrecker's pick today, and which will soon vanish from our sight altogether. [pic□shows pictures of man and woman, set in ornate timberwork] (Herald, 10/5/38, p. 2)

For the Victorian Government Tourist Bureau (1939) which occupied the whole of the ground floor of... [the] extension to the Hotel Australia on Collins Street, Stephenson & Turner installed a stunning interior design... Behind the main information counter was a 25-metre photo mural by émigré artist Gert Selheim, depicting the historical development of Australian transport... (Australian Modern: The Architecture of Stephenson & Turner, Goad, Wilken, Willis, MUP, 2004)

- 1942 ...General Douglas MacArthur himself, who went to the Menzies Hotel and in due course made his headquarters in the Australia Hotel. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.108)
- c.1970 There was a Ruby Wedding for my mother and father, so we said we'd have a nice family get-together. And someone said, 'Why don't you go to the Cantala Room at the Hotel Australia?' Well, it was beautiful. It was beautiful timber panelling all the way round and what-have-you, all the red infill around the panelling. It was just absolutely beautiful. It was like stepping into the past. And I can remember Dad coming in and looking. He said, 'Good heavens above!' He said, 'This is old Money Miller's billiard room.' His mansion was called Cantala, out in Caulfield. Money Miller was a pretty famous financier. Probably set up the first telephone exchange in Melbourne. Anyhow, he said, 'We had to take all this thing apart very carefully and take it all up to the Hotel Australia.' And he must've had some interest in it or something like that, in the early days. Might've been one of the early backers. (Owen Whelan interview)

ALBANY CHAMBERS/COURT, 230 Collins Street

- 35/11 Albany Chambers, 230 Collins Street, will be handed over to the wreckers in January, and on the site will be erected an £80,000 building, 132 feet high. Albany Chambers, sandwiched between the Manchester Unity Building and Howey Court, has become obsolete. The new building will harmonise in design with Howey Court, and will have an arcade leading through to Little Collins Street. These buildings form part of the Howey Estate, which was bought at Melbourne's first land sale in 1837 by Captain Henry Howey. Captain J.E.P. Howey, the fourth beneficiary in the estate, and Mrs Howey, will arrive in Melbourne next month to lay the foundation stone of the new building. They will also attend the opening of the Presgrave Building, Little Collins Street, which is nearing completion... Since Cr Raynes Dickson became trustee of the Howey Estate 34 years ago, more than £900,000 has been spent in buildings on the estate. (Herald?, 15/11/35)
- 35/11 Plans are being finalised for the demolition of the five-storey buildings between the Manchester Unity-building and Howey-court... The buildings, which are to be handed over to the wreckers in January, are known as Albany-chambers. They were constructed of brick, with cement facings, but are of obsolete type in plan, particularly in view of the fact that the property appreciated so much in value since the war period. (Age, 15/11/35)
- 35/12 Work will begin on January 11, 1936, on the erection of Albany Court, a modern 13-storey structure to be built for the trustees of the Howey estate, on the site now occupied by Albany Chambers, 230 Collins Street, between Howey Court and the Manchester Unity Building. (Herald? 10/12/35)
- 36/1 WW commenced demolition January 1936. (Herald, 11/1/36)
- 36/1 Sandwiched between Manchester Unity and Howey Court, Albany Chambers now obsolete□to be replaced by Albany Court, £80,000, 132 ft high□will harmonise with Howey Court□arcade will run to Little Collins. (Herald, 15/1/35, p.2)
- 36/11 The Albany Theatre, which occupies the basement of Albany Court... The installation of an electric clock, flood lit from behind, so that patrons may know the time while viewing the films, is an important feature... (Herald, 30/11/36)

CENTURY BUILDING, SW cnr Swanston & Little Collins

1881 Th electric light now displayed in Swanston-street [125?—N side of Royal Oak Hotel—two-storey building, later Hewitt House], at the premises of the Victorian Electric Light Company, is about 1,200 candle-power. It is supplied by one of Siemen's machines, which is driven by a gas engine. The Eastern Market is to be supplied with similar machines, only of a greater lighting power, this company having undertaken a contract from the city council for that purpose. They are also doing the electric work for the Queensland Government defences. The company is only in its infancy. Mr R.E. Joseph is the electric engineer, and Mr H. Byron Moore manager. The lamp now in use has been invented by Mr Joseph and patented by the company. (*Australasian Sketcher*, 7/5/1881, p.150—pic p.153)

The Victorian Electrical Company... probably was the first [electricity] company in all Australia... (Selby, *The Old Pioneers' Memorial History of Melbourne*)

The first public display of electric lighting in Melbourne took place on the marriage day of the Prince of Wales in 1863, and consisted of three arc lamps erected by the Government at the Post-office, the old telegraph office (now the Harbour Trust offices), and at Parliament House. The supply of electricity was generated by means of certain chemical batteries...[but] the cost of the elements consumed by chemical actions in the batteries, combined with the trouble and expence of manipulation, was practically prohibitive, so that... nothing further was done to render this method of lighting popular until 1878 and 1879, when Sands & McDougall... and the Apollo Candle Company each imported an arc lamp and a dynamo machine to work it... The success of these attempts, however, was not by any means marked, ...the result being intense light at some points and dense shadows at others. ('History of Electric Lighting in Victoria' in *The Australasian Ironmonger*, 1/6/1890, pp. 176-7)

In August 1879, a football match had been played on the Melbourne Cricket Ground beneath [electric lighting], and the following year it was used at an evening conversazione in the Exhibition Building. In both of these early experiments, concave mirrors were used, which did not diffuse the light satisfactorily for general illumination... (Victoria the first century: an historical survey, 1934)

...in the Exhibition year Mr R.E. Joseph... floated a small company, called the Victorian Electric Co.... they purchased a piece of land in Russell-lane, off Bourke-street, and proceeded to establish a workshop and the nucleus of a central station. But it soon became apparent that the capital was much too small... [and] the Australian Electric Co. was formed in November 1881, with a capital of £100,000 and which took over the property of the Victorian company, and continued the work under more favourable conditions.

...by this time Edison and Swan had made themselves famous by the invention of the incandescent lamp, which has proved a complete solution of the subdivision of the electric light. These lamps were already in use in England and America, and Victoria, not to be behind hand, must needs have a shipment imported, which were exhibited for the first time in Melbourne in the Athenaeum Hall in 1882, the power being conveyed by two wires from the new central station. Having seen demonstrated the suitability of this new lamp for lighting public halls, the Opera House Co. were not slow to see the advantages arising from its use, and so became customers to the extent of 120 lamps of 20-candle power each, with which to light the auditorium of the Opera House... This proved so

successful that... they gave orders for the theatre to be lighted throughout with the electric light, which involved the use of some 600 lamps, gas being entirely dispensed with. ...soon plant had been erected capable of supplying 1500 incandescent lamps and about 30 arcs. This might have been increased indefinitely but for the fact that the pressure at which the electricity was generated in those days—viz., 50 volts—rendered it impossible to convey current for more than a few hundred yards without suffering great loss in the transmission... ('History of Electric Lighting in Victoria' in *The Australasian Ironmonger*, 1/6/1890, pp. 176-7)

...in July 1881, the new Eastern Market was provided by the Australian Electric company with six arc lamps, each with its separate dynamo, and in June 1882, the same company gave an exhibiton in the Athenaeum Hall to demonstrate the domestic possibilities of the Swan incandescent lamp. (Victoria the first century: an historical survey, 1934)

About 1880 a step of revolutionary importance in electric lighting—production by Edison & Swan of an incandescent lamp—'a crude, costly, uneconomical lamp with a strip of carbonised bamboo, paper or cotton, as a filament, and a very short and unreliable light. Nevertheless, it opened the way for remarkable developments because, for the first time, it became possible to subdivide the light of the arc into small units suitable for general lighting purpose, and to switch each unit independently. The first of the new incandescent lamps were used in Melbourne in 1882 for the lighting of the Athenaeum Hall...' ('Electricity in Victoria' by F.W. Clements, Catalogue of All-Electrical Exposition, 1927, p.13)

Electric lights at Opera House cost twice as much as gas to run, but were nine times brighter. (Electric Light in Australia—Bibliog file, SLV)

...numerous small syndicates and companies were formed... Most of them had short lives. But the Victorian Electric Light Company, formed in 1880, eventually became the Melbourne Electric Supply Company and supplied a large part of suburban Melbourne until 1930. (Herald, 2/10/1969)

1938 Century House□to replace Hewitt House, Exchange Hotel, and Craigie's Buildings (Little Collins)□'a modern structure rivalling the Manchester Unity building in height and size'□11 storeys□to incorporate a hotel, on west boundary in Little Collins□Marcus Barlow, architect. (Herald, 8/4/38, p.3; 16/7/38, p.3)

Well-known Exchange Hotel and Café Francais to be replaced□at SW cnr of block. (Argus, 18/7/38)

Century Building will include new 'talkie theatre' in one of two basements. (Herald, 11/3/39, p.6)

Melbourne's first fully air-conditioned building. (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, p.151)

40/6 ...the Century Theatre, in the Century Building, opens to the public tomorrow... Owned by the Howey Estate, the theatre...is the largest newsreel theatre in Australia, and the staff comprises 10 girls, including 'The Girl of the Century', Miss Gloria Williams, selected as receptionist for the theatres in a State-wide competition which attracted 700

entrants. The girls wear specially-designed hand-embroidered dinner frocks of slipper satin. (Herald, 27/6/40, p.12)

PRESGRAVE BUILDING, Little Collins

- c.1935 Another important building scheme for the city is nearing completion... The project embraces plans for the erection of modern shopping and office premises in Little Collins-street, extending from No. 269 to No. 279 on the south side, the site being portion of the Howey estate. It has a frontage to Little Collins-street of about 84 feet, with a depth along Howey-place, on the west side to Presgrave-place of about 70 feet. On the east side of the block, which is almost a square, are premises occupied by the Bank of New South Wales. The north wall of the Capitol Theatre runs for some distance on the opposite side of Presgrave-place, on the south line. ...In preparation for the builders, work on demolition will be proceeded with in July. Four two-storey shops fronting Little Collins-street, which were erected in the sixties, of brick and cement, with plain exteriors, will probably be pulled down first. Presgrave Building, at the north-west corner of the square, which will also be demolished, was built some years later. It is of three storeys and the façade was carried out in genuine Hawthorn bricks to form a Romanesque design. The new building will consist of ten floors, up to the building height limit of 99 feet, which was fine for 'little' streets a year or two after the war. (Age, n.d.)
- 35/6 Presgrave Building (old) demolished June 1935. (Sun, 16/1/36)
- 35/11 Presgrave Building nearing completion—architect Marcus R. Barlow, of Temple Court. (Herald, 15/11/35, p.2)

STEWART DAWSON'S/MANCHESTER UNITY BLDG

- 1882- In 1882 [Damman's tobacconists] shop moved [from SW cnr] to the present site of the Manchester Unity building. It took a shop in a new building which had replaced an old grocery, Germain Nicholson. In 1904 their corner was taken over by Stewart Dawson's, the jewellers... (Herald, 24/6/64, p.4)

Stewart Dawson's Corner, which was formerly the favorite rendezvous for Block promenaders, is also part of pre-war history. In earlier years this corner shop was occupied by Banks and Bowden, tailors, and afterwards by Germain Nicholson, Grocer. (Herald, 31/10/36)

For 40 years, from 1844 to 1884, a one-storey building stood on this Collins St corner—the grocer's shop of Germain Nicholson. A photograph taken in the 1860s shows Swanson St from this corner.... For years before 1931, Stewart Dawson's Corner was a meeting place almost as popular as 'under the clocks' at Flinders St Station. ...all the lads and lasses met there before setting off to 'do the Block'... The Manchester Unity IOOF had bought the corner property from Mr Stewart Dawson, a jeweller, in 1928 for £25,000, and in 1929 they bought an adjoining Swanston St property for £93,000. (Herald, 1/6/1968)

- 1920s [Stewart Dawson's] had considered the erection of a fine, tall building there, and Mr Barlow [architect] was commissioned to make the sketches. This work he did with enthusiasm, seeing in his mind's eye a very poem in architecture rising in the face of the Town Hall. But the scheme halted, to his keen disappointment. Then one day he saw smoke pouring out of the old building. Without wishing any harm to the fire brigade, he wondered if a puncture of a breakdown would give him his chance. But the fire fighters were dreadfully efficient and little damage was done. (Herald, 13/12/32, p.8)
- 27/3 Fire started on third floor front portion of this floor facing Collins Street destroyed lift door burnt, roof collapsed in places cause of fire a mystery thought to have started in ceiling of Miss M. Ross Symon's (land & house agent) office burnt out portion of third floor occupied by Melba Photographic Studios, Miss Ross Symons, a ladies' hairdresser, and an architect. Other tenants affected: Harlequin Club and G. Johnson, billiard saloon (2nd floor), several tailors on 1st floor, Stewart Dawson's, a florist, hosiery & gloves, boot warehouse, etc, on ground floor all suffered minor losses. Melville Maxwell, aged 19, was injured whilst endeavouring to rescue Miss Symons from building in serious condition. (Herald, 14/3/27)
- 28/11 The Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, the richest friendly society in Australia, which paid a record price (£2717 a foot) for Stewart Dawson's property at the corner of Swanston and Collins streets, intends to replace the present old-fashioned building with a modern one worthy of the site.... The grand secretary of the society (Mr W.H. Best)... thought the right type of building could be erected for £125,000. ...Mr Stewart Dawson, who is now 80 years of age, had considered erecting a new building on the site but had decided to leave it to someone else. Stewart Dawson (Aust) Ltd occupy corner blocks in several Australian capital cities and in New Zealand. Mr Dawson looked upon Collins street corner as the most valuable of them all. He also attached a certain amount of sentimental value to it, because it had been occupied by his firm for 40

years.... In 1914 he purchased the property for £85,000 from the Howey Estate...
(Herald, 28/11/28)

- 31/12 The normal building time for such a structure would perhaps approximate two years, but this huge building must be completely finished and ready for occupation in 10 months, while the lower shopping floors must be opened for shopping in August next.... The first item shown on the building progress graph is demolition, and the time for this work is 20 days. Notwithstanding, demolition must be carried out in such a manner that other trades can begin safely within 14 days. On New Year's morning, the demolition gang will start wrecking the verandah to Swanston Street, and have this all cleared away before any traffic is stirring, ready for the builder in the morning to erect the hoarding to the footpath. Before noon on New Year's Day, the roof of the main building will have disappeared, and services such as electric light, power, gas and sewerage be disconnected. Then shop fronts and any fittings of value will be removed. The demolisher will concentrate first upon those shops adjoining the Capitol Theatre, and break a way through to Howey Place, then to Collins Street. Motor trucks will then be able to enter from Collins Street, load on the site and leave by Swanston Street. The remainder of the building will be cleared away, work proceeding from the inside. Light materials will be dropped and removed during the day, while walls and heavy girders will be dropped as far as possible at night, to avoid danger to the public and the annoyance of dust. **[pic— Stewart Dawson's]** (Herald, 9/12/31)
- 31/12 The New Year will open with a big new building for Melbourne—the Manchester Unity building... Whelan the Wrecker will be on the job as the hour strikes midnight, and his favorite performer, 'The Cat', will soon be delighting and thrilling Melbourne as he stands at a dizzying height on two bricks, while knocking away the one underneath!... At midnight, precisely, the wreckers will climb on to the verandah of the old building and begin the task of dismantling it, while others build the hoarding around the street to keep out the dust and the noise. At noon on New Year's Day the roof will be off, and while the wreckers are still at their job the excavating and underpinning of the Capitol and Albany Chambers will begin. (Herald, 23/12/31)
- 32/1 A few minutes before midnight last night a small group of men assembled in one of the rooms of the old Stewart Dawson building, at the corner of Collins and Swanston Streets. They were engineers and business men gathered to see the beginning of the first great building job of 1932 in Melbourne. In the street below, a group of unemployed workers stood, hoping against hope for the chance of a job.... Today, Mr W.H. Best, grand secretary of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows ...told of the work which swung into its stride last night. 'The contractors, Messrs W.E. Cooper Pty Ltd are tied to time,' said Mr Best, 'and during the last week the wreckers who are demolishing the old building have been on the heels of tenants vacating upstairs premises.... Twenty days remain for the demolition.' ...While the gang of 15 experienced wreckers was beginning to rip the iron roof from the building which has been a rendezvous in Melbourne for years, Mr James Whelan, demolition contractor, Mr W.E. Cooper* and Mr B. Snider, of the building firm, gathered with Mr Best and a few others to 'baptise the work'. The men who waited below, hoping for some last minute opportunity of work, were only some of those who have tried, during the past weeks, for employment. Mr Best said that he had been besieged by more men than the job could possibly employ—many being members of the IOOF. Of the wrecking gang now at work, 5 or 6 men are members. The task is not for the tyro, however willing. It calls for high skill and nerve. Early today, when the roof came off, men were climbing from batten to batten, where one

slip meant disaster or serious injury. ... Today Mr Whelan pointed out some of the 'star wreckers' of his team who were carrying on. 'There's the man they call "The Cat",' he said. 'The Cat', otherwise Jack Thorpe, gets the jobs that few men would tackle... Where the least foothold and the most nerve are required, there will he be climbing. Today, he had the prosaic task of helping to remove verandah posts. [pic] Verandah posts and internal fittings being loaded into the lorry] Then there is the foreman, Bill Lodge, and Tom Sheridan, who used to be a policeman. 'Many people think our men get their training at sea,' said Mr Whelan. 'That is not so. Most of them are Australians who have never been to sea. There was a time when I wouldn't go 10 feet in the air myself. But when you go higher, you begin to lose your nervousness.' ... Mr Whelan said that the demolition work on the site of the Nicholas Building was a bigger feat than this for his team. The job of which he was proudest was that at the gasworks, in Flinders Street Extension. But this task is tricky enough. The floors in the Stewart Dawson building are concrete; there is little wood in the building. 'Pulling down is nothing,' Mr Whelan summed it up. 'It's the taking away that wants careful organising.' Tomorrow he will have 50 men working. The job will go on continuously in three shifts—from seven to three, three to 11, 11 to seven, right round the clock. The men are working a 44-hour week.

It was a shock to come upon Stewart Dawson's corner today. No long will sweethearts and husbands... stand there, anxiously consulting the Town Hall clock. (Herald, 1/1/32)

*I remember there was a lovely bloke that we used know... was a great pal of Jimmy's. The Coopers, the Cooper family were the builders there. And this fellow, he was Bob Cooper, was a lovely man. And Bob had an impediment. And he finished the building and he did a tremendous job. But whatever it was, whoever the backer were, the banks or something like that, lost confidence in the firm. And he said... more than likely, I think they felt... because he was such a stutterer, they'd probably think, 'Oh, he couldn't hack it.' So... he survived in the building industry and worked for quite a number of companies. He was a very fine man and very, very capable. (Owen Whelan interview)

- 32/1 In 20 days that popular rendezvous, Stewart Dawson's building [pic], at the corner of Collins and Swanston Streets, will be demolished, shovelled into trucks, and used to fill a clay pit and make a site for a new factory. Such is progress; but it means the disappearance of a Melbourne landmark and regret which will not be relieved by the knowledge that on the old site there will soon arise something bigger and more magnificent with better and more convenient appointments. Sentiment is rarely in step with the march of progress. Yesterday there were ugly wounds in the sides of the old building where verandahs had been ruthlessly torn away, and the upper storey was open to the sky. (Sun, 2/1/32)
- 32/1 Collins-Swanston Street corner 'rapidly changing its appearance, under direction of Whelan the Wrecker'. (Sun 9/1/32)
- 32/1 Wreckers Win—Clock Beaten on Stewart Dawson's Job. Stewart Dawson's building... has gone. The contractors... announced that they would raze the old building in 30 days. They have done it in 21 days, working three shifts—day and night—by special permission of the Arbitration Court. (Herald?, 21/1/32)
- 32/1 The flooring in Stewart Dawson's building is the toughest Mr Whelan has ever seen. The floors are made of Knight-Bevan cement, much of which came to Victoria from England years ago. They vary in thickness from 8in. to 2ft. (Argus, 23/1/32)

- 32/9 The building at 339 Swanston street which the Manchester Unity Order has occupied since 1863 will be trained for use for lodge meetings and social events. (Argus, 1/9/32)

Old Manchester Unity Bldg, Swanston St—In 1863 a piece of land opposite the National Museum and Library in Swanston street was bought and here the first Manchester Unity Building was built. In 1922-23 additions were made, but the lapse of time made further extension imperative, resulting in the purchase of Stewart Dawson's Corner. (Star, 27/6/33?)

To mark the centenary of its foundation in Victoria, the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows has called tenders for a 13-storey building... to be erected opposite the Public Library... The site... was of great historical interest to the society. Previous to 1863, Dr A.F.A. Greeves, a Minister of the Crown, who with Thomas Strode, of the Port Phillip Gazette, was one of the founders of the Order in Victoria, lived on it. In 1863, the present hall was built and had since been used for meetings of the society and social functions. This hall, together with the adjoining shops, would be demolished for the new building. The new structure was to be called the 'MU Oddfellows Building' to avoid confusion with the Manchester Unity Building. [Marcus Barlow, architect] (Herald, 11/1/40)

- 32/9 There is in Melbourne a magic stairway, and on it ride the nervous, the nonchalant, and the knowing. If the pages of the Arabian Nights opened and the magic carpet floated into Collins Street, Melbourne could not watch with greater awe. For Melbourne is learning to escalate! Lifts are well enough and stationary stairways serve their turn. But unless you escalate, you are as old-fashioned as a prunella boot in Bond Street. The magic stairway is in the Manchester Unity Building, and the oldsters and youngsters, the urchins and stray dogs, have found it out. Today they all rode on it. Grave men with lawyers' stachels, young men with self-conscious smirks, typists with high heels, carpenters with hammers in their belts. It was a motley throng, seeking high adventure. for there is a fascination about the Democratic and Modern Game of Escalating. It has four stages:

(1) The Shy stage: The aspiring Escalatee strokes chin, watches, and wonders if he'll risk it.

(2) The Venturesome Stage: The aspiring Escalatee tightens knot of tie, steps forward, and plants foot on rising stair.

(3) The Confident Stage: The aspiring Escalatee, half-way up without accident, squares shoulders and tells himself it's good.

(4) The Seasoned Stage: The Escalatee—a mere aspirant no longer—steps off at the top, deicides it's good fun, and hurried down the stationary stairway to take another ride.

The Philosopher of the Escalator has a handful of facts and figures... 'If two people rode on each step, and every step was occupied,' he recites, 'the escalator would carry 600 people in an hour. Yesterday afternoon, in 2Ω hours, it brought about 12,000 from the ground floor to the first floor. It works by electricity and travels 90 feet a minute. This one takes about half a minute from floor to floor... (Herald, 2/9/32)

- 32/12 Grand Master of Oddfellows in Victoria called it 'the most beautiful [building] in the Southern Hemisphere'. (Herald, 13/12/32, p.8)

COLE'S BOOK ARCADE (COLLINS/LT COLLINS)

20/8 Portion of the buildings now occupied as Cole's Arcade will be rebuilt shortly. The premises affected form part of the Howey estate, with a frontage of 31ft 4in. to Collins street, by a depth to Howey place of 124ft. A handsome five-storey building, the erection of which will be commenced next month, will replace the existing shop. On the ground floor, there will be an arcade... The architecture will be similar to that of Collins House, and the buildings will be about the same height as the warehouse of W.H. Glen and Company, which is next door. No part of the new premises will be used by Cole's... The new building will be known as Howey House. The demolition of the old shop will remove a link with the past, for this is one of the oldest buildings in Melbourne. (Argus, 11/8/20, p.8)

Letter from trustee of E.W. Cole estate—'...the display of books, stationery and fancy goods, occupying a small part of the Howey building about to be demolished, will from September 1 be shown in our freehold building next door, 248 [?] and 250 Collins street. ...Cole's Walk will still be open to the public, so that the thoroughfare from Collins street to Bourke street can be used as heretofore. (Argus, 12/8/20, p.6)

20/10 The demolition of No. 242 Collins street has exposed to view a relic reminiscent of early Melbourne which will interest those who have lived to see the rapid architectural development of this city. The building I refer to is, I believe, the last iron structure in Collins street, and possibly the last in the city proper. Portable iron buildings of the character of this shop were imported in parts... buildings... which appeared to follow the wood age and preceded that of bluestone. (Letter from Nahun Barnet (architect), Argus, 23/10/20, p.22)

27/5 Proposal that MCC buy Cole's Book Arcade for thoroughfare between Bourke & Collins streets. (Argus, May 1927)

27/12 G.J. Coles buys Cole's Arcade, Bourke Street, for £200,000. Collins St/Howey Place portion also for sale, but passed in at auction. (Argus, 7/12/27, p.30)

28/6 [Cole's Book Arcade] In 1906 Mr Cole purchased Brush's property in Collins street for the southern entrance to his arcade.... The trustees of the estate of the late Mr E.W. Cole will continue business on the Collins street frontage... (Argus?, 9/6/28)

29/4 On the site of Cole's Book Arcade, Collins street, the purchasers, Messrs Hugo Wertheim Pty Ltd, will build a five-storey building on the most modern lines. **[pic of proposed building]** (Herald, 6/4/29)

HOWEY COURT

29/11 Another notable addition is to be made to city architecture with the erection, in Collins Street, of a building [Howey Court] whose flagpole top will be 206 feet above street level.... The building on the site, known as Nos. 234 to 238, to be demolished, were erected many years ago, and form portion of the famous Howey Estate. They are a link with early Melbourne... (Herald, 9/11/29)

CAPITOL THEATRE (site), 109-117 Swanston Street

- 1905 Mr Antony Lucas, the proprietor of two of the largest, handsomest, and most popular cafes in Melbourne, is a native of Ithaca, in the Ionian Isles, and received his education in Greece. coming to Melbourne in the year 1886, he immediately started in the line of business with which his name has ever since been so honorably and successfully identified. He did so under the disadvantage of being unacquainted with the English language, a disadvantage which he overcame by sedulously devoting eight or nine months in its acquisition, while at the same time he became a naturalised British subject. From the first his sagacious mind seems to have been impressed with the great possibilities ... [missing line] enterprising man, who, by a liberal expenditure of capital, would furnish the public with dining, luncheon, tea, and supper rooms, so spacious, airy, and elegant as to gratify the eye and please the refined tastes of their patrons, while the quality of everythingg served up, and the table appointments and service, should be of such a characters as to place the cafes on a level with the best of those which are to be met with in the great cities on the Continent of Europe. These are the principles by which Mr Lucas was guided when founding the LUCAS' TOWN HALL CAFÉ in Swanston Street, one of the most central positions in Melbourne. The passer-by is arrested by the contents of the windows, which resemble the beautiful frontispiece of an exceedingly attractive book. The finest fruits of the season are exhibited in prodigal profusion on one side, while the other is filled with alluring specimens of the confectioner's art in all its branches. Entering the large hall the visitor ... [missing line] arranged upon spacious counters, and at the rear of the broad staircase which rises from the centre is a roomy café, in which light refreshments, fruit luncheons, wines, tea and coffee, and ices and summer beerages are supplied. There is likewise a café reserved for the use of ladies exclusively. the first floor, with its extensive area, well lighted by day and brilliantly illuminated by night, comprises a grand dining hall, handsomely furnished and beautifully decorated, where you can fare sumptuously, with all the confidence inspired by the excellence of the viands, the skill and experience of a good chef, and the perfection of the quiet and attentive service. There are three other dining-rooms, where ladies and gentlemen can take the most important meal of the day, either at a table d'hote or a la carte, and private dinners and suppers can be arranged for after the theatre. Adjoining the apartment set apart for ladies is a boudoir fitted up with every requisite for their comfort and the completion of their personal adornment before proceeding to the theatre or concert-room. On the second floor there is a capacious dining and smoking room for gentlemen, and these can be easily and expeditiously transformed into a commodious hall for social meetings, concerts, smoke nights, euchre parties, and otherwise. The whole extent of the back portion of the premises is occupied by the kitchen, erected and fitted up with the latest improvements and appliances, a large bakehouse, and ice-rooms for fruits, wines, provisions, etc. Mrs Lucas has charge of the front portion of the establishment, which furnishes employment for seventy hands, and is capable of accommodating no less than 650 patrons, besides which that lady takes a hand in the general management, and by her unvarying courtesy and her vigilant attention to the frequenters of the café she has contributed to render it one of the most popular in Melbourne. (The Cyclopedia of Victoria, 1905, pp. 158-9—**pics** of Mr Lucas and his café [on file])
- 14/4 Two city properties sold, formerly part of Howey Estate, now occupied by Leeming's boot shops and Lucas's café, [109-113] Swanston Street. New owner, Colonel Wilson (formerly of South Africa and England), proposes to build a 10-storey building. 'I was struck on arrival here with the waste of building space in the heart of so important a city.

Many of the buildings in Collins and Swanston streets have only two storeys. This state of affairs would not be permitted to continue in America.' (Argus, 4/4/14, p.18)

- 1921 Wrecking building in Swanston Street to make way for Capitol Theatre in 1914 [1921?]. Sign carved in wall of photographer's darkroom. According to Jim Whelan (who first worked for JPW in 1914). (West Australian, 24/1/63)

Between the wars, the firm had the job of demolishing the old Table Talk [or Town Talk?] building in Swanston Street, where the Capitol Theatre was to be built to a Walter Burley Griffin design. (Rydges, October 1972) [Capitol Theatre *not* on Table Talk site—Table Talk offices were situated one block south, b/w Flinders La & Collins]

According to S&M Directories, demolition for Capitol Theatre took place in 1921. 109-117 Swanston Street—Leeming Boots; Shannos, Lucas & Karran Cafe; Richards' Boot Warehouse—117 was 3-storey, shoe-shine parlour on ground—no photo studio.

- 21/8 Workmen excavating between Cole's walk [Howey Place] and Swanston street to lay the foundations of a picture theatre [Capitol] discovered the remains of an old picket fence, the top of which was 4ft below the surface of the ground. The fence was 15ft long, running parallel with Collins street, and near it was portion of what appeared to have been an old corduroy track. Portions of the pickets, well preserved, and resembling hardwood, were obtained by Mr Raynes Dickson, of Raynes, Dickson, and Kiddle, who represent the Howey Estate, on which the excavations are being made. The building which stood on the excavated area is said to have been in existence since 1865, and the fence must have been erected many years before that date. (Argus, 26/8/21, p.6)

[James Whelan (Whelan the Wrecker)] has in the backyard of his home in Brunswick part of the original post and rail fence which ran along Collins street in the early days. It was unearthed when the land was being excavated for Collins House. When the excavations were in progress for the building of the Capitol Theatre, part of a picket fence, a stretch of corduroy track, and a chimney were unearthed. (Argus, 23/1/32)

You know, we used have some little wooden carved serviette-rings at home. They were like a heart and all this sort of thing. And it was said that one of the fellers who used come to the yard carved those, and they came from either a fence underneath the site for the Capitol Theatre, or Myles says [Hotel Australia]. (Owen Whelan interview)

During construction, in 1923, Capitol was called 'Central Theatre'. (Herald, 27/11/23)

Capitol Theatre built 1923-27—designed by Burley Griffin—primarily a cinema, but equipped for live shows—seated 2,000—in 1965, theatre was reduced in size and a shopping arcade built—Robin Boyd has described theatre as possibly finest picture theatre ever built anywhere. (Rogan, p.68)

ROYAL OAK HOTEL, 123 Swanston Street—N of Capitol Theatre

The Royal Oak Hotel [123 Swanston]... he pulled down twice. The first time it was found that all the joists of the two-storey building were rotten; only the brass bar fittings were supporting the upper floor. At the back of the hotel was a little lean-to which contained on an upper shelf several dozen bottles of champagne, of which the licensee, Mr Joe Dillon, knew nothing. Some of the workmen, who had never seen champagne before, had a drop out of a bottle to see what it was. Mr Whelan was hurriedly summoned to treat a couple of men who believed that they had been poisoned. It must have been potent liquor. (Argus, 23/1/32)

(Royal Oak Hotel—licensed 1848—rebuilt 1913—closed 31/12/1925) (Cole Collection)

See also Exford Hotel (Lanes)—another champagne story

29/3 Aeolian Co. sells 123 Swanston Street—22 ft 2.5” frontage. Sale fetched highest per-foot frontage price ever in Melbourne. Former site of Royal Oak Hotel, and originally part of Howey Estate. Aeolian Co. purchased the hotel freehold about three years ago from executors of the late Joseph Dillon, and erected modern showroom and office premises. (Argus, 29/3/29, p.8—pic p.5)

11. LANES

KONG CHEW SOCIETY BUILDINGS, 242-44 Lt Bourke Street [b/w Globe Alley & Tattersalls Lane

- 1897 We now approach [from Swanston] the Chinese Quarter of the city, their club-house being on the north side of Little-Bourke-street, a building with a two-storey front, in classic style, ornamented with Doric pillars, and little suggestive of the Celestial architecture. But the visitor who obtains leave to view the premises will find himself, after he passes the threshold, in an unknown world. The scent of roast sucking-pig and a certain aromatic odour at once announce that it is a foreign domain. The Chinese are allowed to sleep here for a small charge, berths being provided for the purpose all round a moderately spacious room. A man is suffered to sleep his eight hours, then turned out for a new applicant, who, after his eight hours are gone, must make way for a third. Behind this, one may see the opium-smoking den, where the victim of this sad habit may be watched as he melts his little wax-like bead, thrusts it into the bowl of the pipe, and draws the narcotic whiffs. He may be seen then to retire and lay himself down alongside of the other dreamers of strange dreams who have preceded him. (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, p. 48)
- 68/7 Demolition permit [6 x 2-storey brick buildings [main building fronts Lt Bourke, 90 ft deep [5 brick buildings at rear (11-19 Tattersalls Lane), 4 x 13ft wide, 1 x 14ft wide [Corporation Lane at rear [wrecked for Kong Chew Society, \$4450 (MCC 167/3 Box 23 D2922)
- 68/8 Building was years ago regarded by police and customs men as Melbourne's biggest opium den [now divided into two shops. Demolition watched by Customs officer [I last raided that over 20 years ago. One little chap tried to get away through that opening,' he said, pointing to an aperture in the wall. 'The seamen and market gardeners used to stretch out up there with their pipes.' Customs officers examined the premises but found no trace of opium. Opium was last seized on premises in 1957. 'A demolition man wading through boxwood on the ground floor said, 'Most of the old Chinese places are like this [packing cases filled with rubbish and stacked to the ceilings.' ...One of the workers found a collection of coins, mostly Chinese, with the print almost worn away. Others from Ceylon and Hong-kong dated back to the nineteenth century. The building was owned and let by the Kong Chew Society for about 100 years, says the society's president, Mr David Chen, who is part-owner of the grocery shop in Little Bourke Street. He said the society owned the land for 120 years. It was a charitable society which held gatherings for the Chinese community... and owned and ran an old men's home in Courtney Street, North Melbourne.' (Herald, 7/8/68, p.14)

LITTLE LON

- It was generally agreed that the 'worst part of the slums' before the First World War were concentrated into a network of back streets in the city's core, embarrassingly close to Parliament House. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.9)
- 1920s? At a house in Little Lonsdale Street, a large number of ugly knuckle-dusters were found beneath the flooring boards. (Sun, 9/1/32)
- 1937 WW demolished 'old buildings' at cnr Casselden Street & Surrey Place for L.M. Perrott. (Letter of 15/4/37 in SLV/WW 65/2)
- c.1958 WW demolished 'the houses' in the old red-light district at the top of Little Lon for Commonwealth offices (Green Latrine)? Trevor Turner: 'There was money everywhere. Gold sovereigns and silver dollars and half crowns, under the floor boards and in the walls and buried in the dirt underneath the houses around the doorways mostly. Of course, nobody came forward to claim it. But you know, we would shovel the earth on to a wire mattress and sieve it through, and that dirt was lousy with coins. It was like panning for gold. (Sun? Weekend Magazine, July or Aug 1968 scrapbook, p.19)
- 69/11 Demolition permit 46-52 Lonsdale Street N side, E of Lt Leichardt ex-Chinese cabinetmakers; before that grocers, butchers, tailors 3 x 2-storey buildings wrecked for Commonwealth Department of Works. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3118)

BILKING SQUARE

72/7 Going to Ruin.—Annie Banneith, a respectable looking young girl, was charged with insulting conduct. It appeared that until very recently the accused had led a respectable life, having been employed at millinery establishments in Geelong and Melbourne. About a fortnight ago she appeared in court to prosecute a woman who enticed her into a brothel in Bilking-square, and robbed her of a hat, and the woman was sent to prison for two or three months. A few days later Annie Banneith was seen by senior-constable Mooney in a well-known low house in the same disreputable quarter, and he spoke to her kindly, and cautioned her against the life which she seemed to have entered upon. She said she would do as she liked, and the constable then told her that if he saw her there again he would lock her up. ...on Monday night the prisoner was guilty of the most indecent conduct in the public streets. Mr Inspector Kabat said he was afraid the prisoner had become almost incorrigible in a very short time. Sentenced to three months imprisonment. (Age, 10/7/1872)

Berlin Hotel (ex-Australian Arms), cnr Lt Bourke & Juliet Terrace—refused licence renewal, 19/12/1871—thieves & women of ill-fame—closed (again Australian Arms) 31/12/1912. (Cole Collection)

Juliet Terrace led to the dark heartland of prostitution in Melbourne, Bilking Square, lined with tiny two-roomed wooden cottages. So notorious did this district become, that the city fathers changed the suggestive names of Romeo Lane and Juliet Terrace in the early 1880s, to the innocuous Crossley Lane and Liverpool Lane. All the lanes had well-known popular names which never appeared in official records: Bilking Square named for the practice of bilking, Horse and Jockey Lane for the hotel on its corner, and so on. (Roslyn Otzen, *Charity and evangelisation: the Melbourne City Mission 1854-1914*, PhD 1986, Uni of Melbourne, History Dept, pp. 175-6)

The foul-mouthed aggressive Mrs Shields owned many of the degraded cottages in Bilking Square, Romeo Lane and Juliet Terrace, the sleasiest locales in Melbourne. She exploited her hapless tenants to the full. (Otzen, p.180) - reference to John Cromack's Journal, 11 June 1872 and evidence in Report from the Select Committee upon a Bill for the Prevention of Contagious Disease 1878, pp.13-14.

Many prostitutes engaged in petty crimes. Bilking Square was named after a common practice. Sumner and West were proudly told by one woman that 'she did not give way to men now as she once did.' When they asked her how she made her living then, 'she said, taking money from men and running away'. She could not see West's point that the one might be as bad as the other. (ref. West's Journal, 5 July 1871) George Hill described bilking in more detail. A man was inveigled into bed on the expectation of sexual favours; the woman stole his wallet, then left the room on some pretext, and never returned. It was not likely that a man so cheated would summon the police. (ref report from Select Committee, p.10)' (Otzen, p.183)

It was generally agreed that the 'worst part of the slums' before the First World War were concentrated into a network of back streets in the city's core, embarrassingly close to Parliament House. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.9)

‘where no policeman would go alone’—WW found ‘a whole drayload of old “brummy” jewellery’—‘in this lane several notorious murders were committed in the old days. (news item, n.d., scrapbook, p. 38)

A house in a once notorious spot in Little Bourke Street, where policemen would only go in pairs, was also demolished by Mr Whelan. A murder had taken place in this house, and it was said at £700 in cash had been hidden somewhere in the building. Although an intensive search was made, the money was never found, but the wreckers did find a cartload of imitation jewellery. At a house in Little Lonsdale Street, a large number of ugly knuckle-dusters were found beneath the flooring boards. (Sun, 9/1/32)

In the old days, Bilken Square was a notorious quarter. So bad was it that policemen would only enter it in pairs. ‘there was an eerie atmosphere about the place, but we did not dig up one ghost. ...And then in a house in Little Bourke Street I found three knuckle-dusters. Nasty-looking things they were. I still have them.’ (JPW, Herald, 16/1/33)

Crossley’s Buildings (facing Bourke St—Job Warehouse)—4 shops at 54-60 Bourke—erected 1848-49 by butcher William Crossley for use as shop, dwelling and slaughteryard, with two rented shops. Eugen von Guerard lived there for a time in the 1850s. Training ground for many Melbourne butchers last century. (The Landscape of the Streets, Anne Latreille, p. 23)

CHINESE CLUB, 178-86 Lt Bourke St (N side, b/w Russell & Swanston, E of Heffernan La)

67/7 Demolition permit□2-storey brick building. (MCC 167/3, Box 22, D2714)

EXFORD HOTEL, cnr Lt Bourke & Russell

(see also Royal Oak Hotel, Capitol Theatre site, for another champagne story)

19thC Originally licensed as Limerick Castle Hotel, 1855. Sportsman's Arms, 1855-6. Exford Arms, 1857+. 1865☐Thieves & prostitutes charged on premises. Chinese licensees, 1921. (Cole Collection)

...when it was falling under [JPW's] hands... An old oven was found beneath the footpath. It had been bricked up and, upon being opened, was found to contain 50 bottles of old wine. When sampled, it did not come up to expectations, and the whole of it was thrown out. (Sun, 9/1/32)

[JPW] found a number of old fluted jars in a cellar under the footpath. They contained champagne. The workmen opened one. A dense mist arose from it, and it was decided that to sample the contents was too risky. In the same cellar he found a complete bedroom set, with looking glass, brush and comb, and washing table and jug. In the rebuilding, the workmen had not bothered to remove these. They had just built them in with a new wall. (Herald, 16/1/33)

In an old pub they found a stock of ancient fluted-type bottles of champagne. When they were opened they gave off a great cloud of mist and nobody was game to drink it. (Jim Whelan, Bulletin, 26/1/63)

See also Royal Oak Hotel (Capitol Theatre site, Howey Estate)☐another champagne story

HEFFERNAN LANE

1888 In 1888... the introduction of the alternating current transformer system by Messrs Ganz and Co. gave a great impulse to electric lighting, making it possible to give supply over considerable distances from a central station... About the same time... the Union Electric Co. commenced operations with a small station in Heffernan lane, off Little Bourke street. (supplement to 'The Electrical Engineer of Australia & NZ', Sept 1927)

Our first street lighting was experimental [c.1883], and was in Elizabeth Street [c.1883]. Our first permanent street lighting was in Russell Street. (Selby, The Old Pioneers' Memorial History of Melbourne)

36/2 Bluestone building, c.1880. 'Workmen from a leading firm of building wreckers are quickly demolishing... For years it was a storeroom for Chinese merchants, but formerly was... the station where the first street lighting in Melbourne was generated. The pioneer of Melbourne electrical street lighting was the firm of Douglas & Son. In the nineties they leased this building, installed heavy 12 by 12 oregon beams on which to place their cumbersome machinery, and portion of Russell Street was lit by the incandescent glare from three arc lamps. It was the surprising discovery of these beams by the workmen yesterday that led to the early history of the building being revealed. Toward the beginning of the present century electrical street lighting became a more practical and economical undertaking, and as its scope became wider the firm found themselves unable to keep pace with it.' Plant taken over by MCC [Heffernan Lane substation now in building opposite. (Herald, 15/2/36, p.6)

12. MENZIES HOTEL

Archibald and Catherine Menzies travelled to Victoria in the same sailing ship, the Cleopatra. Mrs Menzies was Miss Ctheirme McLaren. She married Mr Menzies soon after their arrival here. (Age, 14/2/53)

Mr and Mrs Archibald Menzies, founders of Menzies' Hotel, arrived in Victoria in the latter part of 1853, or early in 1854. Recounting in after years this period of their history, Mrs Menzies said she and her husband, who had been connected with the hotel business in Scotland, landed with about £150. They looked round for some months for a business and finally obtained the lease of a house in Latrobe street, near Elizabeth street (afterwards Mau's Hotel). This was the first Menzies' Hotel.

Known for many years as 'the house with the pillars', it was a favorite rendezvous for diggers from the goldfields of Bendigo and Ballarat. Mrs Menzies used to say that the diggers would come into the hotel with their clothes still coated with clay from the mines. She took care, however, that the bedding was renewed each morning, and in this way helped to build up the reputation of Menzies'. (Herald, 8/4/24)

On March 14, 1853, they opened Menzies Private Family Hotel... It was at 235 Latrobe Street [south side, east of Elizabeth, cnr. Francis St East]... The keen and talented couple from Dundee attracted the best custom of the young colony... the gold escort made the original Menzies Hotel their rendezvous... (Herald, 11/2/53)

The business made such rapid progress that two adjoining houses were purchased and added to the original building. In 1867 further expansion became necessary, and the business was removed to its present site. (Herald, 8/4/24)

[The new] Menzies' was built from a gold-mine after the original Mr Menzies, who arrived in Victoria with his wife in 1852, became the owner of a rich mine at Rushworth, Victoria. (Herald, 17/1/36)

Archibald Menzies... obtained the money from gold obtained from the Balaclava Hill mine in Whroo, now a ghost town, in which he was a shareholder.... The hill which yielded a tremendous amount of gold was left like the crater of a volcano. (letter to Age, 10/11/64)

The [new] site was originally bought, in 1837 [by Charles Wedge]... for £67. Addressing himself to 'the squatters of Victoria and Riverina', Archibald Menzies announced that 'in order to keep pace with the growing wealth and importance of the Southern Metropolis' his central and spacious premises would be opened on November 11, 1867. (Herald, 11/2/53; 29/4/37, p.14)

New Menzies' designed by Joseph Reed & Frederick Barnes—architects of Eastern Market. (A New City, p.54)

About 14 years after they had established the Latrobe-street hostelry, they bought (after some good fortune in the gold fields) a site at the corner of Bourke and William streets. This Mr Menzies described in his first advertisement as being 'on the highest ground in Melbourne,' with 'proximity to the business centre, yet sufficient retired to ensure almost the quiet of the country.' With a shrewd eye to business the new Menzies... was opened

to coincide with the visit to Melbourne in 1867 of the Duke of Edinburgh. [Duke of Edinburgh was a return visitor—the Edinburgh Room was probably named after him.] The builder of the new hotel was David Mitchell, whose daughter, Dame Nellie Melba, was one of the most distinguished guests to stay there. In the past 80 years two floors and a wing (the diningroom) have been added, but the general exterior has remained unchanged.... [In] the early days, when it was ‘the thing’ to lunch at Menzies’ on English mail days... Everyone who was anyone stayed at Menzies’ when they came to town for the three big seasons in March, July and November. And in those days they came to town in a big way. The well-to-do squatting families came ‘en suite’ with at least one personal maid, the children’s governess, and usually a valet.... Menzies’ too was the scene of some famous ‘bucks’ parties.... Until a few years ago Mrs Reginald Power possessed the only champagne glass that remained unbroken after the ‘bucks’ dinner given for her father in 1887, when 100 guests attended.... [D]uring a typhoid outbreak in Melbourne the hotel offered its top floor, with complete isolation, to the nurses who were handling the cases in the hospital. (Age, 14/2/53)

Pic 19thC—see Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.170 (RHSV)

1870s Anthony Trollope: ‘When in Melbourne... I generally stayed at the Menzies Hotel, of which I am bound to say that I have never put myself up at a better inn at any part of the world.’ (Rogan, p.25)

2Anthony Trollope was a guest: ‘I never put myself up at a better inn in any part of the world.’ (Herald, 11/2/53)

1883 [Melbourne’s best hotels] ...Menzies’ and the Oriental are most to be recommended... (Twopeny, Town Life in Australia, p.13)

1889 Archibald Menzies died in 1889, and his widow and then his son carried on. (Herald, 11/2/53)

...Mark Twain staggered the management by asking if he could stoke the boilers as part of his physical fitness routine... Menzies Hotel obliged ...and a perspiring Twain could be seen on the job in overalls covered in coke dust... (Herald, 6/11/64)

1896 Menzies’ remodelled and enlarged by the addition of two storeys. (A New City, p.54)

1897 ...a building which, though far eclipsed in size by others in Melbourne, has a quiet dignity of its own in those dark walls, with dwarf towers at its corners, its rows of well-designed windows, and its ample doorways. Besides being the favourite residence of the wealthy squatter on his visits to town, it forms the resort of almost all the distinguished visitors, the musicians, famous actors, and popular lecturers, who stay for a time in Melbourne during the course of their tours. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp. 32-3)

1900s One pride of the house at the turn of the century was the reading-room—hand-painted with ferns and flora of Australia, and fitted with double carpets, red velvet divans, heavy silk portieres, and tables ‘covered with dark red tapestry interwoven with broad gold ornamentation.’ ...when Paderewski came, in 1904, either Menzies was on a bad patch or the pianist was a difficult guest. For, he wrote in his memoirs that, though his apartment

- was comfortable, the food was 'simply indescribable'. At first, he says, he and Mme Paderewski lived 'almost entirely on pineapples'. Then Mme Paderewski took to going to the markets each morning with the concert manager and brought back food which she cooked in their rooms.... Early in this century there were 'Continental concerts,' with the public admitted free, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons... 'under the direction of Monseieur E. Napoleon-Boffard'... They flourished along with the Moorish lounge, the winter garden and the profusion of potted palms and have, like these, been forgotten. (Herald, 11/2/53)
- 1924 The august and spacious traditions of the house did not die with its change to a public company in 1924, or even when Norman Bede Rydger, the young colossus of Sydney finance, bought out the last of the Menzies family interest in 1936. Even the nobly-proportioned Adam-style dining room, 100ft long, 60 ft wide and with a 25 ft ceiling, thought it has an Edwardian air, was not, in fact, built until 1924. There is a decorous harmony about its pillared gold and ivory which communicates itself to the diners. (Herald, 11/2/53)
- 24/4 The traditions and atmosphere of Menzies' Hotel will not be changed with the new ownership. The only alterations will be structural, and these were planned in 1922. It is to finish these alterations that the new company is issuing 135,000 £1 preference shares. '...but there will be no addition such as a dance hall or anything like that....' (Herald, 8/4/24)
- 20s/30s Scotts Hotel and Menzies were supplied with a special Foster's lager. The Robur people imported a delightful tea from Assam. There were beautiful Irish linen serviettes with the royal crest on them.... Menzies was the only hotel south of the equator entitled to use the Royal Crest... I remember showing H.G. Wells to his suite on the fourth floor.... Harold the liftman... was a great reader and lover of poetry and had delighted John Masefield by his knowledge of the poet's work. The Poet Laureate and Harold would sometimes ride up and down in the lift while they criticised or eulogised various writers.... No one was less fitted to be a liftman than Harold.... When [John Masefield] returned from the Shrine dedication ceremony still wearing his decorations, he said to Harold: 'It was very moving Harold.' To the amazement of two other lift travellers and the horror of myself, Harold demanded to know: 'Did anybody speak the bloody truth?' The poet just shook his head, whether in answer to the question or in general regret, I don't know. ...I only ever saw Dame Nellie Melba once as a hotel guest, and was shocked to hear her say on that occasion: 'I hate this bloody pub.'... [In 1925] a writing room stood where the long bar was eventually placed. It was like an elegant school room, with writing tables ranged in regular ranks. The high ceiling was decorated in imitation of the Sistine Chapel with cherubs frozen... When they were supposed to be tidying up this room, some page boys would place a wet stamp on a penny and send it spinning to the ceiling. With practice and patience it was possible to stick the stamp on most interesting parts of the cherubs. Once up they were difficult to remove... In the reception office there was a big safe, large enough for a man to enter. In its time that safe had held Melbourne Cups, royal jewels, the last bottle of fair dinkum Courvoisier brandy and the Davis Cup.... On the leather furniture in the lounge was embossed a Latin motto, which, according to those who said they knew, meant 'Death before dishonor'... The floor was wooden parquetry, more or less covered with Persian rugs which never seemed to wear out. These would be taken up at Melbourne Cup time revealing a splendid dance floor. The upstairs rooms and corridors were carpeted, and keeping these carpets repaired was like painting the Sydney

- Harbor Bridge... the job...was done by a thin little woman on her knees. She always wore dark clothes, and was one of the few employes who lived in.... Miss Costello [a guest] was the voice of Snow White in Walt Disney's film. She took a trip in the country and summed it up pithily on her return. As I gave her the key of her room she said, 'What a dump Warrnambool is.'... The smokeroom was on the William Street side of the hoel and pleasantly warm in the winter... [Recollections of Fred Archer, who worked at the Menzies from c.1925-41]he graduated from page boy to drinks waiter to reception. Age, 27, 28 & 29/1/69)
- 1930s ...the Chandelier room...was packed with diners[]'especially on Mondays when the mailboats from England arrived.' [says Cliff Wilson, who joined Menzies' staff c.1929] In those days 60 cents bought a meal that gave diners the choice of two soups, three entrees, fish, at least eight different types of grills, a cold buffet, salads, three or four sweets and Stilton cheese[]'About a foot in diameter on the table,' says Mr Wilson. ...The 110 staff[]which now includes only eight restaurant waiters compared to 54 during the 30s... (Herald, 25/1/69)
- 35/6 To satisfy the demands of overseas tourists, Menzies Hotel... will be modernised at a cost of £12,000. Eleven bedrooms will be added to the fifth floor. Each will be provided with a separate bathroom. (Herald, 24/6/35)
- 36/3 Tentative plans have been prepared for the reconstruction of Menzies' Hotel... It is proposed... to adopt a scheme for remodelling the portion of the hotel premises on both frontages to Bourke and William streets, and to erect a new building up to a height of 135 feet. (Age, 30/3/36)
- 36/3 When the old portion of the hotel which fronts Bourke Street and part of William Street is remodelled at a cost of £250,000, the new structure will include bedrooms and private suites, all with their own bathrooms. (Herald, ?/3/36)
- 1942 ...[For seven months, the top floor or several floors of?] the present house became General Douglas MacArthur's South-West Pacific headquarters in 1942 and the military switchboard there answered 'Bataan!' (Herald, 11/2/53; A New City, p.54)
- ...General Douglas MacArthur himself, who went to the Menzies Hotel and in due course made his headquarters in the Australia Hotel. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.108)
- 49/9 Once in London I asked a business-man just returned from Australia what he thought of the bush. '...My only glimpse of what I imagine was the real bush were those remarkable murals at Menzies'. Somehow I felt they caught the spirit of the outback.' ...But who painted them? The other bar was easy[]Napier Waller[]but the time-mellowed ones were a riddle.... Harry Golden, the porter[]he's been there 40 of his 63 years[]fancied they were the work of someone called Goshier or the like, who'd been connected with the theatre and did them about the time the Great White Fleet arrived in 1908. Dead, he thought. Mr Ben made it Goatcher, with confidence. I consulted that encyclopaedia of the Melbourne theatre, Phil Finkelstein [ex Theatre Royal].... Yes, he said, the late Phil Goatcher, who was scenic artist for Clarke, Meynell and Gunn, and did the sets for Miss Hook of Holland, The Chocolate Soldier, Our Miss Gibbs and many another.

- ...Goatcher...dismissed the Menzies' job as a mere bread-and-butter task. Yet his scenes of La Perouse, prospectors on the Loddon, and sheep in the Riverina still hold the stage years after his death. (Sun, 28/9/49)
- 53/2 ...the solid dignity of the Victorian façade has been preserved. Continuity, restraint and gradualness have marked the history of the Menzies. (Herald, 11/2/53)
- 54 Menzies to be acquired by Federal Hotels. Will keep its 'old-world charm'. Federal Hotels owned: Menzies ('an ultra-conservative European type hotel'); Federal ('a top middle-class hotel'); and Savoy-Plaza ('an ultra-modern American-type hotel'). (Argus, 17/7/54; Herald, 28/8/54)
- Two new floors to be added to Menzies.
- 54/9 In six months, Menzies 'lost' nearly a gross (144) of steak knives—only two left. Only 10 left of three gross of 'attractive coffee spoons' bought a year earlier. (Herald, 15/9/54)
- 54/10 'Ernest' (Ernest William Jacobe), obliging commissionaire at Menzies, retired 5/10/54—joined staff as a pageboy in 1902—in 1912 he got a licence to drive a hire-car—after WWI drove hire cars until 1941, then returned to Menzies. 'One of the "most fabulous" characters he met, he says, was the Sultan of Johore, who wore diamonds between his teeth and sovereigns for waistcoat buttons. Ernest said he did not want to talk about his future.' A week later, Ernest was seen commissionairing outside Chevron Hotel. (Herald, 5 & 13/10/54)
- 56/8 A £5,000 crystal chandelier, 'built behind Czechoslovakia's Iron Curtain' was hoisted to the dining room ceiling of Menzies Hotel—renamed 'Chandelier Room'—biggest chandelier in southern hemisphere—copied from original, made for Empress of Austria in 18thC, now in Austria's Shoenbrunn Castle. (Herald, 6/8/56)
- 57/3 Revived an old custom at the Menzies—doorman in top-hat. Had trouble getting top-hat—eventually found one in lost property office at the Wrest Point, sister hotel in Hobart. (Herald, 27/3/57)
- 1950s ...Danny Kaye demanded a table tennis table in his suite. Menzies Hotel obliged... and Kaye played table tennis half the night. (Herald, 6/11/64)
- 59/3 Mosaic parquetry floor laid in Menzies banquet room—cost nothing—a Melbourne firm supplied it for demonstration purposes—25 square yards, featuring red-gum centre and jarrah border. (Age 9/3/59)
- 60/2 The lawyers' 'home', Selborne Chambers... is to be demolished to make way for extensions to Menzies Hotel, as shown in the artist's drawing. **[pic]** ...part of the [present Menzies Hotel building will be demolished. A multi-storey building to be erected on the site will provide accommodation for more than 300 guests in single rooms, suites and penthouses.... The building will probably be completed by August 1962. (Sun, 17/2/60)
- 63/10 A more-than-lifesize countenance of Mr Al Martino smiles from a billboard as the bellhop holds open the front door... and you wonder if you've come to the wrong place. But no. The billboard assures you that Mr M. performs nightly in the Chandelier Room.

And there is only one hotel with a Chandelier Room—that most aristocratic of public houses, Menzies Hotel... the sad truth of the ‘Top Hotel’ business in Melbourne is there aren’t enough ‘Top People’ to go around... [At the Menzies] The cavernous leather chairs were tossed out of the lounge a few years ago, but the aura of wide-brimmed hats, personal maids and vast land deals still clung. But now—after a £130,000 facelift—Menzies waits for jet-borne guests from all over the world. And to keep the Chandelier Room full, Menzies is wooing the man in the street with popular entertainers. The hotel’s young Irish-born manager, Mr Joseph Brennan, says: ‘We don’t apologise for the change. We need ordinary people with ordinary bank accounts.’

Al Martino and Diana Dors performing in the Chancelier Room, waiters and porters in Hunting Menzies red tartan, a Hollywood-style cocktail lounge—‘Has the world gone mad?’—hotels (with exception of the Windsor) are wooing the ‘Middle People’. (Sun, 26/10/63)

66/8 Trays and baking dishes in the kitchen at Menzies Hotel, Bourke St. were covered with burnt, black, greasy substances on April 20, a City Council health inspector told the District Court today. [Menzies and manager charged and fined—manager, Ralph Voight, was sacked] (Herald, 11/8/66)

67/2 ...the staid old Menzies has gone mod.... Last night they opened a ‘young adults’ dinner dance with a blast... Everyone seemed to enjoy it except the stunned middle-aged couple who looked as if they were there by accident. Whatever happened to the days when the most discordant din was the clink of a teaspoon being brushed against a coffee cup? (Herald, 18/2/67)

The west of the inner city, where Menzies’ stood, was becoming a predominantly commercial district. An extensive redecoration could not lighten its cavernous, sunless interiors; Reed and Barnes’ building, with its heavy masonry and small, deep-set windows had become the antithesis of the modern, glass-walled tower hotel. (A New City, p.54)

67/10 Hear that the days of that elegant old pub, Menzies, are numbered. I believe that AMP, which owns the site, wants to demolish the hotel and build a modern, multi-storey office block... One possible customer? BHP, which has its offices opposite Menzies in Bourke Street. (Herald, 26/10/67)

68/12 About 100 marble slabs for auction at Menzies Hotel—one always steps out of bath onto a marble slab, 70 x 16in. Rare wines—vintage Chateau Margaux and Lafite, a 1919 Menzies Port, a bottle of 1902 King’s Ale. On stairs at entrance are two large topless bronze statues—Prudence and Phoebe—hold lamps aloft. (APITS, Sun, 3/12/68)

68/12 Contents of Menzies Hotel sold in Victoria’s first TV auction—including stair carpet and balustrades—TV camera will begin at top of 6-storey building and work down—could run for more than a week—to begin on 10/3/69—hotel accommodation will close at end of 1968—bars remain open until April—8 to 10 miles of carpet—large gilt mirror hangs outside Chandelier Room—crested with cherubs and makes viewer look thinner. (Age, 16/1/68)

- 69/1 Most Menzies staff finished work 3/1/69. Hotel robbed of \$9,000 the previous night—thieves used a key to open a safe in hotel office. (Sun 4/1/69)
- 69/1 22/1/69: last function at Menzies Hotel—wedding reception of Collingwood ruckman, Len Thompson. Staff call the manager, Henry Timmerman, ‘Father’. (Sun, 23/1/69)
- 69/1 [Menzies] closes—except for the bars—today. And the wreckers move in on May 1.... The brass-edged steps and door fittings still gleam in the sunlight that filters through the oak trees on the footpath outside the William Street entrance. But the paintwork is shoddy. The deep pile carpet still shies softly away from under your feet, but it hides a loose floorboard near the inquiry desk. Hall porter, Mr Cliff Wilson, ...has served at the hotel for 40 years... [famous guests included Elizabeth Taylor & Mike Todd and Richard Nixon (when Vice President under Eisenhower)]... The hotel has 128 rooms and suites, fully serviced and with their own bathrooms.... The 110 staff—which now includes only eight restaurant waiters compared to 54 during the 30s... The manager, Mr Henry Timmerman, started off as an assistant pastrycook during the depression. ...says the decline of Menzies began after the war years, when the hotel lost a lot of its regulars to society restaurants like Maxims, Florentino’s, the Lido and Fanny’s. Menzies fought back with floor show attractions like ...Al Martino, Shirley Bassey, Frank Ifield and the Shadows—a practice which raised quite a few eyebrows. ‘...About two years ago we introduced Menzies Big Beat, a \$4.50 buffet meal with a semi-discotheque atmosphere,’ Mr Timmerman said. He said that before the war the older generation set the trends for entertainment... ‘Today it’s the young people who set the tone,’ he said. (Herald, 25/1/69) [Pics—Menzies exterior and the Chandelier Room, with furniture & fittings ready for auction]
- 69/3 Barry Jones bought the bed from General MacArthur’s room (#601) for \$70 & a late Victorian buffet for \$30—auction held pre-demolition. Saddest person at auction was Henry Timmerman, manager and staff member for 40 years. ‘It’s terribly sad to see part of your life torn apart,’ he said. (Australian, 4/3/69)
- 69/5 Demolition permit—130-48 William Street (Menzies Hotel) & 460-68 Lt Collins (Selbourne Chambers)—1 x 6-storey + 1 x 4-storey + 1 x 3-storey—wrecked for AMP Society—\$115,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3014)

Demolition commenced 1st May—to take about 4 months. (Herald 1/5/69; Sun, 2/5/69)

Pic—workmen pulling up the floor in the Banquet Room. (b&w print in SLV/WW 62/2—Sun 2/5/69, p.28—scrapbook, p.24)

Menzies’ was a big disappointment. Menzies’ was something special for me because, see, I lived out in Melville Road, Brunswick, and you’d always, if you were going into town, you’d catch the West Coburg tram. Going into the city or something like that, you’d always... you know, Bourke Street shopping or something, you’d walk up the Bourke Street hill and be waiting on the tram-stop [in William Street]. And you’d look across, and I can remember, you know, as a kid, looking in there at the foyer, and it was always busy and well-to-do people and lovely cars pulled up outside and the doorman. You know, you’d be gawking there for ages. And then, guess what? the wheel turns and all of a sudden it’s your turn to pull it down. Well, it was a bit like a... you know, all the

trappings had gone and the carpet was pretty threadbare and the baths, all the enamel had worn from the bottom of them. And I think there's a couple of photographs in the scrapbook of the big ballroom up there? Looked terrific but... no, it had gone. (Owen Whelan interview)

SELBORNE CHAMBERS, 460-68 Lt Collins

- 1881 Selborne Chambers built. (Herald, 16/2/60)
- 1897 ...that arcade which is known as the Selborne Chambers, one of the two principal haunts of the Melbourne barristers, whose lower-storey and upper-storey rows are lined with doors, each of which bears on its dark varnish the name in white letters of the learned counsel whose advice is to be had within.... To right and left [off Little Collins] open the iron gates of two arcades□ Temple Court, running south towards Collins-street, once filled with the dens of the most prominent barristers, but now forsaken for the newer arcade on the other side, Selborne Chambers ... (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp.32, 47)
- 60/2 **[Pics]**□ Arcade of Selborne Chambers, looking from Lt Collins St end to Bourke St entrance; and Selborne Chambers exterior.] (Herald, 16/2/60)
- 60/2 The lawyers' 'home', Selborne Chambers... is to be demolished to make way for extensions to Menzies Hotel... (Sun, 17/2/60)
- 62/2 Next week you'll be able to get a drink at new hotel bars on the spot where lawyers have pored over their books for 80 years. Builders and painters at historic Selborne Chambers in Bourke-st., are putting final touches to the bars. **[pic]** ... The lower half of the chambers has been wrecked and converted. The upper half has been bricked off while plans for its use are prepared. ...the old arched doorway in the lower half of the chambers, leading into Little Collins-st, stands amid the dust and din of the construction. 'We might let it remain as a rustic touch,' the general manager of Menzies hotel... said today. (Herald, 21/2/62)
- 69/5 Demolition permit□ 130-48 William Street (Menzies Hotel) & 460-68 Lt Collins (Selborne Chambers)□ 1 x 6-storey + 1 x 4-storey + 1 x 3-storey□ wrecked for AMP Society□ \$115,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3014)

495-97 BOURKE ST (E of Menzies Hotel)

64/11 Demolition permit [3-storey brick building] wrecked for Commonwealth Bank, £2500.
(MCC 167/3, Box 19, D2244)

EAGLE STAR INSURANCE BUILDING, 473-81 Bourke Street (E of Menzies Hotel)

69/12 Demolition permit□7-storey brick & concrete building□wrecked for Eagle Star Insurance, \$86,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3121)

SAXON HOUSE, 448-54 Lt Collins E of Selborne Chambers

70/11 Demolition permit 4-storey building (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3248)

MAXWELL CHAMBERS, 456-58 Lt Collins E of Selborne Chambers

70/11 Demolition permit 3-storey building (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3248)

13. MLC BUILDING to QUEEN STREET

MLC BUILDING

- 19thC Site sold at Melbourne's first land sale to George Coulstock for 40. Four months ago (1937) MLC paid £150,000 for a comparatively small fraction of it. Originally it had a Collins Street frontage of 132 feet and ran through to Flinders Lane. Coulstock himself subdivided it into 12 lots in 1842, and the corner portion, with a 56 ft frontage to Collins Street and a 60 ft depth, was bought by Henry Townend. Four years later the corner holding was again subdivided. William Easey bought part of it, and Henry Budds bought the corner lot, extending 30 ft 7" in Collins Street and 75 ft in Elizabeth. This approximately = MLC site. Remained in possession of Payne family until MLC purchased. (Herald, 29/4/37, p.14)
- 1880s **Pic**—Modern Permanent Building Society's new offices under construction—view from west. (A New City, p. 47)
- Pics** 2 views from E, c. 1890 & 1900. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.87)
- 36/11 New 10-storey, 132-ft reinforced concrete building on White's Corner MLC purchased site from Payne family site now occupied (on ground floor) by White's boot shop on corner + two shops adjoining in both Collins & Elizabeth architectural competition to be held work to start in May 1937. (Herald, 14/11/36)
- 37/8 Work now in progress in Collins Street embraces... the building of the £12,000 Peninsular Houses at 311-313 Collins Street, a building to be completed by late September... [Proposed works include] the £150,000 10-storey building for the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co., to be erected next to Peninsular House, at the corner of Elizabeth Street. (Herald, 11/8/37)
- 38/8 75 Elizabeth Street, S of MLC building Payne building under construction ex site of Payne's Chambers part of Payne estate architect Harry Norris. (Herald, 20/8/38)
- 38/11 Forming a new landmark for Melbourne and a focal point for the intersection of Collins and Elizabeth streets, the great Mutual Life and Citizens' Building is being completed... From ground to first floor the building is faced with Rob Roy granite. Upper faces, including the tower, are in Hawkesbury River freestone... Facing Collins and Elizabeth streets at ground level are seven modern shops, with galleries, and passage leading to the rear stairs giving access to Staughton Place at rear. (Herald, 30/11/38)
- Pic** MLC building (scrapbook, pp. 31-2)
- Pic** 12x10" b&w pic of MLC building, c.1960. (SLV/WW 66/4)
- 69/8 Demolition permit 303-09 Collins 12-storey concrete building wrecked for MLC \$75,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3072)
- 69/11 Demolition permit Peninsular House, 311-13 Collins 5-storey brick building wrecked for MLC \$10,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3107)

70/1 Demolition permit [315-17 Collins] 7-storey brick building [wrecked for MLC \$32,000 (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3131)]

317 Collins [Southern Cross Chambers] originally Modern Permanent Building Society [built 1888 at a cost of £40,000] 8-storey, 120 ft tall [Stawell freestone, with columns of red Peterhead granite on ground floor (Cannon, Land Boomers, pp. 166-7)]

70s **Pic** [6 x 8" photo of girl posing in garden with statue (bass relief?, still mounted on background of stonework facing) [Grecian (male) figure bearing bundle of sticks] approx. 10-12 ft high] Myles Whelan's caption: 'Purchased from WW, ex MLC building'. (SLV/WW 65/4)

351 COLLINS

Formerly site of Criterion (originally Royal) Hotel—‘one of the most spectacular drinking houses in the flamboyant days of new-found wealth in the 1850s.’ Land purchased 1838 for £19... (Rogan, pp.47-8; Cole Collection)

It is hard to conceive that here, less than sixty years ago, that worthy pioneer, Michael Pender, kept a little public-house built in sods; or, rather, his wife retailed the shilling drinks, while he cracked his whip over the first Victorian bullock team that did the carting of the little settlement. That half-acre block, which he bought for £19, was worth, ere the veteran died, much more than a quarter of a million sterling, and enabled him to live the easy life of a wealthy man on his pleasant suburban estate of Ivanhoe. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.18)

- 1842 MCC Mayoral procession and swearing-in, 13 December 1842, commenced at Royal Hotel at noon. Proceeded down Collins Street, along King to Bourke, then to courthouse (Colonial Store site). Royal Hotel was, during the 40s & early 50s, the official starting-point for street processions, as well as the venue for many public meetings. Acted as town hall—town council had its first meeting there on 3/12/42. (Garryowen, pp. 265-7)

One of the most pressing questions at the first MCC meeting was the erection of a town hall—‘...the site suggested was portion of the St James’ Reserve, between Bourke and Little Collins streets’. (Garryowen, p.269)

- 1845 First real turtle soup was served at the Royal Hotel, Collins Street, in 1845. (Garryowen, p.758)

- 1849 Lodging place of the new Governor, Sir Charles Fitzroy, when he visited Melbourne in 1849. Returning from dinner at Jolimont with LaTrobe, the horses pulling his carriage were frightened by squibs let off by loyalists opposite the Mechanics’ Institute—horses bolted and ran into ‘a heap of bricks and stones stacked as building materials on the side of the street opposite the Club House [Union Club Hotel] (now the Bank of Victoria site). Carriage capsized and inmates rolled out on the roadway. Governor sustained no injury—coachman flew off his box ‘like a kicked football’ and pitched into an empty cask, but was unharmed. The horses ran on, helter-skelter causing chaos across the town. The Governor’s wife had been killed two years earlier in not dissimilar circumstances. (Garryowen, pp. 224-5)

Samuel Moss came to Melbourne from California...[c.1852-3] He took over the Royal Hotel in Collins Street, did it up to include the famous bridal suite, beloved of successful diggers, and renamed it the Criterion. He also introduced Melbourne citizens to the novelty of ice. Moss was a pioneer Melbourne firefighter—helped fight a fire in Collins Street in the spring of 1853. By early 1854, he had bought himself a fire engine. He called it ‘The Volunteer’. His staff from the Criterion fought alongside him at a big Elizabeth Street fire in February 1854. One of them, a barman from Philadelphia named Clapp, died when the burning building collapsed. Moss’s engine perished with him. [for more on Moss and the US firefighters, see Lt Bourke St fire station] (Life Under the Bells, p.9)

Melbourne’s most famous gold-rush hotel was undoubtedly the Criterion. This was converted in 1853 from J.W. Cowell’s original Royal Exchange Hotel... The new owners

were two American gold immigrants, Samuel Moss and Charles Wedel, who built a new three-storey frontage to Collins Street with twenty-eight bedrooms. One was a bridal chamber decorated in amber satin. The older part at the rear was converted into a series of bars, dining-rooms, billiard saloon, bath-house, hairdresser, bowling saloon, and even 'a pretty ornate little vaudeville theatre' holding 500 people. William Kelly admired the main bar, with its 'grand mirrors, imposing decanters, marble counter, monster claret-cup bowl', and American waiters who dazzled customers with their dexterity in mixing cocktails.

On Independence Day in 1853, the American owners of the Criterion shocked loyal Britons by 'thrusting a jurymast through a skylight in the roof, to sustain the broad American flag, and the projection of horizontal yards from the front windows to display miniature editions of the star-spangled banner.'

The main event of 1853 was an Old Colonists' Festival in the giant dining-room on the evening of 14 September, to honour 300 pioneers who had been in the colony for more than ten years. La Trobe was naturally the guest of honour. As usual he left early, after eight of the nineteen toasts had been drunk. (Cannon, Melbourne After the Gold Rush, pp. 326-27)

The Criterion's magnificent dining room is seen to full effect in this S.T. Gill drawing of the Old Colonists' Festival held on 14 September 1853. On the walls hung early Australian and U.S. flags. Gill restrained his normal sardonic pencil on this occasion, failing to record that a drunken W.J.T. Clarke climbed on the table to make a speech, was jeered by his neighbours, and engaged them in fisticuffs before being arrested. (Pic in Cannon, Melbourne After the Gold Rush, pp. 322-23)

The Criterion Hotel in Collins Street became a centre of business entertainment life after the gold rush. At left [east] were the Criterion Sale Rooms... To the right [west] of the hotel, F. Cooper had his pharmacy, with surgeon Richard Heath operating on the floor above. James Blundell conducted a bookselling, stationery and lithographing firm next door. He allowed S.T. Gill, who drew this sketch, space for a studio on the first floor... (Pic of streetscape described—Cannon, Melbourne After the Gold Rush, pp. 320-21)

Site sold to Union Bank 1877—building cost £20,000—marble figures of Great Britain & Australia (Ada & Elsie) in niches. (Rogan, pp.47-8—gives full description of building)

Union Bank moved to site from its first premises (cnr Queen & Flinders La). Designed 1877 in renaissance style—completed July 1880—sculptured figures, mouldings and most of the decorative stonework, including rusticated columns, imported from England—H. Jackson of London was sculptor. (ANZ magazine, n.d., in SLV/WW 56)

- 1880 Colonial Bank built, 351 Collins St—two storeys. (Herald, 31/1/47)
- 1905 Third storey added to Colonial Bank. (Herald, 31/1/47)
- 37/11 Alterations considered—complete rebuilding? (Herald, 10/11/37, p.12)
- 38/7 ...the Union Bank of Australia Ltd has decided to erect a modern nine-storey building on the site of the existing institution at 351 Collins-street... Originally the directors were inclined to favor a retention of some of the old-traditional architectural style, but it was

- finally decided to have a building embodying the very latest developments. [Planned building described] **[Pic of present Union Bank]** (Age, 5/7/38)
- 38/7 To have the same bulk as Temple Court, with the 66ft 5in. frontage to No. 351 Collins Street rising nine storeys to 132ft, and the frontage to Flinders Lane rising to 99ft, the new headquarters for the Union Bank of Australia... (Herald, 5/7/38)
- 47/1 It will be four or five years before the new building for the Union Bank head office in Collin Street is erected... The site has a frontage of 66 ft to Collins Street, and a depth of 313 ft through to Flinders Lane. Cost of the 1938 rebuilding plan was unofficially estimated at £250,000. The plan was deferred because of the war. Bank buildings had been erected before the war in 12 months. (Herald, 31/1/47)
- [pics]** Early Melbourne Architecture, p. 39; Rogan, *Melbourne* (Nat Trust), p. 48]
pic Wolfgang Sievers photo, 1957 SLV accession no. H99.50/105 copy on file
- 57/11 The old Union Bank of Australia Ltd—now the Australia and New Zealand Bank Ltd—at 351 Collins Street, is one of several Melbourne buildings whose beauty is being revealed by cleaners. ...The Union Bank building was designed in the Renaissance style in London in 1877. Sculptured figures, mouldings and most other decorated stonework, including rusticated granite columns and projecting courses to the ground floor, were imported from the British Isles. An interesting feature of the façade are the red polished granite columns, quarried in one piece in Aberdeen, Scotland. **[pic]** (Herald, 7/11/57, p.17)
- 65/7 Demolition permit for Flinders Lane frontage (330-340 Flinders Lane, W of Fulham Place) 3-storey brick & bluestone building wrecked for ANZ, \$20,000. (MCC 167/3, Box 20, D2380)
- 66/7 Demolition permit for 351-57 Collins St 4-storey brick building \$24,000. (MCC 167/3, Box 21, D2565)
- 66 Sculpted marble female figures (Ada & Elsie) removed 22/7/66? to Melbourne Uni column capitols, masonry panels and urns to School of Architecture, Melb Uni bluestone flagging, etc. to National Trust, Como. (ANZ magazine, n.d., in SLV/WW 56)
- Professor Brian Lewis, Dean of Architecture Faculty: 'We would use the two marble ladies temporarily in the main entrance hall of the School and this would keep at least two respectable ladies off the street.' (news article, n.d., SLV/WW 56)
- 66/8 ...ANZ Bank at 351 Collins Street... The ANZ Bank, now almost demolished, will make way for Melbourne's new \$8 million Stock Exchange building. It had received the Trust's B classification, as a building of national importance which should be preserved. 'The main features of the bank's façade have been preserved by the Trust and will be on display in a special foyer at Melbourne University's School of Architecture,' Mr Davidson [Nat Trust chairman] said... 'These wonderful old facades should be preserved and incorporated in new buildings.' ... Mr Davidson said the Trust had preserved the flagstone's from the basement of the bank for terracing in the garden at Como.' The

School of Architecture at the University of Melbourne had also arranged for the preservation of panelling from the main banking hall. (*Age*, 23/8/66)

Classified B by National Trust [NT has complete photographic record] focal pieces of façade are displayed in foyer of Melb Uni School of Architecture (1970). (Rogan, pp.47-8)

PRELL'S/APA/LEGAL & GENERAL BUILDING, 375-83 Collins Street □ SE cnr Queen

1880s ...when W.F. Hall, Vice President of the Otis Company in America, came on a holiday visit in 1886[. h]e is supposed to have been stuck by the absence of tall buildings, and to have predicted that with its increasing population Melbourne would soon have to build upwards like Chicago and New York. He put this view to Friedrich Wilhelm Prell, who was then putting up a four storey building at 15 Queen Street, and convinced him that if he had passenger lifts he would get as good a rent for the upper floors as for the ground floor. Prell added two storeys and installed lifts. He then went on to build three further buildings of nine storeys at the south end of Queen Street in about 1888....

The Melbourne Hydraulic Power Company was formed in 1886 to supply Melbourne with 'motive power on the high pressure hydraulic system for the extinguishing of fires and other purposes'. ...Whilst firefighting was a suitably worthy objective, there is no doubt that the main motivation was the supply of hydraulic power for lifts.... The company... was duly authorised by Parliament, and then spent \$85,000 laying 11 kilometres of mains through Melbourne streets and on building its pumping station... near the Victoria Docks.... By July 1889 the company had extended a trunk main as far as Parliament House, and Prell's building at the corner of Collins and Queen Street had been connected up [the first building in Melbourne to have a hydraulic passenger lift]. (Miles Lewis, Melbourne: The city's history and development, p. 68)

29/2 APA tower (formerly Prell's building) being re-cast—building remodelled and refaced. (Argus, 19/2/29, p.10)

29/7 Whole building refaced in warm-toned terracotta, in place of the original cement stucco. New entrance and steel-framed tower of 'unusual dimensions', 250ft tall. (Argus, 30/7/29, p.10)

1930 Building put up about turn of 20thC □ remodelled in 1930, & tower added, rising 120 ft above the roof line. 'Did you ever wonder what was in that tower? Not a damned thing, actually.' (Sun, 31/3/65)

53/12 The APA Building, on the corner of Collins and Queen sts... has been bought by the Legal & General Assurance Society of London.... The property, one of Melbourne's landmarks with its tower, consists of nine stories, and has a frontage of 45 ft to Collins st and 141 ft along Queen st. (Argus, 23/12/53)

65/2 Demolition permit □ 1 x 8-storey brick + 1 x 11-storey brick □ £40,000 (MCC 167/3 Box 20 D2305)

L&G was one of tallest buildings in Melbourne. As usual, WW used timber outriggers rather than scaffolding. The union called a stop-work on the site and gang was about to walk out on strike until scaffolding was erected. But WW hadn't factored scaffolding into the cost of the demolition. Jim Parker persuaded the workers to stay, on the proviso that scaffolding would be used on all future jobs. It was. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

COMMONWEALTH BANK, 367 Collins[S side

[Site of Capel Court and E neighbour, 351 Collins] In the beginning it appears that the site was occupied by Michael Carr, one of Victoria's first settlers, who built a wattle and daub hut there in 1836, beside the first cattle track which wound its way from the Yarra River, near Elizabeth Street, out to the swamps of West Melbourne. ...the site was included in allotment 19, block 4, and this was purchased at the first land sale on June 1, 1837, by Arthur Willis and James McIntyre for £42.... The first building erected on the Capel Court site was Willis's general store, facing Queen Street.... [In 1842 part of the block was bought by] the Union Bank, which erected a two-storey building to accommodate its first office. Subsequently various subdivisions took place, and from 1844 onwards the frontage now held by Capel Court and the Commonwealth Bank was occupied by the Imperial Inn, founded by Henry Baker... (Herald, 6/1/36)

1846 Henry Baker opened the Imperial Inn, 'a tidy two-storey house, erected on portion of the site of the Exchange in West Collins Street. He was a pragmatist, dumpyish sort of fellow, who always appeared with a very clean-shaven face, and was white-aproned from chin to ankles.' (Garryowen, p. 759)

T.D. Edwards secured possession of the Capel Court property in the late forties, and the property remained in his estate until 1873.... The Chamber of Commerce was founded in [1851], and in 1855, in order to secure permanent headquarters, the merchants comprising the Chamber of Commerce erected the Hall of Commerce on the site now occupied by Capel Court and the Commonwealth Bank. A gradual change had taken place in gold-mining methods with the exhaustion of the rich alluvial deposits, and an era of company flotation had set in to finance the exploitation of the reefs at deeper levels. Before long shares in these companies were actively traded in, and this presently gave birth to the first Stock Exchange, formed in 1859. This occupied portion of the building on the site of which Capel Court has been built.... In imitation of the London Stock Exchange, the main entrance was known as Capel Court, and the name was still visible in faded lettering when Chartres building was demolished early last year. (Herald, 6/1/36)

19thC Site of Exchange Hotel

1880s The Exchange building was home to two rival stock exchanges: the Melbourne Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Melbourne, even after their partial merger in 1885. (A New City, p. 46—pic, p.49)

1880s In May 1880, Mr H. Byron Moore opened a mercantile 'exchange' in a building which had been erected at the rear of the older 'Hall of Commerce' in Collins Street, and... a telephone exchange [was] added to the accommodation for patrons. Arrangements were made with the post-office, and a switchboard was actually got into working order in an upstairs room in the building in August or September [1880]. The original 'subscribers' were only seven in number, and of these four were 'deadheads', being directors of the company formed to carry out the undertaking. [But soon, they couldn't keep up with the demand. Free service to Law Courts, Melbourne Hospital and Exhibition Building—latter still [1915] retained its original number—2—in telephone directory] In December, 1884, the telephone exchange was removed to a new building in Wills street, and when, in September 1887, the concern was handed over to the Government, the company had over 1000 subscribers... (Argus, 12/6/15, p.6)

The first telephone exchange was established in 1880, in the old Stock Exchange building in Collins street, by Messrs. H. Byron Moore, Masters and T. Draper. This was two years before the establishment of the first exchange in London. (supplement to 'The Electrical Engineer of Australia & NZ', Sept 1927)

Until 1889 the business of the two major exchanges was conducted in 'The Exchange'. This was a £20,000 building erected by R.J. Jeffray in Collins Street near the south-eastern corner of Queen Street. (Today [1965] it is a branch of the Commonwealth Bank. The building was leased by Henry Byron Moore, a broker who also ran a financial newspaper and sub-let the rest of the premises for share trading. All sorts of facilities were provided for brokers... There was a press table, a hairdresser, a billiards room, telegraph office, and so on.... Moore gave Melbourne a telephone service long before London had one. He bought the Melbourne rights to the invention and established a primitive telephone exchange on the roof of 'The Exchange' building. (Cannon, Land Boomers, p. 102)

[Exchange]... a building quite inadequate to accommodate the crowd of people whose business it was to hang about all day and watch the ebb and flow of the market. They therefore generally thronged the footpath in front, and the place which speculators thus haunted was known as 'Under the Verandah', one of those fascinating regions where fortunes were often made and as often lost. (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, p.78)

- c.1921 WW wrecked Stock Exchange. Three floors superimposed, of zinc, copper & lead□most valuable find, from wrecker's viewpoint. (news cutting, 1933?□scrapbook, p.38)

- 1922 Foundation stone of Commonwealth Bank laid. (Commonwealth *Bank Notes*, December 1971)

- 46/3 In Collins-street, the [Commonwealth] bank, in addition to its main premises, owns the two adjoining buildings, the one formerly owned by Sands and McDougall Pty Ltd, and Tuckett-chambers. (Age, 9/3/46)

- 71-74 Foundation stone lifted by wreckers in 1971 to reveal lead time capsule containing cancelled banknotes (from 10/ to £1000), set of coins, newspapers, etc.□contents to be reinterred on site of new building, to open in 1974. (Commonwealth *Bank Notes*, December 1971□in SLV/WW 57, p.66)

- 71/5 Demolition permit□367-73 Collins□2 x 6-storey + 1 x 5-storey buildings□for CBA, \$150,000.
- 71/12 Demolition permit□367 Collins□single-storey temporary bank building□\$1500 (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3391)

TUCKETT CHAMBERS, 359-61 Collins Street

- 46/3 In Collins-street, the [Commonwealth] bank, in addition to its main premises, owns the two adjoining buildings, the one formerly owned by Sands and McDougall Pty Ltd, and Tuckett-chambers. (Age, 9/3/46)
- 70/9 Demolition permit 2 x 5-storey buildings wrecked for Commonwealth Bank, \$29,500. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3215)

RESERVE BANK, 363-65 Collins Street

71/2 Demolition permit 4-storey building wrecked for Commonwealth Bank, \$5000. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3277)

NORMAN BROS. BUILDING, Elizabeth Street□b/w Collins & Flinders La

1976 To be demolished to make way for National Bank building. Built c.1911□5 storeys□Norman Bros. Original premises opened next door in 1898. (Sun, 10/2/76)

PHAIR'S HOTEL & PHAIR'S CHAMBERS, 327 Collins Street□S side

19thC Claremont Hotel licensed on former site of National Bank, 1871. Phair's Claremont from 1883. (Cole Collection)

60/7 Wrecked by WW, at same time as CML, opposite. (Daily Telegraph, 17/7/60; MJW CML records, Cahill's carrier receipts)

UNION TRUSTEES BUILDING, 331-33 Collins Street
& APOLLO CHAMBERS (at rear), 326-28 Flinders Lane

1977 WW wrecked for CBA Bank. (SLV/WW 28)

14. OLD TIN SHED

19thC Pictures of Melbourne published in the 70s and 80s of last century had shown the Post Office buildings reaching from Bourke to Little Bourke streets. The building had been designed for the whole block, but only part of it had been constructed. Edward Bernard Green, one of Victoria's early mail contractors, had his stables at the back of the 'tin shed' site. This land had subsequently been bought by the State and used as an office site. (Herald, 7/3/38)

[pic] This sketch,... drawn in the 1850s, shows an artist's impression of the post office extended right up to the Little Bourke-st corner. The tower on the left is where the old tin shed stands today. Building of the post office began in 1859 and it was opened on July 1, 1867. The telegraph office was transferred in 1872 from the exchange building in William-st to a 'temporary' wooden building on the old tin shed site. Post office sources report that in 1881 talks were being held 'regarding placing a sum of money on the next public works estimates to proceed with the erection of that portion of the main building as designed, to be extended to the corner of Little Bourke-st.' But the extensions were never made. (Herald, 8/9/62, p.13)

1897 The northernmost portion of the building, which is eventually to afford room for the telegraphic business, now carried on in various temporary premises, will probably not be completed for several years. But when this is added the Melbourne Post Office will form a truly splendid feature of the city architecture. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp.30-31)

Until 1906 the shed was a wooden building. In that year the contract for the tin structure was let for £880/12/. It was leased in about 1920. The kiosk next door...was leased in 1925. (Herald, 4/9/62, p.1)

13/2 Iron Telegraph Office. Heat-Wave Conditions. A Disgrace to Melbourne. The building which is shown in the illustration accompanying this article is not a country grain-shed. It looks like one—except for the fact that most country grain-sheds are better and larger. It is not one, however, nor even an outback wool-shed, although the resemblance is very marked both as regards architecture and material. No—it is merely the main telegraph office of Melbourne, and most of the vast telegraphic business of the city proper passes through it.

Besides being used as a telegraph office, this building has another and more important use on hot days. It is then a Turkish bath. Yesterday the citizens of Melbourne must have lost pounds and pounds, in the aggregate, while waiting to transact telegraphic and telephone business there. The thermometer at Gaunt's showed a temperature of 107 degrees. Inside this structure there was no thermometer, but guesses were freely made, and the general consensus of public opinion was that the maximum temperature was at least 150 deg. And that maximum was also the minimum.

As one entered the small doors, a half-fainting woman or two staggered out of the little extra-hot Turkish bath cabinets provided by Mr Frazer for telephone purposes. Fortunately there is a chemist's shop on the opposite side of Elizabeth Street, and anybody who really fainted could easily be carried across the road. But on hot days an ambulance and stretcher-bearers should be in attendance. one could see the innocent victims step into these hot boxes with a cheerful smile, glad at being out of the blazing sunlight. Then, though the glass, one observed the faces get redder and redder, as the heat

and bad air do their work. As they came out they instinctively looked round for the massage-attendant and the shower-bath. Then they remembered that they were in a telegraph office and went gladly out into the sun again, after a pitying glance at the telegraph clerks, who had to work in this heat all day.

The body of the building, where the telegrams are written, was comparatively cool after the telephone-boxes, being only about 150deg. in the shade—as has been mentioned. Miserable citizens wrote a word or two, mopped their faces, wrote another word, mopped again, wrote and mopped alternately until the tale of words was done. Then they handed the result to the fireproof clerks behind the counter, and escaped again to the cool pavements, where the refreshing odour of tar, boiling out of the cracks in the wood blocks, restored them. Over the Salamanders behind the counter an electric fan flapped the murky air into languid circulation, and through the front doors the dust-motes danced cheerfully in the eddies of the northerly wind. The clang of the fire-carts passing down Bourke-street made those in the building wish that they too had a nice cool job like the firemen. The stream of people never slackened. Each newcomer came in with a hopeful face, as though he or she expected to find haven from the fiery sun. Each passer-out left firmly convinced that the Commonwealth Government had found a better place than Hay or Booligal or the other and more famous township usually associated with those two in the temperature records. The pens burnt one's fingers as one picked them up to write, and a faint steam came from the ink. A stout man, after a four minutes' bout with a telegraph form, looked as though he had just come out of the bay, and two thin, miserable-looking lads standing just within the doors were obviously jockeys, who had found a cheap way of reducing weight. The officials seemed resigned.

In this shed the clerks have worked and telegrams have been handed over the counter for many years. The employees now talk cheerfully of the time, two years or so hence, when the pressure may be relieved by the completion of new buildings down at the Spencer-street end of the city, for the handling of mails, the idea being to then shift the Telegraph-office to the main GPO. As for the outside aspect of the building, with its simple and severe architecture, they don't seem to mind that. Inside the air is nice and warm in summer-time, and, they say, delightfully cool in winter, and so they are content and as happy as Turkish bath attendants or marine-stokers... The only comment which might be construed into an expression of disapproval was: 'Mr Fraser ought to be down here today.' The reason of the suggestion was not quite clear, but it gave the general impression of a desire to push the Postmaster-General into the hottest of the telephone boxes and lock the door. If he came out alive, he might realise that the time has come to give Melbourne a telegraph office worthy of the city. (Argus, 5/2/13, p.5)

- 33/9 Flanked by towering buildings, and standing on a valuable site, which is the subject of a popular legend, the corrugated iron shanty, built in 1905 as a 'temporary' telegraph office..., constitutes an unpleasant eyesore in the centre of the city. Viewed from the north-western corner **[pic]**, it presents an unattractive exterior of red-painted iron, sheltering beneath the unfinished rear brick wall of the Post Office. Since the telegraph branch moved into permanent quarters some years ago, the 'tin shed' has been leased by a retain firm, but, in spite of repeated suggestions that the Elizabeth-street façade of the Post Office at least should be completed in accordance with the original plan, the miserable structure has been permitted to disfigure an important business and shopping area. An amended tentative plan provided for shops on the ground level, but the commonwealth authorities consider, according to an official statement, that the possible revenue from this source would not justify the expenditure involved in the erection of the building. Unfortunately, its age does not justify its retention for the Centenary celebrations as an example of the primitive dwellings of the pioneers of a hundred years ago, and, if

allowed to remain, will be regarded by visitors as merely an ugly and unnecessary blemish on a growing city.



Visions of almost fabulous wealth have been created in many minds by the extraordinary legend, which is without foundation, that the original site of the shed was sold in an early land sale to a sailor for a bottle of rum. Scores of people have written to the Lands department and the Titles Office claiming that the title to the land was held by an ancestor, but careful search has failed to produce any evidence that it was ever alienated from the Crown. Inspection of early maps yesterday at the Titles Office showed that half the block, 132 feet wide, stretching along Elizabeth-street, from Bourke-street to Little Bourke-street, was made as the site for the Post Office, and that the remainder, on the corner of Elizabeth and Little Bourke streets, was originally marked as 'reserve'. Later plans showed that the whole area had been occupied for postal purposes, and it was all included in the transfer of properties from the State to the Commonwealth at federation. The authorities consider that, even had the land been sold at any time, and the absence of any record or of documentary evidence makes this most improbable, the long occupation by the Crown would have established an unchallengeable title. The 'tin shed' was built under the supervision of the State Public Works department in 1905-6, the cost, approximately £900, being borne by the Commonwealth. It served its purpose as a 'temporary' office, and the approaching celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city might well induce the Commonwealth to consider its removal and the erection of a more suitable building. (Age, 6/9/33)

- 33/12 The notorious 'tin shed'... which has been denounced in no measured terms by all classes of citizens as an eyesore, was again discussed yesterday by the City Council, which decided to keep 'pegging away' to get the Government to remove it. A letter was received from the Postmaster-General stating that the request of the council that the tin shed be removed could not be complied with. The site, ran the letter, was intended for the ultimate expansion of the Post Office, and 'as there was not adequate demand for the additional accommodation, which such extension would provide, the department could not at present justify the expenditure of a large sum of money on building there.... Cr. Jones described the shed as a disgrace to Melbourne and to the Federal Government. It was no better than a cow shed. They should enter an emphatic protest against this obnoxious structure being allowed to [remain]... (Age, 19/12/33)
- 33/12 Proposal to demolish□but what would replace it? Source of revenue to Commonwealth Government for past 13 years□its removal would expose 'the further ugliness of the unfinished portion of the Post Office'. (Letter to Herald, 20/12/33, p.30)
- 35/1 Although the Postmaster-General...and senior officers of the department have considered the future of the 'tin shed'... it was stated officially yesterday that no immediate action was likely.... A building erected as an extension of the post-office might produce architectural harmony, but it would probably not give an adequate return. A modern building, which would be likely to give a return commensurate with the value of the site, would require a large expenditure. The department did not at present need the additional accommodation which a modern building would provide. (Herald, 10/1/35)
- 35/7 Tin Shed 'famous today as one of the city's principal eyesores'□'was, it seems, famous away back in the "eighties", although even then it appeared incongruous in the midst of the many tall and stately buildings... Yet in those days,... its aesthetic shortcomings were more or less overlooked because of the utilitarian purpose it served as the city's

- telegraphic nerve centre. However, nearly 50 years have elapsed since it ceased to be a telegraph office. It was on August 8 1890 that this office was transferred to a new venue in the GPO, which had had the upper storeys added.' (Herald, 4/7/35, p.10)
- 36/5 MCC had urged govt to remove 'the small tin structure' next to the GPO, but did not have power to condemn Crown buildings—even though being used for commercial purposes and does not conform to building regulations. (Herald, 13/5/36)
- 38/3 At Last! 'Tin Shed' To Go—Melbourne's 'Tin Shed'—the old unsightly galvanised iron building at the corner of Elizabeth and Little Bourke Streets, is to be demolished.... It is stated, however, that the department intends to use all the space for modern offices. The building has been an eyesore in Melbourne for nearly 30 years.... Comments today on the fact that the 'tin shed' is to go were: [Lord Mayor]: Three cheers, it's the best news I have heard since I have been in office. (Herald, 7/3/38) **[Pic]**
- 46/ 'Tin Shed to Go'—Melbourne's unsightly tin shed is expected to be replaced soon. (Herald, ?/46)
- 47/8 Her family—not the Crown—owned the 'Tin Shed' site next to the Elizabeth-st. Post Office, Mrs C.R. Moore, of Epsom-ave., Mordialloc, claimed yesterday.... Mrs Moore said her grandfather, Thomas Flett, a Scotsman, had bought the property 90 years ago. 'Three prominent Orbost people who met my grandfather before he died 40 years ago are willing to swear that he bought the piece of land.... One of them, George Cameron, told my brother that he had a copy of the title and that it had been signed by his father, who was a J.P. My grandfather was a land-buying crank. He told us once that he had owned the land where Ringwood now stands, but had lost the title. He never talked about the Tin Shed site to us.' Mrs Moore hopes to obtain the paper signed by Mr Cameron when she visits Orbost this week. Each year the Titles Office deals with many persons who claim that their forefathers bought the valuable site. **[pic]** (Sun, 26/8/47)
- [1888] ... a cock-and-bull story occasionally crops up to the effect that the place [GPO] belongs to a pauper cripple, who acquired it legally in the days of yore, but the intervention of some legal or illegal hitch ousted him from his rights... At the period of the early land sales the place was such that no sane man would put a shilling in it... It was a species of bog... (Garryowen, p.904)
- 47/8 ...the Old Tin Shed continues its serene existence... Headlines tell the story. Here is a representative selection: 'Tin Shed Problem'; 'Tin Shed May Go'; 'Old Tin Shed To Stay'; 'Blemish on the City'; 'Little Old Tin Shed Still To Stay'; 'Vale, Tin Shed'; 'Tin Shed To Stay'. (Herald, 26/8/47)
- 47/8 Titles Office men said on Monday that no deed existed for the site, but yesterday an official dug out one showing that the land was transferred from the State of Victoria to the Commonwealth Postmaster-General's Department on October 31, 1932. This wordy document is only one of the barriers facing Mrs Moore. Another bar to her—or anyone's claim—is that the Crown has held the land for long enough to claim possession, regardless of earlier ownership. The title shows that the Commonwealth paid the state £530,000 for the block on which both the GPO and the Tin Shed stand. The block is Crown allotment 1, setion 21, City of Melbourne, Parish of Melbourne North, County of Bourke. The title—in case Mrs Moore and the thousands of other claimants to the Tin Shed site want to

- check up□is Folio 1161714 of Volume 5809. ...Mr Allan W. Taylor, who deals in motor accessories, has leased the Tin Shed since about 1920. He now has it on a quarterly tenancy.... [Postmaster-General] said that plans to expand and modernise the telecommunication services included the erection of a building of limit height on the site of the Tin Shed... and the two-storeyed portion of the existing building at the northern end of the premises. It was also intending to replace the remaining portion of the Elizabeth-st Post Office with a modern building to link up with the other section of the premises. (Sun, 27/8/47)
- 47/8 Letter to Herald from Alf Johnson claims that Tin Shed never was telegraphic 'nerve centre', although it occupies the same site. 'Until 1890 the central telegraph office was a dilapidated weatherboard building, with rat-eaten floors and galvanised iron roof. About July 1890, the operating staff was transferred to a recently added storey in the GPO next door. The telegraph instruments and fittings were all new, and the change-over was effected in one night. When the old telegraph office was vacated, it was demolished, and a single-storey brick building was erected on the site. This structure was not in keeping with the architecture of the GPO, adjoining, and for some mysterious reason it was removed after a year or two, and the 'old tin shed' which stands today, was erected. (Herald, 29/8/47, p.9)
- 52/5 Melbourne's No. 1 eyesore□the Old Tin Shed□is getting a facelift. Workmen have begun replacing dented strips of corrugated iron and repainting the building cream and green.... The building is now occupied by the PMG's Department and Allan W. Taylor and Co., suppliers of motor accessories and tools. Mr Allan Taylor said today, 'The PMG's Department occupies most of the tin shed now. We are left with the Elizabeth Street frontage, and a depth of 12 yards in Post Office Place. Replacement of the corrugated iron is being done by the PMG's Department. We are not allowed to transfer our lease, and will have to get out when the PMG's Department tells us.' (Herald, 19/5/52)
- 60/4 Manager of Allan W. Taylor (tenants) said, 'If we were worried every time someone said the Old Tin Shed was to be pulled down we'd get no work done. I've lost count of the number of death sentences it has been given in the 30 years I've been here. The owner [of the business], Mr Taylor, used to worry 25 years ago, but he's used to the idea now. (Sun, 14/4/60)
- 60/5 It has remained a scruffy monument to procrastination... (Herald, 24/5/60, p.4)
- 62/9 Melbourne's 'old tin shed', put up in 1906 next to the Elizabeth-st Post Office, is to disappear at last. The Postmaster-General...announced officially this afternoon that the Post Office would build an information centre on the site. The new centre will be built of brick or concrete blocks. Shrubs and trees would be planted and there would be a small rock-pool, and seats. ...[PMG] hoped the new centre would 'enhance the appearance of the site'.... The kiosk next door (which, it is planned, will also go) was leased in 1925 and now sells cigarettes, newspapers and magazines. There have been many attempts to bring the tin shed down. Someone even suggested once that all that was necessary was to 'cut the red tape that keeps it up and it should fall down'. [pics□tin shed 1962, proposed new building] (Herald, 4/9/62, p.1)
- 62/9 Proposed replacement□a 'small inquiry office'□'seems to be a timid use of real estate'. Lord Mayor 'aghast' at 'temporary type of structure... completely out of character with

- the rest of the Post Office'. Professor Joseph Burke, chair of Fine Arts, Melbourne Uni, was astonished at the smallness of the building and its return to the days of little buildings. Herald: 'The Post Office cannot complain that it hasn't had time to devise anything more substantial and impressive.' (Herald, 7/9/62, p.4)
- 62/9 The mayor, Cr Nathan, was shown detailed plans of new building 'It's disgraceful and shocking,' he said. 'I would not keep my racehorse there.' An old tin shed was about to be replaced by a new one. Twelve public telephones and an information centre smaller than his office at the town hall 'also, a watchman's room, a toilet, two trees, and 'a rather interesting, but inadequate rock formation'. (Herald, 20/9/62, p.1)
- 62/11 **[pic]** This is a new plan, issued by the PMG's Department today, showing how the corner of Elizabeth-st and Post Office-pl will look when Melbourne's 'old tin shed' has gone.... Revised details... show that the size of the open space has shrunk by 500 square feet. ...work on pulling down the 'tin shed' would start after the Queen's visit next February. The new information centre would answer queries about telephones. (Herald, 1/11/62)
- 62/11 Rumour that MCC will move Tin Shed to Fitzroy Gardens for use as a kiosk. (Herald, 16/11/62)
- 63/1 Tin shed would not be demolished until after the Queen's visit 'in case 'she is interested in grotesqueries'. (Herald, 19/1/63)
- 64/1 The Department had again called tenders for demolition of the now deserted Old Tin Shed and construction of the information building and open area. ...the first tenders received were too high for the funds available so the plans were modified. (? Jan 64)
- 64/2 WW 'have been waiting around for years to have a go at the old shed. So much so that they put in a zero tender. That is, they'll be doing it for nothing.' (Sun, 25/2/64, p.21)
- 64/2 Almost 60 years of eyesore history began to disappear from Melbourne today.... The job may take four or five days. The shed, worth £300-£400 as lumber and salvageable iron, will go to tips and salvage companies.... 'It may finish up as a fowlhouse in somebody's back yard, or a shed up in the country somewhere,' said Mr Owen Whelan, who is in charge of the demolition. As a gesture to the past, Mr Whelan dressed some of his men in turn-of-the-century postmen's uniforms. The dark blue caps and bright red coats were genuine, a post office official said. **[Pic of Trevor Turner and Syd Clarkson wrecking roof of Tin Shed in postal uniforms.]** (Herald, 27/2/64)
- 64/2 Melbourne's... Old Tin Shed will be just a memory by Tuesday. Wreckers moved the roof and half the walls yesterday.... The shed cost £880 to build and is expected to bring about £350 in saleable sheet iron and timber. (Sun, 28/2/64)
- 64/2 One of the reasons why Melbourne's old tin shed has lasted so long was revealed yesterday when workmen began pulling it down. 'It seems that builders in 1906 really knew how to put a shed together,' one of them said after half the roof had been taken off. 'It was meant to be a temporary structure then, but there was nothing flimsy about the way it was built,' he said: 'There are some beautiful pieces of oregon timber joinery inside.'... The job is expected to be complete within six days. (Age, 28/2/64)

- 64/3 **Pic of site post-demolition, looking W to Elizabeth St**  (Sun, 4/3/64)
- 64/3 **Pic**  (undated Herald?, 3/3/64?)
- 69/5 Remember the Old Tin Shed by the GPO in Elizabeth St? It was an almost perfect example of Australian folk architecture, composed almost entirely of lovable Australian galvanised iron.... Well, the residents of Spencer St have been calling up with some excitement. Right next to the old GPO in Spencer St, the PMG has been putting up a building. Frankly, I don't think it has the purity of architecture of the Old Tin Shed. It has a more modern skillion room. Yet it is composed of the same lovable galvanised iron, and sentimentalists are insisting that it is a reincarnation of the Old Tin Shed. ...A quick call to the PMG revealed that this is a 'temporary' building to be used as an office and luncheon quarters for the PMG transport staff. **[pic]** (Sun, 15/5/69)

GPO CHIMNEY

24/7 Felling a Chimney. Difficult Task in City. Eight huge pieces of stone, weighing in all about four tons, crashed from a height of 150 feet into the yard of the General Post-office yesterday morning, but they crashed by design.

Their falling marked the beginning of the work of demolishing a tall chimney-stack which stands behind the Elizabeth street post-office, and formed part of the old post-office building. More than 100,000 bricks were used in the making of the chimney, which, with the iron rungs placed at regular intervals inside it to provide a means of reaching the top, weighs approximately 400 tons. The wall of the chimney is 4ft thick at the base, and at the top the thickness is 15 inches.

The task is extremely difficult, for there is a very restricted area around the base of the chimney in which the debris may fall. It would be impossible to fell the chimney from the base, owing to the buildings which surround it, and, moreover, the concussion would shatter windows for a considerable distance. Such being the case, the destruction has to be carried out piecemeal from the top. Even so, much care has to be shown, as, if the bricks were allowed to fall to the east, they might fall on Myer's buildings, or break the mains in the adjoining right-of-way. Therefore they must fall at the base of the chimney, away from the east.

Mr J. Whelan of Brunswick, has the contract for the demolition, and the actual work is being done by Mr J. Thorpe, who commenced his task yesterday. Making his way to the top by means of the inside rungs, he set to work with an ordinary, single-headed miner's 'pick' on the overhanging stone eaves, which he sent to earth in eight sections, cleverly working each round so that it would fall to the west. The contractor expects that, with reasonable weather, the task should be finished within a fortnight. He also expects that 85 per cent. of the bricks will be fit for future use.

Mr Thrope who appeared quite at ease in his perilous work, recently completed the felling of a chimney 200ft high. (Argus, 30/7/24, p.22)

Pic (on file)—shows Jacky Thorp dropping a piece of coping (weighing several hundredweight) from top of chimney. Panorama of city roofs forms backdrop. (Argus, 30/7/24, p.17)

MYER'S

- c.1910 Myer's Lonsdale? St on site of Melbourne's first slaughterhouse, which had a stock yard no larger than 40 x 60 feet. It was pulled down in 1910. (Jim Whelan, Age, 16/3/61)
- Rising Sun Hotel, NE cnr Lt Bourke & Blossom Alley. First licensed 1845. First ball court in Melbourne opened there on 1/3/1847. Hotel closed 31/12/1919. (Cole Collection)
- 1925+ Buildings of the 1920s include ...the Myer Emporium in Lonsdale Street (built in stages beginning in 1925) by H.W. & F.B. Tompkins... (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, pp. 146-7)
- 26/9 Excavating subway (basement) under Post Office Place, workmen discovered red gum logs of old corduroy roadway, 4_ ft below present street level 9-16" diameter. 18" red gum logs formed kerbs, smaller diameter logs for footpath. During excavations for Myer's, Bourke Street, about 12 years ago, many bones of cattle and sheep were found site of early abattoir. (Herald, 30/9/26, p.9)
- 33/1 Whelan the Wrecker... is pulling down one of the old Myer buildings to make room for a modern structure. (Herald, 16/1/33)
- 35/11 The Myer Emporium has completed its huge basement, the biggest of its kind in the Empire... (news cutting, 23/11/35)
- 36/9 A house... has risen in a crevice among the city's skyscrapers.... It is not intended for occupation; it was built simply to be looked at. The home was built by the Myer Emporium... The demonstration home has been built at the western end of the Myer block in Lonsdale Street, opposite St Francis' Church.... It pleases from first glimpse of its tapestry brick exterior, set amid a garden complete with flowers, shrubs, trees and bird bath. (Herald, 29/9/36)
- 36/10 'Progress House', 325 Lonsdale Street... will remain open for inspection for 12 months. Permits may be obtained from the Myer furnishing department. (Herald, 5/10/36) [pics—hairdryer, clock and dials on stove]
- 36/10 43,000 visit Progress House in fortnight. (Herald, 21/10/36)
- 40/1 Myer Emporium [is] rebuilding a section of its Post Office Place premises.... The section of the store on the northern side of Post Office Place is divided by Condell's Lane. [site of Condell's brewery, Melbourne's first?] The two sections are to be joined, and another floor added. (Sun, 13/1/40)
- 50/7 Myer Emporium has bought the city property at the corner of Elizabeth and Lonsdale Streets, known as Lang Building and Lang Arcade... [pic—of entire Lonsdale/Elizabeth St block, from NW corner] (Herald, 29/7/50)
- 54/4 [Large-scale car parking project]... in Lonsdale St, designed for Myer's by Bernard Evans and Associates, will be ready to receive cars before the end of June. When finished, it will accommodate 400 cars. (Herald, 30/4/54)

- 72/11 Demolition permit□Chandos House, 234-36 Elizabeth St (S of Lonsdale)□for Myer.
(MCC 167/3, Box 26 D3549)
- 72/73 Demolition permit□Lang Building, 327-45 Lonsdale & 242-60 Elizabeth□2 storey & 3-
storey brick□wrecked for Myer, Dec 72/Jan 73 (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3568 & D3549)

HOUSE OF COMMONS HOTEL, 191 Elizabeth Street (W side, opposite PO)

1845 In an early fox hunt (August 1845) from Penny Royal Creek, William Stawell rode a horse chartered from Mr J.G. Taylor, who kept the Baker's Arms Hotel, in Elizabeth Street—and the animal was accidentally killed during the run. The first foxes were introduced to Victoria that year; previously dingoes were the favoured quarry, kangroos and (especially) emuse having proved to tricky. (Garryowen, p. 734)

19thC Originally Baker's Arms, 1843. Glasgow Arms Hotel, 1856. Clarence Hotel, 1885. House of Commons, 1896. (Cole Collection)

66/2 Demolition permit [2-storey brick building (MCC 167/3 Box 20 D2461)

Pic [snapshot in SLV/WW 54)

15. QUEEN STREET

- 38/1 ...[sale of] the north-west corner of Queen and Little Collins streets, to the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria.... The corner property, which is used as the office of the National Trustees Company, was bought in 1900 and extended. In 1918, Victoria Chambers in Queen street,... were bought... Melbourne Chambers, an old bluestone building of three stories... in Little Collins Street, were bought in 1927... (Argus, 25/1/38)
- 55/9 One of Melbourne's oldest insurance companies will build a new 12-storey... city-limit skyscraper on its present office site at 53-55 Queen-st. ...Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd... **[pic]** The building which will be demolished... Architects have described it as one of the city's finest examples of Gothic architecture. (Sun, 21/9/55)
- 59/3 Pearl Assurance Co. Ltd... owns the property on the south-west corner [of Bourke & Queen]. This comprises the Britannia Hotel, built about 80 years ago and reconditioned in 1925, and two shops in Queen Street. Lease of the hotel expires early in April, and plans ...are for demolition to begin soon afterwards. (Age, 4/3/59)
- 65/2 Demolition permit for Austral Chambers & Century House, 97-101 Queen Street (W side, S of Lt Collins cnr)[]#97=8 storeys, #101=4 storeys[]demolished for Hammerton, £10,000. (MCC 167/3, Box 19, D2300)

GENERAL BUILDING (General Accident Fire & Life Assurance), 10-16 Queen Street□E side,
nr cnr Flinders St

69/10 Demolition permit□2 x 3-storey brick & bluestone offices□\$10,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 24
D3107)

HUNT'S BUILDING, 28-30 Queen Street (E side, S of Flinders La)

69/7 Demolition permit□3-storey brick building□\$6,850. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3041)

SWITZERLAND GENERAL BUILDING, 27-35 Queen Street □ SW cnr Flinders La
(ex-Broken Hill Chambers)

Stands of site of Oriental Bank—built 1850s, demolished 1880s/90s.

72/6 Demolition permit □ 8-storey building □ \$120,000 (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3482)

STOCK EXCHANGE/RACV, NW cnr Lt Collins & Queen

- 1880s At one stage during the boom there were no less than six separate exchanges conducting business. [Two major exchanges were at 367 Collins] (Cannon, Land Boomers, p. 102)
- 23/11 New RACV premises projected for 1924. (Herald, 27/11/23)
- 24/7 New stock exchange—432 (or 422-28) Chancery lane—bluestone building (originally office & woolstore of Dalgety & Co.) to be demolished immediately. BHP will be among the tenants. (Argus, 3/7/24, p.11; 8/7/24, p.9)
- 39/3 Large blocks bought by RACV for £110,000—new clubrooms planned—£250,000 to £300,000. (Herald, 11/3/39, p.6)
- 81-82 Stock Exchange building, 422 Lt Collins Street, demolished for RACV. (SLV/WW 49) see **pics** (contact sheet) (SLV/WW, 62/9)

UNITED DOMINIONS HOUSE, 40-42 Queen Street☐NE cnr Flinders Lane

70/6 Demolition permit☐11-floor building☐wrecked for Colonial Mutual. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3201)

70/8 Demolished August 1970☐**pics** on file (MJW stuff)

VICTORIA HOUSE, 44-46 Queen Street [E side, N of Flinders Lane

70/6 Demolition permit [10-floor building [wrecked for Colonial Mutual (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3201)

70/8 Demolished August 1970 [pics on file (MJW stuff)

UNITED INSURANCE BUILDING, 48-52 Queen Street [N of Flinders Lane

70/6 Demolition permit [3-floor building] wrecked for Colonial Mutual. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3201)

70/8 Demolition complete by 8/70 [pics on file (MJW papers)

CROWN HOTEL, 230-34 Queen Street □ SE cnr Lonsdale

1841 Hotel licensed (Cole Collection)

1840s Early meeting place of the Oddfellows. Also Bourke Ward HQ and polling booth in early MCC elections. (Garryowen)

1852 'A great place of call for squatters.' Closed 31/12/1916. (Cole Collection)

c.1955 **Pics** x 2 on file of demolition site, with WW sign (MJW papers) □ wrecked for ANZ Bank.

NORWICH UNION INSURANCE & CANTON INSURANCE

c.1957 Norwich Union, yes. That was one of the early ones. And there was another one alongside that. The Norwich Union and the Canton Insurance, almost alongside one another. I think we no sooner finished one and then we kept going. I remember I was early on the job there, and they walk around on the walls, to get here, there and everywhere. And I was there, I was bringing the pays round. And I said, 'Oh, here's yours, Bill.' And I said, 'Where's Charlie So-and-so?' 'Oh, he's up there around, you know.' I said, 'How do I get up?' He said, 'Oh, go up there.' And he was having a go at me.... But I had to go through with it. I nearly wet myself. (Owen Whelan interview)

16. QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL

19thC ...the space of five acres covered by the Melbourne Hospital, whose buildings of dark-red bricks, mostly two storeys high, rise in semi-detached wings and gables behind a bit of lawn, whereon upon sunny mornings the convalescents may be seen breathing a little of the open air. It was in 1840 that the first agitation began for a hospital in the town, and its result was that the hut originally used for a police station, but by that time rendered unnecessary by the erection of a better on another site, was fitted up with ten beds.... But in July 1845, the present site was granted, and its broken gullies and quarries were by degrees filled up by gangs of men. It was not till the 20th of March 1846, that the foundation stone was laid by Dr Palmer, the third mayor of the town, and afterwards the first Speaker of its Legislative Council.... Opposite the Hospital the shops are, many of them, occupied in ministering to its wants, the surgical instrument makers being there chiefly gathered. (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, p.36 [text remained the same in the 1925 edition, with the addition 'New buildings have from time to time been added [to the hospital], and these imposing erections...'])

First Melbourne Hospital was in Bourke Street, on land owned by JP Fawkner [2-storey brick house. Foundation stone of first free public hospital laid 1846 [small building of handmade brick laid in Flemish bond [since lost in mass of extensions and rebuilding [originally spacious gardens surrounded hospital. (Rogan, p.56)

The first site granted for the purpose of an Hospital was the centre of the present large enclosure, and there was an oblique short cut from the Swanston and Lonsdale Streets corner, close past the old door of the Hospital. ...The original building...faced Swanston Street and now [1888] forms the east wing of the new main building which was the first addition on the central block.... In its first years, the hospital 'looked like a red-rookery perched in the centre of a waste of bush, with large, half-charred tree-trunks here and there. The Court-house and the gaol were the only indications of civilisation beyond... The Hospital site at first was about one-fourth of its present dimensions, and the east and west portions, with the grounds of the Public Library, were intended as a place for public recreation. (Garryowen, p. 239)

32/1 Mr Whelan also pulled down the old Melbourne Hospital buildings, the erection of which was begun in 1846. It was originally intended that the Hospital should occupy what was then known as the Haymarket Reserve, on which St Paul's Cathedral now stands. The present site was chosen in 1841, and the new buildings were erected in 1912. (Argus, 23/1/32)

12/3 [Pic—sketch of proposed new hospital buildings, Lonsdale St elevation] ...the Hospital gives promise of being a most imposing building, more imposing even than the plan indicates. Built of red brick, the two surgical wards, the two tallest buildings in the plan, are now so far as brickwork is concerned, practically finished.... Behind the two tall surgical buildings are to be two others, similar in character and running back to Little Lonsdale street. Each of the wards in these great structures will be upon the pavilion principle—indeed, this hospital will be the largest upon this principle in the world, and larger than any other hospital south of the Equator. Connecting each block will be covered galleries, and electric lifts will do away with the present difficulty of carrying patients from floor to floor....

The building of the hospital was begun on November 3, 1910, so that, even the small

section now partially complete, has taken 17 months to build. That the whole Hospital will be finished within five year, the time originally hoped, is extremely problematical. Buildings will be continued from the Swanston-street end of the frontage.... When the whole hospital is complete, there will be provision for 400 beds. (Argus, 25/3/12, p.8)

65/2 Demolition permit□Queen Vic Hospital laundry block□2-storey brick building□£400 (MCC 167/3 Box 20 D2303)

90/3 No tenders were lodged with the State Government for the redevelopment of the Queen Victoria Hospital site□yet the demolition of the historic buildings is continuing. Demolition without a planning permit for a new development is against council planning policy and government practice... Nigel Lewis and Associates, the company hired to do the conservation analysis, recommended the hospital's retention. ...the planning policy that prohibited demolition without a planning permit was brought in after the 1982 recession. (Herald, 27/3/1990, p.19)

Demolition commenced March 1990. Ornamental 'capulets' from corner columns were sold for about \$1000 each to an interstate company. **Pics** (Herald, 25/7/1990, p.5)

QUEEN VICTORIA NURSES' HOME, 271-75 William Street □ NW cnr Lt Lonsdale

71/5 Demolition permit □ 3-storey + 2-storey buildings □ \$6,800. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3325)

17. ROYAL BANK

19thC Clarence Hotel opened 1843 (licence transferred from Collingwood Hotel, Newtown). Fire 26/6/45☐report in Port Phillip Gazette, 28/6/45. **Pic** in *Sketch*, 2/6/1884, prior to demolition for City of Melbourne Bank. (Cole Collection)

Future Premier, John O'Shanassy, in 1845 opened a drapery establishment—'a small one-storey tenement on the eastern side of Elizabeth Street South, a few yards distant from what was known for many years as the Clarence corner.' (Garryown, p. 759)

79/7 **Pic**—Banking panic of June 5. Run on the City of Melbourne Bank. (Australasian Sketcher, 5/7/79, p.1)

1884 Once, when demolishing an old hotel where the Royal Bank is now, 13 sovereigns were found in the first load of material taken away, and every day after that crowds used to follow the carts in the hope of finding gold. (JPW interview, Sun, 9/1/32)

1884 ...the City of Melbourne Bank was built to Oakden & Terry's design in 1884. (A New City, p.44—**pic**, p.45)

...the new Royal Bank branch of the E.S. and A. Bank Ltd [**pic**], at the corner of Elizabeth and Collins Streets, was opened for business today. ...Thirty-eight years ago to the day [1903] the old Royal Bank of Australia, lately taken over by the E.S. and A. Bank, entered into occupation of the old premises [**pic**] on the same site.

The building originally was occupied by the old City of Melbourne Bank, which closed its doors in the bank crash of the nineties. The old building was put up in 1885 by the City of Melbourne Bank on a site previously covered for many years by the Clarence Hotel. The Clarence Hotel was bought by the bank of £32,500 in 1881, and the building was erected at a cost of nearly £40,000. The Royal Bank paid £50,000 for it. (Herald, 17/2/41)

39/6 Royal Bank to be demolished☐also Bohemian Club, next door. (Herald, 13/6/39, p.17)

39/6 Long a feature in Melbourne, these massive Corinthian stone pillars dominate the facades of the old Royal Bank branch of the ES&A Bank in Collins Street. The building is being demolished to make way for a new limit height structure, but no move has been made to save the columns from the wrecker's pit.

Until recently facades which had special merit for design, or stonework, were salvaged☐sometimes re-erected at the University... Similar efforts were not made for other buildings wrecked recently.... Now the same fate hangs over the Corinthian columns and old façade of the Royal Bank branch of the ES&A bank, at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets. Wrecking began on the building this week, to make way for a limit height, new branch bank. Tall, massive, but beautifully fluted and capped, there are 14 columns in the two facades of the old bank, and two, flanking the corner entrance, are of complete circular section. The architects for the planned replacement building, Messrs Stephenson and Turner, and the builder, Mr Ernest A. Watts, have no instructions about the old columns. [**pic**☐near view of columns☐demolition (Whelan's sign?)] (Herald, 23/6/39, pp. 6 & 12)

Pic☐photo from W, showing columns. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.87)

BOHEMIAN CLUB, 287 Collins Street—E of Royal Bank

Melbourne Bohemian Club was formed by 15 young immigrants who 'shared active interests in music, athletics and literature'. First meeting held in a room at Scott's Hotel on 9/2/1875. Rule 7 of the Bohemian Club By-Laws stated that 'the entrance fee would be nil and the subscription fee shall not exceed the entrance fee'. 'Good singers and musicians were admired and sought after by the new society; acting abilities were also esteemed. Engaging storytellers and good chaps who could hold their liquor and a cricket bat were invited 'round.' They had a cricket team, gun club, and polo team. Early meetings were held variously at the Oriental, Scott's and the Union Club Hotel, and Gunsler's Café provided HQ during 1889. From about that period, the Club leased 287 Collins Street from the Land Mortgage Bank. The club experienced straitened times during the decade after the Boom—had to sell their piano and abandon theatricals for a time. From 1900, though, their membership was revitalised—approx. 220. Their rooms became uncomfortably crowded. By this time, the Club's sporting activities were defunct. Activities were mostly confined to 'house dinners', held each Thursday night, as well as occasional excursions, dances and regattas. The rooms were crowded at lunch and the billiard and card tables (whist, poker & bridge) used to capacity. The dressing room was full on Saturday noons as hunting members changed into their pinks before meets at Croxton Park, Bogong or Oakleigh. Country members arrived in numbers during Race Week and for the Victorian Polo Tournament. The Club was strong in members from the legal and medical fraternities. In 1912, the Club bought the premises and carried out renovations. One-third of the Club's 240 members joined up in WW1; 8 died. 'All professions and vocations of men were to be found in the occupations of Bohemians,' wrote W. Russell Grimwade, the Club's last president. 'This variety of interests made the Club free from internal cliques or immiscible parts. Any member could 'butt' into a conversation; there were no special chairs or special tables.' Younger members discovered that the jarrah table in the Social Room could be titled up and used as a toboggan chute for competitive races timed for speed of descent. The club faced financial difficulties in 1928, and a merger with the Melbourne Club (their traditional rival in sport) was discussed and rejected by both clubs. In the midst of depression in 1931, the Bohemians decided to liquidate the club. Members were absorbed by the Melbourne and Australian clubs. An anonymous poem written at the time began: 'Farewell to the narrow grey home...' ('The Bohemians Melbourne', Alfred W. Baxter, *Bohemian Club Library Notes*(USA), No. 58, Fall 1988, pp. 1-7) **Pics**—sketches of building exterior and interior

39/6 Royal Bank to be demolished□also Bohemian Club, next door. (Herald, 13/6/39, p.17)

COMMERCIAL BANKING CO. OF SYDNEY (BANK OF VICTORIA), 251-7 Collins St (SE
cnr Centreway Arcade) & rear (246-50 Flinders La)

[pics] Jack Cato, Melbourne, 1949 p. 50
Early Melbourne Architecture, p.39

The engine [which exploded on the Equitable building site, killing two men]
...had been some time in use, and it was used recently in connection with the
erection of the premises of the Commercial Bank in Collins-street. (Argus,
10/4/1893, p.6)

...yet another of [Collins Street's] most precious bank fronts (at no. 251) has been
selected for demolition. Built for the old Bank of Victoria, the baroque façade, with its
pyramid stone facings, was directly inspired by the Pesaro Palace in Venice. In 1929, the
architects for the new owners, the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd., did a skilled
and tasteful job when they left the façade intact and built a modern banking chamber
behind it. (Herald, 5/11/69)

69/9 Demolition permit 246-50 Flinders La (rear of CBC) 5-storey brick
warehouse \$30,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3087)

71/5 Demolition permit 251-7 Collins St 4-storey concrete and steel building for CBC
Bank, \$60,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3311)

FOURTH VICTORIA BUILDINGS, 265 or 241-5 Collins Street □ W of Manchester Lane

12/6 [Building extensively remodelled] Here the demand was for additional height, improved lighting, a modern lift service and a more open entrance. ...the building will in a few months emerge from the forest of scaffolding as one of the most modern and artistic buildings in the city... **[Pic]**—sketch of proposed building] (Argus, 22/6/12, p.7)

27/2 JPW cited as an example of his work. Did he mean the former site (19thC) □ 265 Collins? Or the current site (1927) □ 241-5 Collins? (Smith's Weekly, 19/2/27)






AGE CHAMBERS, 237-9 Collins □ S side, E of Manchester La

1897 ... the narrow but handsome freestone front of the Age office, far otherwise houses than in the days of its long struggle, when it occupied a dingy shop in Elizabeth-street. ... In the midst of the prosperous times of the 'boom' the office of the paper was transferred to these finer premises. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.22)

69/9 Demolition permit □ 5-storey concrete offices □ \$55,000 (MCC 167/3, Box 24, D3088)

18. RUSSELL STREET

BROOKS BUILDING

- 67/2 Building demolished after fire, in which a man died. (Sun, 5/7/62, p.5  in SLV/WW 62/2)
- 62/7 Demolition would be a 'soda', said WW. 'It was old anyway and fire had already done a lot of the demolition work.' (Sun, 4/7/62)
- 62/7 A team of wreckers this afternoon began demolishing the burnt-out walls of Brooks Building in Russell-st... The first bricks crashed 100 ft to the pavement at 1.30 pm. Six men perched precariously on the wall prised the bricks apart with pick axes.  The men used a 30 ft ladder to get to the wall from the adjoining building. Earlier Melbourne City Council gave permission for the 'rush' method of demolition to make the building safe so Russell-st could be re-opened to traffic quickly. Mr Owen Whelan, of Whelan the Wreckers, said he hoped Russell-st could be re-opened in about three days time.  A brick falling from the wall hit this lamp standard in Russell-st, bringing a cheer from the watching crowd] (Herald, 4/7/62, p.3)
- 62/7 ...seven-man wrecking crew... Watchers cheered as veteran demolition worker Jim Parker, 28, and six Italian-born assistants balanced on a two-foot wide parapet about 100 ft above street level.  With seeming casualness they prised bricks apart with picks and sent them crashing down to the street. (Sun, 5/7/62, p.5)
- 62/7 Today they had the tricky job of removing the arches. This they did by tying a rope around the centre of the arches and pulling at them while perched on the two side walls.  WW worker Johnny Lisbona atop wall] (Herald, 5/7/62, p.4)

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, 20 Russell Street

19thC Built late 1840s but not listed as Friends' Meeting house in 1853 Directory 1863, German Gymnastic Society Institute later warehouse. (Early Melbourne Architecture, p.37; S&M directory)

Pic Early Melbourne Architecture, p.37

Taken over by Girl Guides, sometime between 1930-56.

67/11 Demolition permit 14-20 Russell Street 14-16 = 2-storey brick building 18-20 = 3-storey brick building wrecked for Girl Guides HQ, \$4500 (MCC 167/3 Box 22 D2790)

STOTT'S BUSINESS COLLEGE, 96-100 Russell Street

Pic Jack Cato, Melbourne (1949), p. 27

68/5 Demolition permit 2-storey brick building wrecked for Collins Street Independent Church, \$2500 (MCC 167/3 Box 22 D2881)

68/5 Foundation stone found during demolition. Laid 24/11/1871 by Rev A.M. Henderson. Bottle under stone contained all coins in use at the time, and copy of *Herald*. (Sun?, May 68 scrapbook, p.15)

Pics 2 x b&w prints of time capsule being opened. (SLV/WW 57, p. 154)

Pic of demolition b&w print. (SLV/WW 62/6)

TEMPERANCE UNION HOUSE, 172 Russell Street □ E side, N of Bourke

- Foundation stone of Temperance Hall laid December 1846. Building completed September 1847. (Garryowen, p. 532)
- 33/11 Temperance Hall, with the closing of Theatre Hall, is Melbourne's oldest theatre □ to be remodelled as Imperial Theatre, Temperance Hall Buildings. Opened in 1842, hall is property of Melbourne Total Abstinence Society. Vaudeville appearances every Saturday night for past 88 years without a break □ a record? Seats 1000. Established as an alternative to music halls with liquor bars attached. Remodelling of façade planned □ modern theatre front □ also rearrangement of main staircase □ balcony pillars will be removed & replace with cantilever support □ proscenium arch will be raised. (Demolition work not by WW) Chinese have engaged the theatre for a performance on New Year's night □ then reconstruction work will commence □ to be completed by March 34. (Herald, 22/11/33, p.1)
- 60s In June 1963 it was announced that Melbourne was to have a new type of theatre which was to accommodate 675 people and was to be constructed in the basement of a one million pound carpark at the south-easter corner of Little Bourke and Russell streets. Patrons were to be able to park their cars in the seven storey carpark above the basement theatre and arrive by lift. ... Above the carpark was planned a six storey office block with a series of shops at ground level. ... the Total Carpark (as it was known when built at 170-190 Russell Street) is one of the most significant examples in Victoria of Brutalism in the manner employed by prominent Japanese architect Kenzo Tange. (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, p.138)
- ? Demolished by WW. Box of coins found. (Sun?, Weekend Magazine, July or Aug 1968 □ scrapbook, p.19)

SAVOY THEATRE, 170-72 Russell Street □ E side, between Bourke & Little Bourke
see also Temperance Union House, above

?? Demolished by WW. (Herald?, 7/6/61 □ scrapbook, p.17)

19. SCOTT'S HOTEL

1837+ ...the site was sold as Allot. 2, Block 14, for £46 at Melbourne's first land sale in June, 1837.... The first £46 purchase was made by one George Smith, who held the licence for Fawkner's Hotel—Melbourne's first public house. Smith built a timber house to which he transferred his licence and opened under the sign Lamb Inn in September, 1837. (Herald, 6/12/61)

One hundred years ago on April 10, 1837, George Smith, who was the licensee of the Fawkner Hotel, situated in the Customs House reserve, purchased allotment 2, Block 14, for the sum of £46 at the first land sale in Melbourne, and on this land he at once set about building the Lamb Inn. Amongst those who had erected buildings on Market-square was Henry Batman, and he sold his premises to George Smith for removal. It was of the materials contained in Batman's house, together with some wooden additions which Smith removed from Fawkner's Hotel when he gave up possession, that the main portion of the Lamb Inn was formed. New timber was [built?] in the main front to Collins-street. (Age, 15/9/37)

His application for a licence was granted on September 19 1837, on payment of the sum of £2. (Argus, 13/9/37)

The licence has been held at the same location since 1837, and this is the only site in Melbourne of which this can be said. (Scott's Hotel booklet, 1937?, H&WT clippings file)

[According to the Melbourne Guide Book (editions 1-6, 1897-1925) James Smith's Lamb Inn stood somewhere about the site of the Olderfleet Buildings, on the south side of Collins, between William & King. The Scott's Hotel site, it says, was originally purchased by C.H. Ebdon, a squatter with a station at Carlsruhe 'But Ebdon did not long occupy this land with cabbage gardens. He had given £136 for the acre and a-half, and being offered just two years later the sum of 10,250 for it, he, like a prudent man, accepted.' (Melbourne Guide Book, 6th ed, 1925, p.14)]

A roar of cheering burst from the crowd outside Scott's Hotel in Collins-st. as burly young John Conway Bourke clapped on a pair of horse-pistols, sprang astride his horse and dashed off with 15 lb. of Her Majesty's mail on the first overland trip from Melbourne to Sydney. That was on New Year's Day, 1838. (Herald, 6/12/61)

It is reminiscent of the Melbourne Club, which was founded in the Lamb Inn on New Year's day, 1839, when an inaugural dinner of twenty men assembled to dine and discuss the prospects of success of a projected Melbourne Club and [??] the wine and walnuts the club was declared formed. Captain Baxter, who was the postmaster, was accounted the Father of the Institution. (Age, 15/9/37)

Sky-larking—The larkers in old Melbourne would as soon think of cutting their own throats as robbing a man... drawn from the cream instead of the scum of society, the scions of families of good blood and reputation, who came to Australia in search of fortunes... The first headquarters of what the newspapers were wont to designate the 'Waterfordians' (after the mad Marquis of Waterford) were established in 1839, at the Lamb Inn, the second hotel in Melbourne, an unpicturesque, ramshackle, straggling wood and brick batch of apartments, thrown together on the site of the present Scott's Hotel...

Called themselves 'The Charcoal Boys'—because of their nocturnal activities? Lamb Inn was opposite the then Melbourne Club, which got into full swing in 1840... In a short time the Club completely eclipsed the mad doings of the Lamb... (Garryowen, p. 769)

At rear of Lamb Inn (anyway, eastward of present Australia Club—say, in square formed by Gurner's Lane and Temple Court Place) used to be The Den—the Melbourne Club's dead-house, 'a "receiving-house" used as a harbour or refuge—a queer, unhallowed sanctuary, to which such as were *pro tem* unfit to mingle with the ordinary Club society, voluntarily banished themselves like fallen angels. This rowdies' home was an old shed-like, brick-nogged, one-roomed rookery, perched rearwards of where the Australia Club-house is erected... Potatoes, tea, coffee, or other un-alcoholic or unfermented drinks were rigidly prohibited. Plates or forks were not permitted; a dish full of smoking food was placed on a rough table, and everyone disposed for a feed cut a junk of bread, covered with with a wedge of meat, and so could 'cut and come again' as often as he wished. There were two or three rough stools for common use... A dozen mattresses with a pillow and blanket each were littered along the sides, and thus couched on these 'shakes-down', the inmate could eat, drink, sleep, and wake, *ad libitum*; but on no account was any person to divest himself of any wearing apparel other than his hat, overcoat, and boots. ...this human sty... refuge for inebriates... shortlived....

Some of the Club-ites' most desperate raids would be plotted at the 'Den', from which the party detailed for duty would emerge like a pack of demons, ...mobbing the police, breaking windows, removing sign-boards and planting them in out-of-the-way places. Stables would be forced open, the horses turned adrift... the boys once ascended to sacrilege by scaling the tower of St James' Church and removing the bell, which they restored next day. ...[Another time] a furious trio rushed the residence of Parson Thomson, ... in Church-street, broke into the place, fustigated his reverence, and smashed several articles in his parlour. (Garryowen, pp. 769-70)

After three profitable years during which its patrons were noted for their wild behaviour, Smith sold the inn's freehold for £7000 to a man named Anderson. By now it was beginning to be referred to as 'an establishment' for it boasted 40 bedrooms, stabled 50 horses and had a billiards room. (Herald, 6/12/61)

In 1840 Smith sold the freehold for £7000 to Anderson & Watson, but under the management of the former the place lost favour and from 1844 to 1849 it was not licensed. (??, March 1960 in H&WT clippings file)

1843 In Port Phillip's first election for the NSW Legislative Council, in June 1843, the Lamb Inn was the polling place for Melbourne. (Garryowen, p.333)

'Lamb Inn' was the site of a Small Debts Court (1846+). A gentleman named Barry was the Commissioner of the Court, which was known as 'Barry's Little Go'. The Court disappeared when a lane was opened up between Collins and Little Collins Streets, which gave access to the side of the hotel. ...and a gentleman named Barry (of 'Barry's Little Go' fame) was Honorary Secretary when the Club held its annual meeting at the Inn. The first Fire Brigade Station was housed on the Hotel premises, and it was equipped with a portable manual pump and necessary hose. (Scott's Hotel booklet, 1937?, H&WT clippings file)

1840s Redmond Barry, Commissioner of Court of Requests (for recovery of small debts), 1840-51. During his tenure the court became known as 'Barry's Little-Go'. In 1846 the court

transferred from Colonial Store site to 'a superannuated billiard-room, a portion of the appurtenances of the Lamb Inn, a once fast weather-board hostelry, thrown together on the ground where Scott's Hotel now flourishes.' Billiard room was a brick building, side-on to W end of hotel. Barry became Vic Solicitor-General in 1851. (Garryowen, pp. 92-5)

In 1849 William Morton built a brick house on the site of the Lamb Inn and was granted a licence that year for the house known as the Clarendon Family Hotel. Charles Wilkie had the licence in 1853 and in the next eight years before Scott took it over, the Clarendon Family changed hands often, Messrs Colls, Jones, Downing and Maquire holding the licence in rapid succession. (??, March 1960 in H&WT clippings file)

1860 For a time, Scott's was called the Port Phillip Club Hotel. (confusing?) (Cole Collection)

...soon after June 14, 1860 when Mr Edward Scott, who had the Port Phillip Club Hotel in Flinders-st., bought the Clarendon, rebuilt it and concentrated on attracting the most influential customer. Scott has been described as a man of 'distinguished air and a sense of dignity, who imparted a tone of aristocratic superiority to the hotel'. He sold the property in 1868 to William C. Wilson, who managed the hotel until his death in 1903. Later a nephew, Mr Charles W. Wilson, took over the management. He died in 1947. (Herald, 6/12/61)

1870s Anthony Trollope stayed at Menzies' Hotel 'Scott's Hotel is the rival house, and the Scottites declare that to be as good a thorough Scottite will perhaps say better.' (Rogan, p.25)

1883 [Melbourne's best hotels] ...Menzies' and the Oriental are most to be recommended; after these try the United Club [Occidental], or, if you be a bachelor, Scott's. (Twopeny, Town Life In Australia, p. 13)

William C. Wilson... He was a most courteous gentleman, of stately mien and carriage... (Scott's Hotel booklet, 1937?, H&WT clippings file)

A period then commenced in 1906 of renovations and alterations to the old house to bring it up to date.... (Age, 15/9/37)

1914 **Pic** photo, 1914. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.154 [RHSV])

Few people today remember the changing face and fortunes of Scott's better than Mr Fred Barrett... Mr Barrett, now 64 and still working in the hotel's inquiry and booking office, started there as a pageboy when he was 15. In 1913-14, the hotel was re-built and further extended by a six-storey block containing bedrooms, all with private bathrooms, thus completing its 126 ft. frontage on Collins-st. But Mr Barrett still remembers vividly the array of visitors... 'Everyone who was anyone stopped with us,' he said. 'And that Dame Nellie Melba was SOMEONE. She was fiery. She could mow you down quite early. But when she was there you should have seen the bank notes flying around.' (Herald, 6/12/61)

Scott's is easily the oldest of Melbourne's trading hotels. (??, March 1860 in H&WT clippings file)

- 23/11 Portion of Scott's Hotel has just left the wrecker's hands, ahead of a 7-storey addition. (Herald, 27/11/23)
- 37/9 Scott's Hotel, which will celebrate its centenary on Monday, is only two years younger than Melbourne itself, and the claim that it is the oldest business in Victoria will be difficult to challenge. (Argus, 13/9/37)
- 37/9 During the past 30 years hundreds of famous station properties over the length and breadth of Australia, valued at many millions, have been put up for sale or sold by private [??] at Scott's. Many of the station owners have stipulated in their wills that their properties shall be sold there. (Age, 15/9/37)
- 55/12 Historic Scott's Hotel, Collins Street, will be remodelled and modernised by Stanhill Holdings Ltd which has bought it at a price believed to be between £300,000 and £400,000. (Age, 5/12/55) £322,790 (Herald, 6/12/61)
- 57/1 A Sydney woman and her teen-age daughter escaped down a fire brigade extension ladder with seconds to spare in a fire at Scott's Hotel, Collins-st., at 1 a.m. yesterday.... Firemen and police believe that the fire started in a kitchen flue, directly below the 16 rooms at the rear of the building—eight each on the second and third floors—which were damaged. Firemen said that the flue came up through an open staircase and this probably carried the fire to the second and third floors. (Sun, 21/1/57)
- 57/4 Hicks Atkinson Ltd, Collins Street retailer, will lease 12,000 square feet of Scott's Hotel ground floor for a modern fashion store. It will have 80 ft. of modern window display to Collins Street. Scott's Hotel will retain its 'buttery' and saloon bar on the remaining 6000 square feet on the ground floor.... The store will be planned on American lines and ideas which have made 'down-town' stores popular in the U.S. Scott's lounge and dining room will be re-located on the first floor before the alterations are begun. (Herald, 30/4/58)
[Pic—see Herald, 30/5/57]
- 58/2 The freehold of historic Scott's Hotel, Collins Street, has been sold by Stanhill Holdings Ltd. to the Royal Exchange Assurance Co. Ltd, of London for £480,000 cash. A multi-storey office block will be built on the site eventually—but there will always be an hotel.... The Royal Exchange Assurance Co. will lease the hotel back to Stanhill Holdings, which will continue to conduct the hotel operations. (Age, 28/2/58)
- 59/10 An assurance that Scott's Hotel, Collins Street, would continue in business was given last night by the board of directors of Stanhill Consolidated Ltd—owners of Chevron and Scott's hotels.... 'We intend to enlarge and improve Scott's Hotel's facilities,' the directors said. (Age, 5/10/59)
- 61/12 The site was sold again today. Buyers are the Royal Insurance Co. Ltd... (Herald, 6/12/61)
- 61/12 [Pic] The hotel has 125 bedrooms and accommodation for 181 guests. There is a permanent staff of 140. The general manager of the Australian National Travel Association... said today that the new Southern Cross Hotel in Bourke-st. would absorb much of Scott's trade. 'We'll all be sorry to see a hotel like Scotts go. It's a part of

- Melbourne,' he said. 'At the same time, we welcome the new international-type hotel.' (Herald, 6/12/61)
- 61/12 The Royal-Globe insurance group of companies has purchased the hotel for an undisclosed figure, believed to be nearly £750,000, and will use the 126 x 200 ft site for a 16-storey, 200 ft headquarters office block.... It was hoped that demolition of the five and seven-storey hotel would begin early next year. **[pic of hotel]** (Age, 7/12/61)
- 61/12 The secretary of the Australian Hotels Association... said Scott's was the first of the big hotels to close. It would be the 23rd hotel to shut down within the 'Golden Mile' since 1951. (Sun, 7/12/61) **[pics showing Scott's history and proposed new building]**
- 61/12 *Twenty-five thirsty members Scott's back bar urgently require elbow-room in similar establishment, equivalent service, same locality. Bring own Barmaid. Any reasonable offer accepted. ELLEN & the 2/ School.*
The advertisement reprinted...above from last night's Herald aroused everybody's curiosity and left a desire to know who 'Ellen' was. Well, there she is Ellen Moore, a barmaid at Scott's Hotel, Collins St., now in its last days before being wrecked... The club, formed 12 years ago by Teddy [B?]oulter, a sprightly 74 who still joins his 'members' regularly, meets daily. Composed mostly of shipping, wool, legal and insurance businessmen, the club's principle is not to get into a large drinking school. 'We just put 2/ on the counter, have what drinks we like, and leave,' said Mr John Brennan, manager of a shipping line. (Sun, 12/12/61) **[pic]**
- 61/12 It will be 'business as usual' for two historic city hotels Scott's in Collins-st. and the Astoria, in Collins-pl which are closing today. (Sun, 30/12/61)
- 62/2 The Edinburgh Room is empty and the Robert Burns Room will never welcome another Scot... but Scott's Hotel has never been busier. Hundreds of people, many of them women, swarmed through the building yesterday as auctioning of furniture and equipment entered its fifth day. The contents of the famous reception rooms, including old prints, paintings and tartan carpets, have already been sold. By today auctioning will have reached the fifth floor. (Sun, 20/2/62)
- 62/5 Workmen will start demolishing Scott's Hotel, Collins Street, on Friday. (Age, 8/5/62)
- 62/9 Fire broke out in hotel ruins during demolition **[pic]** (Herald, 5/9/62, p.3)
- 7/62 **[Wrecking pic]** Up among the birds, wrecker Ron Hughes today swings his pick on the remnants of what was once Melbourne's famous Scott's Hotel. He is working on a 3ft-wide foothold 100 ft up. (Herald, 28/7/62)
- 63/1 This 18-storey, 220ft. high building is to be built in Collins-st. on the site of the recently-demolished Scott's Hotel. **[pic]** It will be the third tallest building in Melbourne.... The £2,700,000 building is to be the new Australian headquarters of the Royal Insurance group of companies.... It will be set back 20 ft. from the Collins-st. building line, with a paved forecourt opposite the new plaza now being constructed on the Western Market site. Outside the building will be clad in 'reconstructed granite' and grey-tinted double glass. (Sun, 8/1/63)

WESTERN MARKET

Pics □ Cole, Melbourne Markets, p. 28 (floor plan 1870), p. 29 (photo □ Collins St frontage 1880), p. 30 (photos x 3 1908)

1838 Melbourne's first 'real' watch-house was built at the SW angle of Western Market reserve, towards end of 1838. Built of stone, contained two cells, 15 x 9 ft, and central room, 10 x 9 ft. Built 'from a plan prepared by Mr Russell (the Clerk of Works), and though a palace as compared with its predecessors, its great fault was smallness.' Police Court followed lock-up to Western Market reserve—'a turf and sod hut, roofed with bark, and pitched about the centre of the market square'—about 14 x 12ft. Public stocks were a few yards from the door of the police court. 'Mr James F. Strachan, one of the primitive merchants, having built a brick store... vacated a wooden tenement in William Street, and this was purchased by the Government for conversion into a Police Office. It was shifted bodily, or rather, simply moved round close to where the new watch-house had been put up'—it was in a somewhat dilapidated condition, but put ship-shape, it played a prominent role for many years. (Garryowen, pp.96-7)

In November 1838 Lonsdale purchased buildings from storekeeper Francis Nodin, which were on Market Square and would otherwise have had to be removed. They were surveyed by Robert Russell and the police office was installed in one of them. This appears to have been the building which then served as the first court house. (Miles Lewis, Melbourne: The city's history & development, p. 31)

1840s In the Western Market Reserve, a few yards from the Police Office, stood a venerable, bald-headed gum-tree, where a bell was fixed ostensibly to ring the convict labour gang, employed on the streets,... to and from the depot. [also used as a fire-bell]... This belfry would be climbed by night owls, and a stunning alarm pealed forth, which from the furious rapidity of the ding-donging, would lead to a supposition that all Melbourne was in a general conflagration. The bell was even carried off bodily [by larrikins from the Melbourne Club] and interred near the cemetery, where it was afterwards unburied and resurrectionized into its former prominent position. [The same tree was suggested as the home of the town's first public clock, which instead lay in the police office for years until the first GPO was built] (Garryowen, p. 771)

Ex-police office, at cnr of Western Market Reserve, was rented in 1849 to Mr Graves, a sail-maker, who used it for years as a workshop and warehouse. (Garryowen, p.242)

1837-50 Site set aside for market in 1837 □ no attempt to build market until 1840s □ in meantime, site used for town gaol & stocks. In 1841, residents petitioned for a market place □ first open-air market opened 15/12/41 ['three rude wooden sheds, hurriedly patched up' — Garryowen]. In 1849 was replaced by a simple arcade of eight stalls □ destroyed by fire in 1853. Homeless goldseekers were allowed to camp on site. 'Rag fair' moved from Elizabeth Street to this site at that time, therefore delay in attempting to rebuild. Foundations built in 1856 □ two-storey market completed in 1868. Great low colonnaded facades with bluestone catacombs underneath, entered from Flinders Lane. Foundations formed bays or recesses which provided space for market stalls □ now (1970) modern carpark. (Rogan, p.16)

In the 1850s the square was also used as a camp for homeless newcomers. (Herald, 27/1/60, p.5)

With the removal of the business of the Western Market to the new wholesale fruit market, to be built on a site adjoining the Victoria Market, a link with the early history of Melbourne will be broken. Within a few years of the foundation of Melbourne, steps were taken to organise a general market under an act of New South Wales passed in 1839 which authorised the establishment of markets in towns in the colony. A public meeting was held in Melbourne in January 1841 to consider the foundation of a market in Melbourne. Then a difficulty arose as there was no form of government in the new settlement, and no one to take charge of the market. It was decided that an election should be held to appoint commissioners to control the new venture, but there was no roll of citizens to vote on the matter. On October 12, 1841, a public meeting was held to prepare a roll of citizens with power to vote. The roll was then made up, and the claims of citizens to representation was considered. The election of commissioners was held on November 2, 1841... A month later Superintendent La Trobe empowered the commissioners to use the site now occupied as the Western Market and on December 15, 1841, the first market was held. The same site has therefore been used for 89 years. The establishment of the Western Market was the first step taken by the settlers of Port Phillip to control their own affairs.

The site, which was probably selected because of its nearness to the river and the earliest settlement, was soon found to be unsuitable. The town expanded north and east, away from the river and the West Melbourne swamp, and by 1844 the settlers decided that a better position for a general market could be found. In the meantime a town council had been formed, and a petition was made to it that a market should be opened at the east end of the town. The result was the formation in 1847 of the Eastern Market. It then appeared that two markets were unnecessary, but a possible clashing of interests was avoided, as in 1853 the buildings at the Western Market were burnt. Much of the trading carried on there by market gardeners and other producers was therefore transferred to the Eastern Market. Steps were not taken to rebuild the market until 1856, and when trading was reorganised in the new premises, it developed into a wholesale market, where fruit and dairy produce were sold. (Herald?, 27/12/29)

...a market had sprung up in Flinders Street, between the customs house and the river, where needy migrants sold off their clothes and personal possessions, and in time stalls and regular traders were established there. Finally the Melbourne Corporation moved the market onto the Eastern and Western Market sites.... The Western Market had been in decline since the establishment of the Eastern Market, but now it had found a viable use. Here allotments were leased out, and were free from the controls of the *Building Act* because the land was owned by the Council. Shopkeepers were able 'to heap together the most trumpery wood and canvas structures, alike regardless of the *Building Act* and common decency'. Because of their lower overheads the shopkeepers could undersell their competitors across the street, but retribution arrived when a fire ravaged the Western Market in 1853.

Council now began to plan more ambitious market houses, which would include not only regular market accommodation but other lettable commercial space. A competition was held for the Western Market, and the winning design by George Donaldson, estimated to cost £60,809, was approved by Council in June 1855. The site fell nearly five metres from Collins Street to Flinders Lane, and Donaldson planned the market operations to be at the Flinders Lane level, so Flinders Lane was widened at this point from 33 to 50 feet. The first contract was let in July 1855 to excavate the whole market

site to this level. The foundations were built, rising above street level at the frontages, and six brick stores were built within the lower level. Then work ceased, and the structure was left in this state for 11 years, with makeshift market operations conducted within the part that had been built. (Miles Lewis, Melbourne: The city's history and development, p.49)

The new buildings were probably not very substantial, as in 1867 the council decided to lease the market frontages on a building lease of 21 years, and the old building was promptly pulled down. (Herald?, 27/12/29)

The Estern Market site had been left since 1856 with brick stores at the basement of Flinders Lane level, and with only the bluestone footings of the superstructure protruding above ground on the street frontages. But the passage of the *Melbourne and Geelong Corporation Amendment Act* in 1863 stimulated a revival of activity. It allowed the Council to lease out its market sites to private operators who would construct buildings suitable for market purposes... the Council engaged the architect J.M. Barry to prepare revised designs making use of the existing foundations. He divided the site into 29 parts, which were to be separately leased out to developers to build upon in accordance with the prescribed overall design, a proceeding which was common in cities like Melbourne, but more or less unparalleled in Melbourne. There was not much demand for leases, and only six leases were allocated in the initial round of tendering, but the Council was able to make use of three of the lots for its own accommodation while a new Town Hall was being built, so it built on these in accordance with the master design. The remaining leases were disposed of with difficulty at two successive auctions, and all ultimately bought by the one man, Henry 'Money' Miller. It was Miller, then, who built most of the complex, and who retained it until 1889 when the leases expired and the property fell back piecemeal into the hands of the Council. (Miles Lewis, Melbourne: The city's history and development, p.74)

In 1867 the market as it stands to-day was constructed, and in 1888 the lease expired, and the revenue derived from the buildings on the site passed to the City Council. When the present buildings were erected, there was a passage and stairway leading to Collins street, similar to those now giving access from Market street and William street. There was then plenty of room for the stalls, and for the conduct of all classes of business. Stalls could be rented for about 30/ a week, and there was room for all. As the business expanded, however, stalls could be obtained from their occupiers only on the payment of a substantial premium, and more than £1500 has been offered for the lease of a small store. This pressure on space led to the closing of the Collins street entrance and a store was built in its place. At first stallholders could find parking space for all their vehicles, and buyers were able to drive into the market enclosure and leave their carts there while they made their purchases. Now the market is so congested that even the stallholders are hard put to find room for their lorries, and buyers have to leave their vehicles at points some distance from the market. Dairy produce and poultry was sold in the market at first, and the fruit stalls occupied only one end of the structure. Later the butter and poultry sellers moved away to Flinders lane [street?] and King Street, where the dairy produce firms are now found....

An amusing story of earlier days in the market concerned a well-known buyer of fruit. He often rode to the market on a fine white horse, which he would hitch to a post inside the quadrangle while he transacted his business. One day he was about to mount his horse when he saw that in his absence it had been carefully decorated with bold stencils such as 'This side up with care', 'Deck cargo only', 'Store in a cool place'. He went round the

- market with a £10-note in his hand to try and find the perpetrator, but was forced to leave with his wrath unappeased. (Herald?, 27/12/29)
- 1870 **Pic** □ Collins-Market St corner, 1870. (Victoria Illustrated, 1835-1984, p.75)
- 1897 ...the block which is know as Market-square, a great quadrangle of massive two-storey buildings enclosing a space used as a wholesale fruit market, the entrance being by gates in the other frontages. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.16)
- 1904 ...the chief wholesale fruit supply centre for city and suburbs. Every day, fruit is distributed from this centre, but Mondays and Fridays are the chief days of the week. Then the great quadrangle is as busy as a beehive. From nearly all the suburbs retailers come in their carts for their bi-weekly supply. Business begins very early in the morning and slackens off somewhat towards midday. Street hawkers, too, buy in the Western Market and... are adepts at picking good fruit... There are peaches from Mildura,... pineapples and bananas from Queensland, golden plantains from Fiji, tomatoes as large as your two fists from Bendigo, raspberries from Lilydale, and giant figs from all parts of the State. (*Australasian*, 1904—quoted from Cole, Melbourne Markets)
- 29/1 MCC wished to gain title to Western Market site and built a tall building on it. The Premier (Sir William McPherson) suggested ‘several years ago’ that the Western Market should be the site of a civic square—now reiterated that view. (Argus, 16/1/29, p.7)
- 29/6 ...the City Council’s Western Market property is to be demolished and replaced by a very large building as soon as terms for the transfer of the freehold from the Government can be arranged. (Argus, 4/6/29, p.4)
- 30-33 Negotiations between the Council and the government began in about 1920, for if Council were to simply remove the market and not use the Western Market for market purposes, it would after three years revert to the Crown. Nonetheless the Council was at last sufficiently frustrated to take this risk, and in 1929-30 built 60 brick stores at the recently enlarged Queen Victoria Market site... Here it installed the former Western Market tenants and other fruit sellers, and trading began on 1 November 1930. Ultimately the Council’s gamble was vindicated, for legislation in 1933 granted it the Eastern and Western Market sites with power to lease them out for up to 21 years. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city’s history and development*, p.112)
- 31/1 Deserted owing to a dispute which has arisen over the terms on which the site was granted by the Crown to the City Council the Western Market quadrangle and its stalls are now abandoned and desolate, a useless area in one of the most important sections of the city, from which no revenue is being derived.
The Western market site—recently it was decided to call it the General Market, although there is now no market there at all—was granted to the council in 1939. When the wholesale fruit market which had been conducted for years at the Western Market was transferred to the Queen Victoria Market last year, the council decided to lease the quadrangle of the Western Market as a motor garage for five years at a rental of £1,500 for the first year, to be increased by 10 per cent each year for the remainder of the lease. This would have amounted to an average of £1,800 a year. The Minister for Lands (Mr Bailey), however, objected to the use of the land for any purpose other than that of a market. He said that the Western Market and Eastern Market sites had been granted to the council specifically for market purposes. He considered that when an area of public land

granted upon such terms ceased to be used for the purpose for which it was granted it should revert to the Crown.

The City Council thereupon changed its mind and decided not to lease the market quadrangle as a parking station, but to continue its use for market purposes. From the beginning this course... was considered to be doomed as a failure, and so it proved to be. As it was proposed to charge only nominal rentals for stands on daily and weekly tenancies only a small revenue was expected. On November 12 of last year the market was reopened as a general market, although... It was admitted that there was no need in that part of the city for market facilities. Twenty-six applicants were allotted stalls, however. A week later only a few remained. Practically no business was done. Property owners in the neighbourhood, indeed, objected to the perpetuation of a market of any kind in the vicinity. After a brief and inglorious commercial career the stallholders gathered up their possessions and departed. The market relapsed into a silence possibly unequalled since the day upon which Batman from a neighbouring eminence made his pronouncement concerning a place for a village.

Yesterday the market quadrangle was bathed in sunlight. Only a vague sound of traffic and the noise of construction works on neighbouring buildings intruded upon the meditations of a solitary dog which drowsed in the warmth. With the exception of two motor-cars the dog had the quadrangle to itself. The ancient stalls with the brick work and thick walls of another day were deserted. By the heavy iron gates which give entrance through doorways of almost medieval impressiveness the names of 21 stallholders might be observed in bright gilt letters. The 21 stallholders, however, were no more, and of their presence not even a decaying tomato remained as evidence. Notices that ripe and green bananas were always obtainable were flanked by equally prominent notices 'To Let—Apply Superintendent of Markets'. Like some forlorn region sleeping under a spell the quadrangle lay deserted and desolate with only the noise of distant traffic to remind the casual visitor of the commercial pursuits and considerations of the non-official world.

Thus the market from which the council expected its revenue of £1,800 a year lies empty, an oasis of ineptitude in the commercial heart of the city. It has been suggested that it could be used as a parking station or that it should be converted into a reserve. The Ministry has decreed that if used for any purpose other than a market it shall be taken from the council. It is of no use as a market. Consequently, it is deserted. So, presumably, until the conflicting parties come to terms, it will remain, given over to dogs and the wonderment of casual visitors. (Argus, 6/1/31, p.6)

- 31/6 Cr Nettlefold proposed a civic square on the Western Market site. (Argus, 30/6/31, p.6)
- 33/7 With the acceptance by the Melbourne City Council of the Government's proposals for handing over the Eastern and Western markets to civic control, interest has been renewed in Council and architectural circles in proposals to improve the Western market site. Inquiries today showed considerable differences of opinion as to how the area might be used. As an architect Mr Leighton Irwin strongly supported suggestions made for transforming the Western market into a civic square. 'It would be unfortunate,' he said, 'if we did not now avail ourselves of this opportunity. It would be a tragedy if building were allowed on the only open space available in the city.'...Even crowded New York had its open spaces near the centre of the city, such as Washington Square, and squares extended through London, from Bloomsbury towards the East End.... Alderman F. Stapley said that he did not think that there was need for a civic square. Such breaks in the city might, he thought, tend to interfere with the spread of business activities.... For

- beautification schemes on such lines, he said, we had a river frontage area below Queen's Bridge that was 'crying out' for attention. (Herald, 26/7/33)
- 33/10 The proposal for converting the Western Market into a civic square has evoked wide support in Town Hall circles... The alternative scheme of the removing the Town Hall to the market receives less encouragement... the opportunity of making this move had been lost when the Town Hall was partially destroyed by fire some years ago.... An inspection of the Western Market reveals an extraordinary state of isolation and decay. There are historical connections with the early days of the City Council, too, which are of absorbing interest. Tenants at present are few, and the inner courtyard, which was once the scene of a bustle 'Paddy's market', is deserted except for a few cars parked incongruously beside the bluestone masonry erected more than 60 years ago. Cellars and underground passages run gloomily and desolately in all directions and even the caretaker has not explored some of the underground cellars, which sprawl like catacombs beneath Collins Street. Flights of stairs and mysterious barred gratings abound, and strange heaps of debris lie decaying in dust in hidden cupboards cut into the bluestone. The visitor might notice among them a pile of big gas brackets on which the letters E.R. are wrought. They were erected in the streets of Melbourne during King Edward's visit many years ago. One of these cellars is tenanted by the old wine firm of Matthew Lang, who was the first 'Dick Whittington' Mayor of Melbourne. In 1889, he was elected Mayor, and he retained the office for three years. His firm has clung tenaciously to its old quarters, and during the past 50 years few changes have taken place here. Barrels of wine still stand in rows along the walls, and the liquor is still drawn off into ancient bronze flagons. Gas, in part, illuminates the cellar, and an incandescent lamp burns continually, for the experts prefer to test the color of the wines by its white glare. Upon the walls of the courtyard stand the names of old firms long since forgotten, and no tenants can now be found to replace them.... The fall of the ground from Collins Street to Flinders Lane on the market site is estimated at 40 feet. It is now proposed that a basement and two floors could be established to accommodate nearly 1000 cars in the lower half of the square. Strong foundations would support the civic square laid out in lawns, the gardens on a level with Collins Street... Enthusiasts for the conversion of the Western Market base their plea on the economy of the scheme. A big revenue would, they claim, result from the parking of cars.... They urge that a beauty spot should replace the present scenes of decay and dilapidation. (Herald, 9/10/33)
- c.1933 **Pic** sketch of 'Early suggestion for a modern skyscraper on the Western Market site, with an open square on the southern side'. (newspaper, n.d.)
- 33/12 ...in the Legislative Assembly in the course of the second-reading explanation of the Melbourne Markets Bill. The Premier stated that a Crown valuation of the two market sites was made in April last. The present value of the... Western Market [reserve] was set down at £242,950. (Age, 12/12/33)
- 34/1 Estimates of the cost for transforming the Western Market into a double-storey parking garage with a public hall were called for today by the Markets Committee of the City Council. Car parking in the market quadrangle will be permitted in the meantime at a fee of a shilling to ascertain the amount of business offering. (Herald, 11/1/34)
- 34/1 Pending a final decision concerning the use of the abandoned Western Market, the chairman of the City Council Markets committee (Councillor J.W. Ferguson) announced

- yesterday that the vacant space had been privately let to a weekly tenant for use as a motor car park.... The tenant, who already held a similar lease for the lower floor of the Eastern Market, had offered an amount which would repay the council better than attempting itself to explite the site in its present condition.... Without structural alterations, the site would accommodate about 200 motor-cars. (Argus, 16/1/34)
- 34/1 Tenants of the Western Market building have always parked their cars in the quadrangle free of charge. Since Monday, when Mr Bauld opened his parking area there, they have been charged 1/ a day and are aggrieved. (Sun, 18/1/34)
- 34/1 Strong exception having been taken by several members of Melbourne City Council to the manner in which the chairman of the markets committee (Cr J. Ferguson) granted a lease for a weekly tenancy of the Western Market quadrangle to Mr W.D. Bauld, for use as a carparking station... disclosures published in 'The Age' regarding the manner of granting this lease of valuable corporation property [at £15 per week] without calling for tenders. (Age, 19/1/34)
- After the wholesale trade was shifted to the Victoria Market, the Western Market was occupied by small retailers for a time, but from 1934 became simply a carpark. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.112)
- 34/1 Although tentative plans have been made for using the Western Market site, recently taken over by the City Council, as a car parking area with a theatre and cabaret on a top storey, support is growing among city councillors for a plan to make the site more noteworthy. The proposal most favored is that the council should establish a city house, and imposing and decorative structure in which would be congregated all private and Government representatives of primary and rural secondary industries. Under this scheme all those associated with the production of tobacco, wheat, oats and cereals, timber, poultry, dairying, fruit and eggs would be housed in these central premises. (Herald, 21?/1/34)
- 35/3 Instructions were given yesterday by the properties committee of the City Council... to prepare plans for a new building on the site of the Western Market, with provision for offices facing Collins-street and accommodation for 1200 cars in the remaining space. It was explained... that the existing old building should be demolished and replaced by a building with five stories above the Collins-street level and two in the basement. The proposal... was to the effect that there should be three main entrances for the cars in Market and William streets and in Flinders-lane. The cars would be driven into the building, and taken up in express lifts. Members of the committee explained that it was desirable that the parking problem for the city proper should be alleviated and by offering ideal garage facilities for 1200 cars in the heart of the city it was felt that a good communal service would be rendered. (Age, 23/3/35)
- 35/4 A £200,000 city square on the Western Market site, with lawns, shrubs and fountain, and a basement garage holding 600 cars, is being planned for formal consideration by the Special Properties Committee of the City Council. If adopted the city square scheme would replace that already approved by the special committee for a modern five-storey parking station, holding 1200 cars... The city square would take up more than one acre and a half of the Western Market site, for which the Council has been trying to find a suitable use for many years. The flowering gardens, native trees and green expanse, set

- off by dignified arches of stone and soft-toned pavements, would provide a parkland setting and place of rest in the heart of the city.... Powerful pillars are shown [on the plans] supporting the square above, and the entrance to the garage is gained through dignified arches of stone. This masonry is shown in the plans to continue up above the level of the square to provide picturesque balustrades around those sides where there is a fall to the existing streets. (Herald, 12/4/35) [**pic**: Site for garden square?, showing Western Market in its entirety)
- 35/6 A cheaper plan for the development of the Western Market is now being drawn up by [the] City Council... Two schemes on elaborate lines, recently considered by the properties committee, were deemed not sufficiently revenue-producing. As before, the plan features the provision of extensive garage accommodation, to run to three stories and harbor 600 cars. A small garden square, with lawns and fountains, may be provided, but it will not be on anything like the scale of the plaza formerly planned. (Age, 22/6/35)
- 35/9 In regard to the Western Market site, the committee was informed that negotiations were proceeding with the Royal Automobile Club with respect to the club's new building project.... The existing building on the market site would be demolished to make way for a new five-storied structure providing offices and club rooms, &c. and also for a large garage with a capacity of 850 cars.... The civic square project, it was further stated had not been revived. (?, 7/9/35)
- 37/9 Building project proposed for market site□tall building envisaged, plus open square. (Herald, 9/9/37, p.38; 13/9/37, p.10)
- 37/11 Dissatisfaction with the handling of the Eastern and Western market sites, for which many schemes for garages and office buildings have been formulated and rejected during the last few years, was expressed at a meeting of the City Council today... The Council acquired the two properties from the Government in 1932, on the undertaking to maintain the Shrine area, the Royal Australian College of Surgeons grounds, and other small pieces of garden that the Government previously had maintained. Development of the new sites was left for a year to the Markets Committee, which controls the Fish and Queen Victoria markets, but then the Council formed a special committee of chairmen of other committees. This committee has prepared at least five schemes for garages on the Western Market site... None of the schemes has been proceeded with. The chairman of the Markets Committee... once proposed incorporation of a large cabaret in a set of Western Market plans. (Herald, 9/11/37)
- 45/2 The council's title to the property was widened in 1933 to enable it to use the site to produce more revenue, so that it could meet increased expenditure it then undertook on the upkeep of parklands. While the return from the Western and Eastern Market sites had fallen in 1940 to £10,000, expenditure on parks and gardens had risen to £104,000. The committee will also recommend that a competition be held among Australian and New Zealand architects for designs for a building to include two basement floors as car parks, the whole surmounted by a decorative tower and beacon. (Argus, 2/2/45)
- 46/7 Private enterprise and at least two sections of ex-service personnel are vieing for the chance of securing a long tenancy of the section of the Western Market known as Air Force Hostel, despite the City Council's preparation of plans for a new building. The hostel has been vacant since March 31... The council committee will give a rental on a

- weekly basis, reserving the right to take possession when the building is required for demolition under the £1,000,000 improvement scheme. (Age, 5/7/46)
- 46/8 Early in July the Council agreed to offer £12,000 in prize money for the best architectural designs of a £1,260,000 building suitable for erection on the Western Market site. (Herald, 21/8/46)
- 47/2 The Western Market building will be replaced, some day, by a limit-height building costing £1,250,000. In the meantime the City Council has decided to see what a coat of paint will do to relieve the shabbiness of the present structure... on the Collins st frontage of the building. (Argus, 18/2/47)
- 48/2 The Department of the Interior is seeking garage space so that the Western Market quadrangle can be returned to the Melbourne City Council. (Herald, 19/2/48)
- 48/6 The Commonwealth would probably hold both the Western Market and the Haymarket for a time... because of the unavoidable lag which would occur in taking over the Haymarket as a car-park, Federal authorities said today. They gave an assurance, however, that the move would be made as quickly as possible to release the Western Market to the Melbourne City Council. (Herald, 18/6/48)
- 49/0? Choice by the City Council of the design for the proposed great new building on the Western Market site is a step forward in our civic history. IT is to be regretted that both the Western and the Eastern market sites have not been reserved permanently for city squares, which Melbourne so strangely lacks. But now that this suggestion has been rejected, the next best thing is to see that the Western Market site is architecturally well treated. Drawings of the chosen building show that it is imposing and massive. But the public would like to be assured that it is to be built of the very best material available, faced, perhaps, with marble or with some fine Australian building stone so that it adds materially to the beauty and dignity of the city. It would be highly desirable, too, that a place should be made somewhere in the vicinity for the erection of a noble piece of statuary. This market site is valuable and unique. The Council must ensure that we make noble use of it. (Herald, 10/9?/49)
- 51/10 About two years ago, the council paid out £12,000 in prize money in a competition to secure designs for a limit-high office building, with car-parking accommodation. 'But I believe [says Lord Mayor] that living accommodation for visitors to the city is more urgent than office accommodation and would favor a building that could provide this.' (Age, 24/10/51)
- 52/11 A £2 million office building will be built on the Western Market site if the City Council agrees. [Town Planning Ctee chairman] said today that building controls had been lifted, materials and labor were plentiful and the site was an eyesore. A competition for the design of the building was held in 1949 and the winning design was for a 10-storey office building with garage space for 500 cars. (Herald, 3/11/52)
- ?52/11 The first step to develop the Western Market site since the lifting of restrictions on building was taken yesterday by the City Council town planning committee. ...One proposal favored... is to built a limit-height structure, providing accommodation for overseas airways travellers with associated offices. The chairman of the committee (Cr

- G.M. Hume) said... 'It certainly will be up in time for the 1956 Games.... The City Council is getting next to no return from this magnificent site....' The site was a Government grant to the council in return for the council's undertaking to maintain the city's parks and gardens. (Age, 18/11/52?)
- ?52/11 The Lord Mayor (Cr Nilsen) wants the City Council to build a large hotel on its Western Market land to help accommodate 1956 Olympic Games visitors. (Sun, 22/11/52?)
- 53/2 Veteran councillor Sir George Wales said today that the Melbourne City Council should develop immediately the Eastern and Western market sites. ...Sir George attacked the inaction of the council over the past 25 years.... 'In Melbourne we have a shocking lack of office space and accommodation for visitors....' Sir George said that when, as Lord Mayor in 1937, he tried to have the Western Market site developed, it was defeated in council by a narrow margin. It is a disgrace that these two picked sites are lying idle when their development would be so easy if the council used a little courage,' he said. (Herald, 24/2/53)
- 53/7 ...the council's Eastern and Western market sites□priceless heritages from Colonial days□offer an opportunity possessed by few other of the world's large cities for large-scale down-town development. (Herald, 3/7/53)
- 53/8 Melbourne City Council will be asked... to approve the building of a 12-storey office block on the Western Market site... It will be the biggest office building erected since before the war. The basement and sub-basement will each hold between 50 and 60 cars. The building is only the first section of the prize-winning plan of Melbourne architect, Mr Leslie Perrott and partners. It will occupy the whole Collins Street frontage of the market site, but will extend back only 54 feet into Market and William Streets. That part of the old market building directly behind which runs back to Flinders Lane will be left standing until the rest of the new building is built□probably not for many years. (Herald, 19/8/53)
- 1955 The Eastern and Western Market sites presented unusual issues for Melbourne, for they were owned by the City council and could be leased out for up to 21 years.... Because a 21-year lease was insufficient to attract private investment, legislation was amended in 1955 to allow leases for up to 99 years... (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.112)
- 55/12 First phase of redevelopment planned□11-storey building. (Herald, 31/12/55, p.2)
- 56?/6 **[pics]** These two drawings show the type of tower building the City Council's properties committee wants on the Western market site.... the committee was anxious to see a large open space on the site with trees, shrubs and lawns. The building on the rest of the site should be 'tower-form'. ...The Properties committee recommendation that the site be thrown open to development by private enterprise will go to the vote at Monday's Council Meeting. (Herald, 13/6/56?)
- 58/4 **[pic]** This is a scale model of a £6.5-million building proposed for the City Council's Western Market site. Underhill Investments Pty Ltd, one of the two groups which have tendered to the council for development of the site, lodged the model and other details of its plans at the Town Hall today....The three buildings would cover only 43 per cent of

ground space. The rest would be for an open, paved plaza and covered walk-ways. ...A restaurant is on top of the 300-ft building in a special housing. It also has a 'lookout' walk.... The other tender is from a group headed by Mr Albert Spatt, a Melbourne financier. (Herald, 29/4/58)

- 60/1 Underhill Investments Pty Ltd will build a 25-floor office block with a garden plaza on the Western Market site. (Herald, 8/1/60, p.5)
- 60/1 Demolition began 27/1/60 [finished 16/3/60. '...wreckers moved in to the Western Market today to drive away the last ghosts of one of Melbourne's oldest landmarks.... Today, a pall of black grit drifts around the bluestone foundations, the hand-made bricks and hand-hewn rafters. In 3_ months, a 25-storey building costing £6 million will begin to rise there.' [pic [wreckers on roof] (Herald, 27/1/60, p.5)
- 60/2 [pic [wrecking central archway [gates in background] (Herald, 4/2/60, p.17)
- 60/3 Total material removed from Western Market site [76_ loads of firewood; 128,600 yards good timber (including thousands of feet of jarrah flooring); 9_ loads of joinery; 3161 loads of rubble; 28_ loads + 10 trailer-loads of scrap; 12 loads of lead; 4_ loads of iron; 10 loads of rubbish; _ load of copper/brass. (SLV/WW 30/3)
- 61/4 It would appear that the big increase in profits had been caused by the financial success of the Eastern and Western Market jobs...' (WW Pty Ltd minute book, 11/4/61 [MJW)

We were given 12 weeks to do it and we did it in six. (MJW in Personal Success (magazine), June 1987)

Fee for Western Market demolition was £18,000. Time limit was 3.5 months, with a penalty/bonus clause of £500 per week either way. WW earned a bonus of £2,500. (SLV/WW 37)

A penalty is not unusual, but a bonus was. WW used traxcavator for the first time and finished job well ahead of schedule. Jim Parker admits they cut corners to speed up the job. They cut down through window lintels and pulled over whole sections of wall, sometimes five at a time. Foundation stone came to light when one wall came down (in rubble?) [but no box was found. One Sunday Jim pulled a whole load of bricks over into Flinders Lane, stopping the tram from running. When pulling down a wall on the eastern side of the Market, the whole second-floor section fell into Market Street. WW used the traxcavator to clean up the rubble in a hurry (to avoid report and fine by Council) and swallowed up 6 or 8 parking meters in the process. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

ROYAL INSURANCE BUILDING, 414 Collins

Planned on the eve of Melbourne Jubilee (1885?)—construction cost was £40,000 + site—for many years the handsome DomesticTudor façade was regarded as among the finest architectural works in Australia. Architect: T.J. Crouch, Builder: G.B. Leith. 107 ft in height + basement—remarkable for use of Pacific Portland stone for upper façade —lavish fittings included one stair and balustrade in Rouge Royal and Sicilian marble at cost of £2500—building designed specially for insurance company and building societies. (Herald, 6/7/38, p.26)

38/7 Demolished for height-limit bulding (**pic**)—to extend over the area of the right-of-way between present building and Mitre Tavern—the present narrow wing between Temple Court and the Mitre Tavern will be demolished and used as a light area. The rear of the Tavern will be re-arranged, but the historic main building, owned by the Royal Insurance Co., will remain unchanged. Main entrance to new building will be of granite. (Herald, 30/6/38, p.3)

Demolished by WW—**pic** in SLV/WW collection has caption by MJW: ‘Lots of these windows ended up at Monsalvat.’ (SLV/WW, Box 62, item 6)

TEMPLE COURT, 424 Collins Street

- 1860 The inhabitants residing in the neighbourhood of Collins and William streets were, on Thursday evening, thrown into a considerable state of alarm by the report of a heavy blast, accompanied by a shower of stones, of considerable size. It appears that as the excavations which are now in progress on the site of the old Criterion Hotel [351 Collins] are to be several feet deep, and resisted almost the common use of the pick, the contractor brought powder to his aid... Several [stones] were thrown on the offices in Temple-court, going through the roof. Fortunately, the hour was late (6 p.m.), and the usual occupants were absent. (Argus, 27/11/1860)
- 1897 To right and left [off Little Collins] open the iron gates of two arcades□ Temple Court, running south towards Collins-street, once filled with the dens of the most prominent barristers, but now forsaken for the newer arcade on the other side, Selborne Chambers, which runs through to Bourke-street... (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, p. 47)
- 23/11 Excavating work proceeding on side of historic Temple Court, Collins Street□ 10-storey building of reinforced concrete for professional purposes to be erected. (Herald, 27/11/23)
- 1925 Adjoining Scott's Hotel will be noticed the large concrete building, erected on the site of the former Temple Court, and running through to Little Collins-street, and let out in office suites to various tenants. (Melbourne Guide Book, 6th ed, 1925, pp.14-15)
- 1926 Buildings of the 1920s include ... Temple Court in Collins Street (1926) by Barlow and Hawkins... (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, pp. 146-7)
- 1916 The advantages of steel frame and reinforced concrete construction are many. Chief among them is the economy of space.... The same saving of space makes possible the construction of mezzanine floors and galleries—a substantial consideration in revenue production. Temple Court, a comparatively narrow building, contains offices which, if placed end to end, would reach from Spencer street to Spring street and back to Russell street. (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement p. 3)
- Wood panelling from Temple Court used in hallway of Temple Court. (People, 3/5/67□ scrapbook, p.13)

ATLAS INSURANCE, 406 Collins N side

...there was the Eagle and Globe Building up there in Collins Street, just over Queen Street on the right-hand side, and the Atlas with the world on the top. The original one was concrete. And I had one there of a feller working... he'd belted a hole and was standing in there belting with the... I think one of the papers ran a photograph of it, saying, 'Boy, what a headache!' (Owen Whelan interview)

1957 New office built—copper-plated doors, with glass and wood panels were later incorporated in WW office. (People, 3/5/67—scrapbook, p.13)

[At WW office]...there is a wall of lovely bronze lined windows. They were the revolving doors that used to be in Atlas Insurance building. (Keith Dunstan, Sunday Age, 8/12/91, Agenda, p.5)

BROUGHAM CHAMBERS (& neighbours), 457-69 Lt Collins □ S side, b/w Temple Court Place
& Gurner's Lane

67/10 Demolition permit □ 3 x 2-storey & 2 x 3-storey brick buildings □ \$10,250. (MCC 167/3
Box 22, D2774)

(old) CML BUILDING, 419-21 Collins □ S side, near Market St

19thC Site of JP Fawkner's second hotel.

14/3 Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Co. purchased Union Club Hotel property, cnr Collins & Market Streets. Lease of Union Club Hotel expires 1/5/17. CML will rebuilt—already owns considerable frontages to Collins & Market Streets, adjacent. Union Club Hotel over 50 years old. Site originally owned by J.P. Fawkner, 17/11/1838. 'Upon the site Fawkner immediately erected a wooden house, the prepared timber for which he brought from Tasmania. It was on premises situated just at the back of the hotel site that Fawkner established his printing-house, from which was issued the first newspaper published in Melbourne.' Old Shakespeare Hotel was later built on corner —removed to build Union Club, later Union Club Hotel. (Argus, 26/3/14, p.8)

1926? JP Whelan fell 45 (or 35) feet from wall of old CML building, 419-21 Collins St □ just E of Market St (demolished c. 1926 for AMP building). (Scrapbook, p.38; Sands & McDougall directory)

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE, 411-15 Collins S Side

39/6 Notable for its beautifully planned 6ft-thick Gothic stone facade—may be replaced by modern building. Present 5-storey building erected 38 years ago—rear section is 3-storey, 80-yo building*—site 39ft frontage x 167_ deep. (Herald, 6/6/39, p.3; 3/10/39)
*Fawkner's printing office?

39/11 WW quote of £510 accepted 4/11/39. (letter in SLV/WW 65/2)

TEMPLE COURT HOTEL, 413 Lt Collins Street □ SW cnr Queen

1842 'Old Whittaker', Melbourne's second-licensed pawnbroker (first was licensed the same day)—'displayed his trade mark of "the Medici" on a small shop at the south west corner of Queen and Little Collins streets, where now the Temple Court Hotel insinuatingly invites passers-by to enter and refresh.' (Garryowen, p. 327)

1842 ...in November of [1842] the first pawnbrokers obtained licences and began operations on the same day—one on the site formerly occupied by the omnibus office and the other where Temple Court Hotel now stands. About a fortnight later a third pawnbroker opened a business behind the present Theatre Royal. (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement p.3)

19thC Opened in 1855 as Victoria Hotel □ renamed Temple Court Hotel, 1856. (Cole Collection)

c.1955 **Pic** on file of gutted building, with WW sign (MJW papers)

STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE/TRUSTEES CHAMBERS, 412 Collins Street[]W corner of Bank Place, E of Royal Insurance Building

30/7 The present premises of The Trustees[, Executors, and Agency] Company, at 412 Collins street, which have been occupied for about 40 years, will be sold. Part of the property is the Old Mitre Tavern, in Bank place, at the rear of the company's offices... [Trustees Co. would build on their new, London Bank site, in mid-1930s] (Argus, 16/7/30, p.4)

1939 412 Collins Street wrecked for new State Accident Insurance building. (Card index (which one?) LaTrobe info centre)

20. SPRING STREET

GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, Gisborne Street □ site of State Govt Offices

- 1918 ...the need for a controlling body to co-ordinate the [electricity] generating and distribution system became urgent by 1918. Legislation to set this up was passed by the State Parliament in the closing days of that year and the SEC was born... the SEC's first office was a basement room in the Geological Survey Museum. There the secretary, Mr Roy Liddelow, controlled a staff of five men and a girl with a typewriter. The commission met once a week in one corner. (Herald, 2/10/1969)
- 33/4 To relieve the congestion at the offices of the Mines and Lands department... the State Cabinet decided yesterday that a new storey should be built on the Geological Museum building in Gisborne street. When the enlarged building is completed the museum will be transferred to the new storey, and the Mines department will occupy the ground floor. The Sustenance department will continue to occupy the basement at the rear of the building. (Argus, 5/4/33)
- c.66 **Pic** □ in Graham Kennedy's Melbourne □ shows WW sign.
- Pic** □ wrecking building opposite Windsor Hotel □ brick & stone □ S of Parliament House □ H&WT pic, 10x8 (SLV/WW 55, pic 2)

TOWER HOUSE, 1 SPRING ST

- 19thC Cottage (Somerset Place) built on site for Charles Norton (clerk/mgr, also watercolourist/photographer) in 1850□brick house, 3 rooms + kitchen. Demolished 1890□replaced by new, grander private residence designed by William Pitt for Mrs E.J. Hodgson. Subsequently a private hospital, Public Schools Club, and Bertie's Discoteque. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.57)
- 1956/8 Picturesque old Tower House [**pic**], in Spring-st, one of Melbourne's historic buildings, has been sold□but it will not be wrecked. The Public Schools' Club and Old Boys' Organisation has bought the building for office space. The building is at the corner of Flinders-st... The ornate exterior, carvings and buttressed bluestone□beloved of Victorian days□will stay, but the bluestone tower, with its gargoyles and weathervane, may have to go. The whole interior may have to be ripped out to make way for modern offices. At the end of the last century, Tower House was a private hospital... It was built in the 'boom' days of the 1880s. Tenants who have lived in Tower House for years are moving out. ...One man who has lived in the tiny 'tower flat' for 14 years moved out reluctantly yesterday. From his tower he commanded a panoramic view around Melbourne... (Sun, 12/6/56 or 68)
- 67/2 ...the Public Schools Club to become a discotheque... (Herald, 18/2/67)
- 81 Demolished by WW. [**Pic**□with WW sign] (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.57)

21 SPRING STREET □ south of SW cnr Flinders La

70/5 Demolition permit □ 3-storey brick offices & flats □ wrecked for Sheraton Hotels, \$12,750
(MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3138)

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY, 35 Spring Street □ NW cnr Flinders La

19/9 At the corner of Flinders Lane and Howitt Place is a modest cottage which claims the distinction of being the oldest house in Melbourne. When Dr Howitt came to Port Phillip in 1839... he brought this house with him in sections, and had it put together in what was then the bush at the eastern end of Collins street. In the intervening years the little old house has altered little, except that its roof has been changed once or twice. (Argus, 11/9/19, p.6)

According to a later article, the house originally stood at the corner of Collins Street, before Howitt's arrival, and was removed to the rear of the block when Howitt's brick house was built. (Argus, 28/8/20, p.6)

39/7 Union House (284 Lt Collins) demolished August 1939. Lift donated to Anglican Church for Girls Friendly Society building, to be erected at cnr Spring and Lt Flinders St, 'in place of the old three-storey brick building' (demolished by WW). (Letter of 7/7/39, in SLV/WW, 65/2)

1939 Demolished c.Nov/Dec. Three-storey brick building, to be replaced by new GFS building. Small cellar at rear □ required to be left empty. (Letters, October 1938 □ SLV/WW 65/2)

45-47 SPRING STREET□between Flinders Lane & Collins

72/12 Demolition permit□3-storey brick building□\$8,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3564)

A fine example of Art Nouveau design, with terra cotta ornament and wrought iron work. It was built at the turn of the century□architects Purcha & Teague. (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, p.113)

49-51 SPRING STREET S of Collins Street

71/10 Demolition permit 3-storey brick \$10,000 (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3384)

STATE PUBLIC OFFICES, 61 Spring Street □ SW cnr Collins

72/11 Demolition permit □ 3-storey brick and stone. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3543)

79/5 Colonial Mutual proposed demolition of State Offices at SW cnr Collins & Spring. Myles Whelan argued that the best of Collins Street had already been lost □ buildings should be replaced by a 'well-designed building to complement the Treasury building'. (Age, 29/5/79)

ORIGINAL EYE & EAR HOSPITAL, 157 Spring Street□opposite Parliament House

82/6 Demolished without permit. Old bluestone building□built 1853□doctors' rooms and residence□Eye & Ear hospital until 1880□oldest building in parliamentary precinct□MCC to prosecute□fine would be only about \$100. (Melbourne Times, 30/6/82)

82/7 After unauthorised demolition of original Eye & Ear Hospital, Spring Street, MCC director of technical services said: 'I can only believe there has been a misunderstanding on the nominees' [developers'] part, but I am surprised at Whelan's doing it.' WW could face fines of \$2000□a lot less than the cost of delays, etc. over historic building listing. (Age, 2/7/82, p.3)

MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

19thC ...the dilapidated iron railings of the Model School, whose dingy walls attest that it is a relic of old time. When the colony first secured its independence the schools were all in the hands of the Churches. But not only were these consolidated by being placed under the control of a Denominational Board; but the State also resolved to establish unsectarian schools, and for that purpose appointed the National Board, with a grant of £25,000 for school buildings. This extravagant body spent £14,000 of its grant in erecting these model school buildings, using the balance in putting up thirteen schools in other places. But for a long time this erection in Spring-street was the finest devoted to educational purposes in Australia. It had accommodation for 550 pupils, and its first head master and head mistress were imported from Ireland for the express purpose of introducing into the colony that Irish National School system which had thriven so well under Archbishop Whately. But the mighty has fallen, and the Model School now takes a place far down in the list of State School buildings of the colony. (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, p. 37)

21/4 ...the building now known as the Melbourne High School, in Spring street. This is older even than the University, its erection having been commenced in 1853 by the National Board of Education, which desired to establish a model school and a training centre for teachers; and a portion of it was ready for use in September, 1854. ...this old building should be a venerated monument, the least of whose desserts is an adequate inscription for the benefit of future generations of teachers and pupils. (Argus, 9/4/21, p.5)

1925 ...the Melbourne High School, a relic of olden times. ...in recent days, the old Model School has been renovated to serve as a habitation for the newly-founded Continuation Schools under the Education Department of the State. (Melbourne Guide Book, 6th ed, 1925, p.39)

33/9 Demolished by WW. **Pic** print of photo from front page of Sun, 5/9/33 SLV/WW 62/8

School demolished for new Royal Australasian College of Surgeons building 'taken over by building wreckers' (Age, 13/9/33, p.11)

2004 Plaque outside Royal Australasian College of Surgeons building reads:

Melbourne High School
successively known as
The Melbourne Model School (1854–1904)
The Melbourne Continuation School (1905–1911)
Melbourne High School (1912–1927)
and
Melbourne Girls' High School (1927–1933)
was located on this site.
The building was demolished between
August 28 and September 27, 1933.

ICI HOUSE

- First word of plans for 20-storey building for ICI—98 ft higher than present limit. (Herald, 12/5/55, p.3)
- 55/6 Plans for 20-storey ICI building approved by State Building Regulations Committee—moves to review height limit. ICI House will have no more floor space than existing height limit buildings—but will have lawns, gardens, carpark and more natural light. (Herald, 25/6/55, p.3)
- 55/7 Robin Boyd: With ICI building approved ‘the red tape which restricted Melbourne to 132-ft building-height is broken... (Herald, 5/7/55, p.4)
- 55/12 Whelan the Wrecker’s panzer division—Diesel compressors, giant mechanical shovels, front-end loaders, mobile cranes and all their ancillaries—have been flattening out buildings at the corner of Nicholson and Albert Streets, East Melbourne. Some of the oldest buildings in Melbourne—two-storey bluestone buildings about 110 years old—have gone down to provide space for ICI’s 20-store 230-ft cloudkisser. (Herald, 31/12/55)
- 56/7 ...a 40-year-old three-storey boarding house on the ICI Ltd site for a skyscraper in Nicholson Street is providing a hard job for the wreckers. The sign ‘Whelan the Wrecker Was Here’ could have been in place more than a week ago—except that this building is ‘very tough’ to pull down. The foreman, Mr F.J. Henderson, says it is all reinforced concrete. Eight men have been on the job more than four weeks, using sledgehammers and pneumatic drills to cut away the building in small chunks. Mr Henderson said a similar building made of bricks would only take about three weeks to pull down. (Herald, 21/7/56, p.23)
- 56/8 The Melbourne city area has a good chance of getting a new building height limit of 230 ft—27 ft more than intended—thanks to a town hall typist’s error. When the architects of the new ICI building at the corner of Albert and Nicholson Streets submitted their application to the City Council for an above-height-limit building, they asked for 203 feet, compared with the present 132 ft limit. After much public controversy, the council’s Building and Town Planning committee last year approved the architects’ plans. But the memorandum to the committee about the plans, typed in the Town Hall, gave the desired height at 230 ft, instead of the correct 203 ft. The architects, on being told they could have a 230 ft building, altered their plans accordingly. **[pic of altered plans]** (Herald, 1/8/56, p.4)
- 59/1 **[pic]**—the narrow two-storey house squeezed between the towering ICI Building and Feltex House, still under construction] At a mere two storeys, weatherbeaten and half hidden, but by no means down and out, [is] Mr Frenk Dissegna’s apartment house. The house, in Nicholson-st, East Melbourne, a relic of an older, slower Melbourne, is now dwarfed by the giant buildings of a more modern age. Over 70 years old and built of bluestone blocks, it was once part of a terrace of three, but last year the other two came down to make way for the new office blocks. ...Actors and actresses appearing at the Princess [Theatre] usually stayed in the little house, which is not much more than a stone’s throw away. Today, as an apartment house, it houses six people. But Mr Dissegna and his manageress, Mrs V. Barrow, do not plan to move. (Herald, 10/1/59, p.3)

21. ST JAMES' OLD CATHEDRAL

Two portions of land, bisected by Little Collins Street, constituted the Church Reserve. There were three acres on the side whereon the Church was erected, whilst the remaining two on the north side, were annexed by the minister, and the area was known for years as 'Parson Thomson's Cabbage Garden'.

[Other religious denominations believed that Church of England had been unduly favoured. St James',] ...never an agreeable looking pile, was originally a positive eyesore to the town, and, as, after Batman's Hill, it was the second sight that met the gaze of strangers coming up the river, people asked in astonishment what on earth was the uncouth object in the distance? If built, as primarily designed by Mr Robert Russell, it would have been surmounted by a neat, symmetrical steeple; but from want of funds, the plan was mutilated in every conceivable way... (Garryowen, p. 130)

- 1837 Site set aside in 1837 for C of E part of area was already in use for Early Pioneers' Church erected as a result of a collection taken up at Burial Hill after Melbourne's first funeral 20 x 16 ft slab hall with shingle roof, earth floor Melbourne's first church, used by all denominations, at different times each Sunday. C of E Bishop decided in 1838 that other denominations could no longer use it. Drew up plans for St James more church-building followed. (Rogan, p.23)

pic by Liardet of earliest church on St James' site—on file.

The corner of Little Collins-street and William-street was the site of the first church of the colony, a very cheap wooden edifice on the then breezy sward of the slope behind the market. Thither on the Sunday morning when the bell swung somewhat riotously from its gallows-like post, the superintendent, the thirty military, and the small gang of convicts sent down from Sydney to make the streets of the new town used to march in and listen to the ministration of a worthy little parson of the name of Grylls, who received from the Sydney Government a stipend of £200 a-year. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.47)

- 1839 St James' foundation stone laid by La Trobe, 9 November 1839. In a ceremony in the original wooden church (to the accompaniment of a seraphine [early harmonium]), La Trobe read from a slip of parchment the words that ought to have been inscribed on the foundation stone but Melbourne contained no craftsman capable of such handiwork. Parchment, together with gold and silver coinage of that year, was put in a bottle and deposited in a cavity in the stone, then sealed, by the placing of an upper stone. Minister who pronounced benediction over the stone was Rev. James Couch Grylls, known as 'stammering Grylls'. (Hilary Lewis, *A History of St James' Old Cathedral*, pp. 8, 9, 21)

Church designed by Robert Russell, built by convict labour. Stood on a site in Little Collins Street, now (1950s) partially occupied by Henty House. (Early Melb Architecture, p.76)

On the south side of the river there were at least three quarries providing the brown sandstone used on Melbourne's more important public buildings (now surviving only in St James's Old Cathedral)... (Miles Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history & development*, p. 34)

Built of mellow local sandstone with imported freestone detailing and bluestone quoins. Regency style. Architect Robert Russell had been trained in England in Regency traditions—worked in NSW under Francis Greenaway. Russell was dismissed in 1841—church nowhere near complete. Charles Laing took over, modified design, replacing spire with octagonal tower. Church opened, unfinished in 1842—completed 1851. Contained Melbourne's first organ. Elevated to Cathedral 30/12/53. (Rogan, pp. 3-5)

...enough [of the cathedral] was finished in 1841 to allow of service being held in it. But its walls of ugly brown stone and its squat-looking copper-roofed tower were long in rising, and it began to look ancient before it was finished. Of late years, St James' Cathedral, as it was called, has become hemmed in all round by lofty buildings, and the visitor must look for it, as he will not casually see the aged-looking building which was for half-a-century the headquarters of the Church of England in Victoria and the cathedral of the deeply-respected Bishop Perry. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp.47-8)

- 1839 Garryowen: 'The church, never an agreeable looking pile, was originally a positive eyesore to the town... If built as originally designed by Mr Robert Russell it would be surmounted by a neat symmetrical steeple, but from want of funds the plan was mutilated in every conceivable way and the future cathedral was 'bonneted' with an abortion of no known order of architecture in existence.' (quoted in SLV MS 7917)
- 1839 **[Pics]** Robert Russell watercolours of Melb (x 2) show original St James Church. (SLV MS 7917)
- 1840 A visitor of 1840 wrote of St James' Church enclosure: 'this, the only square in Melbourne, at the West end of the town, and decidedly the healthiest, cannot fail to become the select spot for fashionable residences and gay promenades.' (Garryowen, p.766)
- 1841 At the corner of Church and Little Collins streets was St James' first parsonage, a two-storey building with a balcony. Now (1920) the site of a bluestone store. (Argus, 27/3/20, p.4)
- 1842 One of the most pressing questions at the first MCC meeting in December 1842 was the erection of a town hall—'...the site suggested was portion of the St James' Reserve, between Bourke and Little Collins streets'. (Garryowen, p.269)
- 1844 Original St James baptismal font was a crockery basin. Font now in St James comes from St Katherine's Abbey (built 1148) on bank of Thames, beyond Tower of London, demolished in 1825 (or 1837) to make way for dock. In 1844, La Trobe's friends purchased font for him (at his request?). 'Not original, but a modern replica', wrote Georgiana McCrae, referring to the Abbey—so the font also would date to later than 12thC? La Trobe's son was christened in font at Xmas 1845. (SLV MS 7917)
- 48/1 St James became cathedral—Bishop Perry installed—see of Melbourne separated from that of Sydney when Melb finally became a city (5/2/48). (SLV MS 7917)
- 19thC **Pic**—sketch on file copied from 19thC plan of St James Cathedral site, in St James Church museum.

- 50/51 St James was soon found to be inadequate in terms of the accommodation it offered. New foundations and additions were made in 1850-51—complete by June 1851. Tower (‘the unsightly deformity that topped it’—Garryowen) was to be replaced at this time, but ‘In fact the old tower was raised a little, crowned with a pepper pot and embellished with some circular enrichments... another abortion not quite so bad as the first’ (Garryowen). Became known as ‘Palmer’s Pepper Pot’ (Dr James Palmer, ruling member of St James Building Ctee, an early mayor of Melb, first president of Leg Council, later Sir James). Also called the ‘spectacle steeple’ because of the circular embellishments on the tower—only two were discernible from any given standpoint. The *Argus* considered it ‘a material mitigation of the horrible ugliness of the building in its original shape’. (SLV MS 7917)
- re. ‘spectacle steeple’—see **pic** (on file): cartoon by Ludwig Becker?, *Melbourne Punch*, 4/9/1856.
- 1852 Six bells purchased from London foundry in 1852—two more added in 1885. Building’s eventual deterioration meant that they could no longer be rung. (SLV MS 7917)
- 53/12 St James consecrated on 30 December 1853, when building finally became free of incumbrance (i.e., paid for). (SLV MS 7917)
- 1850s Goldrush influx crowded St James’. The organ loft was opened to the ‘soldiery’ when it was necessary to make room for them, and they were very unpopular for carving their initials on the casing of the instrument. (SLV MS 7917)
- 1872 State Aid Abolition Act—Church lost most of its land in William Street—became hemmed in with offices. ((SLV MS 7917)
- 19thC Of late years, St James’ Cathedral... became hemmed in all round by lofty buildings, and was eventually removed and re-erected on a more open site in King-street, and the land on which it stood was sold for business purposes. (Melbourne Guide Book, 6th ed, 1925, p.51)
- 1870s St Paul’s chosen as Cathedral site over St James—in spite of the former’s swampy surrounds compared to St James’ elevated site. (SLV MS 7917)
- 1891/1 St Paul’s opened for worship—St James then called the Old Cathedral. (SLV MS 7917)
- 1891+ After St Paul’s cathedral opened in January 1891, St James’ reverted to the status of a parish church. Small congregation, occupied costly city land. Narrowly escaped demolition. Moved to new site—reopened for worship on 19/4/1914. Reconstructed, stone by numbered stone—tower shortened by one stage, entrance moved to face King Street, main ceiling lowered a little, sanctuary shortened by a few inches. (St James’ visitors guide)
- 13/5 Historic Church Doomed. ...It appears that recent rains had left pronounced damp stains on the wall of the chancel... [expert advice sought] The chancel arch was discovered to be not an arch at all, but a lath and plaster screen covering the stone wall, and resting for support on an oregon pine girder. This girder in turn was found to rest upon a layer of mortar, which is crumbling away. The girder itself is badly affected with dry rot... [worship suspended] (*Argus*, 21/5/13, p.12)

Letters to Argus over subsequent days expressed amazement at the church's closure over a minor building defect. Church rents from St James buildings amounted to £7,000 p.a.—enough, surely, to call in a builder. (Argus, 24/5/13, p.8; 27/5/13, p.15)

Dismantling churches to move them from one place to another gave Whelan a steady series of projects. Even the churches were not averse to taking a capital profit on their sites, most of which had been given to them free by early governors. In 1888 there was even a serious proposal to demolish St Paul's Cathedral so an office block could be built on the site. (Brian Carroll, *The Builders*, p.115)

1913 Chancel found to be unsafe—led to closure. Rain entered, chancel 'in imminent danger of collapse'. Agitation to save building. (SLV MS 7917)

1913 Reports of the church's deteriorating condition, appearing regularly in the press, were denied—but eventually it was found that the chancel arch, framed about a timber arch, was deteriorating—main beam suffering dry rot, one of the bearers failing, plaster falling. Health Authority condemned building in 1913. The firm of Perceval estimated £1600 as the cost of removal to King Street. Thomas Watt & Son, Architects, supervised re-erection and designed alterations. Church re-oriented N-S, instead of E-W. (Lewis)

Pic—plan drawn by architects, Thomas Watts & Son, of cathedral before and after rebuilding—in museum of St James' Church

Pic—A photograph [in St James' archives?] of the church on the old site during the process of removal shows the bells lying on the ground and most of the building down, without the organised appearance that might have been expected. (mentioned, but not reproduced in Lewis, p.21)

14/4 'Unfortunately, during removal, the Foundation Stone was either broken or mislaid.' But may have been due to the fact that new foundations were put in c.1850. (SLV MS 7917)

Foundation stone (unmarked as it was) did not come to light during dismantling in 1913, but it was believed to have been rebuilt into the Church. In 1929, the then-minister wrote: 'I found that the carter who transferred the material to the new site was responsible for destroying the foundation stone. He accidentally broke it and then threw the parts on the rubbish heap and gave the contents to his friends, keeping the most valuable himself.' (Hilary Lewis, *A History of St James' Old Cathedral*, pp. 8, 9, 21)

I remember talking to one group one day and there was this very old lady there... She used live, as a girl, up in the top of Collins Street there somewhere—you know, there were some houses up there. And she said, 'I remember coming back from school,' or boarding-school, and one of her girlfriends said, 'Alice, would you believe,' she said, 'they're pulling down your church!' And she said, 'I loved that church and,' she said, 'I was so distressed,' she said, 'I ran down Collins Street and here it was being demolished!' And she said, 'And I put my face up against the cast iron picket fence,' or whatever it was, and she said, 'I was crying away and,' she said, 'a lovely old bloke, one of the workmen, came over to me and said, "Now what are you crying for? Ohh," he said, "it'll be re-erected somewhere else." He said, "Now, come on, dry your tears." And he gave me a peppermint.' Now I reckon that probably was my grandfather because that was

one of his great passions in life: he always had a packet of peppermints. (Owen Whelan interview)

14/4 Reopening service, 19/4/1914. 'We have evidence that the feelings of certain people have been pained and wounded by the removal of this church.'—Archbishop Clarke at reconsecration of St James'. 'You should understand the changed conditions of city life. In early days this was what was called a fashionable church. It drew its congregation from people resident in the city. But 70 years have brought about great changes. The residents have been taken far away, and though services were continued on the old site, the glory had gone.' Money from sale of St James' churchyard went to establishment of a new metropolitan mission. 'I can tell you of life in the centre of this city that is appalling. (Argus, 20/4/14, p.10)

14/4 **[Pics—St James, before & after relocation]** ...the principal alteration (namely, in the tower) was made in order to provide more suitably for the peal of bells. The square part of the tower has been carried on 20ft higher, and the octagonal part is proportionately shorter. In the old church the bells were hung one above the other, but in the new they will swing on one level.... The present building is better ventilated, and more strongly built. The outer stones have been retained, but the inner walls, of shells and rubble, has been replaced by cement, reinforced with rods. In the interior the gallery has been built on the walls, which has done away with the supporting columns of the old building. The cost of re-erection was £2,000, considerably less than would have been necessitated if a new church had been built. (Argus, 29/4/14, p.13)

[On new site] At the sanctuary end there is an external Baroque feature in Tasmanian sandstone. Although this can hardly be seen from the street now, it once prominently faced William Street. (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, p.20)

...the sombre pile of St James's Buildings in William-st, which stands on land on part of which St James's Old Cathedral was built. When the old cathedral was transferred to West Melbourne the Church of England granted a 50-year building lease to a company which put up the present buildings. In due course they reverted to the Church. (Sun, 18/2/60)

29/8 The Collins Street corner was bought by Messrs James Service and Co. some years ago, and ...the freehold was offered at auction recently, but was not sold. The part of the block in Little Collins street on which St James's Church stood before it was removed to North Melbourne has been sold, and on it several large buildings, including Henty House, now stand. (Argus, 13/8/29, p.10)

65/12 Before the wreckers move in, take a look at the great old St James building at the corner of Bourke and William Sts., about 2_ acres of it.... The building is not exactly an architectural gem, except for one thing, the great arch, perhaps the loveliest of its kind in Australia.... It looks through to a private street and incredible old warehouses with their windlass wheels up aloft. The St James building was completed in 1889 at the height of the Land Boom and in those days it was really something. It housed some of the richest men in the country. ...they would dine over the road at the Australian Club. In more recent years it has been everything□a home for solicitors, at least six wholesale liquor companies and their cellars, artists' studios, and there was an elderly lady who lived in a flat with half a dozen cats. AMP bought the building from St James's Church for a

reported £1_ million and next year the society will start the excavations for what will be Victoria's biggest office building, 27 storeys, 353 ft high... (Sun, 2/12/65)

ST JAMES BUILDINGS, 533-555 Bourke Street—bounded by William, Bourke, Church & Little Collins streets

- 19thC **[Pic]** St James's First Parsonage, Little Collins-street. The parsonage in the early forties was occupied by the Rev. Comptom Shomson. It was many years ago sold to the late Mr N.W. Dike, a Melbourne contractor, by a daughter of Mr Thomson. The building was pulled down, and in its place was erected a row of houses, still standing, and known as 'Dike's terrace'. [Facing Charles (Church) Street] (*Australasian*, 20/8/1904, p.447)
- 19thC The very last vicarage built stood on the three-acre block on the south side of Little Collins, opposite Church Street—long since replaced with stores and offices of a mercantile character. (*Argus*, 27/3/20, p.4)
- 85/8 **[Pic]**—Our illustration... represents a block of buildings, to be known as 'St James Buildings', now being erected in William-street, Melbourne, by the Victoria Estate Company Limited, from the designs of Messrs Terry and Oakeden, architects. The block is intended to be occupied as stores, warehouses, and offices.... One of the first operations of the estate company was to obtain on very favourable terms a building lease for 50 years of the block of land formerly occupied by the St James's school and parsonage, comprising nearly two acres, bounded by William-street, Bourke-street, Church-street, and Little Collins-street, with the exception of the north-west corner of the block, which is occupied by St James's Grammar School. It is the William-street frontage of this block upon which the company is now erecting the magnificent pile of business premises shown in our illustration. The view of the buildings is taken at the corner of William and Little Collins streets, and it shows the whole of the façade to the former street, and about one-half of that to the latter. A contract has been let for the first section, having 133ft frontage to William-street, with a depth of 97 feet along Little Collins-street to a lane 20ft wide. This portion will cost about £25,000. It will consist in the first place of two warehouses in the basement, having 110,000 square feet of floor, and in the next of three floors—ground, first, and second—divided into suites of offices, numbering altogether about 75 offices. Nearly every suite of offices is provided with a strong-room built of brick in cement with fireproof iron doors and frame, there being altogether 19 such strong-rooms in this section of the building.... The warehouses will all be isolated from the premises over them by fireproof flooring. The character of the design adopted is one eminently suited for a block of city buildings. Superfluous ornament and architectural 'features', as such, are omitted, and effect is attained simply by bold proportions and grouping. The material used is brick, cemented outside, with a bold bluestone base-course.... So large is the demand for office and business accommodation in the neighbourhood, which is in close proximity to the new Law Courts, the Spencer-street railway station, &c., that we understand... that parts are even now let.... The contractor for the portion of the building now in course of erection, Mr James Downie, expects to have the corner buildings completed, by the end of this year, and the remainder of the William-street frontage included in the present contract within four months from that time... (*Australasian Sketcher*, 24/8/1885, p.131—pic on p.141)
- 1889 St James Buildings built 1889. (APITS, 1968)
- 1880s By the end of the 1880s, 'the Mincing-lane of Melbourne is now unquestionably William-street and its off-shoots, more particularly St James Buildings. There are, or shortly will be, nearly all the wholesale houses dealing with groceries, etc.' (*Journal of Commerce*, quoted by Davison, *Rise & Fall*, p.28)

29/8 St James's Buildings occupy the entire frontage of 313 feet to William street between Little Collins and Bourke streets. The property is part of the grant of five acres extending as far south as Collins street which was originally made to the Church of England... No definite plans have yet been formed for the construction of modern offices on the present site of St James's Buildings, but it is understood that when the leases terminate in 1934 the Church of England authorities will be prepared to construct a new building if the condition of business warrants it. (Argus, 13/8/29, p.10)

34/10 Work has been started on the moderning of St James Building, William Street... The property is owned by the Church of England, and was once the site of a boys' school. Seven separate buildings extend from Bourke to Little Collins Streets. The middle one is higher than the others, and has a comfortable caretaker's quarters on top. The terrace will be divided into three buildings, that at the corner of Little Collins Street, and now leased by J. Anderson and Co. remaining a separate entity, and the balance being divided into two blocks. Each of the larger groups of three buildings will be connected with corridors, the upper floors being served with two modern passenger lifts. The entrances **[pic—drawing]** will be finished off with marble and tile dadoes... (Herald, 10/10/34)

66/2 Demolition permit 3 storey + 5-storey brick buildings warehouses, office buildings, banks, etc. wrecked for AMP Society, £20,000 Bates Smart & McCutcheon, architects of new St James Development. (MCC 167/3 Box 20 D2452)

66 Demolishers exposed a Chinese dragon right across the wall of one of the attic rooms on 4th floor of St James Building. Suggestion that it was an opium den after WW1. Faded rapidly in the rain, awaiting demolition. (news cutting, n.d. scrapbook, p.3)

WW found catwalk across roof, and old hydraulic hoist used for raising and lowering sanitary (toilet) cans. (APITS, n.d. in SLV/WW, 64/7, p.32)

10.41a.m., Sunday morning WW pulled down 'a glorious 40-ft high arch, probably the loveliest thing of its kind in Australia'. The rest of St James buildings gone arch stood alone on the edge of a bare 2_ acres, 'looking just like the Arc de Triomphe'. WW chipped away at base with jackhammers, then attached a dozer cable to the top of the arch and pulled. Hit the ground with 'a marvellous resonant thump'. Old wine cellars underneath. (APITS, Sun, n.d. SLV/WW 64/7, p.35)

1960s [St James Building & AMP Tower] This combination of tower, public space, counterpointing piece of abstract sculpture and flanking buildings on a massive island site was indicative of the power of corporations to consolidate land in the 1960s and erase the 19th century city entirely. (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, p.137)

McCRACKEN'S CITY BREWERY, 496 Collins Street through to Lt Collins

Historical inaccuracies linger on stubbornly. Two cropped up again in the announcement of the auction this week of a three-storey property in Bourke Street. The building is on the site of an early Melbourne brewery, McCracken's, erroneously described as the city's first. But Melbourne's first brewer was Henry Condell. His place of business was in Lonsdale Street. The Bourke Street property has been occupied for many years by Evan Evans Pty Ltd, whose governing director, Mr Ivor Evans, as a schoolboy, submitted one of five winning designs for Australia's national flag. (Age, 13/11/54)

Brewer's Arms Hotel, SE cnr 116 Lt Collins St W & ROW licensed 1868 taken over by brewery c.1884. (Cole Collection)

1888 ...the products consisting of Australian bitter ale, pale ale, ordinary running ale, and stout... The premises... a portion of which formed the original purchase from the Crown in 1851, have been added to from time to time and now cover an area of over four acres... The main buildings are... solidly constructed of brick, with a bluestone front. ...The part on the north side of Little Collins-street is used for storing malt, and the back part as stabling and a lorry-yard. (Vic & its Metropolis, p. 676—pic p.677 [on file])

19thC This business was originally started during the earliest days of colonial prosperity, and may justly claim to be regarded as a brilliant and successful example of that enterprise which has been the principal factor in obtaining for Victoria the eminent position she holds to-day among the commercial countries of the world.

It was in the year 1851, at the time the gold fever was at its height, that Mr Robert and Mr Peter M'Cracken, in conjunction with Mr Jas. Robertson, seeing an opportunity, of which they were not slow to take advantage, laid the foundation of this business, trading as 'M'Cracken and Robertson'.

The present site, at that time little else than bush and scrub, was chosen for the field of their operations, so meagre were the facilities at the command of these gentlemen, and so many the difficulties against which they had to contend, that it was found necessary to employ but two hands in addition to the members of the firm, four barrels forming the limit of their brew.

When Mr Robertson retired, after the partnership had existed ten years, the firm assumed the style of R. M'Cracken and Co., City Brewery, the business continuing under the personal supervision of Mr Robert M'Cracken until his death on the 17th February 1885.

At this latter period Mr Alexander and Mr Coiler M'Cracken, sons of Mr Robert and Mr Peter respectively, who had been admitted into the business as junior partners some nine months previously, undertook the active management of the business, and continued to act as managing directors for the present company.

The output from the brewery last year averaged rather more than 450 barrels at each brew, amounting to over 100,000 barrels for the year. A satisfactory result, surely, as compared with the unpretentious returns for the first year, which did not exceed 1400 barrels.

[The original brewer was James Robertson, but at present] The gentleman directly responsible for the brewing of this vast quantity of malt liquor is Mr R.B. Brinkley, ...[formerly] engaged in a similar capacity in the celebrated Bow Brewery, London, ...[where] the celebrated 'India Pale Ale' was first invented...

In striking contrast to the modest number of hands, viz., two—or should we say four—who sufficed to supply all the auxiliary labour during the earliest stages of the

development of this concern, we now find that the company's employes number no fewer than 130.

The premises, a portion of which formed the original grant from the Crown in 1851, have been added to from time to time, so that they now cover an area of no less than 4 acres.

The brewery commands a frontage of 198ft to Collins-street by 316ft running to Little Collins-street, with a similar breadth of frontage right through.

From the adjoining sketch **[pic]** can be seen a handsome brick building, also bearing the well-known name of 'M'Cracken', and having a frontage of 50 feet to Little Collins-street, which is used principally for the purpose of storing malt and hops, and a portion for stables, &c. ...in addition to the above, the company have the lease of extensive stores in Little Collins-street, at which all their bottling is done, which amounts jut now to no less than from 700 to 800 dozen of ales and porter per diem.

...It was on the 1st April, 1888, that the concern was sold to Mr B.J. Fink, who decided to form the business into a limited company with a capital of £2,000,000 in 1,000,000 shares of £2 each, of which 200,000... were reserved by the vendor.

The total amount of the purchase was payable—£300,000 in cash, £200,000 remaining upon mortgage for seven years... Messrs Coiler and Alexander M'Cracken were appointed to act as managing directors...

The paid-up capital of the company, £500,000, exceeds that of any other three Victorian breweries put together... (Australian Brewers' Journal, 20/2/1890, pp. 124-6)

83-04 McCracken's City Brewery was made a public company in 1883, and eight years later the chairman (Mr B.J. Fink) announced that the output for the previous year was the largest since the establishment of the brewery, the profits amounting to £65,463. Within four years, however, the financial position had changed. ...in 1894...it was stated the output had fallen away 500 or 600 hogsheads per week, the bottled trade having decreased 50 per cent... Though £19,956 was spent in 1900 in re-modelling and re-equipping the brewery and on new plant... The reports and accounts of McCracken's City Brewery showed 'a very disquieting deficiency between earnings and the amount requisite to meet interest'. The loss for the year 1903 was £11,010, and since 1898 the Company had lost more than £56,000. In 1904, however, business brightened considerably and a profit of £548, the first for many years, resulted. (What's Brewing, Sept 1950, p.10)

1901 Very considerable alterations and additions to buildings and plant have recently been effected to bring the brewery up to modern trade requirements... [brewing process described and illustrated—**5 pics**, including one overlooking the works from Collins street, looking NE] From the cooling room the wort passes into the tun room... and here fermented in large vats. ...The final process before the beers are ready for drawing off into delivery casks takes place in the ... numerous cellars... Space does not permit of representations or descriptions of the various other departments of the brewery, such as cooperage, bottling, stables, &c., which are fully up to date. (Leader, 1/1/01, p.105)

32/1 Another substantial [WW] job was that of razing McCracken's Brewery in Collins street, some years ago. This brewery was founded in 1851 by two McCracken brothers and a Mr James Robertson, trading as McCracken and Robertson. In those days two hands were employed and only four barrels of beer were brewed at a time. This enterprise grew to be very large as the years went by, eventually covering about four acres of land. There was one peculiar feature of this building. When a tram going west along Collins street approached within about 100 yards a large chimney shook, but when the trams were going in the opposite direction they had no effect on this chimney at all. (Argus, 23/1/32)

McGREGOR WOOL BROKERS, 518-20 Collins □ McCracken Lane at rear

72/11 Demolition permit □ 2-storey brick □ \$11,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3540)

JAMES SERVICE & CO. WAREHOUSE, NW cnr Collins & William streets

92/6 On Tuesday morning the warehouses of James Service and Co., at the north-west corner of Collins and William streets, caught fire at an early hour... damage to the extent of nearly £50,000 had been wrought, and the buildings will have to be extensively altered and largely rebuilt. The warehouse, which is built of brick and stone, and had a slate roof, was of three storeys in height, with a basement and cellars. It was built by the firm of James Service and Co... upon ground held by them on a 50 years' lease from the trustees of St James's Church. ... The cause of the fire is at present, like the precise time of the outbreak, a mystery... it is more than likely that 'rats and matches' may justly be blamed for the outbreak, as there was a considerable quantity of vestas stored on the top floor. [Pic—engraving of fire, and surrounding buildings] (Australasian, 4/6/92, p.1076)

22. ST PATRICK'S HALL

Among the warehouses on the north side [of Bourke Street] there stands a small building with an ornate front marked by two Ionic columns. This is the St Patrick's Hall, at one time the finest public hall of the young settlement. There was a period when bitter feeling raged between the Catholic and Orange factions of Melbourne, and as an outcome of these inflammatory feelings, the one party built at the foot of Russell-street a place called the Protestant Hall, now occupied by a much finer structure of the same name. The other party erected this St Patrick's Hall, which has remained unaltered to the present time. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp.31-2)

Foundation stone laid in 1847 after a St Patrick's day march up Bourke Street—stone inscribed: 'Dedicated to the memory of Ireland' (HQ of militantly Irish St Patrick's society). Completed in 1848—used as school for Irish children until 1851. (Herald, 23/2/57, p.5)

1840s There was one fast gentleman of the period who singularly enough afterwards attained high position in the Police Department, who never ventured abroad on any after-dark expedition without the companionship of a formidable stick; and so that he might never be left alone in this respect, he appointed an old fellow named Austin McGinty his 'Stick-in-Waiting', or cudgel-keeper. McGinty was caretaker at St Patrick's Hall, a connection which, doubtless, specially fitted him to be the custodian of shillelaghs. However, he was the Groom of the Sticks, which were stabled under the Hall stairs, and he received a weekly stipend for keeping them in order. Three or four times a week, about midnight, a thundering knock would be rattled on the door, and a croaking voice from within would screech out, 'Who's there?', to which would be made the interrogative response, 'Are you awake, Ginty?' 'Aye, aye, your Honour,' would be crooned out; 'What do you want now?' Whereupon the mandate would be thundered forth, 'Come, jump up quick, man, and give me a stick.' Ginty would spring from his lair, and, opening the door, would produce two or three of the saplings in his charge, one of which would be speedily selected and marched off with. However... the sticks were never known to do much harm. (Garryowen, p.773)

Samuel Jackson was architect. Façade originally set back 15ft from pavement. (Rogan, p.39)

'...some slight effort at ornamentation over doorway. For several years it was the most capacious hall in Melbourne. ...Public buildings were not rushed up as now, and it took years to crawl on even with the erection of a church.' Officially opened with a ball on 5 June 1849. St Patrick School opened January 1850—unhoused by Legislative Council on 9 May 1851. (Garryowen, pp. 653-5)

The manufacturing and products exhibits of the Victorian Industrial Society's first Exhibition held in St Patrick's Hall, January 1851—livestock shown at Bear's horseyard. The gem of the Exhibition was a writing desk composed of eighteen colonial woods: he-oak, tartarra, honeysuckle, sassafras, Murray pine, Huon pine, forest oak, blackwood, box, teak, musk, tulip-wood, silk-wood, red-gum, dog-wood, Cypress pine, cherry-pine, and myall. (Garryowen, p.133)

Grand ball held in hall to celebrate separation from NSW—then first meeting of Legislative Council of Vic held there, 13/11/51. (Rogan, pp.39-40)

The Society preserves an engraving that illustrates the opening of the first Legislative Council of Victoria by Governor Charles Joseph Latrobe on November 18, 1851. The chair which was and still is used as the Society's president's chair was used as the Speaker's chair during the Parliament's occupancy of the building. The St Patrick's Society of Australia Felix was founded in 1842. It used to meet at the Builders' Arms Inn, Little Collins street. In October 1846, Messrs Patrick O'Brien, John Stephen and John O'Shannassy (who was later knighted), trustees of the Society, purchased for £99 a portion, 33 ft by 150 ft, of a lot Mr Henry Elmes paid £54 for at the second sale of town lots in Melbourne on November 1, 1837. As president of the Society from 1846 to 1850, Mr John O'Shannassy laid the foundation-stone of the hall on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 1847. The Hibernian Hall, as it was called, was completed after some months' delay in May 1849, and formally opened as the Society's meeting-place and as a school on June 5 following. Children of Irish parents were taught in this St Patrick's Seminary under Mr and Mrs McLaughlin for a small weekly fee. The hall was 15 feet from the street. This was in such bad condition that the dancing-master who opened evening classes in the hall had to cancel his lease on that account. The entrance was reached by a flight of stone steps. The garden that lay on either side of these, before the hall, was a favorite pasturage of stray goats, in spite of a light front fence. The doorway was lighted by a lamp, the gift of Mr Timothy Lane, the Society's treasurer. The present facade is a later addition. The proclamation of the separation from New South Wales of the Port Phillip District, as the colony of Victoria, took place on July 1, 1851, and the Government leased the Hibernian Hall as the structure most suitable to accommodate the Legislative Council, soon to be chosen. The upstairs hall, now gay in the glory of new paint, pink and old rose and gold, was the legislative chamber. Four fan-shaped windows on either side of the two-foot walls still have their little red, white and blue panes intact as at the opening of Parliament. At the south end, with the ceiling only six feet above, is the strangers' gallery, four feet wide. Below it the Speaker sat in the president's chair of solid carved mahogany, with padded velvet seat and arms. The velvet is of a mellow olive-green shade, with long pile, and there are no springs in the seat. Victoria was granted self-government in 1855, and the new Parliament, with two Houses, first sat in the then unfinished Parliament House at the head of Bourke street, in November, 1856. The Hibernian Hall was handed back to St Patrick's Society in April, 1857. (Herald, 9/12/26)

'When [at end of 1856] the Society returned to their old roof-tree they re-entered an edifice so altered as to be unknown, except by the outer brick shell, for public money had been profusely spent in improvements and alterations, much required, but which the state of the Society's purse would have rendered simply impossible.' (Garryowen, pp. 653-5)

Rented to govt, initially at £300 a year—in 1856, after first meeting of Parliament, rent increased to £1500 p.a.—several alterations made to make it more suitable for Parliament. Members soon complained it was 'too gloomy'—work began on Parliament House. (Herald, 23/2/57, p.5)

Hall continued in use by St Patrick's/Hibernian Society until c.1890. **[Pic-19thC]**
(Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.160 (RHSV))

St Patrick's Hall... has remained unaltered to the present time. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp.31-2)

- 1926 On completion of renovations, St Patrick's Hall, Bourke Street, will be reopened... (Herald, 9/12/26)
- Much altered before demolition. Rusticated at ground level, the first floor was a tall colonnade in the Corinthian order which supported an ornate cornice and parapet. (Rogan, pp.39-40)
- 29/8 St Patrick's Hall—sale considered. (Argus, 17/8/29, p.14)
- 55/7 St Patrick's Hall... now harbors a ballet school. (Herald, 25/7/55, p.4)
- 57/2 'Another Melbourne land-mark is about to fall to the wrecker's axe—and Melbourne just couldn't care less.' Many changes to hall since it was used as Parliament, but 'it has always been regarded as gloomy'. National Trust says plaque should mark its site. Apart from historical associations, not worth preserving (says leading architect). (Herald, 23/2/57, p.5)
- ...the architect rang me up and he said, 'Now, I want you to do this job. Now,' he said, 'they've started their stirrings, so,' he said, 'for gawd's sake, get inside and do as much damage as you can before anyone wakes up.' And that's about what happened. And so the thing was demolished. But there was nothing there to suggest that it was the site of the first Legislative Council. There was nothing there that you would've said, 'Oh gee, look at this.' It was an old, tizzy, sort of a half-baked dance hall arrangement, you know. And very cheap construction. So you wouldn't really... the site, yeah, and the occasion—the association was important, but not the building. I didn't feel any pangs about it. (Owen Whelan interview)
- 57/2 Victoria's first Parliament House—St Patrick's Hall at 470 Bourke-st, near Queen-st **[pic]**—is to be pulled down to make way for a new office building. The building is involved in a city building exchange between the National Bank of Australasia Ltd and the London Assurance firm. The bank has sold St Patrick's Hall to London Assurance... (Sun 22/2/57)
- 57/6 **[pic-incl. WW sign]** Victoria's first Parliament House is 'doomed'. The wrecker's sign is up on the historic landmark in Bourke Street and the building will soon fall. In its place will be a new office building. (Herald, 7?6/57)
- 57/6 A nine-storey steel-framed, reinforced concrete building **[pic]**architect's sketch] will go up soon at 470 Bourke St for the London Assurance and associated insurance companies. St Patrick's Hall...is now being demolished to make way for it. ... The Melbourne manager for the London Assurance... said today that bronze plaques commemorating the meeting of the first Victorian parliament would be put up in the entrance lobby together with a diorama depicting the early history of the company... (Herald, 28/6/57, p.7)

FIRE WATCH-TOWER, Little Bourke Street—at rear of St Patrick's Hall, cnr Lt Bourke & St Patrick's Lane

19thC Melbourne Fire & Marine Insurance Co. was formed in June 1839. However it supplied no means of extinguishing fires, so that, when two of its policy-holders' properties were destroyed by fire in a short period in 1842, not only was the insurance company financially ruined; it was also blamed for the extent of the devastation. Thereafter Melbourne fire insurance companies followed the example of their Sydney- and London-based counterparts, and became involved in fire-fighting. At first, they supplied only equipment—first ladders, axes and buckets, then fire engines—for use by police, soldiers and willing volunteers at the scene. A fire at Condell's brewery (snr Swanston & Lt Bourke) in 1845 pre-empted the formation of Melbourne's first fire-brigade. The Melbourne Fire Prevention Society consisted of a paid inspector, a foreman and six fire-fighters, and had the use of the insurance company engine. The Society was funded by public subscription, backed by donations from the town council and fire insurance companies. At a fire, extra hands were needed to work the engine's pump-handles to ensure a steady stream of water. These men, and the water-carters who supplied the engine, were rewarded from the Society funds.

In England, it was a tradition for fire-fighters to be supplied with beer for the duration of a fire. In Melbourne the situation was similar. A volunteer fire brigade captain told an inquiry in 1885 that he never supplied his men with beer, but the publicans did.

In 1851, the Fire Prevention Society's brigade was taken over by the Victorian Fire & Marine Insurance Company. It had a fire station at 88 (now 179) Collins Street East, and two engines. To prevent a delay between the arrival of the engines and supply of water, a 10-fold increase in payment to water-carriers was offered, and a by-law decreed that water-carts must be kept full overnight. (Water-carts were filled at the water tank at Flinders & Elizabeth street NE corner from 1849—Fink's Building site.)

A system of fire-marks was introduced in 1851, whereby insured buildings would be marked by a copper plate. In theory, this enabled the brigade to give priority to insured buildings in the event of a spreading fire; in reality it was ignored.

Californian Samuel Moss was one of the many arrivals from America during the gold rushes, who brought with them the US ethos of volunteer fire-fighting. He took over the Royal Hotel in Collins Street and renamed it the Criterion. Moss helped fight a fire in Collins Street in the spring of 1853. By early 1854, he had bought himself a fire engine. He called it 'The Volunteer'. His staff from the Criterion fought alongside him at a big Elizabeth Street fire in February 1854. One of them, a Philadelphia barman named Clapp, died when the burning building collapsed. Moss's engine perished with him. In December 1853 a group of Americans in Melbourne had begun raising funds for a volunteer fire company, run along US lines. The Volunteer Engine Co. No. 1 was formed at a meeting at Moss's Criterion two days after Clapp's death. Moss was assistant foreman, secretary was Freeman Cobb, whose daily coaches for the goldfields left from the Criterion. After less than a month, however, the company fell apart, disagreeing over (inter alia) what style of uniform they should adopt. Their ideal of volunteer brigades for Melbourne lived on, however, and within two years there were six such brigades serving the surrounding suburbs.

From the start, co-operation between the suburban volunteer brigades and the insurance company brigade was a problem. The volunteers were keen to attend any fire, but weren't so keen to take orders.

Fire engines were given names—Australia Felix, Deluge, Neptune—and, like ships, were always female.

In 1855, the old Mounted Police Barracks, near the NW corner of Collins & King Street

was refitted as a fire station for the insurance company brigade.

The 1880s saw a boom in volunteer fire brigades, coinciding with the building boom and suburban spread. Some brigades designated themselves 'Temperance'—there were also brigades comprising workers at Carlton United, Yorkshire and Shamrock breweries. The Carlton United (of just six men) was held by the insurance brigade superintendent as one of the best of the volunteer brigades. Some, just a few men with a hose, had more enthusiasm than experience and were considered a liability at fires. They would always use their biggest hose, regardless of the size of the fire, and would cause water damage which, at a smaller fire, would exceed the damage done by fire.

London replaced its insurance companies' brigade with a Metropolitan Fire Brigade in 1866. Soon, there was support in Melbourne for something similar. The campaign for a Fire Brigades Act was hampered by ongoing conflict between the insurance company's brigade and the volunteers over the issue of control at fires. The insurance company brigade, in 1883, attempted to gain greater control over volunteer brigades by contributing to their funding and paying firemen for attending fires, in return for co-operation with the insurance company brigade's superintendent. Many brigades refused the offer, and a new level of conflict resulted: between insurance company-backed brigades and the rest.

Tensions came to a head in December 1888, when the two tribes of fireman brawled over fire-plugs at a fire in Russell Street. Next day, Melbourne's mayor issued an edict that Melbourne's fire plugs were to be used only at the direction of the insurance brigade superintendent.

The loss of six firefighters in 1889 finally prompted government action—the Fire Brigades Act was passed at the end of 1890.

When the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was formed in 1891, it was a direct successor of the insurance company brigade. The former superintendent was appointed Chief Officer, and the head station was in Little Bourke Street as before. The MFB's new HQ opened at Eastern Hill in November 1893. The Little Bourke Street station continued as MFB No. 2 Station until a new station was established in William Street in 1919. (Life Under the Bells: A History of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Melbourne 1891-1991, Sally Wilde, Longman Cheshire, 1991)

- 1883 For some fourteen years the Central Fire Brigade Station has been situated in Little Collins-street, but recently the Scots Church committee, who own the land, have notified their intention of resuming possession, and a new location became necessary. After some consideration a block was obtained in Little Bourke-street, behind St Patrick's Hall, and as the situation is one of the highest in the city it is admirably adapted for the purpose. Plans for the new building were prepared by Messrs Terry and Oakden... The new station... will when completed have a frontage of 27 ft 6 in to Little Bourke-street, by a depth of 162 ft... The main building is of two stories, and on the ground floor will be the engine room, 50 ft x 35 ft, while the upper storey will be devoted to the use of the superintendent and the brigade, in addition offices, &c. The door facing Little Bourke-street and which opens direct from the engine-house will open automatically so as to save time in cases of emergency, and the men's quarters will be built with the stables, loft, &c., at the rear of the main building. The look out tower, which is a conspicuous object in the sketch, will be 132 feet high, springing from a bluestone basement 15 feet square, though the tower at the top will be only 11 feet 6 inches. It will command a view of the whole of the city and suburbs, with the exception of that portion which is blocked by the dome of the new Law Courts, and the whole building will, when finished be not only most suitable for the purpose for which it is intended, but an architectural ornament to the

locality. ...the building will, it is anticipated, be ready for occupation in a few weeks.
[Pic—engraving, p.12] (Illustrated Australian News, 24/1/1883)

1880s **Pics**—x 2, taken from tower, looking SW & SE. (A New City, pp. 57& 59)

89/4 The steam fire engine is a very noisy creature, and his attendants emulate him. And thus, when the early night had fairly closed in Bourke-street, there was a very marvellous spectacle. The engines were barking loudly and belching out smoke and fire, with an occasional shrill shriek to emphasize matters... (Argus, 23/4/89—fire at the Bijou Theatre)

57/7 The glassed-in lookout at the top of this watchtower [pic] looking north, with City West Telephone Exchange in b/g] once offered the highest view over all of Melbourne. Now, at last, it is being built out of sight. It is one of Melbourne's earliest fire brigade lookout towers and stands half-way up the hill between Queen and William Streets. The tower was 'rediscovered' when wreckers demolished St Patrick's Hall, Bourke Street... The watchtower abutted the old hall. [pic]view from tower, looking south] (Herald, 10/7/57, p.25)

62/? Demolished some time in 1962. (A New City, p.56)

ABEL, LEMON & CO., 201-203 WILLIAM ST □ W side, N of Lt Bourke cnr

65/1 Workmen began stripping plumbing and wiring from... 189 to 203 William Street □ including the old William Street fire station... (Age, 12/1/65)

65/1 Number 203 William Street, a charming three-storey bluestone building now being demolished, caused some heartburning among its neighbors when it was built. The building is believed to be more than 120 years old. For the past 52 years it has been occupied by Abel, Lemon and Co., importers and merchants. ...an old photograph of the area taken about 1860 used to hang in the bar of the now-demolished Supreme Court Hotel. The photo showed a splendid view of Port Melbourne and ships in dock □ but right in the middle was a bluestone building, at that time the only one on the block. Until it was built, the worthy occupants of the law courts across the way had greatly prized both their view and their commanding position. So much so, says Mr Lemon, that there was a sort of 'gentlemen's covenant' against building on the block and obscuring the courts and their view. A three-storey building was bad enough, but no doubt those old-time lawyers would be even more incensed by the 21-storey skyscraper which will now replace it. (Age, 13/1/65; MCC 167/3, Box 19, D2268) [pic 1965 □ whereabouts of c.1860 pic?]

GOLDSBROUGH, MORT & LANEWAYS □ NE cnr Bourke & William

‘One of [my] men found 21 sovereigns in another wrecked building at the back of Goldsbrough, Mort’s. A boy pulled a board away from a chimney, and the man drove in his pick. Out came the bag of sovereigns. I let them keep them. He’d been having a rough time with sickness.’ (JPW, Herald, 16/1/33)

- 1935 Small 2-storey cottage, Little William St □ one of ‘Melbourne’s oldest buildings’ □ land owned by Goldsbrough Mort □ needed for extensions. ‘It is a quaint little building, with sandstone ledges crumbling to decay and a queer mixture of brick and bluestone in he walls. It is thought to be about 80 years old, and was acquired by Goldsbrough’s from Mr F.H. Thompson of... South Yarra [Thompson Street adjacent] in 1924. Mr Thompson’s father built the place as a residence. For some time it was an artist’s studio, and its last use was as a confectioner’s shop. It has not been occupied for some years. It is a tiny house of four rooms, two upstairs, which are reached by a precipitous staircase. ...some wag has chalked on the door, ‘The Cottage by the sea.’’ Also to be demolished: a more imposing residence built many years ago as Goldsbrough’s caretaker’s residence. (Herald, 2/5/35, p.34)

Romance attaches itself to [a] very small piece of land in a lane off Little William Street. This was owned by an astute old gentleman, who, when Goldsbrough’s wanted to expand, is said to have refused to sell his tiny block except at a huge figure. The firm had all the land in the vicinity of the block and built round it. It is said that the old gentleman made a provision in his will that the price of the land to Goldsbrough’s should go up £1000 every year, but the firm did not buy. (Herald, 2/5/35, p.34)

- 73/10 Planning permit granted for development of Goldsbrough Mort site, NE cnr William & Bourke □ old bluestone building □ still standing. (Financial Review, 11/10/73)

GOLDSBROUGH, MORT & SHELL BUILDINGS—NW cnr Bourke & William

1932 Plans have been completed and tenders accepted for the construction of a new 10-storied building for the Shell Company of Australia Ltd... The site of the new offices... is the present Shell corner at the intersection of Bourke and William Streets. When completed they will have a frontage of 182 ft to William Street and 118 ft to Bourke Street. The building will be more than 134ft high. The first portion, which will have a frontage of 74ft 11in to William Street, will take 13 months to construct... (Sun, 4/4/32)

Pic—a view of the first section, which will be commenced this week. The present offices of the company are on the left [Bourke Street corner]. When it is finished the new building will extend over this site, and it will then appear as in the lower picture. (Argus, 4/4/32)

63/10 Two of the remaining old bluestone buildings in the city are doomed. They are a five-storey building which was one of several wool stores built in Bourke-st by Goldsbrough Mort and Co. Ltd, and an adjacent two-storey building... **[pics]** Australian Consolidated Industries Ltd... are planning to build a new headquarters on the site[at 546-560 Bourke-st. The existing bluestone buildings are separated by an alleyway called Mort-lane. The new Shell building is next door. No date has been fixed for wrecking to begin... ACI's present headquarters are in Essington Lewis House at 500 Bourke-st. (Herald, 22/10/63)

1991 Shell Corner to be demolished for 51-storey Grand Central office block (never built). 1930s Art Deco building[also adjoining 1950s Shell Building (on other side of Goldsbrough Lane?). Historic Buildings Council says not worth fighting for. (Melbourne Times, 6/2/91)

FATHER MATTHEW HALL

- 1840s Father Matthew Society was an Irish temperance group, named for Father Theobald Matthew, ‘a Cork Friar’/‘Apostle of Temperance’. In Melbourne the group originally met in a schoolroom behind St Francis’ Presbytery, Lonsdale Street. Formed a band in 1842, ‘which acquired more celebrity than the society itself’. In Oct 1846 the foundation stone was laid for the Father Matthew Hall, on a slice of the St Francis’ reserve. Opened March 1849. The society was turned out of its hall in 1850, following the arrival of Bishop Goold—needed for school-house—name changed to St Francis’ Hall. In the disruption caused by gold discovery and its aftermath, the society’s members scattered, many abandoning their pledge. (Garryowen, pp. 535-8)
- 65/11 **[pic]incl. WW sign]** This 119-year-old building, the Father Matthew Hall, corner of Elizabeth and Little Lonsdale Sts., is being demolished. Built by the Father Matthew Society, the hall was taken over and used as a school from 1850 to 1933. When the Christian Brothers came to Victoria in 1868 they started there and continued a school until 1910. From 1910 until 1933 the Sisters of Mercy ran it as an education centre for girls. The hall is being demolished because of its run-down condition. [vacant area will be paved and fenced.] (Sun, 16/11/65)

ADVOCATE PRESS (rear St Francis Church)

c.1937 [JPW] notoriously relied on 'brute strength and stupidity'—'cats' on the top and 'bulls' on the ground for his work of destruction. His son challenged this not long before his father's death. Jim and his brothers persuaded Whelan I to a trial of strength. Whelan I employed 40 brick bruisers to pull down the Advocate Press to make way for the Franciscan Monastery in Little Lonsdale Street and the younger Whelans used the equivalent in compressed air and power plant to flatten Anzac House for the T and G building in Collins Street. The compressors won hands down—four months to six and with great saving in expense. (Herald, 31/12/55)

PATRICK STREET BUILDINGS, 284-302 Lonsdale Street & 11-15 Patrick Street [next to St Francis Church

65/1 Workmen began stripping plumbing and wiring from... buildings opposite the Myer Emporium, in Lonsdale Street, including 184 to 302 Lonsdale Street and 13-14 Patrick Street. (Age, 12/1/65)

65/2 Demolition permit [8 x brick buildings] demolished for carpark (MCC 167/3 Box 19 D2292)

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

65/1 This morning Whelan's men will move into the old telephone exchange and a warehouse in Lonsdale Street, opposite the Taxation Department. (Age, 12/1/65)

PRINCRAFT HOUSE (rear of), 428-32 Lt Bourke b/w Barry & St Johns Lanes

70/4 Demolition permit 2-storey brick building wrecked for Commonwealth Dept of Works,
\$4750 (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3172)

SYNAGOGUE

1840s Land in Bourke Street West was procured for a Synagogue—in 1847 an unpretentious but suitable brick building was erected thereon... the first structure erected for public Jewish worship in the Colony. Foundation stone laid at a ceremony on 25 August 1847. (Garryowen, p.173)

...Charles Laing...[was] architect of the old Jewish Synagogue in Bourke street, which dates from [1847]... He was one of the finest architects in the forties... (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement p.3)

In Synagogue Lane once lived George Beaver, carpenter and town councillor, who, having put together LaTrobe's imported house at Jolimont in 1839, straightway become a 'contractor', subsequently... building the first part of Melbourne Hospital. (Age, 8/6/1940)β

Its front, in Parthenon style, rises a little way back from the footpath, and forms a quiet but agreeable feature of the ecclesiastic architecture of the city. It was as far back as 1845, when the Jews of Victoria, all told, numbered only 100 persons, that they bought this site, an allotment for which the original buyer had forfeited his deposit rather than complete the purchase at £50. The Jews got it at a cheap rate, and on it they built a little place, wherein Mr Moses Rentel, though not professionally a clergyman, conducted the ancient services on the Saturday forenoons. In later years the Jews not only replaced their archaic effort by this fine building, but also erected a second synagogue in Albert-street, East Melbourne. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.32)

1920s? Another historic building that has [been wrecked by WW] was the Synagogue, in Bourke street, which was built in 1847, and was Melbourne's first synagogue. (Argus, 23/1/32)

27/11 Melbourne Synagogue sold for £52,500 to Equity Trustees, who will demolish—frontages to Bourke & Lt Bourke of 66ft x 213ft long. (Argus, 1/11/27, p.14)

29/1 Synagogue to be demolished for new building, to open in about 2.5 years. (Argus, 18/1/29)

29/10 Having acquired the freehold of the old Jewish synagogue property in Bourke street some months ago the Equity Trustees Company has decided to demolish the existing building and erect in its place commercial office premises. The work will be undertaken as soon as the new synagogue in Toorak road, near St Kilda road, now under construction, is completed. Only portion of the land in Bourke street is occupied by the old synagogue. The land has a frontage of 66 feet by a depth of 313 feet. ...the new premises... will comprise a basement and five stories, occupying the full frontage of 66 feet to Bourke street and extending to the rear 150 feet. The old synagogue is said to have been erected about 80 years ago. It is a substantial pile of bluestone, with a classical temple facade. When it is demolished, parts of the synagogue will be handed over to the Jewish congregation as memorial pieces. There is a lane at the side of the site, and another will be created at the rear of the new building, so that natural light will be available from three sides. (Argus, 8/10/29, p.10)

AUSTRALIAN ESTATES WOOL BROKERS, 114-116 William St ☐ NE cnr Lt Collins

72/11 Demolition permit ☐ 3-storey brick building ☐ \$20,000. (MCC 167/3, Box 26 D3539)

AUSTRALIAN MERCANTILE BUILDING, 118-28 William

73/1 Demolition permit 2 x 4-storey brick & concrete buildings BHP, \$50,000. (MCC 167/3, Box 26 D3566)

BRITANNIA HOTEL

- 19thC Hotel opened 1848-50 [licence transferred from Eagle Inn [Bull & Mouth]. (Cole Collection)
- 1888 **Pics**—looking SE over Britannia Hotel from fire tower; looking SW at street level from c. St Patrick's Hall. (A New City, pp.59 & 61)
- 1891 Gas Explosion at the Britannia Hotel. The Bar Wrecked. Narrow Escape of a Barmaid.—An explosion of gas occurred at the Britannia Hotel, corner of Queen and Bourke streets, yesterday morning... The Britannia Hotel is a brick building of two storeys, owned by Mr R Virgoe, and tenanted by Mr J. Foley, the licensee. At about 20 minutes past 7 o'clock yesterday morning, Miss Brennan, a barmaid employed at the hotel, entered the public bar for the purpose of opening and arranging it for the business of the day. She struck a match and lit one of three gas jets in the centre of the room, and without noticing anything wrong she left the bar and went through the parlour adjoining to the Bourke-street side entrance. Having opened that door she returned to the bar through the parlour, but just as she was entering the bar door there was a loud explosion, and the whole bar was filled with a sheet of flame. She was driven back into the parlour by the force of the shock and quite prostrated, but the inmates of the hotel, who were attracted to the scene by the explosion and her screams, found that she was not much hurt. One of her arms certainly was badly scorched, and her hair was singed, but otherwise she escaped without injury. That this was so is wonderful, for the explosion was so powerful that the building quivered, and two large plate-glass windows of the bar and a huge fanlight, 9ft by 4ft, were shattered into fragments and scattered over the footpath and roadway. The side of the counter was wrenched away from the remainder of the structure, pictures were torn down, and the ceiling and panelling were all scorched and blackened.... The damage done to the bar and fittings is covered by insurance for £500... (Argus, 18/6/1891)
- 59/3 Pearl Assurance Co. Ltd... owns the property on the south-west corner [of Bourke & Queen]. This comprises the Britannia Hotel, built about 80 years ago and reconditioned in 1925, and two shops in Queen Street. Lease of the hotel expires early in April, and plans ...are for demolition to begin soon afterwards. (Age, 4/3/59)
- [pics]** B&W demolition photos by Wolfgang Sievers, c.1960 [in MJW CML box]
- 1960? Demolished (together with 143-45 Queen St) to make way for Pearl Assurance House. (SLV/WW 54 [more **pics**])

ESSINGTON LEWIS HOUSE, 494-512 [500] Bourke Street [N side, E of Lt William

73/1 Demolition permit [1 x 11-storey + 1 x 5-storey building] \$254,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3570)

FIRE STATION, 193-9 William Street□near NW cnr Lt Bourke

Built 1840s-50s. Wrecking began 11/165, making way for 21-storey skyscraper. (MCC 167/3 Box 19 D2268/Age 12/1/65)

EASTERN HILL FIRE STATION, Gisborne Street & Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

80-81 WW demolished 3-storey brick building fronting Gisborne Street and 3-storey building at rear of Victoria Parade building. (SLV/WW 49)

FOUR COURTS HOTEL, 184-8 William Street □ SE cnr Lt Bourke

Built 1875 □ 16 rooms. (Cole Collection)

72/4 Demolition permit □ 2-storey + 1-storey building □ \$9,500. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3449)

ROYAL MINT, 280-318 William Street

19thC At the corner of William-street is the Royal Mint, enclosed in a solid-looking wall. Within this enclosure rise a number of two-storey buildings, the main one being cemented, the others in fancy brick. Two chimneys of yellow brick mark where are the furnaces with the crucibles of molten gold that are to form the currency of the next generation or two. In 1852, when Victoria was the chief source of gold in the world, Sydney had received the privilege of being allowed to erect a mint and coin its own sovereigns, and Melbourne applied for the same liberty; but when it was found that the Sydney sovereign was to be current only within its own colony, and that Melbourne would be allowed no further concession, an easy calculation showed that while the permission was little of an honour, there would be an annual loss of considerable sum, for the coinage of the gold actually required within the community would never pay for the support of a large and costly institution. The application was therefore withdrawn, and not renewed until there was a chance that both Sydney and Melbourne could be allowed to coin for the empire at large. Then in 1872, Melbourne opened this branch of the Royal Mint since which time it has coined about sixty million sovereigns, with about half-a-million half-sovereigns. The great bulk of these have gone abroad, but Victoria and New South Wales still find themselves losers, for the whole profit of the London Mint arises out of silver and copper coinage, which is not permitted to the colonies. In Melbourne the loss averages about £5000 a year. (Melbourne Guide Book, c.1897, p.39)

[Between 1872 and 1922, Mint] has coined 141,675,943 sovereigns, 1,893,559 half-sovereigns, and refined £12,188,367 worth of bullion... The Commonwealth in 1916 commenced its own silver coinage, and in 1919 the coinage of bronze was added. (Melbourne Guide Book, 6th ed, 1925, p.41)

- 68/12 Mint plant and equipment for auction—furnaces, grinders, plating machines, coining press. (Sun, 3/12/68)
- c.69 The great chimneys rise above the functional red brick factory ...an unusual sight in today's city where the factory chimney hardly exists any more. (Rogan, p.32)
- 70/1 Demolition permit—part 1-storey and part 2-storey brick building—wrecked for Victorian Public Works Dept—\$18,500. (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3132)
- 70/1 Wreckers were ordered yesterday to stop knocking down walls leading to the old Melbourne Mint. But the order was too late to save the garden courtyard behind the Mint in William St. in the city. The National Trust had wanted the courtyard to be preserved.... The trust has classified the Mint buildings as 'A'—to be preserved at all costs. The contract to demolish old buildings at the back of the Mint, the flank walls and the garden courtyard was let recently. The trust said it did not know until yesterday that the flank walls and courtyard had almost gone. (Sun, 31/1/70)
- 70/2 Chimney wrecked by WW (Herald, 10/2/70)
- 70/4 75-ft furnace chimney & 3 workshops attached to Mint demolished April 1970—wrecked with iron ball. (Sun?, 19/4/70—scrapbook, p.34)

The house I built out at Templestowe had all bricks from the Royal Mint. They were lovely bricks. (Owen Whelan interview)

CENTRAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, Lonsdale Street[S side, b/w Queen & William
(& City West Toilet Annexe + Michaelis Hallenstein Annexe)

65/1 Demolition permit[3-storey building + 3-storey annexe (MCC 167/3 Box 19 D2270)

WEST MELBOURNE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 476 Lonsdale Street—NE cnr Lonsdale

1920s? St Andrew's Church, I think, came from there [William-Lonsdale corner]. Yeah, from where the old ABC studios went. Well see, that was another church that was transplanted. St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Box Hill. Yeah, opposite that white horse statue.
(Owen Whelan interview)

TEALE, GOODMAN BONDED STORES, 247-57 William Street □ W side, b/w Lonsdale & Lt
Lonsdale

c.73? Wrecked by WW. Classified by National Trust in 1969, but negotiations with developers
failed to save. (Financial Review, 11/10/73)

REDMOND BARRY'S HOUSE, c.490 Bourke Street (ex-97 Bourke Street West) □ W of
synagogue

Redmond Barry's house—97 Bourke Street East [**West**—built by him in 1842, sold in 1852—later a tobacco factory and livery stables—see **pic** facing p. 68 (Ann Galbally, *Redmond Barry*)

1897 It was hereabouts that Sir Redmond Barry first lived when he came to Melbourne in 1839, occupying in a little lane [Barry Lane, N off Lt Bourke?] a single room wherein a curtain divided off a sleeping compartment from a reading compartment; in a year or two, as his prospects mended, he rented a neat cottage next to the site of St Patrick's Hall, wherein was dispensed much of the legal hospitality of the time. Moreover, the germ of the future Public Library was formed in his back kitchen, which was well stocked with the current periodicals from England, and to which the working-men of the neighbourhood were welcome to drop in and read during the winter evenings round a good fire. Close by the situation of that old-time cottage stands the Jewish Synagogue... (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, p.32)

12/9 The storms of 70 winters have beaten upon it, the heat of 70 summers has shrunken its timbers and blistered the plaster on its walls, yet it remains one of the few relics of early Melbourne which have escaped the march of events, which tends always to replace old buildings by new. As a tenement, however, it is doomed, for on its main door it bears the brand of the Board of Health, declaring it to be unfit any longer for human habitation. Ichabod!...

It is situated immediately behind what was formerly a tobacco factory, and is now the Church of England Mission house on the north side of Bourke-street west, not far from the intersection of Bourke and William streets. On the west is Golsbrough's large wool store, so that until an old iron building on the east was recently demolished, Barry's house was completely hidden from view from Bourke-street. You may approach it by a lane running from Little Bourke-street, opposite that part of the Supreme Court buildings in which the judge of the Insolvency Court sits. Entering by this lane, you will pass a fine old mulberry tree, whose gnarled and twisted trunk is as thick as a man's body, and where spreading branches cover the iron shed of a neighbouring foundry. This sturdy old mulberry tree is the last remnant of Barry's fruit garden... The house is built of brick, coated with plaster. The roof is of slate, and with well-projecting eaves, for there was no verandah, as was the fashion in those days. In the city of Melbourne rate-book for the year 1847 (which is the earliest rate-book preserved at the Town-hall) the house is thus described:—'Brik house, five rooms, servant's room, and stable, with garden. Annual value, £65; rate at 1/ in the £1, £3 5/. Owner and occupier, Redmond Barry.'

An inspection of its now empty rooms will show that the house was built of good material, some of the doors and architraves being of cedar. In what appears to have been the principal room, there remains a double cupboard with shelves, which doubtless contained the books that their generous owner was accustomed to lend to all who chose to come for them...

The land on which this old house stands was first put up to auction by the Government of New South Wales in December, 1838, being indicated on the plan of subdivision as allotment 4 of section 19, and was then purchased by Emile Dubois for £61. Barry did not arrive in Melbourne till nearly a year after that. He landed on the 13th November 1839, having come in the ship Parkfield from Sydney, where he had remained after arriving from Ireland only the few weeks necessary to enable him to be called to the bar. The Parkfield on that voyage, brought over quite a small army of lawyers.... The 'Port Phillip

Gazette' welcomed the arrival of this body of trained lawyers. 'This city of settlers,' it said, 'boils over like a bush cauldron with the scum of fierce disputes, and it is because a set of meddling pettifoggers have been permitted unmolested to stir up the ingredients with their vile chopsticks that the working thereof has become unbearable.'...

[According to Alexander Sutherland]...for a year or two after his arrival he lived 'in a little lane off Collins-street, where a single room with a curtain stretched across the middle, did duty for bedroom, sittingroom and chambers.' Now, I am disposed to think that this single room was in a lane off Bourke-street, rather than Collins-street. For we find from recorded titles that five weeks after landing, namely on December 18, 1839, Barry bought from Sylvester John Brown a small block having a frontage of twenty-six feet to Synagogue-lane, running off Bourke-street on the west of the site now occupied by the Synagogue. This little block abutted at the rear upon the allotment No. 4 which Dubois had bought at the auction, and which contains Barry's old house. ...on February 4 1843, Barry purchased from Dubois the whole of the original allotment, on which the old house stands for the sum of £4,680... This property then continued to be his home until shortly after he became a judge of the Supreme Court. In 1852 the recent discovery of gold, and the influx of thousands of gold-seekers, brought on a wave of prosperity, which sent land values up again with a bound. The young judge... seized the opportunity, and in September of that year sold out to Dr O'Mullane at the handsome price of £12,000....

...On the allotment adjoining on the west [allotment 3], owned by Charles Hutton, was a four-roomed brick cottage, valued in the city rate-book at £25 a year. Here lived Robert Russell, the first surveyor-general, who... had laid out the city... Russell's cottage disappeared long ago, having been swallowed up by the great bluestone wool store of Goldsbrough and Co. (Argus, 21/9/12, p.7)

1913 S&M Directory lists a hoarding between 484 & 498 Bourke Street.

24/1 Latest of Melbourne's early landmarks to be demolished is an old, ramshackle brick house, in Bourke street, once the home of Sir Redmond Barry, judge and literateur. For years this house, now the repository for a secondhand dealer's lumber, has been hidden by a tall hoarding. The tearing down of the hoarding, to make way for a new city building, has disclosed the old relic. The plastered ceilings are hanging in shreds. There are holes in the roof and the walls are blackened and blistered with smoke and age.... It was in a room in this house that Sir Redmond established one of the first libraries in Melbourne. The collection, it is stated, afterwards formed the nucleus of the Public Library. It was in relation to this that the late Henry Giles Turner, lecturing before the Historical Society, said: '...In a small five-roomed cottage, where he dwelt in 1842, he set aside one room for a free circulating library, furnished it with a fair collection of standard works and as many current magazines as he could obtain from home....' (Herald, 15/1/24)

32/9 In the western end of the city, near Spencer Street, is another house the same period [early 1840s] where Sir Redmond Barry passed a good deal of his useful life. (Herald, 21/9/32)

LAW COURTS, William Street

Well, for a long time... that was a stone statue, the Justice statue. And also it was... the blind—you know, the traditional Justice statue, it's over the eyes—but it was sat on the forehead. Because... I don't know whether it was Redmond Barry or whoever was the first... he couldn't have that Justice was blind. So he had the Justice statue with the blind sitting on the forehead. Now they had a protective scaffold around it because it was weathered very, very badly and it looked like it might've clobbered one of the chief justices that used the entrance underneath. And we had the job of lifting that down. And we got it down in one piece, but it was badly weathered. And it was carted off, probably down to one of the government stores. I can remember we did it there one weekend—had it, you know, blocked off with a big crane and down it came. Now that's been replaced with a smaller bronze edition, and if you have a look at it, I think the blind sits on the forehead. (Owen Whelan interview)

SALISBURY BUILDING, SE cnr Bourke & Queen Streets

- 1838 Site of Melbourne's first brick business building—a store, run by James F. Strahan. (Garryowen)
- 1850s Site of Bear's Horse Bazaar, enclosed with 'an ordinary six-rail bush fence'. (Argus, 27/3/1920, p.4)
- 1884 ...within the last few weeks the first brick house erected in Melbourne, and also, when pulled down, the oldest building remaining in Melbourne, has been removed. It stood at the eastern end of the allotment which forms the south east corner of Bourke and Queen streets, some 30ft or 40ft back from the former street. Originally it was a two-roomed cottage, without central passage. It had not, however, been inhabited for some years, and was in quite a ruinous state, its shingle roof being riddled with holes. It had latterly been used as a store or lumber room in connexion with some of the neighbouring business premises. ('J.B.' writing to editor of Argus, 1/5/1884)
- 50/5 **[Pic]** Salisbury Building, corner Bourke and Queen Streets, which has been bought by the Prudential Assurance Co. (Herald, 9/5/50)
- 58/4 The old Salisbury Building, on the south-east corner of Queen and Bourke-sts, is being pulled down to make way for this 14-storey office building... for the Prudential Assurance Co. **[pic]**existing & proposed bldgs] (Herald, 30/4/58, p.3)
- 59/3 The Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd... completion of the structure, on the south-east corner by next Christmas.... The site was occupied by the historic Salisbury building, put up in the early 1880s with four floors in solid brick. (Age, 4/3/59)

23. STATE BANK / McEWANS

- 1837 Robert Hoddle, Surveyor-General, also acted as auctioneer at Melbourne's first land sale as payment of his commission, Hoddle accepted title to the block of land now occupied by the State Bank. (Rogan, p.8)
- 1851 ...a smart-looking one-storied hotel named the Saracen's Head... and next to it was the grocery shop of a Mr Ferris. This place was infested with rats, and some of these marauding vagabonds in a nocturnal foray were supposed to have capsized a case of matches and... the shop was soon in flames, communicating rapidly to a wine store adjoining kept by a Mr Matthews. ...Two houses were destroyed and two more gutted in order to check the burning, whilst seven families were set adrift on the streets. (Garryowen, p.210)
- 1910 State Savings Bank held competition for design of new head office (formerly at
-25 Market/Flinders La) 'Business has grown so much that we have to leave our home and move into a mansion.' Opened 16/12/1912. Extensive alterations and additions in 1925 two storeys added. (Rogan, p.51)
- c.1911 McLean Bros and Rigg's, where the State Savings Bank now stands, was [WW's] first big job. (Sun, 9/1/32)
- 11/4 **[Pic]** Photo of demolition—'A Midnight Scene in Melbourne—Workers Pulling Down a Building in Elizabeth Street' (Weekly Times, 15/4/1911, p.30)
- 12/6 The new Savings Bank building in Elizabeth-street, in the course of a few days will reach the altitude of 114ft. above the street pavement. The building is by far the largest bank building in Melbourne, and occupies a street frontage of 104ft by a depth of 88ft. The lower portion is polished Harcourt granite, while the upper part is built of Stawell sandstone, and comprises two superimposed orders of architecture, the Ionic below and Corinthian above. The style of architecture is Italian Renaissance. **[Pic—sketch of proposed building]** The building will be five storeys in height, in addition to a basement and flat roof. The latest type of construction has been adopted. The flanking walls are of brick, while all other walling except the front, together with all the stairs, is in reinforced concrete.... The floors and flat roof are of reinforced concrete plates, with reinforced concrete or steel beams. The whole of the building is thus rendered as fireproof as a building can be.... On the withdrawal side [of the banking chamber] the most elaborate system of pneumatic transmitters will convey the passbooks from the identification counter to the ledgerkeepers, and thence to the five paying tellers. It is estimated that within 45 seconds from the time withdrawers have handed in their passbooks they will have received payment... The financial centre of the Savings Bank will, by the end of the year, have been shifted from Market-street to the centre of the city, and present congestion of business at the Collins-street branch will have been overcome. (Argus, 22/6/12, p.7)
- 14/3 Plans are being prepared, and the building will be commenced almost immediately, of an eight-storey modern structure on the site next south to the State Savings Bank in Elizabeth street. The new premises, which will comprise shops, offices, and warerooms, are to be erected for Mr Alfred Hart, the owner of the property... The building... will be known as Elizabeth House... The building will be ready for occupation by the end of the year. **[Pic—sketch of proposed building]** (Argus, 28/3/14, p.10)

- 24/1 No less than four buildings are now being demolished on the site of the new eleven-story premises which are being erected for Messrs James McEwan and Company. They consist of a bulk store at the rear of Messrs Robertson and Mullens—running through to Equitable place—which was erected 48 years ago by the old firm, James McEwan and Company on a 40 years' building lease, passing to the ownership of the present members of the firm when the Lucy M. Smith estate was realised in 1921. The land on which this building was erected has been in the continuous occupation of James McEwan and Co. since the year 1868. The other buildings on the block are store and shop fronting Little Collins street, up till recently the property of Messrs W. and G. Dean, and the building formerly occupied by Messrs Benjamin and Sons, of Little Collins street, acquired from them by Messrs James McEwan and Company, and used as a sports department and offices. The work of demolition has commenced, and in a few weeks four more of the buildings which marked the optimism and enterprise of some of Melbourne's greatest commercial pioneers will have passed away. (Herald, 24/1/24)
- 1925 ...the Hotel Metropole, enclosing its pretty court, which looks gay with ferns and pot plants. (Melbourne Guide Book, 6th ed, 1925, p.31)
- 29/2 State Savings Bank buys Metropole & Saracen's Head hotels. (Argus, 2/2/29, p.9; 5/2/29, p.10)
- 1933 The State Savings Bank proposes to extend its head office in Elizabeth street by erecting a large building on the south-west corner of the intersection of Elizabeth street and Bourke street. The land between the existing bank building and Bourke street was bought by the bank in separate lots in 1923, 1927, and 1929, and the present head office was designed so that it could be extended as far as Bourke street without necessitating important structural alterations to the building. The new building will conform in general design to the present building, and will contain as many floors. It will be constructed of the same material, and will have a frontage of 84ft 10 in to Bourke street and 87ft 9in to Elizabeth street. There will be shops in Elizabeth street and Bourke street. The upper floors not occupied by bank offices will be let to tenants. (Argus, 11/4/33)
- ...finely mottled granite [from] Mt Alexander... is being employed in the additions to the State Savings Bank, where the base front of mottled stone in the original building is being continued in the new. (Argus, 10/7/34)
- 34/6 Next week will see the opening of a new shopping centre in Melbourne for, by then, tenants will be in possession of the shops on the Bourke and Elizabeth street frontages of the new section of the State Saving Bank building.... The work of demolishing the old buildings on the site was commenced on November 13 of last year, and in less than 17 days the site was cleared ready for the builders. (Star, 4/6/34)
- ?34/6 With workmen overhead completing what will ultimately be one of the city's finest buildings, tenants have this week been settling into the shops on the ground floor of the new section of the State Savings Bank Building. ...in addition to the shops with frontages to Bourke and Elizabeth streets, an arcade has been formed. The lobby to the arcade and lifts will be lighted with lamps set behind glass panels run lengthways in the ceiling. Another feature will be the beautiful wall effect gained by the use of Cudgegong marble from New South Wales. One of the lobby shops will also have show windows on the Butcher's lane frontage.... The corner shop is occupied by the Central Pharmacy. The

proprietor, Mr Chas. Willersdorf, is operating his business along the same lines as an American drug store. In addition to the usual pharmacy section, a service counter has been installed... Seated at stools in front of the counter, patrons will be served with all kinds of cool drinks, tea, coffee, and sandwiches.... Another interesting store is that occupied by Rogers Cutlery Specialists.... This business will stock 'everything that cuts'.... One the Bourke street frontage one of the shops is occupied by Merlins, which, in addition to the sale of home-made cakes, is specialising in the preparation of lunches. (Star, 16/6/34?)

37/1 Work will be begun within the next few weeks on the erection of a building of nine storeys at No. 346 Little Collins street, on the north side, opposite McEwan House, for W. and G. Dean Pty Ltd. The site has a frontage of 34ft 7 in. by a depth of 131ft 8in. along Butchers lane.... During rebuilding the company will occupy its old premises in Equitable place. (Argus, 11/1/37)

1949 **Pic** photo of State Bank, floodlit at night (Jack Cato, Melbourne, p.98)

1959? The days of the Saracen's Head Hotel, one of the oldest in the city, and a Bourke Street landmark, are numbered. It will be demolished to make way for a new Hicks Atkinson Ltd store.... The old cantilever verandah on the Danks building has been demolished and new shop fronts are being installed. (new cutting, n.d.)

Pic Saracen's Head Hotel (Early Melbourne Architecture, p.69)

(19thC Saracen's Head licensed 1847. Called Roscrea Hotel, 1867-1934?) (Cole Collection)

60/7 The building is for Hicks Atkinson Ltd, and links the Danks building, the Saracen's Head and Metropole hotel buildings in Bourke-st with Aynsley and Foster buildings in Little Collins-st, all of which the company bought in recent years. The work also includes building over what was Builder's Alley between the two little Collins-st buildings. Tucked away as it is, the new building does not come under the notice of the general public. The construction of the new store building has been very complex and probably the most difficult in Melbourne. The new site has no access to any major street and all the heavy and large structural steel has had to be brought in through Little Collins-st and up the narrow Builder's Alley. (Herald, 1/7/60)

65/1 Tomorrow [WW] will begin on the old section of the former Hicks Atkinson building on the north side of Little Collins Street. (Age, 12/1/65)

73/9 The Metropole Arcade is one of the most beautiful—and least known—historic shopping arcades left in Melbourne. **[pic]** Just 100 yards up the Bourke Street hill from the GPO, it hides behind a grimy pink boom-time Victorian facade (once the Hotel Metropole)... The Metropole Hotel building is part of a huge development site on which the State Savings Bank plans to plant a 43-storey tower, 70 feet higher than the BHP building, resting on three storeys of new shops, arcades and car parking.... Meanwhile tenants in the Metropole Arcade soldier on, paying month-to-month peppercorn rents... Such a lot could be made of this space with its subtle filtered daylight, magnificent curly iron roof brackets and cast iron gallery railing. Admittedly it's shabby now, but cleaned up it could rival London's Burlington Arcade.... The old hotel, delicensed about 15 years ago, had a colorful history. It was built in 1891 and was part of a 'golden mile' of watering holes stretching from Menzies' to the Carlton. (Age, 8/9/73)

- 75/3 The old Metropole Arcade... is just a shell—crumbling beneath the wrecker’s hammer... The old decorative cast iron roof from the arcade has been bought by the Melbourne Steam Traction Engine Club. The club plans to incorporate the roof section in a building to be used as headquarters for itself and other similar bodies such as the Historic Fire Engine Association, and industrial archaeological institute and museum... [proposed for the Police Paddocks site at Rowville] The publicity officer for the traction engine club, Mr John Robertson said today he believed the building was unique and should never have been demolished. ‘It was probably the only shopping hall of its type ever built in Australia. It was the forerunner to the modern shopping arcade and was attached to the old Metropole Hotel. (Herald, 10/3/75)
- (19thC Metropole Hotel originally licensed as Flying Scud Hotel, 1865. Adelaide & Burra Burra Hotel, 1866-69. Ballarat Hotel, 1870. Union Hotel, 1871-90. Metropole, 1891+) (Cole Collection)
- 74/12 Demolition to commence December 1974. (SLV/WW 43□contract for Eastern Hill fire station)
- 76/4 Demolition complete by April. 13 b&w **pics** of demolition. (SLV/WW 62/1)
- 76/4 Time capsule unearthed during demolition□foundation stone laid 11/9/1911□sealed copper cylinder made in 1911 by 18-y-o apprentice, William Smith□Mr Smith opened the capsule in 1976□contained newspapers, copies of bank accounts, lunch menu, etc. Those present were disappointed. (Sun, 30/4/76)

McEWANS, 119-25 Elizabeth Street

Built 1870 'one of Melbourne's oldest landmarks' McEwan's now to move to former Hicks Atkinson store in Bourke Street McEwan's store has basement, ground floor, and 4 upper floors McEwan's House has 10 upper floors, plus basement and ground floor T&G Building to be built on site. **[pic]** (Herald, 20/7/65)

65/1 WW demolished 'old section of the former Hicks Atkinson building' on N side of Lt Collins Street, near Gill Lane. (Age, 12/1/65)

65/12 Demolition permit 5-storey + 3-storey brick £13,000. Brick rubble falling into area enclosed by barricades 'and bouncing onto the remaining usable road space and northern footway of Lt Collins St'. Barricades caused pedestrians to walk within 2 ft of trams in Elizabeth Street building surveyor report. (MCC 167/3 Box 20 D2408)

Guests at London and Australia hotels complained at noise WW gave undertaking not to use power-tools and front-end loaders at night. (Herald (n.d.) in SLV/WW 64/7, p.28)

Demolition finished by May 1966. (Herald, 9/5/66)

McKILLOP HOUSE □ W side of McKillop Street, towards Bourke
Ex-HBA House & Australian Club Hotel

72/9 Demolition permit □ 4-story + 6-storey buildings □ \$48,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3521)

McLEAN BROS & RIGG, 147-49 Elizabeth Street

McLean Bros & Rigg occupied this site from 1904-10 (formerly at 113 Elizabeth St [Robertson & Mullen's site]) in 1910, moved to 125 (McEwan's corner). (S&M)

c.1910 WW's 'first big job' 'where the State Savings Bank now stands' (Sun 9/1/32)

HALL'S BOOK STORE, 371-3 Bourke Street □ W of Builders/Butchers Alley

c.1954 **Pics** on file (MJW papers) showing details of ornate verandah. Preparatory to demolition of same, early 1954?

24. UNGROUPED

ASTOR HOUSE, 108 Collins Street (opposite CRA) □ 1 door W of Alfred Place

64/11 Demolition permit □ 3-storey brick building □ wrecked for Collins St Independent Church Trustees, £1200, for new offices. (MCC 167/3, Box 19, D2250)

BARRETT BROS. & BURSTON MALTHOUSE, 84-90 Flinders Street—W of Exhibition

There was a grainstore down in Flinders Street, just round the corner from Exhibition Street, alongside the... was it Lou Richards' hotel? Now I used feature that in my yarns and I'd say, you know, it's amazing that when we want action, you've almost got to have action the day before. And I'd say, now that particular building there, I said to them, the ink was hardly dry on the contract when the architect started to impress upon us the importance of *time*—time was of the essence, we had to finish the job *on time*. Which, in those days of labour shortages, wouldn't have been bad. A day ahead of time, a week ahead of time—speed was the essence. Well, we handed it over two weeks ahead of schedule. The architect was thrilled, the client was elated. And then I'd say, 'We'd love to know what the hurry because that was 40 years ago and it's still a vacant block of land.' And it's only been built on in the last five years, and it did stay there for about 40 years without... [Wrecked in] Early '60s. Barrett Brothers and Burston—oh, very famous name. In fact, I can always remember a feller falling there [Jika Henderson]. You know, a lot of grainstores, things get slippery. (Owen Whelan interview)

BATMAN BOOK CLUB, ESPRESSO COFFEE LOUNG & PRIMROSE POTTERY SHOP,
363-7 Lt Collins □ S side, between Fleming Place & Hicks Lane

66/6 Demolition permit □ 2-storey building □ wrecked for MCC Electricity Supply, \$600. (MCC 167/3 Box 21, D2550)

BEECHAM'S TIMBER MERCHANTS, 624-60 Lonsdale St (rear Age)

65/2 Demolition permit, 624 Lonsdale □ 2-storey brick office & store □ WW wrecked for Beecham's Timber & Hardware Merchants (to subdivide), £600. (MCC 167/3, Box 20, D2301)

65/7 Demolition permit, 634-60 Lonsdale □ 1 x single-storey brick building, 1 x 2-storey timber & iron building □ £2700 (MCC 167/3, Box 20, D2377)

624-6 BOURKE STREET □ W side Cosgrave Lane

66/10 Demolition permit □ 2 x single-storey brick buildings □ \$900. (MCC 167/3 Box 21 D2594)

CANCER INSTITUTE BUILDING, cnr LaTrobe & William

1975 Demolished for Flagstaff station. Demolition worker (WW?) killed when crane collapsed. (Herald, 5/9/75)

CHARTRES BUILDING, 130-34 Lt Collins/Coromandel Place

64/10 Demolition permit □ 3-storey building □ wrecked for Methodist Church, £2800. (MCC 167/3, Box 19, D2220)

CITY COURT HOTEL, SE cnr La Trobe & Russell

1849 Licensed as Supreme Court Hotel. (Cole Collection)

80s-90s Demolition **pic** in MJW papers.

CMC HOUSE & POSTER HOUSE, 128-34 Exhibition □ E side, b/w Lt Collins & Bourke

71/9 Demolition permit □ 1 x 5-storey, 1 x 3-storey brick buildings. \$17,500. (MCC 167/3, Box 25 D3369)

COLONIAL BANK

1838? Half-acre block bought for £28 by Campbell & Woolley, importers. (Garryowen, p. 904)

1839 Father Geoghegan celebrated the first Mass in Port Phillip district in an unroofed (half-built) store of Messrs Campbell and Woolley on Colonial Bank site in May 1839. (Garryowen)

18? The old, substantial and imposing all-bluestone Colonial Bank Building, on the north-east corner of Elizabeth and Little Collins streets, since demolished, was ...built under Robert Gamlin's control. This building contained the most architecturally handsome doorway in Melbourne. At the time the building was in the wreckers' hands the fine sculpture work and bluestone carvings on the façade, being of historical interest as well as artistic merit, were offered to and accepted by, the School of Architecture at the Melbourne Univesity, where they were re-erected in the grounds... At the time of the dismantling of the sculptures and carvings there was much speculation as to the identity of the sculptor. ...actually they were the work of a mason named James Gilbert, and were carved at the yards of Nation and Gamlin, at City-road, South Melbourne, the material being Malmsbury bluestone. The Colonial Bank was built on land previously occupied by an old inn, which had replaced a store, this latter place being the subject of considerable discussion, for it was claimed that here the Rev. Father Geoghan celebrated the first Catholic Mass in Melbourne. At the back of the bank, which is approximately the centre of the city of Melbourne, grew an aged fig tree, left there for many years, apparently for sentiment's sake. (Age, 3/3/45)

32/4 Wreckers began the demolition of another Melbourne landmark yesterday, when they dug their picks into the old National Bank building at the corner of Elizabeth and Little

Collins Streets. Time has written no wrinkles on this 52-year-old architectural gem. It was as solid yesterday as it was in 1880. Melbourne loved those beautiful sculptured figures in the bluestone facade, chiselled by the late W. Gilbert, and its ornate entrance. **[pic]** Reminiscent of the days when the city streets were muddy were two boot scrapers at each side of the front door. Pulled from their foundations yesterday they were found to be of gunmetal and each weighed more than 1 cwt. The building was erected as the head office of the Colonial Bank, which was absorbed by the National in 1918... Before Easter, the Australian Mont de Piete bought portion of the actual corner ground site... on the Elizabeth Street frontage. The National Bank still has 36 ft of the Elizabeth Street frontage, which it is endeavouring to sell... (Sun, 8/4/32)

32/6 The Wreckers are at it again. This time the scene of their activities is at the corner of Elizabeth and Little Collins Streets, where they are demolishing the old Colonial Bank Building to make way for new business premises. (Herald, 23/6/32)

32/6 With the demolition of the old Colonial Bank building completed, another Melbourne landmark has been removed, and in its place on portion of the Elizabeth Street frontage is rising the new home of Clyde Booteries and Shoegoods. Whelan the Wrecker demolished the 52-year-old bank building in less than six weeks, all but the beautiful sculptured figures in the bluestone facade, which were saved for the Melbourne University. The old structure was erected as the head office of the Colonial Bank in 1880, and was absorbed by the National Bank in 1918. The entrance was regarded as one of the finest in the city and a valuable relic of its earlier days. **[pic]** empty demolition site, featuring WW signs on wall and hoarding] (Herald, 23/6/32, p.16)

...the use of that much-abused 'bluestone' or basalt formation. Where whole buildings have been constructed of this stone the result is certainly gloomy, St Patrick's Cathedral and the recently demolished Colonial Bank, at the corner of Elizabeth and Little Collins streets, being outstanding instances. (Age, 29/10/32)

33/4 When the Old Colonial Bank building was to be pulled down the suggestion came from the Institute of Architects that the interesting old entrance should be preserved. With very little adaptation, it was possible to use this on one of the medical buildings at the University. Since its re-erection there it has been very much admired. (Herald, 22/4/33)

73/10 The foot-entrance to Melbourne Uni underground carpark (constructed 1972-3) features statues & doorway from Colonial Bank formerly adorned the School of Physiology. (Australasian Builder, October 1973)

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA BRANCH, 245-7 Elizabeth St W side, between Lt Bourke & Lonsdale

66/5 2-storey building (MCC 167/3 Box 21 D2532)

WILLIAM CROSBY (MERCHANTS), 266 King

71/2 Wrecked by WW. **Pic** on file, with WW sign (MJW papers). See also article by Roger Aldridge (on file).

ELECTROPLATERS (ex), 222 Russell □ SE cnr Belman Place, near Lonsdale

71/4 Demolition permit □ 2-storey building □ \$1,000. (MCC 167/3, Box 21 D3302)

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER BUILDING, Bourke Street

1939 Demolished? (correspondence, April-May 1939, SLV/WW 65/2)

276-80 KING STREET □ E side, S of Lt Lonsdale Street

72/3 Demolition permit □ 3 x 2-storey brick buildings □ \$3,500. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3447)

KING STREET SHOPS, 159-69 King Street □ NW cnr Bourke Street

71/11 Demolition permit □ 4 x 2-storey brick shops □ \$3,500. (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3389)

LONDON STORES □ Bourke Street?

An early WW job. (Sun 9/1/32)

213-15 LONSDALE STREET □ W of Heffernan Lane

71/10 Demolition permit □ 2 x 2-storey shops/dwellings □ \$1,800 (MCC 167/3 Box 25 D3380)

HOTEL LONSDALE □ SW cnr Hardware Lane

72/12 Demolition permit □ also 79-81 Hardware Lane (Dynon's Bldg) & 20 Goldie Place □ Multi-storey brick buildings (max 4-storey) □ \$55,000 (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3563)

McILWRAITH FACTORY, 48-56 Lt Collins □ N side, NW cnr Lilly Lane, between Spring and Exhibition

58/3 John McIlwraith's showroom/garage □ 10ft of the front of the old building has been demolished and replaced with new front. (Herald, 21/3/58, p.28)

62/7 Demolished by WW. (Sun, 4/7/62)

McNAMARA'S BUILDINGS, 34-40 King Street □ SE cnr Flinders La

67/4 Demolition permit □ 4-storey brick office building □ wrecked for MCC, \$10,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 21 D2682)

MANCHESTER UNITY IOOF HALL, 339 Swanston Street□opposite State Library

19thC Matthew Orr purchased allotment 10, section 28 in July 1847□sold it to 'Free & Protestant Church of Australia Felix' (led by dissenting Presbyterian minister, James Forbes)□John Knox Church (named after Scottish Evangelist) opened 1848□John Knox school alongside (on MUIOOF site)□church rebuilt 1862 (still there)□new brick schoolhouse (old one overcrowded) built 1850□original school became stable for church□school land sold to Oddfellows' Lodge 1862□church congregation dissolved in 1879□church sold to Church of Christ 1880. (Victoria Illustrated 1834-84, pp.98-99□pic (Paynting/SLV) includes WW sign)

MARIO'S or TRIACA'S, 198-216 Exhibition Street□NE cnr Lt Bourke

70/1 Demolition permit□3-storey brick and concrete□wrecked for Neal's Motors, \$18,000 (MCC 167/3 Box 24 D3133)

70/2 WW wrecked shell of old building. (Herald, 10/2/70)

MASTER BUTCHERS' ASSN SKIN STORE□260-76 Spencer□NE cnr Lonsdale

67/4 Demolition permit□2-storey brick offices & store□wrecked for David Syme (Age), \$6,000. (MCC 167/3 Box 21 D2683)

MCC POWER HOUSE, 210 Spencer Street□b/w Lt Bourke & Lonsdale

1894 Another pioneer was Melbourne City Council, which built a power station in Spencer St., in 1894 to supply the city area. This station has been enlarged and modernised and is still part of the State system. (Herald, 2/10/1969)

1897 ...a handsome building of ornamental brick, with freestone facings, rises conspicuous. This is the City of Melbourne Electric Lighting Station, a place well worthy of inspection. The visitor who applies at the Electric Engineer's office, at the Town Hall, will be duly fortified with an order, whereby he may view the spacious hall filled with its huge revolving fly-wheels, its twenty great dynamo machines running at high speed, and the platform whereon the control of the system is attained by a labyrinth of wires and their keys. All the streets, not only of Melbourne proper, but of the outlying parts that are under the jurisdiction of the City Corporation, are lit up with arc lamps supplied from this centre. (Melbourne Guide Book, 1st ed, c.1897, pp. 14-15)

1951 Demolition job started 9/4/51, finished 10/5/51. (SLV/WW 30/2)

67/8 Demolition permit□chimney stack, approx. 170 ft high□\$9,775 (MCC 167/3 Box 22 D2731)

74/6 Chimney wrecked? **Pics** (Sun, 13/6/74, p.34)

MGM FILM DISTRIBUTORS, 288-92 Queen Street □ NE cnr Lt Lonsdale
72/5 Demolition permit □ 2-storey building □ \$9,500. (MCC 167/3 Box 26 D3468)

NEW YORK HOTEL, 376-8 Bourke Street □ N side, E of Hardware Lane

1865 Opened as New York Dining Rooms. (Cole Collection)

c.1955 Pic on file with WW sign (MJW papers)

PATERSON'S CARPARK, 132-38 Lt Bourke Street

66/12 Demolition permit □ 3-storey brick store □ for Paterson's Furnishings, \$750 (MCC 167/3 Box 21 D2620)

15-17 PUNCH LANE □ off Lt Bourke, N side, b/w Spring & Exhibition

66/4 Demolition permit □ 2-storey factory □ wrecked for Neal's motors, \$900 (MCC 167/3 Box 21 D2502)

SEC EMPLOYMENT OFFICE, 29-33 William Street □ SW cnr Flinders La

67/10 Demolition permit □ 3 x 2-storey brick buildings □ wrecked for SEC \$3950 (MCC 167/3 Box 22 D2775)

VICTORIA COFFEE PALACE/HOTEL (Collins St frontage), rear of Town Hall

...the Victoria Coffee Palace (boasting 300 beds and electric light in all bedrooms in 1891) had been founded as a club by former Mayor J.S. Butters in 1876.... A fire in 1925 and municipal extensions up the [Collins Street] hill [saw] the disappearance of the splendid arcaded verandahs of the Victoria and the rounded mansard office roofs of the Town Hall [adjoining]... (A New City, p.22—pic facing)

1925? ...on the site of the Victoria Hotel 17 [sovereigns] were found 4ft below the ground. (Sun, 9/1/32)

27/8 Victoria Coffee Palace to lease and extend over rear portion of Baptist Church site. (Argus, 23/8/27, p.18)

30/3 The Victoria Coffee Palace (since pulled down) was erected in the seventies, and was used for some time as a clubhouse by the Victoria Club. (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement, p.3)

25. WRECKED BY WHELAN?

27/5 Demolition of Union Club Hotel, 425 Collins St, resumes (for AMP). Interrupted after original plan, to build large Hotel Cecil, fell through and site re-sold. (Argus, 17/5/27, p.5)

27/9 Demolition of Union Club Hotel complete. (Argus, 6/9/27, p.6)

Fawkner bought half acre at cnr Collins & Market for £10 at second land sale, November 1837. Built a brick and wooden hotel—east of corner? Later building on corner became Club-House—Fawkner's hotel then became *Patriot* printing office. Club House later became Shakespeare, then Union Club Hotel. (Garryowen, p.543)

[contradicts the following—]

Fawkner let his Hotel (later Union Club) to the Melbourne Club as their club-house (c.1840). Shifted his newspaper (begun in the hotel's top storey) to a new two-storey brick building alongside (later site of [old] CML). Rowe's chemist shop was in the front room below. Some time after, the *Patriot* moved to 'an old range of wooden and wattle-&-daug buildings at the rear, formerly used as stables, and the entrance to which was from Market Street'. (Garryowen, p. 827)

At rear of Club-house was 'a sort of lumber-room... used as a store for the wreckage [plunder], and was at times quite a Curiosity Shop, from the miscellany of odds and ends collected there, such as bobbies' batons, door-knockers, bells, bell-pulls, and bell-handles, and even bell-toppers, snatched from the heads of passers-by. (Garryowen, p.772)

27/12 ...the Union Club property, on the north-east corner of Collins and Market streets. This old hostelry was a landmark of many years standing, and it was demolished when Mr I.M. Burke purchased the site. The intention was originally to built an extensive residential hotel on the corner, but other views prevailed, and the property was resold to the Australian Mutual Provident Society for £176,000. Preparations are now proceeding for the erection on this site of a modern and valuable commercial building... (Argus, 27/12/27, p.17)

33/9 Chamber of Commerce building, cnr Flinders Lane & William Street—first brick building in Melbourne?—built 1838. For history, see cutting on file—Herald, 28/9/33

33/11 The directors of the Victorian Protestant Hall Co Ltd decided at a meeting 1st night to demolish the present building at the corner of Exhibition and Little Collins Streets and erect a six-storey building... The present building was erected a little more than 50 years ago... (Herald, 16/11/33)

34/1 156-8 Bourke Street—wrecked for extension to Paterson's. (Herald, 10/1/34)

35/6 [A] seven-storey building is being erected at 141-143 Flinders Lane, for Pawson and Co., mantle manufacturers, on the site of an old city building. During demolition and excavation, terraces of archways and V-shaped windows were found in what had once been wine cellars. The old bluestone walls were three feet thick. [Olivers Lane at rear] (Herald, 13/6/35)

- 30/7 ...plans for a 10-storey building, suitable for erection by the Trustees, Executors, and Agency Co Ld on the site of the London Bank building, 401-403 Collins street. ...The competitive designs must be made available by August 15. It is expected that as soon as the result of the competition is announced the work of demolishing the London Bank building will be put in hand... The London Bank building, which was bought by the Trustees Company... at the close of last year, is one of the noteworthy architectural features of early Melbourne. In the basement of the building are strongly barred chambers, which were used for the deposit of gold when mining was a prosperous industry in the State.... The London Chartered Bank acquired the Collins street site in 1853, and 12 years later the present building was erected. It was occupied by the company until 1925... Built of blueston with fluted columns, the facade is accepted as a notable example of Grecian Doric architecture as the lower level, changing to the Italian Renaissance style in the upper storeys. The banking chamber also has been favourably commented upon by architectural authorities. Proposals were made some time ago for retaining the facade of the building, but nothing definite has been decided by the Trustees Company. It is intended that the new building shall be a steel and concrete structure, with a freestone facade, to harmonise with the architecture of surrounding premises. (Argus, 16/8/30, p. 4)
- 33/4 The next offer was received [by Melb University] in respect of the Old London Bank building... It has a row of fine Grecian-Doric columns which are the only ones of their kind in Melbourne. They are cut in blue stone, not in marble, as at Athens, and are valuable examples. These also will go eventually to the University. (Herald, 22/4/33)
- 35/1 [New Bank of Australasia building] will be erected on the site of Ventnor, one of the oldest houses in Collins Street, on the south side, near the corner of Exhibition Street. Ventnor has been locked behind four shops that were built in front of it seven years ago. **[pic]** The property was once owned by the late Dr David Grant, the noted heart specialist and surgeon, who practised and resided there for many years. (Herald, 14/1/35)
- 35/8 Consideration is being given... to the demolition of the old London Bank at 401-403 Collins Street between Queen and Market Streets, and its replacement by a modern structure. ...The London Bank building is one of the architectural gems of Collins Street. It is of a Grecian period and has been a subject of keen study among architectural students. **[pic]** (Sun, 27/8/35)
- 36/1 Site of Capel Court, next to (W of) 351 Collins St—In the beginning it appears that the site was occupied by Michael Carr, one of Victoria's first settlers, who built a wattle and daub hut there in 1836, beside the first cattle track which wound its way from the Yarra River, near Elizabeth Street, out to the swamps of West Melbourne. ...the site was included in allotment 19, block 4, and this was purchased at the first land sale on June 1, 1837, by Arthur Willis and James McIntyre for £42.... The first building erected on the Capel Court site was Willis's general store, facing Queen Street.... [In 1842 part of the block was bought by] the Union Bank, which erected a two-storey building to accommodate its first office. Subsequently various subdivisions took place, and from 1844 onwards the frontage now held by Capel Court and the Commonwealth Bank was occupied by the Imperial Inn, founded by Henry Baker... T.D. Edwards secured possession of the Capel Court property in the late forties, and the property remained in his estate until 1873.... The Chamber of Commerce was founded in [1851], and in 1855, in order to secure permanent headquarters, the merchants comprising the Chamber of Commerce erected the Hall of Commerce on the site now occupied by Capel Court and

the Commonwealth Bank. A gradual change had taken place in gold-mining methods with the exhaustion of the rich alluvial deposits, and an era of company flotation had set in to finance the exploitation of the reefs at deeper levels. Before long shares in these companies were actively traded in, and this presently gave birth to the first Stock Exchange, formed in 1859. This occupied portion of the building on the site of which Capel Court has been built.... In imitation of the London Stock Exchange, the main entrance was known as Capel Court, and the name was still visible in faded lettering when Chartres building was demolished early last year. (Herald, 6/1/36)

36/9 A 10-storey building will be erected for Thomas Mitchell and Co. Pty Ltd on the north-west corner of Lonsdale and Elizabeth Streets [Mitchell House]... Work will begin on Monday on the demolition of the Commonwealth Hotel, one of the oldest licensed houses in the State. The stables and coach-house at the rear were used by the old coaching firm of Cobb and Co. The old archway, leading from the hotel into the back of Thomas Mitchell and Co.'s premises, which is closely associated with early coaching days, will also be demolished. (Herald, 12/9/36)

37/2 Mitchell House—The corner is regarded as the true geographical centre of Melbourne, being approximately half a mile from Victoria, Spring, Flinders and Spencer Streets. ...The site of Mitchell House was one of twenty allotments laid out in 1837 by Robert Hoddle... Five of these blocks were sold at Melbourne's first land sale in 1837... It was not, however, until 1846 that the site of Mitchell House was put up to auction, and was bought by Hugh Glass for £375. The allotment then had a frontage of 132 ft to Lonsdale Street by 158 ft to Elizabeth Street. Five years later the Family Hotel was built on the corner... A licence was granted to John Cowell Passmore, who held a seven years' lease from Glass. In 1852 Passmore transferred his lease to William Hockin, and changed the name of the hotel to the Family and Commercial. In the following year, Hockin bought the site outright from Glass for £12,000, and two years later he purchased an additional frontage of 50 ft, acquiring a further 33 ft in 1858. In that year, Hockin established the Assembly Rooms, adjoining the hotel, and Hockin's became one of the main centres of social life in the period. At that time, the north end of Melbourne, between Elizabeth Street and the Flagstaff Gardens, was the most fashionable quarter of the city. Hockin's Hotel, by which name it was then known, was closely linked with the famous coaching firm of Cobb and Co., the stables, stores, coach houses, harness rooms, smithies, and booking offices being directly at the rear of the hotel. Portions of these historic buildings, including the old archways through which the coaches used to rattle in to the stables, were only demolished last year, when the old hotel, which was latterly named the Commonwealth, was demolished to make room for Mitchell House. Up to that time, marks left by the trundling wheels of the coaches as they passed under the arches, could still be seen on the door jambs. Nearby, in Little Lonsdale Street, still stands an old building which was formerly the old Buck's Head hotel, a popular resort of the gold diggers in the roaring 'fifties. Here would foregather diggers fresh from the goldfields, with their wallets bursting with nuggets, and prepared to make the champagne flow like water. With them would mingle bushrangers seeking information which would help them to plan their next hold-up along the Sydney Road. The name of the hotel may still be seen in faded lettering on the building overlooking Flanagan's Lane. In 1857 John McCrae bought the frontage of 32 ft to Lonsdale Street, from Hockin's Hotel, to what is now known as Mitchell Lane, from Hugh Glass, and it was from the trustees of the McCrae estate that the late Mr Thomas Mitchell, founder of the firm, bought this block in 1901, and transferred there part of his already expanding brush factory business, which he had established in 1876. The following year Mr Mitchell purchased the site upon which the

- firm's five-storey warehouse now stands, and in 1916 the corner site was acquired from the Hockin estate. (Herald, 26/2/37)
- 37/8 ... an old city landmark, 188 Bourke Street, once the Hoffman grill room, today passed into the hands of the wreckers. One of the oldest buildings in the city, with one of the smallest frontages in Bourke Street, the present two-storey structure has stood for nearly 70 years, and the rear was part of an old home built much earlier. Occupied for 11 years as a mantle shop, it was used formerly as a cafe, and before that was a grill room. The new building will be occupied as a frock and mantle showroom. (Herald, 23/8/37)
- 46/3 Trustees of the late Mary Roycraft have instructed auctioneers to sell the property on the north-west corner of Bourke and Swanston Streets, once known as Miller's corner.... Charles Swanston got it for £40 at the original land sale in 1837. A builder named Roycraft bought the property about 80 years ago, and his descendants have held it ever since.... When Miller's Feather Shop tenanted the corner building (about the time of the first world war and long before that) it was a favorite meeting place. (Herald, 25/3/46)
- 48/4 **[Pic]** Demolition of the Old Royal Melbourne Hospital boilerhouse and its big chimney... will remove a Melbourne landmark. With it will go the familiar smudge on the brick wall made by the backs and arms of hundreds of people who have leant against it to get warmth from the boilerhouse. The warm corner building has for years been a meeting place... A few still use it. It will make way for a park with 10 acres of sloping lawn and shrubs like those adjoining the National Gallery. Brick and iron fences will be removed. (Herald 7/4/48)
- 48/5 Believed to be Melbourne's oldest brick building, No. 35-43 William st, property of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, has been sold... It was built in 1838, and has been renovated many times, but architecturally is unaltered. (Argus, 18/5/48)
- 50/4 The 80-year-old ironworks which forged the hands of the Post-office clock and the iron work around Parliament House, will go out of existence next week. The business, the Thames Iron Works of D.W. Dalton & Co. was recently sold to Colliers Interstate Transport for use as a garage and repair shop.... Mr W.M. Dalton, father of the present owner, who took over the firm in 1932, founded the firm 80 years ago.... the firm did the ironwork on the Queen Victoria Hospital... (Argus, 1/4/50)
- 53/3 A city landmark, the Wharf Laborers' Building, is having its face remade. The old facade, with its strange bronze ship prows sailing out over Flinders-street, is now half demolished. A cry of sacrilege at this destruction is not likely to be taken up on all sides with much fervor, for the building was not really old, lacked the sentimental charm of old colonial architecture and was not even properly beautiful. But can there be anyone with a normal healthy affection for this city who could watch the wreckers without being moved by some sense of loss and futility. Those odd verdigris ship prows, hanging drunkenly last week as they were chopped away from the terra cotta tiles had something to recommend them which was possibly more valuable than beauty. In a city of facades based on or copied directly from the facades of Renaissance Italy, mediaeval England or pre-depression America, here was a building of strong individual character, a vigorous work by a sincere and creative architect—however dated and misguided it might appear to some present-day eyes. This is the second time that the old building has had its face changed. Originally it was the Highlander Hotel. In 1916, the composition in terracotta

and broze which is now being hacked away was erected to the design of Robert Joseph Haddon, one of the few giants in the history of Victorian building. Haddon was born in England in 1868. He trained in London... In 1900 he came to Melbourne. Robert Haddon, chief architectural educator of his day, bequeathed in 1934 a travelling scholarship for graduates... His name is almost synonymous with the release of Australian architecture from the academic dogmatism and commercial irresponsibility of the late Victorian era. Haddon was strongly influenced by the short-lived phase of the 'Art Nouveau'. He struck out for freedom of design at the turn of the century... His work throughout Victoria is always unmistakable. He avoided symmetry whenever possible. Walls and openings are plain. There is no careless, extraneous ornament. But somewhere there will be a concentration of decoration, some entirely preposterous bass relief or applied motif. These characteristics were his signature on any work, but in case anyone should fail to recognise them, Robert Haddon took to the proud and charming habit of signing his work with a little decorative tile. The Wharf Laborers' Union is seeing that the signature tile set near the pavement on its building will not be destroyed by the wreckers. But the boat prows are not so secure. The melting pot is claiming them for the value of the copper. **[pic]** (Robin Boyd, Herald, 31/3/53)

- 53/4 The Arbitration Court Building in Lonsdale Street has been sold... It is one of the last surviving Melbourne homes of the spacious colonial days. **[pic]** This fine old building of three storeys and tower, long known as Rostella, has had a varied career. Originally it was the home of Sir Thomas Fitzgerald, Melbourne's leading surgeon in the last part of the 19th century. Sir Thomas acquired a valuable art collection which included the celebrated nude Chloe by the French artist Jules Le Febvre. The room where Sir Thomas's guests came to see Chloe is now the courtroom of the Arbitration Court. Chloe was exhibited at the Paris Salon in 1886, bought by Sir Thomas and lent to the National Gallery in Melbourne. But such an outcry was raised against it that it had to be withdrawn. ... Early this century the house was leased by the Commonwealth to become the Navy Office... When the Navy Department was transferred to Victoria Barracks, the old building, because of its convenient position near the Law Courts and chambers, became 'temporarily' the Arbitration Court. (Herald, 22/4/53)
- 1954 100 Collins Street (cnr Alfred Place) **[pic]** for Gilbert Place/Equitable Building **[pic]** Melbourne's first glass house **[pic]** for **[pic]** view of adjacent roofs, see Herald, 9/1/56 (on file)
- 54/6 One of Melbourne's oldest buildings **[pic]** it housed the first Children's Hospital **[pic]** was sold at auction yesterday... The two-storey stone building, at 49-51 Collins Place... Nearly 84 years ago, half of the small building was opened as the Melbourne Hospital for Sick Children. Collins Place was then Stephen Street. The hospital was moved to another building in Spring Street less than three years later. (Herald, 3/6/54)
- 56/5 Here is the architect's drawing **[pic]** of Royston House, Melbourne's 'glass house No. 3,' a proposed 12-storey building in Collins Place... It will be on a site beside Kelvin Hall. Demolition of the present building starts in a fortnight. (press cutting, 6/56)
- 56/6 Down crashes one of the remaining walls of Number 29 Collins-pl, one of Melbourne's old buildings now in the hands of the wreckers. In bringing down the wall this afternoon, the workmen hauled on a steel cable until the wall began to topple and then ran for their lives to escape the avalanche of bricks. **[pic]** (Herald, 6/6/56)

- 57/10 One of Melbourne's oldest buildings, 15 Swanston Street, opposite St Paul's Cathedral, has been sold... The building is said to have been built by convict labor. In the basement are several barred cells, believed to have been used by the city's early police force. **[pics]** exterior, and basement with barred window] (Herald, 18/10/57, p.1)
- 59/3 Vanguard Building, 'five stories high and built in the "boom" days of ornate Victorian architecture' (to make way for South British Insurance) on NW cnr Bourke & Queen; two-storey bluestone building on NE cnr (for H.C. Sleigh). Both wrecked c.1959. (Age, 4/3/59)
- 1950s Orient Hotel NE cnr Bourke & Swanston
Cosmopolitan SE cnr Swanston & Little Bourke for Foy & Gibson (Herald, 21/10/59)
- 1960? Swanston Family Hotel NW cnr Swanston & Little Bourke for State Bank branch. (Herald, 21/10/59)
- 60/7 The building for Hicks Atkinson Ltd links the Danks building, the Saracen's Head and Metropole hotel, buildings in Bourke-st, with Aynsley and Foster buildings in Little Collins-st, all of which the company bought in recent years. The work also includes building over what was Builder's Alley between the two Little Collins-st buildings. Tucked away as it is, the nw building does not come under the notice of the general public. (Herald, 1/7/60)
- 60/11 Another old building in the west end of the city is to be demolished. It is an eight-storey brick and masonry office block at 60 Market-st... A new office block, an extension of the AMP Society building on the Collins-st corner, will be erected.... Over the years the old building has been the headquarters of the Real Estate and Stock Institute, the Girl Guides Association, the National Safety Council and several solicitors. **[pic]** (Herald, 9/11/60, p.15)
- 60/11 Three of the oldest homes in Melbourne Nos. 17-19-21 Little Collins-st. won another battle yesterday. Their owner, Mrs B. Robertson, refused to sell them for £27,500 at auction because she had a higher price in mind. Since they were built in 1847 the grey-brick homes have 'watched' factories and hotels rise above them. **[pic]** (Sun, 17/11/60)
- 62/2 Three of the last houses in the Golden Mile are for sale. They are the two-storey greystone houses at Nos 17, 19 and 21 Little Collins-st... Their owner, Mrs B.V. Robertson, sat among her collection of dinner services, cut glass, Toby jugs, barometers and fire dogs in No. 19 today, and said, 'I suppose they'll tear the houses down to build some of those glass houses I do hate those glass houses.' ...a quince tree growing bravely outside No. 17. **[pic]** (Herald, 3/2/62)
- 63/2 **[pic]** This 10-ft brick wall the last remnant of Melbourne's historic old Haymarket was demolished yesterday, revealing a new angle on the city's Dental Hospital which has risen on the site. [Was this wall on the site of the future Ampol House, SE cnr Grattan Street & Royal Pde?] (Age, 7/2/63)
- 64/6 Melbourne people have been able to say 'Meet you at Damman's corner' for all but four of the past 110 years. ... Damman's the tobacconists have made the firm's fifth move since 1854, to a temporary shop in Swanston Street, a few doors from Collins St. They

have left the shop on the south-west corner of Swanston and Collins Sts they have been in since 1909. The Bank of New South Wales will demolish it soon for a 15-storey block. When they move back they won't be quite on the corner, 88-year-old Mr Percy Damman said, regretfully, today.... Two young Danish farmers, George and Gustav Damman, opened their first tobacco shop on the south-east corner in 1854. In 1882 the shop moved to the present site of the Manchester Unity building. It took a shop in a new building which had replaced an old grocery, Germain Nicholson. In 1904 their corner was taken over by Stewart Dawson's, the jewellers... Finally, after four years at 105 Swanston Street, Damman's moved into Chambers and Seymour's ironmongery store on the south-west corner in 1909. (Herald, 24/6/64, p.4)

COMMONWEALTH SERVICES BUILDING (GREEN LATRINE)

- 56/6 **[pic** showing demolition site and rubble, with city vista in background] Site for the new £1,430,000 Commonwealth Office block at the corner of Spring and Latrobe Streets, where work will begin on Monday. (Herald, 27/6/56, p.8)
- 57/1 **Pic** Replacing small old houses...is the new Commonwealth Centre block. (Australian Builder, January 1957, p. 15)
- 58/8 The Commonwealth in 1948 compulsorily acquired all the property in the block bounded by Lonsdale, Spring, Latrobe and Exhibition-sts, an area of nearly 10 acres.... The new Government building...is certainly a very substantial and pleasing addition to the city's architecture. ...The building just being completed is the first of five units for the new Administrative Centre and will serve as a prototype for future development of the area. ...The street corner has been rounded off. ...The narrow end walls are faced with terracotta faience, in a shade of green. (Herald, 22/8/58)

26. ARTWORKS

16/10 The finest café which has ever been erected in Melbourne was opened in Collins street yesterday afternoon. It is an extension to what was formerly called the Vienna Café, but which in future will be known as the Café Australia.

The building, which was formerly occupied by Messrs W.H. Glen and Company, has been altered, and except for the business frontages to Collins street, the whole of the building has been transformed into what is claimed to be the most beautiful café in the Southern Hemisphere. It is entered by a carpeted passage-way from Collins street. The Delft tiles used in the doorway set the keynote for the colour scheme in gold and ivory. Together with white quartz concrete and green pearl granite, they form a conspicuous entrance of simple design. From the lobby, with its couches and dressing-rooms, one enters the Fern Room. In this room, whose colour, pleasantly toned by the glass of the ceiling, glows in the sunlight, one of the main structural piers is enriched with two unique pieces of sculptured landscape in high relief, by Charles Costerman, Port Phillip and Port Jackson, the wind-blown tea-tree and the splendid Port Jackson fig being used as motifs.

From the fern room one passes to the fountain court. It is brightly lighted through the enriched pattern in the ceiling glass, and is enclosed between four fountains, whose graceful spray is played upon by coloured lights beneath the water. The fountains are surrounded by greenery and flowers. Amongst the unique decorations are three life-sized figures, Persephone, Echo, and Daphne facing the grand staircase, at the entrance to the new portion of the building. The figures are represented as standing waist-high in fields of rye, barley, and wheat, and are treated in such an architectural manner as to form the pillars which support the upper floors; this style of treatment which has never been adopted here, and is new to Australia, has been introduced by Mr W.B. Griffin, and has been carried out by Miss Margaret Baskerville, sculptor, in a most successful manner. The main dining-room is a sunny, airy hall, restful and cosy in spite of its size, because of the illusive forms and varying light and shade formed by the balcony with its alcoves below. The mural decoration of tall eucalypts, by Miss Bertha Merfield, is an essential part of the colour scheme of the room.... Mr Lucas, the proprietor... [formerly of Lucas's Café, Swanston Street?] (Argus, 26/10/16, p.4)

36/10 On the corner of the original Block Arcade the premises formerly occupied by the Singer Sewing Machine Company retain their original form. Here the ceiling, which was specially painted by Philip Goatcher, the scenic artist, remains in perfect preservation, though it now attracts little attention. The Singer Company paid £1000 for the work.... The building, now portion of the Hotel Australia, which will be auctioned next month, was formerly the Vienna Cafe... **[pic]**—A general view taken today of the properties involved in the £350,000 rebuilding scheme on The Block. The properties are the Hotel Australia, Harrington's and the Tatler Theatre.] (Herald, 31/10/36)

Phillip Goatcher—[from Philadelphia, USA, 1879?—[father of James Goatcher, scene painter and watercolour artist? (Encyclopedia of Australian Art, vol 1)

39/5 Relic of the 'good old days' is the 80-year-old Glen Gallery, which has been hidden for more than 30 years by the later architecture of the old Hotel Australia, which is now being demolished for the new Government Tourist Bureau. The gallery is surrounded by paintings of musical giants of the past in a series of arches. Here are two of the panels exposed by the wrecker's pick today, and which will soon vanish from our sight altogether. **[pic]**—[shows pictures of man and woman, set in ornate timberwork] (Herald, 10/5/38, p. 2)

49/9 Once in London I asked a business-man just returned from Australia what he thought of the bush. '...My only glimpse of what I imagine was the real bush were those remarkable murals at Menzies'. Somehow I felt they caught the spirit of the outback.' ...But who painted them? The other bar was easy—Napier Waller—but the time-mellowed ones were a riddle.... Harry Golden, the porter—he's been there 40 of his 63 years—fancied they were the work of someone called Goshier or the like, who'd been connected with the theatre and did them about the time the Great White Fleet arrived in 1908. Dead, he thought. Mr Ben made it Goatcher, with confidence. I consulted that encyclopaedia of the Melbourne theatre, Phil Finkelstein [ex Theatre Royal].... Yes, he said, the late Phil Goatcher, who was scenic artist for Clarke, Meynell and Gunn, and did the sets for Miss Hook of Holland, The Chocolate Soldier, Our Miss Gibbs and many another. ...Goatcher...dismissed the Menzies' job as a mere bread-and-butter task. Yet his scenes of La Perouse, prospectors on the Loddon, and sheep in the Riverina still hold the stage years after his death. (Sun, 28/9/49)

66 Demolishers exposed a Chinese dragon—right across the wall of one of the attic rooms on 4th floor of St James Building. Suggestion that it was an opium den after WW1. Faded rapidly in the rain, awaiting demolition. (news cutting, n.d.—scrapbook, p.3)

LITERARY WHELAN

65/8 The sign, 'Whelan the Wrecker Is Here' has gone up in Main Street, where a two-storeyed building is to be partly demolished for conversion into a car showroom for P.S. Carey Motors Pty Ltd. It is the first time this famous sign has been seen in Bacchus March. (Bacchus Marsh Express, Aug 1965—in SLV/WW 56)

27. BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, BUILDING METHODS & MATERIALS

David Mitchell was born in Scotland in 1829. After completing a stonemasonry apprenticeship, he arrived in Melbourne in 1852. Rather than join the goldrushes, he set up business in Richmond as a building contractor. His first major contract was for the masonry for St Patricks Cathedral in 1856, and from then on his business thrived as Melbourne building boomed as a result of the gold.

Mitchell used bluestone widely, as well as his own bricks, constructing not only shops and warehouses, but some of the city's most beautiful churches and corporate headquarters. Scots Church (1873) and the Royal Exhibition Buildings (1879) are amongst Mitchell's buildings that have survived although, sadly, others such as the Menzies Hotel and the Equitable (or CML) Building itself, have been demolished. By 1878, Mitchell had established his estate near Lilydale and opened the limestone quarry that still operates under his name today. The Equitable (later Colonial Mutual) was his last major building before his retirement in 1899. He devoted most of his remaining years to his agricultural interests, especially wine-growing, before his death in 1916, at the age of 87. David Mitchell's contribution to the architecture of 'Marvellous Melbourne' in the 19th Century is unmatched. He is also remembered as the father of Dame Nellie Melba. (Melb Museum website)

David Mitchell known as Davy? (Handwritten note by one of JPW's workmen)
SLV/WW/66/2)

David Mitchell constructions included Prell's building, Masonic Hall, Paterson, Laing & Bruce building. Turned attention to manufacture of lime at Cave Hill, Lilydale (1878), the Victorian Brickworks at Burnley Street, Richmond, and later the Victorian Portland Cement Co. (Emu brand cement). Mitchell was a pioneer in the use of reinforced concrete in Melbourne buildings. His head office in Oliver's Lane was one of the first reinforced concrete buildings. (From a talk by Amy Campbell Tosh, attended by MJW in 1980—SLV/WW27)

Mr Mitchell is regarded among contractors, employers of labor, and even among the laborers themselves, as a scrupulously careful man, who spares no precaution to avoid accidents, and the present and preceding misadventures in connection with the Equitable Insurance Building are looked upon as the outcome of sheer ill luck. (Age, 12/7/93, p.5)

James Moore—born in Ireland—lived in London from a young age—immigrated to Victoria in 1867. 'He at once embarked in that career as a builder, contractor, and timber merchant... the efficient execution... of a very great number of public and private works... [including] Goldsbrough's Grain Stores, Bourke Street; New Zealand Loan and Agency Company's premises, Collins Street; ...Commercial Bank of Australia Limited, Collins Street; ...Railway offices and Buildings, Spencer Street; Exhibition Annexes (1888), covering about 33 acres; ... Collingwood Town Hall, Fitzroy Town Hall, ...Flemington Grand-stand, Caulfield Grand-stand, Melbourne Cricket Ground Grand-stand; Tramway Engine-house, Fitzroy... (The Cyclopaedia of Victoria, 1905, pp. 74-76—pics of Moore and timber mills [on file])

1910+ The first 'armoured concrete' buildings to be permitted by the City Council were 2 & 3 Olivers Lane, built in stages from 1910 onwards, each stage a prosaic exercise in the new technology. (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, p.130)

There were many names to conjure with amongst those early builders, prominent amongst which was that of the late Robert Gamlin. Born in 1831 in England, Gamlin arrived in Australia in 1854.... We find him at the age of 39 a partner of the firm of A. and J. Nation, the then well-known builders and contractors. Later the firm became Nation, Gamlin and Nation. In 187 this old firm dissolved, Robert Gamlin assuming control of the whole business, which was conducted under the name of Robert Gamlin and Sons. Some prominent buildings erected under the personal supervision of Robert Gamlin are: Selborne-chambers; ...the Eastern Market; Fitzroy's town hall... The old, substantial and imposing all-bluestone Colonial Bank Building, on the north-east corner of Elizabeth and Little Collins streets, since demolished, was also built under Robert Gamlin's control. ...Robert Gamlin was one of the principal promoters and an early director of the Australian Portland Cement Company. (Age, 3/3/45)

1930s Builders with whom WW worked included E.A. Watts, J.C. Taylor & Sons, Swanson Bros. (SLV/WW 65/2)

I can always remember at Scott's Hotel, alongside Temple Court, there was a comparatively modern reinforced concrete, sort of bedroom annexe put up, right alongside of it. And when I was going around [to cost the demolition], I remember going with Jimmy and we're turning around and, oh, you used to have a little geological hammer and you'd pick at the bricks or the concrete, to see how hard it was. You know, were they lime-mortar or were they cement-mortar? And Jimmy said, 'What the heck are you doing?' And I said, 'I'm just seeing how hard the concrete is.' He said, 'Put it away, pal,' he said, 'it'll be rubbish.' He said, 'Old Pop Shillabeer built this,' (he was one of the early builders) and he said, 'He was renowned for waving a cement bag in front of the concrete-mixer.' And do you know what? That's exactly what... it was really light-on, to such a degree when you... you know, you pulled buildings over and sometimes you were fracturing the floors and it was quite dangerous. And old Shillabeer... He was a friend of the grandfather's, you know, and they said he was a terrific bloke. In those tough days they did all sorts of cheating and what-have-you. (Owen Whelan interview)

BUILDING MATERIALS

- 1839 Fitzroy Gardens contained a bluestone quarry, used for foundations of the more substantial town buildings of that era—‘a regular eyesore’ for years. (Garryowen, p.24)
- 1840s On the south side of the river there were at least three quarries providing the brown sandstone used on Melbourne’s more important public buildings (now surviving only in St James’s Old Cathedral), and a large number of brickmakers down towards where Princes Bridge now is. There were other brickmakers on Batman’s Swamp on the opposite side of the river, about where the Victoria Docks now are, but at the end of 1839 brickmakers were restricted to an area of 23 acres on the south bank laid out by Hoddle. ... A further flood, combined with notice from the government to quit, cleaned out the last of the brickmakers in 1849. To provide a substitute area the government put up for sale 100 one-acre lots in West Melbourne where there was suitable clay for brickmaking. (Miles Lewis, Melbourne: The city’s history & development, p. 34)
- 1850s [Mr Lewis Sanders, owner of Leviathan Store, cnr Bourke & Swanston sts, recalled:] ‘The Leviathan was considered a good building—that is, for those days [1850s]. The contractor afterwards boasted that he had brought 20 barrels of lime with him, and that he had carried 20 barrels of lime away when it was erected. We found it necessary to remodel the structure before long.’ (Argus, 30/6/1910, p.9)
- 1850s The demolition of No. 242 Collins street has exposed to view a relic reminiscent of early Melbourne...The building I refer to is, I believe, the last iron structure in Collins street, and possibly the last in the city proper. Portable iron buildings of the character of this shop were imported in parts... buildings... which appeared to follow the wood age and preceded that of bluestone. (Letter from Nahum Barnet (architect), Argus, 23/10/20, p.22)
- 14/3 This is the age of steel, and the brick has become the mere covering to the steel bones of the up-to-date structure—the skin covering the bones, so to speak. ‘Fire-proof’, ‘earthquake-proof’, and, as nearly as may be, ‘time-proof’. These are the conditions asked for today in our new buildings. (Argus, 28/3/14)
- 1914 [Rebuilt St James Cathedral is] more strongly built. The outer stones have been retained, but the inner walls, of shells and rubble, has been replaced by cement, reinforced with rods. In the interior the gallery has been built on the walls, which has done away with the supporting columns of the old building. (Argus, 29/4/14, p.13)

Local building stone—see article in Age, 29/10/32 (on file)—best sandstone known as Stawell stone—from a quarry a few miles outside Stawell—quarried since c.1865—early examples of its use include Parliament House and earlier additions to the Town Hall—best examples include facades of Atlas Insurance building and Union Bank. ?Remark on wrecker from Stawell wrecking buildings made of Stawell stone?

Similar stone, from the same old quarry, a few miles out of the town of Stawell... The new Bank of New South Wales, now arising in Collins Street, is to have a facade of this Stawell stone, relieved by some dark green granite. (Herald, 13/8/34)

Local building stone—see article in Herald, 13/8/34 and Argus, 10/7/34 (on file)

The State Savings Bank's head office and the Colonial Mutual Life Insurances buildings exploit the facing values of Harcourt stone, and the first story of innumerable city fronts, carried upward in lighter stone, display its value in giving a strong, basic effect to almost any style of design. To this purpose an even more sturdy result is achieved through... the use of that much-abused 'bluestone' or basalt formation. Where whole buildings have been constructed of this stone the result is certainly gloomy, St Patrick's Cathedral and the recently demolished Colonial Bank, at the corner of Elizabeth and Little Collins streets, being outstanding instances. (Age, 29/10/32)

Bluestone was the first building stone commonly quarried in Melbourne. It has come to be regarded in a time of more colourful architecture as being somewhat sombre.... Bits of the world go to make Melbourne. Scotland, Norway, Sweden, and Finland have contributed granite to several of the fine building fronts of the city. Interiors of Italian marbles are common... But with increasing aggressiveness the bulk of tens of thousands of tons of finely mottled granite which is the base of Mt Alexander opposes itself to the competition of other stone. It is being employed in the additions to the State Savings Bank, where the base front of mottled stone in the original building is being continued in the new. Masons in Melbourne claim that Harcourt granite is the best splitting stone in the world. (Argus, 10/7/34)

Harcourt Granite[] Large masses of granite magma formed in central Victoria during the Devonian period about 390 million years ago. Mt Alexander, 25 km south of Bendigo, is the highest point of one of these masses, known as the Harcourt Granite after the nearby town.

Granite has been quarried on the slopes of Mt Alexander since the 1860s. It is one of the earliest continuously quarried building stones in Australia and is found in buildings in many major cities. At first it was used locally, then from the 1880s began to appear extensively in Melbourne buildings, either as the base or for ornamental and monumental stonework, such as columns.

Several quarries operate today, supplying stone mainly for cladding. Harcourt granite is one of the easiest stones to quarry, because it can be split readily into blocks of all shapes and sizes. This quality compensates for the dull grey colour of the stone, which tends to stain brownish in the city atmosphere. Harcourt granite is also disfigured by dark clots, which are a distinguishing feature. (Melb Museum website)

Cape Woolamai granite[] A mass of pink granite forms Cape Woolamai, on the rugged eastern end of Phillip Island in Westernport Bay, about 130 km southwest of Melbourne. Along parts of the southern and eastern margins of the cape, the cliffs rise nearly 100 m from the ocean. On the northern edge however, the granite slopes more gently seaward. It is here, in 1891, that a quarry was established to obtain granite for buildings in Melbourne. The plug and feather method was used, with seawater causing the wooden plugs to swell and the rock to split. A jetty was constructed of granite blocks and used to load boats. However, in December 1892, the heavily laden ketch Kermandie disappeared at sea and quarrying ceased soon after. It is possible to walk to the quarry site today, where blocks up to 2 m long are stacked at the old jetty.

As far as is known, the Equitable Life Assurance building was the only Melbourne building constructed from Cape Woolamai granite. Pieces weighing up to 10 tonnes were used to make pillars and blocks for the base-courses and portico. The pleasing pink colour of the granite is due to thin films of reddish iron oxides in feldspar crystals. The granite also takes a fine polish and is remarkably resistant to crushing. (Melb Museum website)

Bricks were first made in Melbourne in [1838], on the swampy flat between the river and Emerald Hill (South Melbourne). But early bricks came from Launceston, though they may have been used only for chimneys. (Herald, 28/9/33)

Here and there in odd corners of old Melbourne which have yet escaped the picks of the wreckers can be found the ancient hand-made bricks.... Paled by the march of the years, these bricks bear on their surfaces the name 'J. Glew'.... there is no mystery about John Glew, the brickmaker of Brunswick. I talked for an hour with his son-in-law, David Hill, who at the age of 79, still works in the depths of a clayhole 100 feet down in Essendon. Glew was not an ordinary brickmaker. his products were masterpieces of the art. Back in 1849, when West Brunswick was known as Philipstown, he opened a brickyard in Barkly Street.... Hi reputation, both as a pioneer and a master of brickmaking in Melbourne, grew steadily. If a perfectly finished brick was needed for one of Melbourne's early city facades, architects and builders sought out John Glew.... His bricks, pressed from the then incomparable West Brunswick clay, are hidden behind a fencing of masonry in the arches of the General Post Office. His special circular bricks, each weighing one hundredweight, form the columns of the Collins Street Independent Church. In many of the city's older buildings will be found the handiwork of John Glew... Millions of Glew's bricks—fancy bricks, finished bricks, splays, fire-resisting bricks, and flooring tiles—went into the building of early Melbourne.... Caught in the frenzy of the gold rushes, John Glew, in the late fifties, ceased making bricks for a time, and searched for gold in the Black Forest district. [but soon returned]...A new building revival in Melbourne just then enabled John Glew to sell a kiln of 40,000 bricks at £10 a thousand. He applied himself once more to the making of bricks, received up to £— a thousand for them, established yards at Glen Irish and Essendon, as well as at Brunswick, and produced 20 million bricks from one clayhole. On his retirement Glew handed over his brickyards to four of his sons, urging them to continue turning out pressed bricks and hand-made bricks. But building boomed in Melbourne to such an extent that the sons were obliged to install machines to cope with the keen demand for bricks. (Herald, 8/3/35)

Builders were turning towards brick construction rather than stone or timber, and between 1883 and 1888 brick production in Melbourne increased by almost 1000 per cent. (Davison, *Rise & Fall of Marvellous Melb*, 50-51)

Mechanical production of bricks on a large scale was begun by Hoffman Brick Co., Brunswick, followed by Butler's, Barkly's and the Victoria Tile Co—all at Brunswick. Old-type bricks, however, were common until 1890. (J. Crow, *History of Brick & Tiles in Melbourne*, Australian National Clay, Feb 1969 □SLV/WW 64/3)

- 1905 The first conventional building in Australia with a complete concrete structure was built by [John] Monash in Oliver Lane in 1905 and extended two years later. His own offices were within it, as were those of the cement manufacturer, David Mitchell. [Monash owned the Victorian rights to the Monier system of reinforced concrete construction] (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.98)

Built-up steel beams were used in the ground to sixth floors of the Australian Building in Elizabeth Street, of 1888-9, and a steel frame was used in the extension of the Dennys Lascelles building at Geelong in 1889. From this time onwards a considerable amount of steel was used. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.99)

1916 In 1916, when the Melbourne Building act made legal the use of steel frame construction as part of the main structural plan, the revolution began. ...Concrete and steel framing, equipment for fire-prevention, and elevators, have been factors in the extraordinary development of modern building.

The advantages of steel frame and reinforced concrete construction are many. Chief among them is the economy of space. Monahan's Building, which stood on the site of Nicholas Building, has base walls six feet in thickness. The present building, constructed in steel framing to the third floor, has columns of 2.5in base, with little or no wall between them. Because of the high cost of steel in Melbourne, reinforced concrete has been employed from the third floor, where the column thickens to 3ft. The same saving of space makes possible the construction of mezzanine floors and galleries—a substantial consideration in revenue production. Temple Court, a comparatively narrow building, contains offices which, if placed end to end, would reach from Spencer street to Spring street and back to Russell street.

Terra cotta is popular for exteriors at present, owing chiefly to its light weight, non-porous surface— which can be easily washed, in contrast with cement surfaces—and its insulation. With terra cotta there can be a definite colour scheme. Mr H. Norris, architect, has added a bright touch of colour to Bourke street with the new building on the site of Cole's Arcade... Coloured terra cotta helped to impart an old-world, foreign atmosphere... Melbourne is really far too strongly addicted to the grey and sombre. Even sandstone and yellow cement form a welcome change.

...the concrete conquest. (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement p. 3)

BUILDING

Laying of foundation stones—see pic of Melbourne Town Hall ceremony, 29/11/1867 (in Miles Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.50). Why did so many people turn out?

It was not only structural framing that made the skyscraper possible. It was the elevator, the telephone, central heating, mechanical ventilation, the revolving door, plumbing, communications systems, and an impressive list of mechanical improvements. Melbourne's first tall buildings were serviced by hydraulic elevators, either 'direct action' type or 'suspended', fed by high pressure mains from the Melbourne Hydraulic Power Company. At peak hour most buildings had their own steam or gas-driven pump. Three hundred of these elevators were connected, but inevitably the electric traction elevator took over, and by 1903 Otis were making ten electric elevators for every one hydraulic. The lift well was enclosed by an iron lattice and the main stair wound around this within a square well. (Wilson & Sands, *Building a City*, p.130)

1889 [Lifts—Australia Building, 1889?] Lifts were few and far between in Melbourne then, and all were on the hydraulic principle. The directors had fallen for the direct-action variety, in which the waterproof cylinder has to carry a piston on which the lift floats upward. They quite overlooked the fact that it meant the construction of works as deep in the earth as the height of the lift's ascent. Their pet example was in Spring-street, and Elizabeth-street was quite a different problem. The fact had to be faced that it was the main drain of the whole district, and the necessary shaft would have to extend considerably below the level of the Yarra. ... This shaft took six months to build. All kinds of strange things cropped up during excavations—including red gum logs as sound as the day they were buried... Some grains of gold even were discovered, but not enough to start a run. Completion meant official inspection, and on a certain afternoon the whole board, including Mr Alfred Deakin and several important officials (about a dozen all told), entered the lift. What went wrong was never known—whether there was some defect in the valves or whether the driver was over-excited—but as the rope was pulled, the cage shot up like a rocket. No one could count the floors. Fortunately the safety springs brought the flight upwards to a not too violent conclusion, the lift recoiling a mere ten or twelve feet. The passengers scrambled out on the eleventh floor, and it was noticed that the lift was not so crowded going down! What a sensation in the city of that day if suddenly had emerged from its highest building a rocket with a dripping tail 100 feet long, topped by a crushed lift cage, from which dropped at intervals into the Yarra or on the railway buildings some of its best known citizens! (H.H.K., 'Story of a Melbourne Building', *Age*, 21/4/45)

1903 Bricklayers were not paid much after the land boom broke at the end of last century.... Some of the retired master builders tell me that bricklayers and carpenters got about 8/ or 9/ a day and laid about 1000 bricks a day, compared with, they say, often only 400 these days. Men on piecework laid even more on a big double-brick wall giving them an uninterrupted run. One builder said he got bricks laid for 21/ a 1000 in the 1931 depression, compared with £14 to £15 a 1000 recently.... [c.1903] Those were the days of hod-carriers and wheelbarrows. On a small job someone had to take the hod up the ladder. On taller jobs bricks went up in wheelbarrows by pulley and the barrow was then wheeled along the planks. Nor were these modern 'meccano-set' looking scaffoldings. It was a case of poles, put-logs and 9in. planks, and the trowel, not a concrete mixer.

(Putlogs were inserted in the walls to hold up the planks. They went up with the walls.)
(Herald, 21/7/56, p.23)

- 45/10 The Builders' Laborers' Union does not expect any serious dislocation of the building industry over its decision last night to ban the carrying of hods on building jobs from next Monday. ...there were fewer than 200 hod-carriers employed in the metropolitan area. The hod was used almost solely on villa work.... Mechanical methods had been used on all big building construction jobs in Melbourne for years. Use of winches, hoists and jenny wheels and the introduction of a special type of barrow for villa work would mean greater efficiency and eliminate the unnecessarily laborious toil of the hod-carrier. In NSW the hod had been banned for more than 12 months. There a brick barrow, narrower than the type used for concrete, enabled the bricks to be wheeled through narrow doorways of houses during construction. Hods had not been used in Queensland for many years.
- The hod is... a wooden tray for carrying bricks and mortar.... Hod carriers say that the building hod is a stone-age tool which has no place in this machine age. When empty it weighs about 12 or 14 lb and its capacity is 12 bricks of 9 lb each—grand total about 120 lb. The men say that constant hod carrying impairs their general health. Varicose veins are one unpleasant result. (Herald, 30/10/45)

ARCHITECTS

1910s By about 1910 architects... were going to America to learn about modern office and department store design, and returning advocates of the steel frame... and, before much longer, of escalators. The architects of importance in these developments are Nahum Barnet, Robert Haddon and Harry Tompkins. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.101)

1930s Melbourne architects included: Gawlor & Drummond, Harry A. Norris, Cedric H. Ballantyne, Leighton Irwin, Marcus R. Barlow.

79/8 Alistair Knox and John Pizzey are two architects who use a lot of secondhand materials. (Myles Whelan, Age, 22/8/79)

28. CITY HOTELS (GENERAL)

20/12 For a city of its size, Melbourne has singularly little night life... Eleven o'clock sees the streets seething with the audiences pouring out from the two pantomimes, a couple of musical comedies, an odd revue, a melodrama, a vaudeville show, and a whole colony of picture theatres. For a little while the cafes, the hotel lounges, and the oyster saloons are full of people anxious for a little hurried supper. But an hour later the streets are utterly deserted and to the would-be reveller Melbourne is a city of dreadful night... True, there are one or two establishments which make some attempt to emulate the night-club of London and the cabaret of New York, and with the aid of a string band a few coloured balloons attain the atmosphere of a kind of 'bowdlerised' Bohemia. But they are not many and cannot be said to attract Melbourne 'society' in any great numbers. Before the war the young man who knew his Melbourne could always ensure a moderately cheerful if unconventional finish to the night's entertainment at one of the few little 'delicatessen' shops where a friendly waiter generally managed to conjure up some excellent food from the dark recesses of the little kitchen down the corridor. But even these seem to have taken to earlier hours and he would be a bold man who proposed to give a supper party at the saveloy carts in the shadow of St Paul's or at one of the coffee stalls near the old cyclorama. (*Argus*, 22/12/1920)

30/7 Managers of Melbourne's principal hotels are unanimous in their support of the motion passed yesterday at the annual conference of hotel-keepers, that the Liquor Act restriction on dancing be removed. They feel Melbourne is in definite need of brighter evenings, and that in these times of depression people should be given some opportunity of enjoying themselves and forgetting their troubles. The restriction on holding dances after closing hours is purely Victorian. In Sydney, for instance, one of the gayest events of the week is the regular Thursday night dinner dance in the Hotel Australia...

The management of Menzies' Hotel today expressed its willingness to arrange similar functions if the restriction was removed. Dancing could be enjoyed in the lounge after dinner, and retaining waiters on duty could be arranged without undue trouble or expense.

The Continental and English fashion of dining at tables set around a dancing floor, and fox-trotting between courses, is not likely to become popular here. Hotel managers expressed the opinion that it was not necessary to prolong the dinner in this way. Overseas, the fashionable hour to dine became later and later, and was now set at about 9 p.m. With fox-trots, tangoes, waltzes and cabaret turns interpolated. It was often midnight before dinner was ended. In the rocadero, in London, this meal has been given a new name, 'dinoit'. It is meant to be a combination of dinner and supper, and play upon the French words 'diner' (dinner) and 'minuit' (midnight) is made. Another new meal craze in London is 'dinner cocktails' in the form of a cocktail party at which substantial food, such as sandwiches and hors d'oeuvres, are served with the drinks....

The licensing restriction in the Victorian Act does not apply to holding afternoon tea dances, but although efforts have been made in the past to introduce this fashion to Melbourne, it has never been popular—due, no doubt, to the lack of leisured young men in the community.

The manager of the Oriental (Mr Baker) is an enthusiastic supporter of the move to have the restriction abolished. ‘Only a few days ago,’ he said, ‘an overseas visitor staying in the hotel approached me, complaining about the general dullness of Melbourne hotels. Such impressions are bad for Australia, for they are carried away overseas, and repeated.’ (Herald, 10/7/30)

33/8 If the City Council does not frown upon such a picturesque Continental innovation, it is probable that before long an attempt will be made to introduce Australians to the habit of sitting at little tables in the open air before hotels and cafes instead of in the depths of hotel lounges. Mr A.L. Kent, manager of the Oriental Hotel, who has a long European experience, said today that he thought Australians would take to the practice ‘like a duck to water’... Mr Kent thinks that the only reason why Australians do not sit in the sunshine before their cafes and muse on life and art is that they have no chance to do so. ‘Melbourne seems to me to have an ideal climate for such things,’ he said today, ‘with sunshine eight months of the year. In places where the sidewalk is broad, as it is in Collins Street, one row of chairs and little tables could make no difference. Then, in fine bright weather, guests and people waiting for their friends could sit there.’ ...He does not think that Australians are too self-conscious to adopt the habit. ‘At first the younger generation would not care if people looked,’ he says. ‘As for the others, they could stay inside.... I would be the first to introduce it here if I could,’ he adds. ‘In good time I think that I shall ask permission.’ (Herald, 10/8/33)47/8 The [new Oriental] hotel would be built to attract overseas guests. It was useless for the authorities to invite international delegations and Olympic Games teams to Australia when there was barely enough accommodation for the interstate trade, [Mr P.W. Tewksbury] said. (Sun, 2/8/47)

33/12 Because of the high values of land, there has been a steady decline in the number of City hotels. In the Licensing Court yesterday, the chairman (Mr Robert Barr) said that within a stone’s throw of the Royal Mail Hotel, in Bourke Street, about 13 hotels, including such important ones as the Bull and Mouth, had disappeared. Today Mr Barr said that many hotels had been built on land which cost about £200 a ft. Today this land was worth more than £150 a ft. It was difficult to make a hotel pay under this capital burden. In 1907, when the system of compulsory reduction of licences was begun, there was one hotel in Victoria to 360 people; now there is only one to 1028 people. There were 1770 hotels in Victoria at the beginning of the year, compared with 1828 in 1929, and 3507 in 1907. From 1907 to 1932 the Licences Reduction Board closed 1748 hotels and awarded £1,142,176 in compensation. (Herald, 19/12/33)

33/12 That one of the fast-vanishing hotels of Bourke street, the Royal Mail, is planning improvements, including provision for a saloon bar and a Continental luncheon-

room, suggests that the demolition of hotels in this neighbourhood, which 30 years ago boasted 17 hotels all within a stone's throw of one another, has ceased at least for a time. They were brave days when, standing at the corner of Bourke and Swanston streets, one could take the choice within an area of about 200 yards of the Royal Oak, the Vendome, the American, the Queen's Arms, and the Gippsland in Swanston street; the Reform Club Hotel (WW), in Little Collins street; or His Majesty's, the Albury, the Victoria, better known as Mick Nathan's, the Bull and Mouth (WW), the Mechanics', the Canton, the Albion, the Sunbeam, the Orient, the Old England, the Opera House, and the Theatre Royal bars (WW), all in Bourke street. At the old Mechanics' Hotel, which used to stand on the site of Coles's shop in Bourke street [329, west cnr the Causeway], the licensee, the late Mr Ascenio de Freitas, distributed to the poor of the city the viands left over from the evening meal.... From the front door of the Bull and Mouth, which occupied the site of Woolworth's new shop, the coaches set out in the old days for the gold diggings. Old sporting enthusiasts will remember the boxing matches that were held 30 years ago in the Victoria, since given place to the Melba Theatre [283 Bourke, WW]. (Argus, 26/12/33)

- 37/10 Agreeing with recent critical tourists, Mr P.W. Tewksbury, proprietor of the Oriental Hotel, who returned in the Orion after a business and pleasure trip to America and Europe, sees Australian hotels as 'absolute morgues' in the evening inevitably dull for overseas visitors because they are not given the privileges they would have in their own homes.... Much of the disparaging criticism of Australian hotels heard from overseas tourists could be traced to the licensing restrictions. Mr Tewksbury said he did not favour opening bars after 6 p.m., but privileges to guests should be extended. (Herald, 18/10/37)
- 39/3 Numerous hotels and club buildings under reconstruction. (Herald, 11/3/39, p.6)
- 45/8 But most of the pubs have succumbed to the occupational disease of brewers' architecture—shiny tiles and repainted fronts which contrive to convert a plain and agreeable enough colonial tavern into a typical vulgar 1945 adaptation. (Herald, 25/8/45)
- 53/8 Hosie's has had no accommodation, and the law says it must have. So down it comes... (Sun, 15/8/53)
- 54/3 Most of [Federal Hotels Ltd's] planning has been with the aim of attracting conventions and other functions, the big money-spinners of US hotel chains.... Present plans include the setting up of the biggest hotel dining room in Australia. It will seat about 500. All is expected to be finished well before the Olympic Games in 1956.... [The Federal and Savoy-Plaza] hotels already have bedroom accommodation for 700, and no further additions are proposed at present. ...on present building prices, a bedroom costs around £4000. To get a reasonable return at this price, a charge would need to be about £4 a night—far more than the public could be expected to pay. (Herald, 2/3/54)

- 54 Federal Hotels owned: Menzies ('an ultra-conservative European type hotel); Federal ('a top middle-class hotel'); and Savoy-Plaza [Chevron?] ('an ultra-modern American-type hotel'). (Argus, 17/7/54; Herald, 28/8/54)
- 1956 [Olympics] ... the accommodation of visitors (other than athletes and officials), of whom about 2,000 were booked into city hotels and 1,200 into suburban ones. More remarkable was the use of private accommodation, using the 15,000 beds volunteered by householders in response to an appeal. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.108)
- c.56 Most of [Melbourne's] grand old *belle epoque* hostelries had been torn down by Whelan the Wrecker [c. Melbourne Olympics] to allay international suspicions that Australian architecture was out of date. (Barry Humphries in Bulletin, 9/9/1980, p.56)
- 58/7 [The Occidental] was one of the last links with a more leisurely, easy-going Melbourne when Australians were content to be themselves and the customs and decorative schemes of Honolulu and Las Vegas were not regarded as necessarily the high peak of civilisation.... This sort of hotel is apparently no longer profitable and is going out of fashion, at least with big hotel companies which, seemingly, can't get rid of any Australian atmosphere quickly enough□there have been notable acts of destruction in this direction in the past few years. Personally I think this is a mistaken attitude on all counts, and that even that glamorous figure, the hypothetical American tourist spilling dollars as he walks, would be glad to stay at a comfortable Australian hotel rather than one that looked as if it had just been run up in Hackensack, N.J. (Sun, 26/7/1958)
- 58/8 The man who will pull down the 100-year-old Occidental Hotel in Collins Street, Mr David Stern, Managing director of Balmoral Enterprises Pty Ltd, genuinely regrets its passing. He had hopes for a bigger and better Occidental Hotel, some 10 stories high, and even had plans and sketches drawn... Then Mr Stern made a discovery. For his one-man enterprise, the hotel's return compared with capital outlay would not be high enough. 'Melbourne is not a tourist terminal,' explained Mr Stern. 'If it were not for a few gay young people who have an occasional night out, more hotels would close.' (Age, 27/8/58)
- 58/8 '...returns in the hotel business were insufficient for such a small company and land in this part of the city too valuable.' ...In the Licensing Court earlier this week, Judge Fraser had said: 'The higher percentage of transfers now is made by persons who were never in the industry before. Experienced hotelkeepers are not applying. More people have walked out of hotels bankrupt in recent months than in any other period....' (Age, 30/8/58)
- 61/12 The general manager of the Australian National Travel Association... said today that the new Southern Cross Hotel in Bourke-st. would absorb much of Scott's

- trade. 'We'll all be sorry to see a hotel like Scotts go. It's a part of Melbourne,' he said. 'At the same time, we welcome the new international-type hotel.' (Herald, 6/12/61)
- 61/12 The secretary of the Australian Hotels Association... said Scott's was the first of the big hotels to close. It would be the 23rd hotel to shut down within the 'Golden Mile' since 1951. (Sun, 7/12/61)
- 61/12 More than 20 city hotels had closed in the past 10 years. (Herald, 8/12/61)
- 63/10 the sad truth of the 'Top Hotel' business in Melbourne is there aren't enough 'Top People' to go around... That's why hotels (with the exception of the Windsor) are wooing the 'Middle People'.... Fancy new eating and meeting places like the Rib Room and Harlequin Room at the Ress Oriental; family smorgasbords at the Chevron; businessmen's lunches at the Southern Cross, with a brass band in the plaza; a Mardi Gras at the George. The 'Top Hotels' now go out of their way to tell you how reasonable are their tariffs, how painstaking their service, and how famous are their dining room entertainers. There are now about 2000 first-class hotel and motel beds available in Melbourne. But on the average only about 60 per cent of them are occupied. The big new motels, with licensed dining rooms, around the inner city area have sent the 'Top Hotels' out looking for guests.... And the scores of top-class licensed restaurants have forced them to compete for diners. (Sun, 26/10/63)
- 68/1 The Cathedral is the 11th city hotel to close in the last 10 years. Only one new hotel, the Southern Cross, has opened in that time. (Sun, 1/1/68)
- 68/1 ...the Cathedral Hotel in Swanston Street is the 28th city hotel to close its doors in recent years. (Age, 24/1/68)
- 68/10 The wreckers have moved in [to] the Cathedral Hotel... and it's the end of another chapter for what was once Melbourne's beeriest mile... Back in 1888, when the hotel was only four years old..., Flinders lane boasted 15 pubs, ten of them on corner sites. Today... the lane has just two hotels or three if you count the basement bar at the ANZ Bank building. This bar is an illegitimate descendant of the Railway Hotel, established in the 1850s and known for most of its long history as Johnny Connell's. The two remaining houses are the Old London Inn, at Market Street, and the Kerry Family at King Street the latter itself under sentence of demolition. In September 1837, when legislation was passed in Sydney validating several 'licences' which had been issued in Melbourne to sell grog, Johnny Fawkner had already opened his tavern Melbourne's first in Flinders Lane near the south-east corner at William Street. It did not remain there for long. The local authorities wanted the site for their Customs House development, and Fawkner was persuaded to sell and to move to nearby Market Street. Another very early hotel was the Governor Bourke, in a building which had been erected in 1836 in Flinders Lane close to Queen Street. Early lists show

the Carpenters Arms (at Elizabeth(in 1839, and Shaw's (on the south side, west of Queen). In 1840 four more licences were granted to houses carrying Flinders Lane addresses—the Ship, the Dundee Arms, the Shamrock and the Philadelphia. About the same time a hotel called the Australia was opened in Flinders Lane by John O'Shanassy, later to be knighted and to become one of the leading political figures of the colony. The Adelphi opened in 1841, and in 1844 the Apollo Inn (south-west at Russell) which stood its ground until as late as 1927. In 146, it is noted that the Prince of Wales was on the north side of the lane, at the back of the present Regent Theatre. Surprisingly, it is said to have stood well back from the street alignment, approached by a driveway.... By 1860, ...12 hotels were listed in Flinders Lane. About eight of them were on corner sites with cross streets. By 1888,...the lavish Cathedral Hotel had already established itself (1883-84) and the total of Flinders Lane pubs was then 15 (10 on corner sites). Rivalling the Cathedral, no doubt, was the Queen's Arms opposite (north-west at Swanston), which had been well-established before 1860, and was later rebuilt on a large scale. The substantial building, still rearing above the State Savings Bank, suggests that it must have had lavish residential accommodation. True to the Melbourne habit, it was known as Champion's but it remained officially the Queen's Arm's Hotel until it closed its doors in 1923. Another large residential hotel of this time was the Waverley (north-east at Exhibition). This building, too, still stands, but as a hotel it saw out its time in recent years as the Ress-Astoria. (Herald, 12/10/68)

69/1 [Menzie's manager, Henry Timmerman] ...says the decline of Menzie's began after the war years, when the hotel lost a lot of its regulars to society restaurants like Maxims, Florentino's, the Lido and Fanny's. Menzie's fought back with floor show attractions like ...Al Martino, Shirley Bassey, Frank Ifield and the Shadows—a practice which raised quite a few eyebrows. '...About two years ago we introduced Menzie's Big Beat, a \$4.50 buffet meal with a semi-discotheque atmosphere,' Mr Timmerman said. He said that before the war the older generation set the trends for entertainment... 'Today it's the young people who set the tone,' he said. (Herald, 25/1/69)

71/4 Since mid-1968 12 hotels in inner Melbourne have pulled their last pot.... The Australian at the corner of Little Collins and Spencer Sts. was in the path of expanding Board of Works offices and the Clare Castle in Swanston Street was taken over by a bank.... On July 1, 1968, the Liquor Control Commission, set up in place of the old Licensing Court, recommended certain standards for drinkers. The secretary of the commission, Mr Jim Crowe, believes high land values and the commission's recommendations are not the only reason for the fall of the old style hotel. 'Motels in outer suburbs have drawn away the customers,' he said. 'More and more visitors to Melbourne now stay out of town.' (Herald, 1/4/71)

91/1 Myles estimated that WW had pulled down 400 Melbourne hotels. (Sunday Review, Sun, 13/1/91, p.9)

29. FINDS, SCRAP, ARTEFACTS

Once, when demolishing an old hotel where the Royal Bank is now, 13 sovereigns were found in the first load of material taken away, and every day after that crowds used to follow the carts in the hope of finding gold. [Clarence Hotel demolished c.1884] Several times the wreckers found sovereigns. A sealed tin containing 80 of them was found under the flooring of a house in Collins Street, and on the site of the Victoria Hotel [in Collins St? burnt in 1925] 17 were found 4ft below the ground. An interesting discovery was made when the Exford Hotel, on the corner of Little Bourke and Russell Streets, was falling under his hands. An old oven was found beneath the footpath. It had been bricked up, and upon being opened was found to contain 50 bottles of old wine. When sampled it did not come up to expectations and the whole of it was thrown out. (Sun, 9/1/32)

Once, when he was pulling down the old Exford Hotel, at the corner of Russell and Little Bourke Streets, he found a number of old fluted jars in a cellar under the footpath. They contained champagne. The workmen opened one. A dense mist arose from it, and it was decided that to sample the contents was too risky. In the same cellar he found a complete bedroom set, with looking glass, brush and comb, and washing table and jug. In the rebuilding, the workmen had not bothered to remove these. They had just built them in with a new wall.... In the old days, Bilken Square was a notorious quarter. So bad was it that policemen would only enter it in pairs. '...there was an eerie atmosphere about the place, but we did not dig up one ghost. ...And then in a house in Little Bourke Street I found three knuckle-dusters. Nasty-looking things they were. I still have them. Once when I wrecked a building in Swanston Street North I found 20 or 30 sovereigns in a queer old pan. Two of my workmen found 80 sovereigns in a building formerly occupied by a dentist in Collins Street. One of the men told me about it, and we divided it up among the three of us. They were rolled up in packets of 20. It was said that the man who put them there had died in Pentridge. Perhaps he has stored them up against the time he came out. One of those men found 21 sovereigns in another wrecked building at the back of Goldsbrough, Mort's. A boy pulled a board away from a chimney, and the man drove in his pick. Out came the bag of sovereigns. I let them keep them. He'd been having a rough time with sickness.' (JPW, Herald, 16/1/33)

Myles told of 100 sovereigns found behind a colonial oven, and 75 more plastered up in a chimney ('that room was let to a dentist who had served time') (SMH, 31/5/63; Myles speech, 1962 or 3, SLV/WW 64/2)

At the old L.V.A. homes at Clifton Hill he discovered a complete set of coins, one with the Lord's Prayer engraved on it. (Truth, 2/3/29, p.8)

- c.1905 Twenty-five years ago, while the old Paddington Hotel was being pulled down, one of the men discovered a dozen old-fashioned belltoppers between the ceiling and the roof. It was learned later that these had belonged to the members of an English Test team, and had been stolen from them when they were touring in Australia many years before. (Herald, 21/6/30)

In the attic of a city hotel he found eleven bell-toppers belonging to an English cricketing eleven who had been the victims of a practical joker. (Truth, 2/3/29, p.8)

'There was great joy among my men for a while, Each one wore a belltopper while he worked. When they got tired of them they started to kick them about. I rescued two and

took them home, but they are gone now. Real John Bull hats they were.' (Herald, 16/1/33)

c.1911 Where the Palace Theatre now is (30 Bourke Street), at the top of Bourke Street, there used to be the Hotel Douglas. When demolishing this building, Mr Whelan was amazed to find that the servants' quarters at the top of the building were only 4 ft from floor to ceiling. A person had practically to crawl into the room. (Sun, 9/1/32)

c.1921 WW wrecked Stock Exchange, 367 Collins Street. Three floors superimposed, of zinc, copper & lead [most valuable find, from wrecker's viewpoint. (news cutting, 1933?) [scrapbook, p.38)

21/8 Workmen excavating between Cole's walk [Howey Place] and Swanston street to lay the foundations of a picture theatre [Capitol] discovered the remains of an old picket fence, the top of which was 4ft below the surface of the ground. The fence was 15ft long, running parallel with Collins street, and near it was portion of what appeared to have been an old corduroy track. Portions of the pickets, well preserved, and resembling hardwood, were obtained by Mr Raynes Dickson, of Raynes, Dickson, and Kiddle, who represent the Howey Estate, on which the excavations are being made. The building which stood on the excavated area is said to have been in existence since 1865, and the fence must have been erected many years before that date. (Argus, 26/8/21, p.6)

You know, we used have some little wooden carved serviette-rings at home. They were like a heart and all this sort of thing. And it was said that one of the fellers who used come to the yard carved those, and they came from either a fence underneath the site for the Capitol Theatre, or Myles says [Hotel Australia]. (Owen Whelan interview)

1920s? At a house in Little Lonsdale Street, a large number of ugly knuckle-dusters were found beneath the flooring boards. (Sun, 9/1/32)

Once in Little Lonsdale-street he found four evil-looking knuckle dusters, spiked and heavy.... In a house in Bilking Square he came across a cartload of 'brummy' jewellery, the property of some bygone go-getter. (Truth, 2/3/29, p.8)

'a whole drayload' of brummy jewellery was found during demolition of houses in Bilking Square, off Little Bourke. (scrapbook, p.38)

c.1923 The Royal Oak Hotel [123 Swanston]... [JPW] pulled down twice. ...At the back of the hotel was a little lean-to which contained on an upper shelf several dozen bottles of champagne, of which the licensee, Mr Joe Dillon, knew nothing. Some of the workmen, who had never seen champagne before, had a drop out of a bottle to see what it was. Mr Whelan was hurriedly summoned to treat a couple of men who believed that they had been poisoned. It must have been potent liquor....When the excavations were in progress for the building of the Capitol Theatre, part of a picket fence, a stretch of corduroy track, and a chimney were unearthed. (Argus, 23/1/32)

Once in Little Lonsdale-street he found four evil-looking knuckle dusters, spiked and heavy. In the attic of a city hotel he found eleven bell-toppers belonging to an English cricketer eleven who had been the victims of a practical joker.

At the old L.V.A. homes at Clifton Hill he discovered a complete set of coins, one with

- the Lord's Prayer engraved on it. In a house in Bilking Square he came across a cartload of 'brummy' jewellery, the property of some bygone go-getter. (Truth, 2/3/29, p.8)
- 26/9 Excavating subway (basement) under Post Office Place, workmen discovered red gum logs of old corduroy roadway, 4_ ft below present street level□9-16" diameter. 18" red gum logs formed kerbs, smaller diameter logs for footpath. During excavations for Myer's, Bourke Street, about 12 years ago, many bones of cattle and sheep were found□site of early abattoir. (Herald, 30/9/26, p.9)
- 32/9 Melbourne's first 'baby' theatre will be opened to-night. It is beneath the Melba Theatre in Bourke street and is 145ft long, 36ft wide and 13ft high. The excavation necessary before the theatre could be built formed the most interesting feature of the work. ...The old bluestone and concrete walls of the Victoria Hall—now the Melba Theatre—had to be heavily underpinned as the excavation went on. ...When the Victoria Hall was a place of vaudeville entertainment a liquor bar, almost on Bourke street, was one of its most popular attractions. Even bar floors sometimes have cracks, and the workmen excavating the little theatre found a number of old coins, including one dated 1757, beneath where the bar had been. The stump of a gum tree, 2ft in diameter, was found, as it had been left when the tree was sawn through and the floor of the Victoria Hall was built above it years ago. (Argus, 15/9/32, p.7)
- 1933 Wooden carved bull's head from Bull & Mouth Hotel, Bourke Street□still at WW yard/office in 1966. What became of it? (Australasian Post, 11/8/66□scrapbook, p.1)
- Pleasant Creek Cemetery—'Whelan the Wrecker, an old Stawellite, presented the cemetery gates, that came from the Bijou Theatre in Melbourne. Part of these same gates are at the Deep Lead Cemetery.' (internet)
- c.1960 Pair of white cement lions bought from WW 'to give a Roman touch' to a shrine at St Cecilia's RC Church, Glen Iris□when new church was subsequently built, lions watched over carpark□one disappeared in 1976□was found nearby. (Herald, n.d., in SLV/WW 57, p.116)
- 60s? Myles Whelan showed me a sheet of brown paper which was found wrapped around an old (decomposed) shirt, buried on a demolition site□which one? He couldn't remember, but thinks not CML. But written on the paper in pencil is: 'This shirt was buried in memory of William Ellis, plasterer, died 8 August 92'. Was he one of the seven who died on the CML site? No report in newspapers for 8/8/92 or adjacent; no William Ellis in 1892 death records□Frank Ellis, aged 34, died E. Melb (14633); William Ellis, aged 41, died in Melb Hospital, 1893 (6735). (Myles Whelan pers comm, Sept 2003)
- 67/5 'If the boys find something valuable on the job, it's usual that they retain these things. ...everyone's human and it's natural to hang on to something and say nothing. ...We've never found a bag of gold or that sort of thing, to our knowledge.' **Pic**□coins under floor? Now and then the Whelan wreckers come across forgotten wealth in old houses. Police in most cases help to trace owners. Odd finds include a couple of gold-plated opium pipes 'in a little place in Bourke Street'; a hand grenade; and a mortar bomb in a wall. (Owen in People, 3/5/67□scrapbook, p.14)

Tom Whelan found a diamond-studded watch under some floor-boards. He wound it up and it still went. (Bulletin, 26/1/63)

Popular places to hide coins are in the vicinity of fireplaces and front and back doors, abutting the passage or room floor with the stone step [?]. The timber will shrink away from the stone step a little and in this area where the housewife has brought out money to pay the tradesman, dropped it and perchance was lodged between the stone. (Myles speech, 1962 or 3, SLV/WW 64/2)

When we're demolishing a hotel, the old hands always want to be the first to start on the bar-room floor. They know small change filters through the floorboards. (Owen, Camberwell Progress Press, 1968□scrapbook, p.15)

Box of coins found under Temperance Union House by Trevor Turner□he handed them in and received \$10. (Sun? Weekend Magazine, July or Aug 1968□scrapbook, p.19)

The 'men' prefer hotels to banks. 'You always find lots of coins under pub floor, but we've never found a penny in a bank. At the old Parer's Hotel, where Walton's store is now, one of my workmen found £5 in a rat's nest. There was a tremendous scuffle and quite a lot of sixpences and threepences rolled on to the floor before a couple of fellows took a day off on the proceeds.' (Owen□press cutting, n.d.□scrapbook, p.3)

...in the old days sovereigns would be placed in position at 12 noon and the foundation stone laid with great ceremony. Then, when the official party had gone, the workmen would raise that stone again, just for a second, say, at 5.10 pm. Drinks for everybody. (Jim Whelan, interviewed in Bulletin, 26/1/63)

Contracts/specifications issued by architects included a clause, 'Minerals & Antiquities' or 'Objects of Value'□'Any antiquities, coins, memorial stones, caskets and objects of value or historic interest other than building materials shall remain the property of the proprietor and be handed over to the Architect.' (SLV/WW 43)

- 60s Poster found behind an old mirror when pulling down a building in Elizabeth Street, between Lt Bourke & Lonsdale□'Australian Tea Rooms. This is a true local business carried on by Melbourne citizens. Our friends alongside are a Sydney company whose profits in our city must be sent out to pay income to shareholders residing there. SUPPORT LOCAL INDUSTRY & KEEP YOUR MONEY IN OUR COUNTRY.' (scrapbook, p.6)
- 60s Farmers buy old baths from WW for stock-feeding. One was of solid marble, 4" thick□'It lay in our yard for ages until a man from Hepburn Springs bought it.' (scrapbook, p.3)
- c.67 Ancient leather wallet containing £5 note found by Trevor Turner. Reserve Bank exchanged note for \$10. (Sun? Weekend Magazine, July or Aug 1968□scrapbook, p.19)
- c.68 Train track found beneath floorboards in old Motor Registration Branch, Exhibition Buildings. Rails 5 ft 7 in wide, ran full length of building□probably put down in 1880s. (scrapbook, p.3)

[Pics x 2] The rail was almost certainly laid so that locomotives could be put on show, probably at the Centennial Exhibition in 1888. 400-ft long rail found by WW workman, George Jackson, who believes: 'It must have been used to cart the bluestone blocks which form part of the Exhibition foundations.' (Herald cutting, n.d., SLV?WW 56)

[Pic] Photo shows trains on display at 1880 Exhibition, with caption 'The transport of steam engines to the exhibition was by way of a special track laid right to the front door! A turntable was below the floorboards.' (Victoria Illustrated 1834-1984, p.215, RHSV pic)

1970 Found under floorboards of a house at the back of Walter's Store in Waterfield Street, Coburg—diary of Abel Greenwood's voyage to Australia aboard *Delta*, ex-Liverpool, in 1852 (23/7 to 15/10). (APITS, Sun, 23/12/70—in SLV/WW 57, p.58)

In Little Bourke Street there, a couple of opium swatches. I used to have one of those sitting on...

RA: What's a swatch?

OW: Oh, just like a little seal thing with opium in it. It was all glazed over, à la Chinese style. And there was a hand-grenade. Someone found a gun once. And up there at the top... I don't know whether it was around that Anzac House demolition, there was a dental surgery (this was before the war) and they found a tin with gold sovereigns in it. And the theory was that he would use that for gold fillings... I know a place out there at Williamstown, they discovered a bottle. And it had a very humble sort of a message in it and a set of very primitive rosary beads. Out there, they were about the only places out that way that were built with convict labour. And this was underneath a hearth. So some poor soul, I suppose, despairing of anything in life, you know, made out some few words and what-have-you. There was something also found when we demolished the buildings there at St Francis', but I can't remember what the heck was there... But I've never of treasure-trove being found. But usually it was 'findings keepings', because if a bloke came along and said, 'Owen, look, I've just found a golden sovereign'—'Thanks, Bill, put it in here. I'll give it to some architect, far removed, who'll pass it onto some further removed...' You'd never hear about anything being found on the site. So... but there was never any treasure-trove... No, I can't remember that. Like I said, there was this gun, a pretty rusty old thing. (Owen Whelan interview)

1989 [Pics] Photos of Myles Whelan's house in Maltravers Road, Ivanhoe, 1989, show four sandstone 'diving blocks' at the end of an in-ground pool—viz, four large sandstone blocks with carved, bearded faces overhanging the pool. Also 2 x narrow, rectangular sandstone blocks, carved on front face with a sunflower in pot—used as stands for garden ornaments. From where? (SLV/WW, Box 27)

1980s Previously, ordinary building material was the main item of salvage. Some very beautiful things went to the dump simply because there was no market for them. Now there is a steady demand for items with sentimental value... Knowing what to send to the dump and what to send to the salvage yard calls for a fine understanding of the salvage market, and it is one of the constant personnel problems a wrecking firm faces. Someone who does not know what he is doing can soon clutter up the yard with unsaleable junk and send treasures off to the dump. Salvage has become less of an economic factor, though, in particular on valuable city sites. The accent today is more on tight schedules. City sites cost so much that site availability is what the owners are mainly interested in... With this

kind of pressure, the wrecker just has to accept that the value of the salvage is less than the cost of the extra time it takes to recover it. (Brian Carroll, *The Builders*, p.117)

I had that much bits and pieces—you know, wood-carving and all that. You'd get little bits and pieces and you'd say, 'That's too nice to let go to the yard,' and you'd take it home and all that sort of thing. ...but I haven't got any sheds anymore. So I had to be ruthless and I farmed it out to kids and what-have-you. ...So a lot of my memories are up here. (Owen Whelan interview)


RECYCLED BUILDING MATERIALS

- 1850 New Roof Covering□We are requested to call the attention of parties interested to a new building now being erected under the direction of Mr Wharton in Elizabeth street, near La Trobe street.* The roof is covered with 'galvanised iron', being the first use in this district. It forms, we understand, the cheapest and lightest covering for roofs that can be put on. It is pleasing in appearance, very durable, not affected by lightning or rust, admits ventilation, and is an admirable covering for verandahs or flat roofs. It is also well adapted for spouts and gutters of all kinds. (Argus, 16/8/1850)
*see photo on cover (also pp.50-51) of Bate, Essential but Unplanned□photo c.1860 shows gal. iron roof in Elizabeth Street, near La Trobe)
- 1911 At auction, JPW bought most of the buildings of the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum in North Melbourne. He paid £820 for buildings which had cost approx £50,000 to build 50 years earlier. 'The buildings as they stand contain about 1,000,000 bricks and a quantity of timber, iron, and stone. ...the foundation-stone and all relics preserved under it were reserved from sale, and would be retained as the property of the committee of the asylum.' The foundation stone was eventually recovered in the north-east portion of the grounds and transferred to the new asylum site at Cheltenham. (Argus, 16/6/11; Mary Kehoe, The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, pp.69-70) [Pic□July 1911 photo of main asylum building, half-demolished, featuring sign: 'For Sale Whelan'□Kehoe, p.69]
- 17/3 [Advertisement] Bricks, Doors, Sashes, Lining, Flooring, Timber, all kinds. Girders, new and secondhand; cheapest Victoria. Whelan, Sydney-rd, Brunswick. (Age, 17/3/1917)
- 1923 Blackwood and cedar panelling from Temple Court (demolished 1923) later lined passageway in WW office (People, 3/5/67□scrapbook, p.13)
—or from later demolition of new Temple Court, opened 1925?
Massive revolving doors... will open out to a handsome corridor... panelled in polished marble. The lift lobbies are similarly panelled, and other floors are to be richly panelled in carved and figured blackwood.... (Argus, 27/3/25, pp.16-17)
- 24/7 Eight huge pieces of stone, weighing in all about four tons, crashed from a height of 150 feet into the yard of the General Post-office yesterday morning, but they crashed by design.
Their falling marked the beginning of the work of demolishing a tall chimney-stack which stands behind the Elizabeth street post-office, and formed part of the old post-office building. More than 100,000 bricks were used in the making of the chimney... The contractor expects that, with reasonable weather, the task should be finished within a fortnight. He also expects that 85 per cent. of the bricks will be fit for future use. (Argus, 30/7/24, p.22)
- 1928 Wrecking contracts awarded last week to the Albert A. Volk Company for demolition... revealed in part the reason why Hudson River Common Brick manufacturers have been forced to ship 'hot brick' to New York to supply the present heavy demand. ... 'Hot brick' is a brick-trade synonym for that condition of the construction market which calls for bricks so fast that the manufacturers do not have time to let brick get cold in the kiln before it has to be shipped. ... 'The wrecking business in New York City has changed considerably in recent years,' Mr Volk said, has he mentally calculated how much saleable common brick he would be able to salvage out of the massive brick structures



that generously contributed to the life of New York's Gay Nineties. 'There was a time,' he added, 'when we would clean and sell the brick as we took it off the wall, but now it is cheaper for us to dump the brick in the cellar as fast as we can pull down the walls, and then shovel it out by steam. It costs from \$15 to \$20 a load to get second-hand brick. All we get for it in a condition fit to use again as a building material is between \$25 and \$26, and we put it on the truck besides.... I believe the reason for the bigger demand for new brick is that it is more profitable to wreckers, when they can get a fair break in demolishing big jobs where speed is the main consideration, to tear out the building on the site and use the brick they get in filling up the Long Island swamps. When there are not so many second-hand brick for sale there must be a bigger demand for new brick.

'There is still another reason for this condition. There was a time when many of the these old buildings in New York... were erected with lime mortar and not cement mortar. ... We have to pay brick cleaners \$1.15 an hour, so common brick once used for New York City building construction stands an increasingly good chance to be used as swamp fill instead of second-hand building material from now on.' (*New York Times*, 18/6/1928, p.35)

- 1930 The demand for speed in house wrecking which in part prohibits the salvaging of materials is fast becoming a large economic factor in the high cost of new construction in New York, according to Albert A. Volk, president of Albert A. Volk, Inc., who has directed the demolition of many famous landmarks here.... 'It costs so much now to destroy a building of any size that it does not pay the wrecker to even try to salvage material. Take old bathtubs, for example,' he said. 'We used to get from \$15 to \$25 a tub, while now, under the penalty and bonus system rapidly coming into vogue in handling demolition jobs, we smash these tubs up and they sail out through the Narros on Father Knickerbocker's trash-carrying scows to find a well-earned rest at the bottom of the sea along with the old brick that only ten years ago brought \$60 a load to the wrecker, who would clean the old mortar from their sides; and sometimes he didn't even bother to do that.... The builder wants his site cleared on time.... He will even pay a bonus if the structures on the site are removed ahead of time. On the smaller jobs the wrecker may cart off the brick and trash and sort it at his leisure, but it does not any longer pay to recondition the basic building material coming off a typical big-town wrecking job. We thought we had found a new way of decreasing wrecking cost by discarding the old brick in a way that would eliminate the handling of them at the present high cost of wrecking labor. Our plan was to rip a slot next to the four walls of a building, and while the workmen operated from scaffolding on the outside, chute the brick and other wall material through this slot direct to the cellar, where we could remove it by steam shovel direct to trucks—brick, dirt and all; but this method [called 'breaking through'] has been frowned on [by unions] emphatically enough to remind us of the time, some years ago, when the brick, after being taken from the wall, were lowered to the basement in baskets. Those were the days when most of the brick we took out of the walls were laid up in lime mortar, but today the great bulk of the buildings we wreck are those that have been erected within the last ten to twenty years, and in such structures the brick is gripped in mortar of cement. In such a state the brick do not convert to individual units. They can only be taken out in lumps, and for the most part are dumped into the trash scows in that condition. Certain interests are agitating against this cost-saving device, which cuts the time of wrecking from one-third to one-half. They want the wreckers to go back to the costly system of handling second-hand brick by the wheelbarrow method, with manual labor...' (*NY Times*, 10/2/1930, p.44)

1938 Royal Insurance Building, 414 Collins St, demolished by WW  in SLV/WW collection has caption by MJW: 'Lots of these windows ended up at Monsalvat.' (SLV/WW, Box 62, item 6)

Monsalvat 'was built from our stuff. The late Justus Jorgensen and my grandfather were great mates. He'd be in here about once a fortnight.' (Myles, Age, 22/8/79)

The Whelans at this time were wrecking the Royal Insurance Building in Collins Street, they offered Jorgensen the carved stone windows from it, these windows are now set in the front of the Great Hall, although Jorgensen has altered their proportions slightly.  (Monsalvat booklet  on file)


Those Monsalvat people... I can remember that, back as a little kid, going out there. And the day I was there the *Sun* newspaper... Matcham Skipper, I think, had his photograph... he was sitting there, you know, banging away at a big piece of stone. Probably... he'd come in and we'd sell him stone, and even old timber. And Matcham's old man or someone, he was a great mate of Uncle Pat's and *always* there. And he built Monsalvat virtually out of Whelan the Wrecker's yard. (Owen Whelan interview)



Much of the glory of old Collins Street went to Whelan's. (Keith Dunstan, Sunday Age, 8/12/91, Agenda, p.5)


? Workmen sorted out the stones of a demolished church into big and small stones, for Anglican Archbishop Booth and Catholic Archbishop Mannix to use. 'There's one for Joe,' they'd say. 'There's one for Dan.' Small stones came to be known in the trade as Dans. (Owen Whelan, Age, 12/7/74)




'Joe's got all the big stones, there are only the little ones left for Dan.' Joeys & Dannys. (press cutting, n.d., SLV/WW 66/5)

1941 Building materials shortage  'Screw Famine Will Continue'. (Herald, 6/5/41)

c.1953  on file of decorative carved counter-front at WW yard. (MJW photos)

1958 Mr D. L. Coughlin of Seymour contacted me in July 2003  one set of iron gates from Fish Market are at the entrance to King's Park footy oval at Seymour  a second set disappeared in recent years from the entrance of the town's swimming pool. Mr Coughlin's dad was a publican (Port Melbourne, Richmond, Fitzroy, St Kilda) and knew JPW/Jim Whelan? Moved to Seymour, where he became a town councillor. When he heard that WW was wrecking Fish Market, went down and 'snaffled' the gates for the Seymour Council. According to Myles, another set of Fish Market gates is located at Fawkner cemetery.

1960 Decorative iron ceiling grille (about 4 ft diam) featured as a coffee table in Myles Whelan's office (2003). For  of grille in situ, see CML booklet (on file)

1960 Decorative wrought ironwork between lifts in CML lobby  see  in CML booklet  ironwork now (2003) in possession of Tom Molnar 9465 0316.

Old bricks from wall demolished during remodelling works at Royal Mail Hotel (SE cnr Bourke & Swanston) bore thumbprints. Hotel built c.1865. A.S. Kenyon of Vic Hist Soc believed bricks came from Port Arthur—view supported by a visiting Tasmanian, who believed that the fine texture of the clay was identical with that of Port Arthur bricks. (Sun, 28/2/34 & 1/3/34)

60/2 Old hand-made bricks have no second-hand value, according to the wrecker, Mr M. Whelan. 'They're all for the tip,' he says. (Herald, 8/1/60, p.17)

60/6 MJW: But the great story of [the Eastern Market] was... all the bricks. At the same time they were doing that, we pulled down the... what was the extension of the Windsor? ...The Old White Hart Hotel, yeah, on the corner. They pulled that down.

RA: Now, that *was* an old hotel.

MJW: Oh, it was a very old hotel. Very old. But the architects there... I think it was Harry Norris. Yeah, it was Harry Norris, H.A. & F.L. Norris... But he wanted the bricks from the Eastern Market and we had to... because they weren't ready for them... He wanted an incredible number of bricks in the extensions to the Windsor. He wanted all to use these old handmades, secondhand bricks, and they were before the machines.

RA: Why was that? Were they going to be exposed?

MJW: No, well, I'll tell you why. We had to clean them, stack them, and hold them, and then bring them back into town for them to use in the extensions. Now the reason was, that bricks—new bricks—always have movement. And that's plaster-rendered and they wanted it to be exactly plaster-rendered in sympathy with the old Windsor. But with new bricks, once you put the plaster on, of course, it cracks. And he didn't want any of that: he wanted a brick without movement. And he got it all right: they were a hundred years old. And of course the bricklayers went crook because they'd break and all this business. And Don Swanston, though, of Swanston Brothers, I think he was chairman of Glen Iris Bricks. And he put huge pressure on me. I mean, he tendered on that basis but he was chairman of... trying to sell new bricks and here he was, on his job, using old, secondhand bricks. And it was (a) proving embarrassing to him and (b) also it wasn't very rewarding to him, because he wanted to sell them the bricks. And he was quite miffed about the whole... But guess what? You look at that plaster job and there's not a crack in it, even today.... I forget how many was poured into it. It was just unbelievable. (Myles Whelan interview, 6/8/03)

...demand was such in those days that a lot of... the bricks normally, when they come out of the kiln, they put them 'at grass', so to speak, so they cool down and they stop moving. Now there were a lot of buildings that became... Kodak was one where they had... you know, the structure of the building was steel-framed and then they'd infill the panels with brick. But at Kodak, you know, in latter years, that's turned out to bite them. Because they must've used fresh bricks there and they started to expand and contract and they were bulging out, and they looked like some of them were going to fall out and there were terrible consequences. (Owen Whelan interview)

68 **Pic** b&w print—wrecking of Cathedral Hotel, City Square—Sign: Bricks for Sale. (SLV/WW 62/6—SLV pic)

70 ...sandstone bricks. Lovely material of this sort is fairly easily recovered in house demolition. It is not possible in the city, where generally the value of materials is not a major item in a demolition job. In the city, materials are not carted away from the site as

they are in other places. The public is invited to buy the material... on the site. When you are pulling down on top, you are selling doors underneath.* ...House demolition can be a dismantling job, but demolition for commercial development is a straight-out demolition job. (Myles Whelan□evidence to ?NSW Govt Building Inquiry, 1970□SLV/WW 65/3)
*Myles disapproved of the practice□considered it dangerous.

Jimmy Whelan used to say, 'I've got a job for you, another rubbishy old brick house. There could be a bit of timber in it. All the bricks will have to go down the tip.' Those bricks were black Hawthorns. You couldn't sell them. Now they are all the go. We have a perpetual waiting list for them.' (Owen, interviewed by Keith Dunstan, Good Weekend, Age, Jan? 1987)

Bricks with lime mortar in big demand□easier to clean than those with cement. (Myles, Personal Success magazine, June 87)

CRA Building, 1987-8□not much salvageable material□bricks and steel covered in cement mortar and concrete□doesn't pay for cleaning. (SLV/WW 57, p.169)

66/8 'As we tear down we must clear the mess by convoys of trucks to our scrap yards.' ... Owen Whelan says that to be a successful wrecker you must assess pretty quickly the value of the 'dismantled commodity'. How much will the bricks, timber, steel, joists, flooring, doors, windows, glass, fetch on the open second-hand market? ... 'Pulling down only provides our bread and butter. It helps to pay the huge insurance premiums that cover all our workers. We make most of our profit from selling the junk...' (Owen, Australasian Post, 11/8/66□scrapbook, p.2)

68/6 ...we're dealers. We may get a \$50,000 contract for pulling down a building but know it's going to cost us \$70,000 to pull it down. The amount of salvage involved is what makes it profitable. (Owen, Herald?, 7/6/68□scrapbook, p.17)

I built this home on 15 acres, on an old orchard out there at Templestowe, and I used the bricks and I used the lamps from the old Stott's Business College, behind the Independent Church. The beautiful lamps, they're still out there. And I had flagstones. A lot of it was the bluestone from the Board of Works cladding that had to come out. And I told you the bricks came from the Mint. And I had a beautiful ornate set of carved cedar doors which Myles organised for me. They came from an insurance company in Sydney. And lovely doors from a mansion. You know, the whole place... and the fireplace was bluestone, and that came from the St Patrick's [College, East Melbourne]... (Owen Whelan interview)

1968 Gallows beam used in Mick Jagger film, 'Ned Kelly', was supplied by WW. Original beam from Pentridge□last hung Ronald Ryan. (SLV/WW 57, p.27)

c.1970 Sovereign Hill architect Ewan Jones obtained many fixtures etc. from WW. (press cutting, n.d.□SLV/WW 57, p.33)

Salvage is still a significant part of many demolition jobs. A wrecker may tender \$100,000 for a job, knowing full well that it will cost \$150,000 to do it. But the salvage will make it profitable. ...Salvage has become less of an economic factor, though, in particular on valuable city sites. The accent today is more on tight schedules. City sites

- cost so much that site availability is what the owners are mainly interested in.... With this kind of pressure, the wrecker just has to accept that the value of the salvage is less than the cost of the extra time it takes to recover it. (Brian Carroll, *The Builders*, p.117)
- 76/4 Usually a building's saleable bits and pieces become the demolisher's property, and this is taken into account when the cost of demolition is negotiated. But with labour costs soaring, the cost of saving a piece, say worth \$20, could be twice that. Cedar panels and oregon joists all too often end up as firewood these days. (Owen, *Age*, 21/4/76)
- Less is being recycled from buildings because the higher labour costs make it unprofitable. The old time wreckers would 'turn in their grave if they saw what was going to the tip.' (Owen, *Rydges magazine*, Oct 1980, p.139)
- WW used to de-nail and cut scrap timber to size□no longer economical. (Sun, 13/3/81, p.49)
- 77-78 Pentridge cell doors□ex C-division, 130-y-o□150 doors for sale @ \$50, or \$86 reconditioned (polished and painted by prisoners)□advertisement in *Age* 'Wanted to Sell' classifieds. (*Age*, 9/11/77; Sun **[pic]** Feb 1978□in *SLV/WW* 57 p.124)
- (During talkback re. WW with Derek Guille (ABC 774) in July 2003, received a call from a chap who told of turning up with a mate at WW yard, having seen the ad in the paper. Told that all the doors had been sold, they took advantage of the confusion at the yard and pinched one.)
- 79/8 Alistair Knox and John Pizzey are two architects who use a lot of secondhand materials. (Myles Whelan, *Age*, 22/8/79)
- 85/7 Nicholas Dattner, furniture-maker□used timber from WW for his refectory tables, etc. (*Age*, 23/7/85)
- 86/1 Clifton Pugh's 'Dunmoochin'□'is a combination of mud brick, Swiss chalet, Whelan-the-Wrecker recycled dream and Miss Havesham's *Great Expectations*. (Keith Dunstan, *Good Weekend*, *Age*, 17/1/86)

WW YARDS

- early 20thC Coburg yard was originally 60 x 350 ft—expanded by buying 4 x 2-storey bluestone mansions and a weatherboard house, to give existing (1975) frontage to Sydney Road—now occupied by Wreckair and State Savings Bank. A small quarry on the north side was claimed by JPW under adverse possession—he later gave it to Council—now Edward Street. Yard was run by Declan Whelan. (Jim Doyle, 1975—SLV/WW 64/3)
- 1910 JPW purchased WW site at 605 Sydney Road—132 ft frontage. Shops (Stawell Buildings) built on Sydney Road in 1922. (Historical notes, 1975—SLV/WW 64/3)
- 64/8 WW office built in 1964, replacing corrugated iron shed. Reception area features full-wall aerial view (lithograph) of Melbourne in 19thC. (Sun, 4/8/64)
- The office partitioning is a picket fence from a North Melbourne cottage. And beautiful blackwood panelling came from The Walk in Temple Court, Collins Street. (news cutting, n.d.—SLV/WW 62/21)
- 1960 Granite window lintel from CML building (12 ft long, 2 ton) used as table in WW office. Solid cedar doors with brass hinges from CML; ‘Residential Lounge’ doors from Occidental Hotel—also used at WW office. Ceiling supported by beams from beneath Glaciarium skating rink (City Rd, Sth Melb). (People, 3/5/67—scrapbook, p.13)
- 64/8 Each weekend hundreds of family groups descend on the yards and, as if on some mad archaeological hunt, they dig deep in the piles of ruin. (Sun, 4/8/64)
- 68/6 ...we used to send some beautiful stuff to the tip, including things like wood panelling and wrought iron. Now, all of a sudden, people are becoming historically minded and they can’t get enough of the old stuff. (Owen, Herald?, 7/6/68—scrapbook, p.17)
- 69/6 Chullora yard, 10 miles from Sydney. Myles: He really must get the place tidied up so people can see what he’s got, while at the same time hiding one or two things to they can feel the thrill of discovering it for themselves. (Bulletin, 28/6/69—scrapbook, p.27)
- 72/10 Over the years, the role of salvage has changed. ‘There was a time when ordinary building material was the main item of salvage. I can recall we have sent some beautiful things to the dump in the past, just because there was no market for them. Now we have a steady demand for items with a sentimental value. Knowing what to send to the dump and what to send to the yard calls for a fine understanding of the salvage market. (Owen, Rydges, Oct 72)

30. HERITAGE

- [London] On top of the chalk itself lies the thick London clay which is in turn covered by deposits of gravel and brick-earth. Here, then, is the making of the city in more than one sense; the clay and the chalk and the brick-earth have for almost two thousand years been employed to construct the houses and public buildings of London. It is almost as if the city raised itself... (Peter Ackroyd, *London: The Biography*, p.8)
- 12/9 The number of old buildings round which cling interesting associations connected with the early days of our city is of necessity rapidly dwindling, for the onward march of modern requirements is ruthlessly sweeping them aside, and the place that knew them will soon know them no more. As it is not possible, then, to preserve these old places from destruction, it is surely worth while to mark them with some permanent record, a stone or bronze tablet, so that the memories of their early importance shall not be entirely obliterated. This is a bit of useful work that the City Council or the State might fairly be asked to undertake, and the Historical Society would doubtless render useful service in making a selection of places worthy to be thus identified. (Argus, 21/9/12, p.7)
- 21/7 The destruction of some of Melbourne's old buildings to keep pace with the growth of the city has directed attention to the need for a record of early Melbourne's landmarks.... More than 10 years ago the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects proposed that members in possession of drawings or documents illustrating the buildings of early Melbourne should file copies with the institute. Where old buildings had to be demolished, photographs or drawings should be made before the work is commenced. (Argus, 26/7/21, p.6) [Letter from RHSV in next day's Argus noted that the Society had been actively collecting photos of early Melbourne buildings for some years.]
- 27/5 ...the face of the city is changing so rapidly that the time is not far distance when a search for a building 50 years old will be in vain. (Herald, 21/5/27)
- 32/9 Do we in Australia pay enough respect to our history and our traditions? And should we not bestir ourselves before it is too late—to see that such relics of the past as we still have are preserved? The question has been raised during the past day or two in connection with the preservation of Governor Latrobe's historic residence at Jolimont and the beautification of its surroundings which show what can be done in a practical way to foster and promote the historical sense of the community.
- Not only are the remains of the early pioneers and explorers of value to rising generations as tangible memorials to the men who gave their energies in the building of city and State, they are also assets with a very definite value. The realisation of the value of historic remains has indeed made the fortune of many a town in Europe...
- In Melbourne we are not quite so fortunate as they are in Sydney, which already had many of its early buildings before ever Batman and Fawkner came to Port Phillip. Most of our earliest buildings of wattle and daub and weatherboard have naturally and lamentably disappeared already.
- But with the 'forties there came a more solid architectural era, and although many of our buildings may not have the same aesthetic claim to survival as have the earlier Georgian buildings in New South Wales and Tasmania, their claim to continued existence on purely historical grounds is unassailable. They still have their place amid the towering clean-cut concrete giants planned by the architects of a more hustling and scientific age, giants as yet without a history. (Herald, 21/9/32, p.6)

33/4 Now that a beginning is being made with the clearing and demolition of the Bank of New South Wales building in Collins Street, its fine facade, which is a partial copy of one of the noblest buildings in the world, the Library of St Mark's, Venice, will in the next month or so be transferred to the University of Melbourne. The bank has made a gift of the facade to the University... Its acquisition... is a further step toward the realisation of a plan conceived some years ago and fostered since by the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, in particular by Mr J.S. Gawler, lecturer in architecture... Mr Gawler said today that in Paris, at the Ecole de Beaux Arts, which had probably the finest architectural school in the world, was a courtyard around which stood many examples of different styles of architecture taken in the past from buildings which had been demolished. 'It was my idea some years ago,' Mr Gawler said, 'that when a famous old building in Melbourne was to be done away with, rather than let its beauty and worth go to the scrap heap, we could rescue it. This has two advantages: first, because of the historic interest, and secondly because of the help such examples would be in the training of architectural students... When the Old Colonial Bank building was to be pulled down the suggestion came from the Institute of Architects that the interesting old entrance should be preserved. With very little adaptation, it was possible to use this on one of the medical buildings at the University. Since its re-erection there it has been very much admired. The next offer was received in respect of the Old London Bank building... It has a row of fine Grecian-Doric columns which are the only ones of their kind in Melbourne. They are cut in blue stone, not in marble, as at Athens, and are valuable examples. These also will go eventually to the University. The present front of the Bank of New South Wales... is probably the finest piece of stone work in Melbourne. There is a famous building in Venice, the Library of St Mark's, which was designed by a renowned architect, Sansovino, and is regarded as his masterpiece. The front of the Bank building is a partial copy. It would make an excellent front to a permanent student's union building... (Herald, 22/4/33)

39/6 If the speed of present rebuilding does not approach that of New York—now claimed to be reconstructed once every 25 years—the wave of replacement here is flooding at a new peak. Before it much beautiful and locally historic architecture is going. Façade after façade is being tossed into the wrecking pit. This is a new phase in the re-building of our city. Until recently facades which had special merit for design, or stonework, were salvaged—sometimes re-erected at the University for the training of architects of the future. That was the fate of the porch of one of the city's first banks, and the façade of the old Bank of New South Wales Building is now being incorporated in the exterior of the new Commerce Building at the University. Similar efforts were not made for other buildings wrecked recently. Perhaps the most notable was the old Royal Insurance Building. Architects claim that the façade of that building had the most perfect Gothic stonework in Melbourne, excepting St Paul's Cathedral. Now the same fate hangs over the Corinthian columns and old façade of the Royal Bank branch of the ES&A bank, at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets. Wrecking began on the building this week, to make way for a limit height, new branch bank. Tall, massive, but beautifully fluted and capped, there are 14 columns in the two facades of the old bank, and two, flanking the corner entrance, are of complete circular section. The architects for the planned replacement building, Messrs Stephenson and Turner, and the builder, Mr Ernest A. Watts, have no instructions about the old columns. ...it seems that ideas are changing as fast in Melbourne as the appearance of buildings, and there is now less interest in the retention of old architecture. Some architects would not retain even a flawless stone example of a past architectural style. They claim that construction in stone has been

- ended by the march of steel and concrete, and the introduction of improved methods and materials. (Herald, 23/6/39)
- 49/3 MCC's 3-storey height limit for residential buildings under review. Professor Brian Lewis, Dean of Architecture, University of Melb: 'look at St Kilda Road, where a magnificent boulevard is defaced by old two-storeyed houses patched up and converted into inconvenient and expensive flats...' (Herald, 30/3/49, p.4)
- 54 Proposed Civic Centre in front of Parliament House, Bourke Street, recommended by Melb Metropolitan Planning Scheme report 'The retention of the Princess Theatre and the Windsor Hotel which, when rebuilt, as some day they must be, can be brought into architectural harmony with the surroundings.' (see **pic** proposed plan of square, on file) (MMPS report, p. 125)
- 55/7 ...the silent war on Old Melbourne. These people don't want the city's progress strangled by useless ramshackle buildings. But they want government departments, councils and private owners to use taste and discretion when deciding what must be pulled down. Destruction of beautiful or historic buildings goes on quietly and in small doses.... Other buildings stay because they're so useful or picturesque they can't be ignored. St Patrick's Hall, where Victoria's first Parliament met in 1851 now harbors a ballet school.... A Citizens' Advisory Panel, a group of about 30 architects, historians and private citizens, has circularised Melbourne councils saying it's willing to advise about old buildings or any problems of culture in its widest sense. But Victoria has nothing like the widely backed New South Wales National Trust to guard its few disappearing historic or beautiful buildings, although meetings to form one have been going on in Melbourne for several months. The head of the Fine Arts Department at Melbourne University, Professor Joseph Burke, has begun discussing with the Federal Government a plan to take stock of historic buildings all over Australia before it's too late. (Herald, 25/7/55, p.4)
- 55/8 More monuments of Victorian history are being smashed to bits. 'Leura', the old mansion on the corner of Toorak and Orrong Roads, is about to go under the wrecker. ...bits of joinery, ironwork and trimmings are going almost for the taking. You can pick them up for shillings: Melbourne's past at a bargain; the nation's heritage selling out cheap! ...These are our heirlooms from Victoria's fabulously gilded youth between the gold rush and the nineties. Is our present community so numb at heart that it feels nothing at their passing?... A little more of Melbourne's dignity will have been replaced by rawness. A phase of our heritage, a chapter of our history, the ghost of a vital spirit never to be recaptured, will be erased on strictly practical grounds. ...Melbourne is now in the middle of a mad destructive spree. Sydney went through a similar period before the war, when many buildings reeking of Australian history, much older and more important than ours, were destroyed without a moment's thought. Eventually Sydney shocked itself by the excesses of the architectural massacre and a small spontaneous reaction set in. A National Trust was formed... Without getting dewy-eyed...or over-emotional about any of the historic relics destroyed so far, with every wish to encourage normal progress, many people and several organisations are intent on stopping thoughtless and irresponsible destruction. The first step is to record the remaining buildings of historic or architectural merit. The next is to make owners of these aware that they possess something of national worth above market value. The ultimate aim is to acquire the most important examples and preserve them in a National Trust, as is being done elsewhere.

- The Town and Country Planning Association of Victoria is one organisation working now to this end, and looking for support. (Robin Boyd, Herald, 9/8/55, p15)
- 55/10 Neither the historic nor the architectural conditions are as clear-cut here as they are in England or even in Tasmania or New South Wales. Our history is not so long and our oldest architecture is sentimentally and academically not so respectable. Our building history belongs not to the gentle Georgian of the first colonials but generally to the more violent forms of Victorianism. But short and violent as it is, this history is Melbourne's, written in the scrolls of black iron and set in plaster; and the best remaining examples are of value to us if only because they are something no other city possesses in quite the same form. Victoria's vivid Victorianism is an asset which we may only appreciate in retrospect when it is finally destroyed. (Robin Boyd, Herald, 4/10/55, p.4)
- 55/12 Melbourne must have as many ugly buildings to the acre as any city in the world—and day by day the proportion of ugliness increases. With infallible accuracy, each old building with pretensions to style or beauty is singled out for destruction.... What particularly prompts this lament... is the destruction of No. 64 Latrobe st. **[pic-complete with WW sign]** Of all the small buildings in Melbourne, this surely had the loveliest façade. With its fine balustrade and its beautifully proportioned windows and doorway, it stood in hideous surroundings, like a small god among everyday mortals... Houses like 64 Latrobe st will never be built again. Apart from their intrinsic beauty they are viable evidence of our history, of a past that has already outdistanced living memory. Our churches and public buildings of note, such as... St Patrick's Jesuit College... and the Mint are presumably safe.... A beginning has been made with the formation of a national trust for the preservation of buildings, national features, monuments and records of significance to the people of Victoria. (Dorian Le Gallienne, Argus, 17/12/1955)
- 64 Latrobe Street—Pleasantly dignified in general aspect, this house has such charming features as three tall windows with slender astragal bars, a bay window and a generous hospitable entrance segmentally arched and set with a beautifully designed fanlight. **[pic]** (Early Melbourne Architecture, p. 74)
- 56/5 The organisation of Victoria's National Trust, now virtually completed and awaiting a public meeting, is based on that of the famous National Trust of Britain. But that will be about as far as the resemblance can go. ...Compard with the English, ours is a pretty rum sort of architectural history. Really the only thing to recommend it is that it happens to be ours, and the only one we have. (Robin Boyd, Herald, 29/5/56, p.4)
- 56/5 National Trust formed—to preserve historic buildings, relics and sites of national importance in Victoria'. (Herald, 18/5/6, p.5)
- 56/9 National Trust launched—provisional chairman, Sir Daryl Lindsay (Herald, 11/9/56, p.5)
- 57/2 St Patrick's Hall—'Another Melbourne land-mark is about to fall to the wrecker's axe—and Melbourne just couldn't care less.' National Trust says plaque should mark its site. Apart from historical associations, not worth preserving (says leading architect). (Herald, 23/2/57, p.5)

...around about that time... People were saying, 'Oh, we shouldn't do this,' or 'Wait a minute, we're losing...' Because it was starting to speed up and people were saying,

'Hey, wait a minute.' You know, when you get change, it's only natural for people to say, 'Oh gee, look at that lovely...', 'I remember going in there as a girl,' 'I remember going in there as a boy.'...they think, 'Gee, that's some of my life.' (Owen Whelan interview)

Memorials are a way of forgetting... (Iain Sinclair, *Lights Out for the Territory*, p.9)

- c.56 Most of [Melbourne's] grand old *belle époque* hostelrys had been torn down by Whelan the Wrecker [c. Melbourne Olympics] to allay international suspicions that Australian architecture was out of date. (Barry Humphries in *Bulletin*, 9/9/1980, p.56)
- 58 Owen Whelan a National Trust member from 1958. (*Herald?*, 7/6/68 [scrapbook, p.17])
- 58/10 The destruction of older buildings in Melbourne is a sign of progress, prosperity and expansion. [WW had pulled down 20 city buildings in past year] (*Port of Melbourne Quarterly*, Oct-Dec 1958, pp. 11-15)
- 58/11 The noise of wrecking is also the sound of progress. The town is loud with drilling and the crash of old walls. We are losing something as slabs of Melbourne's short history become rubble, and gaining a more modern city. (*Herald*, 29/11/58, p.4)
- 60/10 Jim Whelan has a student's knowledge of the buildings he pulls down. 'There's no use doing a job unless you find out something about it, is there?' Young Jim said. For a man who can become sentimental about an old building, it was not surprising to hear Jim Whelan admit to feeling a 'little bit of a pang' when one came down. 'But times are changing,' he added, 'and we don't want a dingy old city, do we?... There is any amount of Melbourne that can come down yet.' (*Sun*, 24/10/60)
- 60/11 Mr Whelan's current orgy of destruction is merely a symptom of the pressing prosperity now menacing the country in general and probably Melbourne in particular. ...The citizens are glutted with destruction and already most of them have forgotten what yesterday's skyline was like. As the curious box-like structures of the space age rear blunt heads that brush the lowering rain clouds, the old city contemplates its fate calmly. Progress can swamp a city, but Melbourne is absorbing its progress with dignity. (*APITS?*, *Sun*, 23/11/60)
- 1962 After a four-year battle for its survival, the Coal Exchange (built 1846-9) [pic] in Lower Thames Street, London, was about to be demolished. '...its destruction is one of the great conservationist horror stories... Professor Russell Hitchcock acclaimed it as 'the prime City monument of the early Victorian period' and the 'real London rival' of Labrouste's Reading Room at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.
- 'The cast-iron rotunda [pic] surrounded by offices reached from the galleries. A cable motif was used both to ornament the stanchions and for the balustrading, derived from the mine cables and the shipping ropes. Other motifs derived from coal-mining itself were used for the lavish decorations of the building... As well as improbably picturesque views of collieries and colliers, and some jolly miners [pic] and miners' tools used to form trophies, there were the more scientific leaves and trees [pic] which were fossilized into coal...
- 'The problem was that the Coal Exchange and the Custom House of 1813-17... faced each other some 49 feet apart across Lower Thames Street, along which an approved through route some 50 feet wide from Blackfriars to the East End, to be finished in 1972, was to run....

‘In the course of 1962, the Victorian Society pursued a scheme for having the rotunda re-erected, and found a home for it in Melbourne, where the National Gallery of Victoria expressed an interest. On 20 September the City [of London] gave the Victorian Society four weeks to find £20,000, half the cost of shipping the rotunda to Melbourne: if this was forthcoming the City would contribute the other half and the rotunda would be saved. This suggestion could not be properly explored as the City insisted on demolition [pic] being carried out in November 1962. Now, almost a decade later, most of the site remains a carpark, raising the question of whether the Rotunda could not, by less hasty demolition, have been preserved for re-erection.’ (Hermione Hobhouse, *Lost London: A Century of Demolition and Decay*, Macmillan, London, 1971, pp.178-81)

1962-3 [London] Demolition of Euston Station Great Hall and Arch—built 1834–49, ‘Euston Station was not only the first London terminus, it was the first railway station in the world in any capital city. It was therefore a particularly important monument to the Railway Age, the more so because it was conceived on a heroic scale.... “The Euston Murder” reflects no credit on anyone concerned... The only person who emerges with credit from the affair is the demolition contractor, Frank Valori, who offered to have the stones of the Arch itself numbered on his own initiative in case of an official change of heart [on relocating the Arch]. The fight to save the Arch was not perhaps as totally useless as it appeared in 1962, for latent public opposition to such acts of destruction was altered and organised as never before, and has been growing since. The public protest which greeted British Rail’s proposals to demolish both King’s Cross and St Pancras in 1966 was as much a memorial to the Euston Arch as the model of the Arch presented to the Victorian Society by Frank Valori. [Pics—Euston Station Arch, and wreckers demolishing the Great Hall. (Hermoine Hobhouse, *Lost London: A Century of Demolition and Decay*, Macmillan, London, 1971, pp.234-7)
The model of Euston Arch [pic on file] was cast in silver by Carrington’s and was stolen from the Victorian Society’s office in Great Ormond Street in 1968. The Society is still seeking its return. (Vic Soc website, June 2004)

1960s [London] It was the age of the property developer when great fortunes could be made, trading off development land [for tower block housing] to the LCC for permission to build on sensitive sites. Their names were legion—Centrepont, London Wall, Euston Centre, Elephant and Castle, all of London seemed to have been changed out of scale and out of recognition. It was a form of vandalism in which the government and civic authorities were happy to acquiesce. Vast swathes of London disappeared in the process—Printing House Square, Caledonian Market, St Luke’s Hospital, parts of Piccadilly, stretches of the City, were all demolished in order to make way for what became known as ‘comprehensive redevelopment’. What it represented was a deliberate act of erasure, an act of forgetting, not so dissimilar in spirit to the mood and ambience of the ‘Swinging Sixties’ elsewhere in London. It was as if time, and London’s history, had for all practical purposes ceased to exist.... ‘Swinging London’ was all of a piece, and much of the swinging was done by the implements of the demolition teams.

‘London has always been an ugly city. It is part of its identity. I has always been rebuilt, and demolished, and vandalised. That, too, is part of its history. The ancient creed—‘Cursed be he that removeth old landmarks’—has never been observed in the city. In fact one of the characteristics of London planners and builders, over the centuries, has been the recklessness with which they have destroyed the city’s past. There were even songs on the subject from previous centuries:

Oh! London won’t be London long
For ’twill all be pulled down

And I shall sing a funeral song...
The haunts we revelled in today
We lose tomorrow morning,
As one by one are swept away
In turn without a warning...

In the 1260s all the old 'ruinated' work of past ages was swept away in the entire redevelopment of Bridge Ward. In the 1760s the medieval gates of the city walls were demolished on the grounds that they 'obstructed the free current of air'; in the same decade of 'improvement', houses were demolished to make way for new streets in no fewer than eleven wards. It was the greatest single change in London since the Great Fire a hundred years before. Then in 1860 the Union of Benefices Act expedited the destruction of fourteen city churches, some of them erected by Wren after that Fire. The 1860s were in fact the great period of destruction when, in the words of Gavin Stamp in *The Changing Metropolis*, 'half of London was being rebuilt... the city must have been a nightmare of dust, mud, scaffolding and confusion'. Queen Victoria Street and the Holborn Viaduct were being constructed, causing massive destruction to the oldest parts of London, while the various railway networks were defacing the cityscape...

It can be no more than coincidence that these great waves of vandalism occurred in the 60s of each century, unless you were to believe that some theory of cyclical recurrence can be applied to the city's development. (Peter Ackroyd, *London: The Biography*, pp.759-61)

- 66/4 Barry Humphries poem, written during NZ visit, 1966: (in Wellington, where WW was wrecking National Bank of NZ, Featherston St) '...I roamed precipitous streets, and whiled away/The happy hours with camera and Baedeker./Observing signs which read WHELAN THE WRECKER/On nicer buildings scattered through the town/Which progress was intent on tearing down./New Zealanders, like us, have learned at last/To bulldoze every vestige of their past.../O land of contrasts, wonderful New Zealand,/Go there before it's well and truly Whelaned.' (Australian, 10(or 16)/4/66, p.22□SLV/WW 57, p.10)
- c.66 They tore them down. ...It went straight through. There's much more acceptance of that sort of thing here [Sydney]. In Melbourne at the first mention of a freeway everyone starts to scream. There's opposition to pulling down anything. (Myles, APITS, Sun, n.d.□scrapbook, p.6)
- 68/6 It's no good going crook at us. We're just the tools.... I get a pang of regret occasionally. You hate to see them go but it's just not practical. I do feel very sad about an old house that has been really something in its day, but has been really degraded. (Owen, Herald?, 7/6/68□scrapbook, p.17)
- Owen Whelan says he usually manages to keep clear of the emotional traumas that surround the demolition of some old buildings. The firm just does what it is told. Other people decide which buildings are to come down. (Brian Carroll, *The Builders*, p.118)
- 68/6 The notion that this was a country with a great future... probably still underlies most Australian thinking about the future, the present and the past. The fact that so large a proportion of the settlers during the first century of European occupation were convicts, paupers and other folk of humble means... probably reinforced the immigrants' natural concentration on the future: the past was behind them and best forgotten. And the relative

prosperity of the working man (and his ability to purchase a suburban block and build his own house), together with the legislative experiments in constitutional and social reform, lent further encouragement to the smug assumption that this was the country of the future, a kind of optimistic nationalism.

...Australians...habitually genuflect mentally to the dialectic of 'progress'. It is one 19th century religion which still thrives here.

One pernicious reflexion of this comfortable conviction... [is expressed] in the relentless passion for the demolition of old buildings (in the name of 'development', meaning private profit) and in the absence of any public outrage about such destruction. ...it is part and parcel of an elderly frontier society in a country which... has been more often exploited than loved....

The new frontier in Australia is... to be found... in the very hearts of our main cities. ...in Melbourne the image of one demolition company ('Whelan the Wrecker') has acquired a cosiness reserved in other countries for corner-store tradesmen and street musicians. It is almost as if some folk memory of felling timber on outback selections has persisted in tacit approval of those who, in lieu of trees, axe buildings—the new frontiersmen. Behind these operations, interestingly enough, seems to lie a profound apathy about the achievements of our urban pioneering forebears.... (Noel McLachlan, 'The Whelan Frontier', *Meanjin*, June 1968, pp. 251-56)

68/7 ...the indefatigable Mr Whelan moves on, tearing down this city, leaving nothing but memories. But isn't it curious? After a few weeks you have to strain to remember what the old building looks like. (Keith Dunstan, APITS, 30/7/68□scrapbook, p.18)

c.68 Barry Humphries: 'I love Melbourne. Why? Because it needs someone to love it. Everyone else seems to be trying to pull it down. I wouldn't be surprised if Whelan the Wrecker got a knighthood.' (Sun?, n.d.□SLV/WW 64/7, p.33)

Barry Humphries poem, on occasion of Skipping Girl Vinegar sign re-inauguration: 'The trams are still pale green and pretty/And the roof of the Shrine has been polished./But most of the rest of our city/Has either been ruined or demolished./They haven't pulled down Melbourne Grammar/Though they've wrecked every decent old pub,/And the shadow of Whelan's lead hammer/Hangs over the old Melbourne Club....' (APITS, Sun, n.d.□SLV/WW 57, p.12)

68/10 National Trust fighting to save ES&A building (ANZ gothic bank), cnr Collins & Queen□had just received word that demolition was 'imminent'. (press cutting, Oct 68□SLV/WW 56)

70 All Australians should welcome... progress, but should simultaneously pause, think and ensure that irreplaceable treasures are not needlessly destroyed. The greed for an extra dollar, the apparent need for speedy redevelopment and the growing pressures of life can lead to the adoption of quick solutions involving the destruction of part of our heritage for which succeeding generations may well hold us up to execration.... Not everything that is old should be preserved, but, equally, just because something is old it need not necessarily be destroyed.... What right has one generation to destroy the best examples of its Nation's past? Preservation of the best of our past is a national duty. (Rodney Davidson, Nat Trust chairman, 1970□in Rogan, pp.ix-xiii)

- 71/11 Owen Whelan talked at an open forum, 'Is Wrecking Vandalism?', with Nat Trust architect and an architect-town planner. (Herald, 12/11/71)
- 72/4 'Who Needs Progress?' Keith Dunstan lightheartedly laments the loss of Melbourne's historic buildings in the name of progress. **Pic**—Jeff cartoon shows WW wrecking a building, and Keith Dunstan rebuilding it behind them. (Sun, 1/4/72)
- 73/10 Recent amendments to the Town and Country Planning Act permit a responsible authority to prohibit demolition or removal of buildings of historical or architectural interest. The Melbourne City Council and State Government have power—**for the first time ever**—to save historic buildings.
National Trust campaigning hard to save CBA Bank. Believed 'the climax had arrived for the whole of the CBD. We genuinely believe that unless something is done quickly, there will be nothing left to apply the Government's new legislation to. Previously, it [NT] has seen little alternative but to work quietly and reasonably to obtain its desired goals, since no powers existed to impose a satisfactory solution. The amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act and the Hamer Government's promised additional [legislative]action have dramatically changed this situation. The Trust is now devoting a great deal of attention to marshalling public opinion and becoming its undisputed spokesman, so as to increase its influence over the wielding of these new powers.' (Interview with Rodney Davidson, Financial Review, 11/10/73)
- 74/10 Victoria's first register of historic buildings proclaimed—370 buildings listed—Govt permission now required to demolish, alter or move them. (Sun, 3/10/74)
- 75/3 WW completed demolition of Olderfleet Buildings, Collins Street—façade retained. (SLV/WW 43—contract for Eastern Hill fire station)
- 75/7 In Sydney, Juanita Nielsen disappeared (presumed murdered) during a battle over a highrise development which would see the demolition of a row of Italianate terraces in historic Victoria Street, Kings Cross. Nielsen was using her community newspaper as a mouthpiece; she and other residents who had refused to sell to the developer were being terrorised by thugs. Nielsen's disappearance is inextricably entwined with the Green bans which saved some of Sydney's most historic precincts. The development in Victoria Street did not go ahead. (Australian Magazine, 3/7/04)
- 76/3 [Demolition of Chalmers Hall, East Melb] ... under present legislation the historic buildings committee, which makes recommendations on the register to the Government, could only consider the architectural and historic value of buildings. The committee could not consider the environment and the building's relationship to it. (Age, 18/3/76)
- 76/9 In September 1976 the Collins Street Defence Movement was formed—too late to be effective—to resist the destruction of Australia's finest commercial street. It is notable that its members were not the conservatives and antiquarians who characteristically involved themselves in preservation issues, but urban activists, practising architects and planners. The movement was led by Evan Walker, subsequently the Minister for Planning in the Cain Government. (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, p.139)

- 79/5 Colonial Mutual proposed demolition of State Offices at SW cnr Collins & Spring. Myles Whelan argued that the best of Collins Street had already been lost—buildings should be replaced by a ‘well-designed building to complement the Treasury building’. (Age, 29/5/79)
- 82/7 After unauthorised demolition of original Eye & Ear Hospital, Spring Street, MCC director of technical services said: ‘I can only believe there has been a misunderstanding on the nominees’ [developers’] part, but I am surprised at Whelan’s doing it.’ WW could face fines of \$2000—a lot less than the cost of delays, etc. over historic building listing. (Age, 2/7/82, p.3)
- 84/6 ‘The Mourners’—cartoon & comment by Arthur Horner re. demolition (by nocturnal stealth) of historic building, despite protests. ‘If people don’t care about the past, they’ll wake up to find they’re cultural orphans.’ Cartoon featured WW signs. **[pic]** (Sat Extra, Age, 2/6/84)
- 87/1? [CML building] There would have been no hope of pulling it down today. That building would have had a sticker on it, finish. In those days, people said, ‘Isn’t it a shame?’ but they accepted it. (Owen W—in Keith Dunstan, Death of a Skyscraper, Good Weekend, Age, Jan? 1987)
- 90/3 No tenders were lodged with the State Government for the redevelopment of the Queen Victoria Hospital site—yet the demolition of the historic buildings is continuing. Demolition without a planning permit for a new development is against council planning policy and government practice... Nigel Lewis and Associates, the company hired to do the conservation analysis, recommended the hospital’s retention. ...the planning policy that prohibited demolition without a planning permit was brought in after the 1982 recession. (Herald, 27/3/1990, p.19)
- 91/1 Myles estimated that WW had pulled down 400 Melbourne hotels. (Sunday Review, Sun, 13/1/91, p.9)
- 2001 ...we have impressive heritage values that distinguish us from other world cities. Our quality urban environment helps attract tourism, retail activity and business. (City of Melbourne, Draft City Plan 2010—A Summary, 2001)
- 03/5 The grande dame said yesterday she was ‘fighting back the tears’ to be reliving her theatre debut. A month ago the Age revealed that the Melbourne University Student Union was considering reducing or even abolishing the theatre’s services. Dame Edna said she would be sad, but not surprised, if the theatre closed: ‘Melbourne is always abolishing things, pulling things down, it’s a tradition here really. It’s a miracle there’s anything left standing.’ (Age, 1/5/2003)

31. MELBOURNE □ GENERAL

One chapter of geological history which has been written about the Yarra River notes the fact that while the formation on one side of the stream is bluestone, there is none of it on the other side. The conclusion drawn is that the creek follows the edge of an old lava flow. (Argus, 10/7/1934)

The oldest rock about Melbourne, the bed-rock, is of Silurian* age. Its original horizontal sheets have been folded, crumpled and broken. It has been invaded by sheets of granitic rock and bluestone injected into it from below. These invading rocks are of course younger than the rocks they penetrate. Immensely younger than the bed-rock, but still very old, is the lignite series, laid down in fresh water. Then followed the outpouring of the older volcanic or the old bluestone series. Then came a partial submergence, and the red rocks forming the coastal plain were laid down. Their constituents were derived from the waste of older rocks of all sorts, as their varied constitution shows.... Still later followed the outpouring of the newer bluestone forming the western plain, and lastly we have the delta deposit, the fringe of small sand dunes about the Yarra mouth, and the alluvium of the valleys.

...we have a wealth of geological variety that no other large city in Australia can boast of.... The differences of structure of these various rocks affect the underground drainage.... The chemical composition of the rocks also varies. Some are rich in plant food, and others are poor. The effects of these differences are shown by the vegetation grown on the soil overlying the undecomposed rock. ...the nature of the ground determines the direction in which the city spreads. The tendency of the residential suburbs is to keep to the undulating 'Red-beds' [characterised by usually red, sandy soil, often capping the tops of hills], leaving the monotonous bluestone plain for the business sites. A town does not grow at random, but its position is determined by a whole series of geographical and geological factors.

*...a set of beds and its contained fossils was worked out in a district in Wales once inhabited by a tribe called the Silures. The rocks were conveniently called Silurian. Then other beds with a fairly similar set of fossils received the same name; and, later on, rocks of Silurian age were recognised all over the world, including our Melbourne bedrock... (*Victorian Hill and Dale: A series of geological rambles*, T.S. Hall, 1911, pp. 66-8 & 57)

19thC From its beginnings, Melbourne had been essentially a commercial settlement, ...and through its next 50 years the theme of 'energy, enterprise and progress' runs like a refrain. The free immigrants of the 1850s were a special stamp of self-helping men, possibly more skilled and ambitious than the ex-convicts and assisted immigrants of other colonies. (Davison, *Rise & Fall*, p.10)

The climate and the comparative cheapness of land give the colonists an aversion to height in their buildings, and even in the busiest parts of Melbourne most of the buildings have only two stories □i.e, a ground floor and one above... (Twopeny, *Town Life in Australia*, p.11)

1880s Building activities, quickened by 'boom-time' conditions, swept away many old landmarks, 'replacing them with new structures more appropriate to the present position and requirements of the city'—as a journalist of 1884 puts it—and one by one the wooden verandahs, so characteristic of old Melbourne streets, disappeared... (Argus, 12/6/15, p.6)

1880s Melbourne's spatial segregation □ In the SW corner, close to the waterfront, were the mercantile houses and brokers' offices of the wholesale import markets, and farther north, along the central thoroughfares, the main retail market. In the high-rent area around Collins & Queen streets, close by the stock exchanges, were the banks, building societies and investment companies of the city's capital market. Doctors congregated at the E end of Collins Street, and close by the Melbourne Hospital in Lonsdale Street, while barristers and solicitors had their rooms in William Street and Chancery Lane close by the Supreme Court. (Davison, Rise & Fall of Marvellous Melb, pp. 9-10)

Queen Street was 'the Lombard Street' of Australia. (Davison, p.28 □ quoting Journal of Commerce, 1889)

Tea merchants who always needed to keep the operations of the warehouse in close view, were pushed further into the western corner of the city mile. (Davison, p. 28)

1888 Peak year of the boom in Melbourne. (Briggs, Victorian Cities)

1888 William Westgarth had returned to England in 1857, to spend his colonial fortune at Home. Came back to Melbourne in 1888. Landing in Melbourne, he was quite disoriented. 'I now wandered... through countless streets without encountering a single recognizable object... The old Melbourne of my time, of a full generation past, had been entirely swept away, and, but for the merciful act of leaving the old street names, I might have been dropped in this modern Babel without any possibility, within at least its own wide boundary, of knowing where in the wide earth I had arrived.' (Davison, p. 72, quoting Westgarth, Half a Century of Australasian Progress, pp. 46-7)

The central city began in the 1880s to be transformed into a high-rise business core like some in the United States, but unequalled in Britain or on the Continent. This was abruptly halted by the Depression of the 1890s, but even the amount of development that was completed presented specialised problems, such as the fighting of fires at heights beyond the reach of fire-engine ladders or mains water pressure. ...the problem of access for firefighters was ultimately dealt with in the 20th century by the imposition of building height limits.

The extraordinary financial machinations of the 1880s and the defalcations and revelations of the subsequent Depression represent an episode of Melbourne history comparable in impact with the gold discoveries, and much more specifically associated with the central city. The most prominent politicians, the richest businessmen, the shrewdest lawyers and the most ardent advocates of temperance, melted like snow in the glance of the Lord. What was left behind was not merely a nasty taste, but an overcapitalized transport network, a surplus of building stock in most categories, and a chastened and conservative business culture. (Miles Lewis, Melbourne: The city's history and development, p. 61)

Up to the 1890s, Melbourne was considered the most American of Australian cities: brash, ostentatious and exuberant. '...Melbourne's growth came to an end in the 1890s, and Sydney continued to forge ahead... Melbourne seemed stale and inhibiting... [Sydney was] the place... for a good time, a centre of gaiety and gossip. ...The sobriety of Melbourne's reaction to the slump made for a new kind of contrast between the two cities. ...A new emphasis was placed on "respectability" just at the time that respectability was being questioned in Britain and mocked at in Sydney. ...No longer was

Melbourne called the most American of Australian cities: instead, and with an equal amount of inaccuracy, it was called the most British...’ Became increasingly class-conscious and hierarchical. In 1901 it was Sydney’s turn to claim that ‘it now stands as the second city of the British Empire’. (Asa Briggs, *Victorian Cities*)

The common perception of Melbourne in the 1880s was that of a new world boom town, more American than any city in Australia and certainly more so than any in Britain. ...its skyscrapers were excelled only in Chicago and New York. ...Architecturally, though, the picture is not nearly as simple as this. Even the skyscrapers of the 1880s and early 1890s were still entirely British in style, and relied more upon British than American technology. It was during the next few years that the American Romanesque which had made an appearance in Melbourne in the 1890s, emerged as the dominant commercial style, whereas it was much less prominent in Sydney, and almost unknown in some other Australian capitals. To this was now added hints of Art Nouveau, the first significant influence from Continental Europe. By about 1910 architects... were going to America to learn about modern office and department store design, and returning advocates of the steel frame... and, before much longer, of escalators. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city’s history and development*, p.101)

1907 Commercially, Melbourne is not what it used to be. It has lost the sparkle, the animation of other days. Yet, whatever else it has lost, it has retained its consciousness of former prosperity. (Alfred Buchanan, *The Real Australia*, London, 1907)

12/6 Melbourne is being rebuilt. Until a year or two ago the city had undergone very little change for a long period. It had remained practically the same since the feverish days of the land boom. Then gradually it began to wear a new expression. Its buildings began to take a different shape; its street frontages assumed a brighter appearance. This was the commencement of the era of rebuilding which is likely to last for a long time. Melbourne, from the point of view of its buildings—their structure, their appearance, their utility, and their comfort—is being modernised.

The prosperity with which Victoria has been blessed for so many years is mainly responsible for the rebuilding which is proceeding. The city has expanded very rapidly. It has increasing business interests to accommodate; it has to find room during working hours for an ever-growing population, and to provide them with theatres and picture and concert halls for their entertainment at night.

Furthermore, the imposition of the Federal and State land taxes has narrowed the margin between profitable investment and loss. Properties which formerly gave a fair return to their owners on the capital expended decreased in annual value when the taxes became law, and their owners, in order to safeguard their investments, were compelled to spend large sums of money to turn their land to the best account, and to rebuild or make such additions and alterations to the buildings that the utmost value might be got out of them.

A third reason for the stir in the building trade is the need the need that exists for lighter and brighter and mor convenient and comfortable offices and workrooms for city workers. The most modern business houses, with their suites of well-appointed, clean, cheerful offices, are now no longer utterly dependent on artificial light in the middle of the day. The sunlight floods the whole building. The walls are no longer painted a dingy terracotta or chocolate colour, but are white or tinged with light green or blue. the corridors and staircases are no longer gloomy and musty, as if they led to dismal cells; they are light and airy, and they lead to cheerful workrooms and offices. (Argus, 22/6/12, p.7)

14/3 At the present time there is quite a remarkable building activity in Melbourne. The clatter of the pneumatic riveter upon the skeleton of some huge structure is heard from several directions, and from almost any one of the principal streets of the city, if one looks skywards, he may see a crane hauling aloft its load of brick, or stone, or steel. It is not the building of the boom period, but the steady, slogging stroke of sound business enterprise that we are watching day by day. So much is a comfortable fact to have in mind. But there is a still more pleasing phase of all this building programme which Melbourne has in hand. The city is being improved—vastly improved. the class of building which is being put up is of first-rate order, both as to architectural features and as to strength and durability.

This is the age of steel, and the brick has become the mere covering to the steel bones of the up-to-date structure—the skin covering the bones, so to speak. ‘Fire-proof’, ‘earthquake-proof’, and, as nearly as may be, ‘time-proof’. These are the conditions asked for today in our new buildings. And so it will come about that the Melbourne of tomorrow will be a marked advance upon Melbourne of to-day and yesterday. Builders are setting up worthy monuments of their day and industry, and that the public are keenly interested in their work the crowds of onlookers around the new building sites day after day testify. (Argus, 28/3/14)

14/4 New owner of two ex-Howey Estate properties, Colonel Wilson (formerly of South Africa and England), proposes to build a 10-storey building. ‘I was struck on arrival here with the waste of building space in the heart of so important a city. Many of the buildings in Collins and Swanston streets have only two storeys. This state of affairs would not be permitted to continue in America.’ (Argus, 4/4/14, p.18)

25/12 Is there a Boom? The public of Melbourne must be duly impressed, especially within the past few months, with the activity with while large new buildings are being erected within the city area.... Wherever our daily working habit takes us we are confronted by a small army of men either demolishing an old building or piling brick on brick, or concrete on concrete, in order to furnish the city with the latest perfection conceived in the brain of the up-to-date architect, and being rapidly given shape to by the builder.... All over Melbourne large buildings are going up rapidly, narly all are to reach to the 132 feet limit... They are not confined to the principal streets, but are to be seen pushing their way upwards like huge mushrooms in those narrow thoroughfares whose names are prefixed by the adjective ‘Little’. (Age, 1/12/25)

19thC Eastward of Russell street... [Collins Street] was formerly an avenue of private residences, some of them with gardens coming down to the street line, and fences of the conventional suburban type. These houses were occupied by the earlier Melbourne medical practioners. They lived with their families in these city homes, and only removed to the suburbs when the introduction of the telephone system made it possible for them to reside out of town. After the doctors’ homes and gardens had disappeared terraces of two-storeyed houses of the mid-Victorian type were erected on the pavement line. These were occupied by the doctors as professional chambers... but the ground still increased in value, and it became necessary to erect taller buildings in order to realise better revenues. At the corner of Collins street and Exhibition street, south side, are two modern professional chambers. One of these, Lister House, was erected a little before the war by a syndicate of medical men who used a number of the chambers for their own practices and let the remainder....

...several blocks of old-fashioned four-storey dwellings on the north side of the street here have lately been fitted with modern shop fronts on the ground floor. Similar changes

- have been made to residences on the south side. Collins street east is therefore assuming still another character as an exclusive shopping thoroughfare.... It is the belief of shopkeepers in this locality that all the old buildings will soon give place to residential flats after the style of Melbourne Mansions, and that the population brought in by these changes will provide them with a good clientele. (Argus, 24/5/1927, p.9)
- 27/5 Melbourne is becoming accustomed to the thunder of the building wrecker—crashing brickwork and clattering drills—as old landmarks fall in nearly every block. Many well-known old buildings are marked down for destruction within the next 12 months to make way for modern structures, and the face of the city is changing so rapidly that the time is not far distance when a search for a building 50 years old will be in vain. (Herald, 21/5/27)
- 29/8 At present there is still an excess supply of modern office space in Melbourne, but present indications are that most of this will be absorbed in two or three years. (Argus, 13/8/29, p.10)
- 30/3 Few sites in Melbourne have not carried two or three buildings. Talk with veterans and they will tell you of what was where what is now.... Stand in any of our streets, look in any direction. Nowhere has the skyline remained as it was eight or ten years ago. Along Swanston street may be seen the rising spire of St Paul's, Nicholas Building, and the Capitol Theatre. In Russell street stands the State Theatre, rising by Cavendish House to the enormous mass of the T & G Building. Along Elizabeth street may be noticed the extensions of Craig, Williamson's premises; Leonard House, with its curious façade; the Strand Building, the London Stores, the Savings Bank, and farther up the offices of 'The Argus' and 'The Australasian'. (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement p. 3)
- 1931 Low point of Depression. Building activity in city nosedives. Picture theatre attendances fall—some talkie theatres close or remodel. (Argus)
- 35/11 Melbourne's lanes and little streets are becoming more valuable as shopping centres, and Flinders Lane, once the stronghold of the wholesale trade, is becoming more retail each year. Sixteen lock-up shops were built in warehouses this year. Another shopping trend is the development of arcades. Their attraction is that they provide short-cuts for shoppers who wish to avoid the heavy pedestrian traffic in the principal streets. Factories are replacing old two-storey cottages near Latrobe street, and lanes which have been idel for many years are now being covererd with factories and offices. (news cutting, 23/11/35)
- 35 Building operations in Melbourne almost reached those of 1929, the peak year. (Herald 14/1/36)
- 36 Building figures topped those of 1929. (Herald, 28/12/36)
- 37 Building activity in Melbourne reached record levels, and as a natural corollary the activities of building wreckers were greater than in any previous year. (Argus, 12/2/38)
- 39/3 Melbourne building industry at ten-year peak. Many 'fine, limit-height new buildings' underway in central city. Several 'talkie theatres' under construction in basements of new buildings. Numerous hotels and club buildings under reconstruction. (Herald, 11/3/39, p.6)

- 39/3 Working at almost peak pressure, the building industry of Victoria this year will carry out new constructions estimated to exceed in value those which last year established a 10-year building record. (Herald, 11/3/39)
- 1939 [Building permits for 1939] Taking the 1929 building permits value... as the index number, ...permits last year increased by 17.53 per cent. Building was at its lowest in 1931 when [permits showed] a decline of 84.39 per cent on 1929. (Herald, 19/1/40)
- 1945 THE UGLY SIDE OF MELBOURNE'S FACE—What's Melbourne going to look like in the post-war years? A lot better, we hope. Take a look around our principal streets today... and you see a curious mixture ranging (almost) from the wattle-and-daub of the pioneers to Hollywood gone mad. ...we missed the worst features of the Gothic revival, although you find occasional city oddities with pointed arches and other pathetic reminders of vaunting ambition among the eucalypts and tea-trees.... Melbourne was born too late for the modified Georgian... Here was a style which might have become... the Australian style... But Victoria necessarily missed the bus... But we did get a good start, nevertheless, with those plain functional buildings of bluestone, some of which remain to this day. These honest four-square structures—where they have not been mauled about—are still a delight... we can claim the bluestone warehouse as native to Melbourne. (Clive Turnbull, Herald, 25/8/45)
- 1948 In 1948 the Lord Maryor, Sir Raymond Connelly, described Melbourne as 'a city that was in the doldrums, a metropolis whose civic pride was wilting', the cure for which would be to host the Olympic Games. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.108)
- 54/12 No new buildings in central city for past five years. 'The great wasteland of the heart of Melbourne remains a reproachful challenge.' (Herald, 11/12/54, p.4)
- 55/3 Robin Boyd denounced 'the commercial slums of this city'. Lack of office space□no one replacing derelict little buildings. Few new buildings since controls ended. 'Half the city's buildings are derelict.' (Herald, 21/3/55, p.3)
- R.A. Gardiner, secretary of City Development Assn, replied to Boyd: architects' offices were bulging with plans for new buildings in central city area. 'But so long as archaic landlord and tenant controls continued, redevelopment would be hampered...' (Herald, 23/3/55, p.13)
- 55/5 Gilbert Court, 100 Collins Street□Australia's first glass-walled city building and Melbourne's first general office city building to be built in 15 years. (Herald, 3/5/55, p.1; 10/5/55, p.21)
- 'The waste of precious inner-city space by ridiculous midget buildings surviving from colonial times has done much to create the notorious Melbourne sprawl.' Proposed *minimum* height limit. (Herald, 28/5/55, p.4)
- 1955 In many ways it was a phenomenal year for building, a turning point, the first year since the war not dominated by house-building. In all our history it was probably the year of greatest construction and greatest destruction. ...It even won its freedom to go, this year,

above the 132 ft height limit which had tied Melbourne down since 1890. [pic] Gilbert Court glass-house and neighbours] (Herald, 5/1/56, p.13)

- 55-56 Melbourne booming. Construction planned for 1956+: first phase of Western Market development, 11 storeys; ICI House; Humes Ltd, cnr William & Lt Bourke; MMBW, Lt Collins; Norwich Union Fire Insurance, 12-storey, Queen; Collings-Power, NE cnr Elizabeth & La Trobe, 16-storey, glass-faced; Commonwealth Arbitration, opposite High Court in Lt Bourke; Federation Insurance building, cnr Flinders & Bond. (Herald, 31/12/55, p.2)
- 72/4 Developers at the west end of Collins Street were promoting it as 'West End', soon to be as imposing as the Paris End. (Sun, 1/4/72)
- 90/11 Back in his beloved native city... satirist Barry Humphries has been focusing on what he classifies as Melbourne's worst eyesores.... 'Collins St, which was the most beautiful street in Australia, unfortunately has been ruined, irreparably destroyed. My desire to see Melbourne made more beautiful springs from a passionate love for this city. If one saw one's mother wearing an unsightly hat, it would be a filial duty, would it not, to in some way gently persuade her to remove it?...'. Thus, with a WHELAN THE WRECKER SHOULD BE HERE!! sign under his arm, ...Humphries this week visited four buildings and a fountain he considers Melbourne would be better without. [pics] BH with WW sign at Eye & Ear Hospital, RMIT Union House, Coles Fountain in Parliament Gardens, Schools Provident Fund building in Wellington Parade, Gas & Fuel buildings] (Sunday Sun, 25/11/90, pp.24 & 69)
- 03/5 The grande dame said yesterday she was 'fighting back the tears' to be reliving her theatre debut. A month ago the Age revealed that the Melbourne University Student Union was considering reducing or even abolishing the theatre's services. Dame Edna said she would be sad, but not surprised, if the theatre closed: 'Melbourne is always abolishing things, pulling things down, it's a tradition here really. It's a miracle there's anything left standing.' (Age, 1/5/2003)

32. MELBOURNE TOWN PLANNING

19thC In London, Granville Sharp, in his role as philanthropist and anti-slavery agitator, had reformulated the symbolism of the colonial grid for use in Sierra Leone, the colony where the resettlement of American slaves was being tried. He published an influential book on the plan of the proposed town of Freetown in 1794. Sharp advocated the plan's adoption in the East Indies, America, and 'elsewhere'. It was an ideal plan, in the Platonic tradition. His suggestion that this egalitarian plan could be useful in the settlement of lands colonised by Britain came at a crucial time for Australian settlement. ... The principles outlined by Sharp were adopted by Governor Darling in 1829 in New South Wales and put into practice in the towns planned by Surveyor-General T.L. Mitchell and his team of surveyors. Each town section was to be identical: streets were to be 66 feet (20.1 metres) wide, with the main streets in some cases 80 feet (24.4 metres) wide, and allotments were to be the same size, with a balance between public and private land. In the plan of Melbourne, surveyed as a potential city by Robert Hoddle in 1837, the principles of symmetry, balance, regularity, standard-sized allotments, and squares for internal open space or for administrative buildings were used to good effect. (The Australian Metropolis: A Planning History, S. Hamnett & R. Freestone (eds), A&U, 2000, p.13)

The grid plan, rectilinear or square, for laying out a new townsite has a long history. It has been traced back to Middle Eastern fortified cities of c.2000 BC; to the Greek and Roman colonial cities of the Mediterranean... In 1794... Granville Sharp published in London his tract entitled *A General Plan for Laying out Towns and Townships on the newly-acquired Lands in the East Indies, America, or Elsewhere*... Sharp's 'Annexed Plan' showed a grid of one square mile, with a central open area of two and a half acres which was surrounded by 'church, town hall and public lots'.... Granville Sharp's plan of a two-and-a-half acre open area in the grid's centre had no chance of being realised for Melbourne. How different was Governor Gipps's idea, firmly held if not original, that 'all towns laid out during his term of office should have no public squares included within their boundaries, being convinced that public squares encouraged the spirit of democracy'. Gipps's term of office was yet to come, but the plan of a squareless grid was long entrenched. (Berris Colville Hoddle, *Robert Hoddle, Pioneer Surveyor*, p.183)

19thC Sensing uncontrolled change in the Port Phillip area, the Sydney-based administrators of the colony of New South Wales felt obliged to send a junior surveyor, Robert Russell, to reconnoitre and register [in October 1836]... Problems with their horses kept the team in the area longer than intended and, in a note to the Surveyor-General dated 25 November, Russell recorded that 'in order to fill up the time' he was commencing a plan of the settlement... This plan was probably completed by 21 December 1836. He explained the procedural basis for his actions. 'Out of mischief I made a survey of the site of Melbourne, without official instructions.'

In an interview, Russell was asked why he had picked the particular site for Melbourne. He replied, 'That was largely settled for me by the first settlers... whom I sought to disturb as little as possible... to have as few of the huts as possible actually in the streets... The old falls on the Yarra really determined the position of the city.' ... the other key locational determinant was that Spencer Street, particularly at the Bourke Street intersection, was as far west as possible, being on the last high ground before the land dropped away into the swamps of the Yarra estuary. The map [Russell 1837] shows about 25 huts, with only three located in a street (Collins Street), although Russell recalled that five were affected. The survey took a week, using a theodolite, chain and rod...

Russell recounted that his planning concept had been based on ‘a plan in the Sydney office generally approved as suitable for laying out a new township, and I had a copy of it.’ On another occasion, he said, ‘The arrangement of Melbourne streets was simply that which the Sydney government decided on.’ The head office plan was indeed the then-standard rectangular-grid town plan that had been used throughout the New World. Locally it was given force by Governor Ralph Darling’s 1829 town planning Order 28....

Clauses 2 and 3: Main streets are to be straight and 100 feet (1.51 chain) wide.... Cross streets are to be orthogonal to the main street and 84 feet (1.27 chain) wide....

Clause 10: Each allotment within a property sub-section is to be 0.5 acre (5 square chain) in area... Each allotment solely adjoining a main street is to be 1 chain wide and 5 chain deep. (Typically there were six such adjacent allotments facing a main street...) Each allotment adjoining a cross street is to be 2.5 chain wide and 2 chain deep. (Typically, this led to the property sub-section having a 10 chain frontage to the main street.)...

Russell’s informal but otherwise regulation application of the Order to Melbourne via his copy of a ‘Sydney office plan’ consisted of three rows of eight property sub-sections, created by using four main streets and nine cross streets. He commented that his plan was ‘scarcely a design, simply 24 ten acre squares.’...

An unusual feature of Russell’s Melbourne application of the ‘standard’ plan was that the main streets were not precisely aligned to the north-south and east-west compass directions religiously followed in most earlier applications of the grid plan. Instead, they deviated by about 28 degrees to the west in order to align with the direction of the Yarra River near the first wharf....

In March 1837, Governor Bourke visited Melbourne and brought with him the colony’s Assistant Surveyor-General, Robert Hoddle. ...Hoddle, in turn, was accompanied by a survey party of six ex-convicts. On 7 March, Bourke directed that the town be laid out and named it Melbourne. In response, Hoddle accepted and built upon Russell’s spare-time work, and the first land was offered for sale within the plan on 1 June 1837....

(*Melbourne Miles: The Story of Melbourne’s Roads*, Dr Maxwell Lay, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2003, pp.3-10)

Beginning with Robert Russell’s feature sketch of the site approved by the Governor, Robert Hoddle set to work to measure the town reserve of one mile by three... [When the streets were first laid out, street board were painted black, ‘the names of the streets to be chalked for the present’.] (Berris Colville Hoddle, *Robert Hoddle, Pioneer Surveyor*, pp.183-4)

...Hoddle argued strongly and successfully for the adoption of its 1.5 chain (99 ft or 30m) wide main streets, and for all streets to be main streets. ...the wide streets would be advantageous to health and convenience of the future city. Bourke, in his turn, advocated the radical addition to his predecessor’s Order 28 of the city’s now-distinctive ‘Little’ streets as 0.5 chain (10m) wide lanes....

The street names of early Melbourne were chosen by the Governor—he remembered himself with Bourke street and his deceased wife with Elizabeth Street. Collins Street was named after Lt-Col David Collins, who had led the 1803 landing at Sorrento, Flinders Street after Matthew Flinders, King Street after an earlier Governor, Lonsdale Street after the first superintendent, Queen Street and William Street after the reigning British royalty, Russell Street after Lord Russell, Spencer Street after Lord Spencer, Spring Street after the Secretary of State for the Colonies in London, and Swanston Street after Captain Charles Swanston, a local businessman who had been one of Batman’s promoters in Launceston and who was the first owner of two allotments on Swanston

Street, on the north-west corners of both Bourke Street and Little Bourke Street... Stephen Street after the head of the Colonial Office in London. Stephen Street had subsequently become a street of ill-repute. Moral rectitude was restored by renaming the portion north of Collins Street to mark the International Exhibition of 1880... The southern portion became Collins Place and was renamed Exhibition Street in 1963...

...The citizens liked the lanes but thought the name 'Lane' lacked prestige. From 1838 onwards, they lobbied to have the lane names changed from, for instance, Collins Lane to Little Collins Street. In the mid 1940s, the new Melbourne City Council formally agreed to the request. When Little Flinders Street became a mecca for the clothing trade, more lobbying had its name changed back to Flinders Lane. ...Little Bourke Street was called... Gordon Place between Exhibition Street and Spring Street...

...Bourke said he had added the lanes parallel to the main streets 'to give the owners a means of getting the cows in and out of their backyards'. They also allowed the front access to the main street to be devoted to pedestrians and owners were prohibited from making any 'carriageways' across the street footpaths. On the other hand, footpaths were prohibited in the lanes. Nevertheless, by 1838, Police Magistrate William Lonsdale and Deputy Surveyor-General S.A. Perry were reporting that the lanes were being used as property frontages. Indeed, Perry predicted that, because of this, 'Melbourne would be ruined before it had risen to maturity.' (*Melbourne Miles: The Story of Melbourne's Roads*, Dr Maxwell Lay, Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2003, pp.3-10)

1900s It was at this time that Town Planning began to be a serious issue in Melbourne... the crusade against slums and the move toward civic design on a public scale. The latter was partly the product of the City Beautiful movement in America... There was a flurry of activity [visiting lecturers, publications] just before the outbreak of the Great War. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.93)

09-16 MCC revised building by-laws, 1916□after nearly 7 years' work by a four-man committee: 2 architects (H.E. Morton & A.E. Bates) and 2 civil engineers (H.W. Tompkins & J.A. Smith). (Age, 16/6/28)

1916 In 1916, when the Melbourne Building act made legal the use of steel frame construction as part of the main structural plan, the revolution began. By the same act the height limit was fixed at 132ft, which is the height of the Equitable Building, probably the best proportioned building in the city. Thus it came about that our limit is not one and a half times the width of the street, which is frequently the standard adopted. (Argus, 13/3/30, Camera Supplement p. 3)

In 1916 the Council was impelled to impose a traffic code, requiring vehicles to travel on the left and to indicate when turning, and square or centre turns were instituted. In 1922 safety sozes were introduced, and in 1928 automatic lights for traffic control. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.93)

In 1919 there was a Victorian Town Planning Conference, and in 1920 there was a meeting of twenty-six municipalities... to consider town planning legislation. Early in 1921 a committee report arising out of this conference recommended the establishment of a City Planning Commission, and in 1922 the Metropolitan Town Planning Commission was established, with the intention that it would remain in existence for three years... In the event the Commission lasted for eight years... and produced reports on various critical planning issues... its major output was the *Plan of General Development, Melbourne*, published in 1929. This dealt especially with transportation (especially

- roads), open space, and zoning. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, pp.93-4)
- 1923 When plans of Sonora House were released in 1923 the accompanying announcement said: 'Allan and Co.'s building which has been pulled down was a very substantial five storey bluestone structure, strong enough to stand for centuries, but modern conditions warranted it being swept aside for the concrete pile shown here.' (The Music Sellers, Peter Game, p. 228)
- 27/12 Committee of Public Taste.—...The skyline is 'ragged' owing to the numbers of old shops, relics of the early settlement, which have been suffered to remain cheek by jowl with tall and stately modern temples of commerce. Some of these old shops occupy very narrow frontages. They belong to different trust estates, and it has been found difficult to have them amalgamated under any new ownership. Separately the sites are too small to carry new buildings of sufficient height to do justice to the street.... Architects who cherish ideals of a nobler Collins street say that they would gladly submit their designs to a qualified committee guided by a well-chosen principle of harmony in street front design. Such a committee would not be without precedent. One already exists, and is doing invaluable work in Paris. It is known as the 'Committee of Public Taste'. It exercises a jealous supervision of street designs, so that none may clash, although ample allowance is made for each architect's originality. ...similar rules are now being formulated for the proposed Melbourne committee. (Argus, 6/12/27, p.10)
- 28/9 By the purchase of the small furrier's shop on the north-west corner of Equitable place and Collins street, the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Company has secured one of the most interesting pieces of central city freehold... The block is only 18ft 8in in frontage, by 71ft 6in in depth, and is one of a row of old colonial properties of the original shop and dwelling type with which Melbourne was plentifully endowed in the early days. They offer a marked contrast with the massive proportions of the neighbouring pile of the Equitable Building... It is understood that there is no immediate intention of demolishing the old shop nor of placing a tall building on the site, as it commands the light of the Equitable Building on the west side. The contrast in height and design between the shop and its stately neighbour illustrates the extremely broken character of the skyline in Melbourne. The city building regulations have been framed partly with the object of 'levelling up' the architectural skyline... The desire on the part of the owner of a tall building to secure a dwarf structure next door to retain the daylight, however, opens another aspect of the height-limit controversy. (Argus, 11/9/28, p. 12)
- 29/6 Owing to repeated subdivisions in city land in the last 80 years some of the most valuable sites to-day are so confined in frontage that only by skilful planning and designing can buildings be erected on them that will produce a reasonable return for money invested and present an appearance in keeping with the architectural aspirations of a great city. (Argus, 4/6/29, p.4)
- 34/1 Melbourne City Council considering introducing a *minimum* building height and removing pillar verandahs from main streets. 'Today Collins Street... is in a state of transition. In it is to be found the whole story of Melbourne's greatness. Here dwarfed occasionally between great sky-scraping mammoths are the little two-storey buildings of years ago where the early merchants plied their trade. Here are the magnificent structures of bluestone, as solid as the rock of which they are built. Here, too, are the more pretentious buildings of the Victorian age, gloomy, perhaps, to our way of thought, but

sturdy and serviceable still and, foremost of all, the new buildings with the new lines—graceful towers of colour and harmony reaching to the astounded sky. It is a good thing that the City Council should provide for the gradual elimination of the unsuitable and anachronistic.’ (Herald, 27/1/34, editorial, p.6)

47/8 How can our city park 30,000 cars? Solution will be costly. (Headline in Argus, 27/8/47, p.6)

...by 1947 only 1.5% of city traffic was horse-drawn, and the last hansom cab went into storage in 1951.... The first multi-storey carpark was built at the corner of Russell and Little Collins streets in 1939. ...the number of vehicles on the road doubled in the decade 1947-57... (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, p.114)

1950s ...in the mid-fifties... [US] Congress made a radical change in the tax rules governing depreciation. Under tax law, if you build an office building... that investment is assumed to deteriorate and lose some part of its value from wear and tear every year. As a result, a business is allowed to set aside some of its income, tax-free, to pay for the eventual cost of replacing capital investments. For tax purposes, in the early fifties the useful life of a building was held to be forty years, so a developer could deduct one-fortieth of the value of his building from his income every year. A new forty-million-dollar mall, then had an annual depreciation deduction of a million dollars. What Congress did in 1954... was to ‘accelerate’ the depreciation process for new construction. Now, using this and other tax loopholes, a [property] developer could recoup the cost of his investment in a fraction of the time. ...the result was a ‘bonanza’ for developers. (‘The Terrazzo Jungle’ by Malcolm Gladwell, *New Yorker*, 15/3/2004, p.125)

In Australia, the Commonwealth Committee on Rates of Depreciation (1954-55) recommended that straight-line depreciation be allowed with respect to all buildings used in the production of taxable income. However, it seems that this recommendation was not implemented, since (in 1958) ‘no depreciation is allowable on buildings as such’. (*Taxation in Australia*, 1958, p. 149)

Did you hear that story about the tax relief? For years, people in the building industry always were at the government to get a depreciation allowance on income-producing property, buildings. And every year they’d go up to Canberra, and every year they’d knock it back. And back in the ’35s the minister of the day knocked it back on their traditional approach, and he said, ‘How would you apply a principle like that to a building like the CML in Melbourne?’ He said, ‘There’s a building that obviously will be there for some hundreds of years.’ Now, look what happened. It didn’t last 70 years. (Owen Whelan interview)

54 The realisation of the recommendations in the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme report, 1954—‘Their worth will not be measurable merely in terms of money, but also in better health, increased happiness and contentment, greater civic pride and the general well-being of the people.’ (report, p.132)

1960s [St James Building & AMP Tower] This combination of tower, public space, counterpointing piece of abstract sculpture and flanking buildings on a massive island site was indicative of the power of corporations to consolidate land in the 1960s and erase the 19th century city entirely. (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, p.137)

- 82/7 MCC has a four-stage planning process, peculiar to the CBD: 1. Planning permit to demolish; 2. Building permit to demolish; 3. Planning permit to develop; 4. Building permit to develop. (Age, 2/7/82, p.3)
- 2001 ...we have impressive heritage values that distinguish us from other world cities. Our quality urban environment helps attract tourism, retail activity and business. (City of Melbourne, Draft City Plan 2010□A Summary, 2001)

GLASS HOUSES

55/5 Gilbert Court, 100 Collins Street□13-storey 'wall of glass' to front a block of offices on the corner of Alfred Place, now being built. It will be 56 ft wide and 135 ft high. Australia's first glass-walled city building and Melbourne's first general office city building to be built in 15 years. Idea of glass and aluminium 'curtain wall' derived from UN Building in New York. (Herald, 3/5/55, p.1; 10/5/55, p.21)

Melbourne's second glass-fronted building will be erected on the west side of Collins Place, between Collins Street & Flinders La. (Herald, 5/5/55, p.12)

56/7 Altson's Corner□one of Melbourne's most famous landmarks□will be torn down to make way for the city's most modern glasshouse skyscraper, a plan of which is shown above. **[pic]** ...The new 12-storey office unit glasshouse... (Sun, 10/7/56)

57/11 **[pic]** Here is an artist's impression of the 'new look' in Collins-st when two new buildings are erected at the corner of Elizabeth-st. At the left is the 'skyscraper' announced yesterday by the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd. At right is the building planned on Altson's corner site. (Sun, 14/11/57)

58/10 A major change will soon take place at the top end of Collins Street, when a projected seven-storey building, with its 'glass curtain wall', rises on the site of the Occidental Hotel... After seeing a design of the building which will replace the Occidental, Norman Lindsay, the great Australian artist, writes to me from Springwood, in the Blue Mountains...: 'This building, which will destroy Melbourne's most pleasing vista, is a final triumph to modernistic art, with its slogan of death to all beauty.... There is,' he writes, 'only one finality to such abominable glass anthills and that is a bomb. Any old bomb will do, not necessarily atomic. A dyspeptic contemplation of what such a creation represents of moral retrogression under the name of Progress can only resort to the war-cry of anarchy: The whole thing is rotten! Destroy it!' (Sun 1/10/58)

58/10 One building has transformed Melbourne. ...from many approaches the view of the city is now dominated by the grey grid tower of the ICI building. It has taken over from the Manchester Unity the role of city capitol... Since Gilbert Court, the first of the glass houses, rose in Collins-st in 1956, there have been public doubts about the look of this new transparent building style, and now, as more of the glazed towers rise, so do more outraged critics.... [Some] believe that the new plain wall of glass in an aluminium grid is used for utilitarian reasons.... All this couldn't be further from the truth. The metal curtain-wall is not cheap.... The pioneer curtain-walls in Melbourne, as in New York, struck nightmares of cracking glass and leaking edges□due mainly to the unhelpful habits of water in a high exposed position.... A glass wall is not even a particularly functional thing, in that it requires high extra cost in other items of equipment, from sun blinds to air conditioning, to keep temperatures bearable behind the glass in the extremes of our climate.... [But] The curtain wall is a major step forward to the heavier industrialisation of the building industry.... eventually buildings will be fabricated in factories... mass-produced walls... will be ordered by catalogue. They will be delivered in large interlocking pieces and fitted together in a matter of days.... Melbourne's new towers will still be here in the 21st century. These big, long-term investments must look ahead as far as possible or they will be technically obsolete long before they have paid for themselves. And believe it or not, some people are attracted to their negative quality. This

new sterile simplicity seems to many as refreshing as a glass of iced water. Those who argue that iced water is a dull drink, at least must admit that it is a suitable one for office hours. (Robin Boyd, Herald, 7/10/58, p.4)

TRAMS

- 37/9 E. Keith Mackay, architect, recently returned to Melbourne after 6 years' study abroad□
'Collins Street is already a thoroughfare of some importance, although ruined for the time being by an antiquated form of city transport. But even when the clatter of trams is heard no more...' (Herald, 9/9/37, p.38)
- 37/10 Mr P.W. Tewksbury, proprietor of the Oriental Hotel, who returned in the Orion after a business and pleasure trip to America and Europe... To bring itself in line with overseas cities, Melbourne must 'get rid of its dreadul electric trams', Mr Tewksbury urges. England, the United States, Austria, Germany and France were scrapping tram services, filling in the tramlines with concrete and using trolley buses. Even provincial cities such as Portsmouth and Manchester were following this lead. It was about time citizens of Melbourne got together and stopped the 'ridiculous' waste of money installing new electric tram services, which will have to be scrapped eventually. (Herald, 18/10/37)

VERANDAHS

- American duck, stiffened fabric, like canvas, had been the norm for verandah roofs [see **pic** of Collins Street, looking west over Elizabeth Street, c.1854, in Lewis, p.45] in Melbourne until in 1859 a by-law was adopted by the Council specifying the size of the timber framing members, and requiring the covering to be 24 gauge 2½ inch pitch corrugated iron. It was not until 1868 that iron columns became the norm for shop verandahs in Melbourne. The first verandah roofs were almost universally concave in profile, reflecting the Regency tradition of draped canvas oilcloth roofing, and the use of curved corrugated iron became particularly characteristic of shop verandahs from the 1870s onwards. (Miles Lewis, Melbourne: The city's history and development, pp.77-78)
- 1880s One by one the wooden verandahs, so characteristic of old Melbourne streets, disappeared... (Argus, 12/6/15, p.6)
- 1880s Without trees to shade the south side of the street [Bourke St East], the verandahs served the purpose, though many regarded them as eyesores, their posts providing a prop for 'idlers and vagabonds'. **Pic**—pillar verandahs line sunny (south) side of street. (A New City, pp. 34-5)
- 25/5 A by-law is to be framed by the Traffic and Building Regulation Committee to enforce the erection of cantilever verandahs.... 'The object is to have removed the existing unsightly pillar verandahs,' said the Town Clerk... 'Some years ago the State Treasurer brought this matter to the notice of the council, and promised he would introduce whatever legislation was necessary. Owing to the rapid changes of Government, he was unable to carry out his intension. The council intends again to approach the Government, asking for the power to enforce the removal of pillar verandahs.' (Herald, 14/5/25)
- 27/5 ...the council now insists on the provision of cantilever verandahs on all new buildings in the main streets of the city. (Argus, 5/5/27)
- 27/7 Hurrying into the council chamber yesterday after a special motor drive from Mount Gambier, Councillor Gengoult Smith made a strong protest against permission of the City Council being granted for the erection of a cantilever verandah at the Temperance and General Insurance Company's new building in course of erection at the south-west corner of Russell street and Collins street.... Councillor Gengoult Smith [was] the sole objector, the voting being 17 to 1. ...[Alderman C.E. Jeffries:] 'I challenge anyone to show that we have any right of veto whatever over verandahs to be erected in the city. We are the champion bluffers of Australia when we try to dictate whether verandahs should or should not be erected.' ...[Cr J.J. Liston:] 'It is only a "bee in the bonnet" craze of some members of the council. ...people who pay high rentals for shops should have the right to protect their shopfronts with verandahs.' (Argus, 19/7/27)
- 27/7 Opposition by the Council of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects to the erection of any further verandahs in Collins street has been conveyed in a letter to the City Council. [The institute hoped] that the City Council would enact a by-law to ensure that the fineness of the open view of Collins street would not be marred by projecting verandahs... 'this picturesque street should be kept free in its entirety from any superfluous obstructions beyond the building line. From an architectural viewpoint the existence of verandahs in the street... is greatly to be deplored. The City of Melbourne can justly claim that Collins street is one of the finest thoroughfares in the

- Commonwealth, but unless effective action is taken at an early date to prevent the erection of additional verandahs the institute is convinced that the beauty of this world-famous street will be for ever disfigured.' ...an effective and striking alternative to unsightly verandahs would be the erection of canvas awnings or blinds. (Argus, 28/7/27, p.4)
- 34/1 Melbourne City Council considering removing pillar verandahs from main streets. '...It is a good thing that the City Council should provide for the gradual elimination of the unsuitable and anachronistic.' (Herald, 27/1/34, editorial, p.6)
- 1941 ...the Oriental ...still had a gracious, pillared portico extending out over the pavement to the kerb, a civilised touch now frequently absent, that had the practical value of enabling someone alighting from a vehicle to walk across the footpath in the rain without getting wet. (The Music Sellers, Peter Game, p.251)
- 43/4 Crowds so packed verandah roofs to obtain a view of the march that in at least six places police and patrols cleared the roofs, because of dangers of collapse. People were ordered from roofs from the Tivoli Theatre to Royal Mail Hotel corner and other verandahs in Collins-st and in Bourke-st, between Swanston-st and Elizabeth-st. (Sun, 1/4/43)
- 45/3 Ten years ago the City Council passed a by-law requiring the removal of undesirable verandahs by the end of June this year. But there was so much grace that many people were not in a hurry to comply, and then came the war. Now three years' additional grace is proposed for owners of premises within an important area of the city who have failed to remove verandahs not having cantilver brackets or projecting support. Because of the shortage of manpower and material, the general replacement of pillar verandahs with cantilevers have presented a difficult problem. (Herald, 31/3/45)
- 45/8 At the Collin-Swanston Streets intersection—the heart of Melbourne—there is such a jumble of tramway wires, posts, stays, doddering verandahs of different heights, some sustained by posts, others cantilever, as to remind one of the back street of a provincial town.... Can't the City Council do something about the verandahs and generally seedy appearance of too many of the buildings in this quarter? (Clive Turnbull, Herald, 25/8/45)
- 48/6 Extension granted to June 1951 for removal of verandah posts. (Argus, 8/6/48, p.3)
- 1951 WW had several jobs 'removing verandahs' in St Kilda, Carlton, etc. (SLV/WW, 30/2)
- 54/1? **Pics** (x 2) on file of Hall's Book Store verandah, 371-3 Bourke Street—decorative ironwork—taken by WW prior to demolition? (in MJW papers)
- 54/6 An architect and a professor today pleaded with the City Council to let Melbourne's old pillar verandahs stay up. But NO, says the council. 'They must come down—all of them—by June 30.' ... Mr Robin Boyd, the architect, said these verandahs gave Melbourne a personality as a city, and should be preserved. ...But the Chairman of the Council Traffic and Building Regulations Committee, Cr T. Hayes, MLA, flatly said: 'The verandahs are unsightly. They must come down.' Mr Boyd said... They gave Melbourne something that most other cities in the world lacked.... Councillor Hayes said... there was the risk that the verandahs would collapse, killing somebody. (Herald, 19/6/54, p.3) [**pics**—verandahs gone in Lonsdale St, verandahs in Bourke St]

54/6 This week is the City Council's Roman Holiday, as the street verandahs go tumbling all over town.... Some of the most picturesque ironwork of Melbourne's hey-day must topple with the shabby ruins. The whole argument upsets a popular impression that in conflicts of this sort society is cleanly divided into two groups: practical, solid citizens on the one hand, and irresponsible dreamers of beauty on the other. This time it is all mixed up. The artists, architects and other assorted long-haired people who advocate the retention of the verandahs have only half a mind on aesthetics. They think also of the sweetering shops and restaurants behind those now unshaded northern windows, and the rain which will now dampen the pleasures of window shopping. They know that these shelters cannot be replaced because the old buildings are mostly too weak to support cantilever verandahs. On the other hand, the practical men of the City Council have only one real motive for destruction: they think the verandahs 'unsightly'. They also make the point with less conviction that cars sometimes hit the posts, which suggests an excellent reason for removing all the tram poles as well. (Herald, 29/6/54, p.9)

54/7 Members of the City Council will be intrigued to hear that the well-known English pictorial magazine, the Illustrated London News, ran a series of pictures of Melbourne's architectural beauties in its February 27 issue, while the Queen was here. And that the building they selected to put at the top of the page was Ogg's in Collins street. Yes, with the verandah featured. The... caption refers to the 'sophisticated urban air enhanced by the approach.' We couldn't care less about sophisticated urban airs. We just think its an interesting bit of old Melbourne and a useful tram shelter on wet days. (Herald, 9/7/54)

54/8 Cr Sir Harold Gengoult Smith today described the City Council Traffic and Building Regulations Committee as 'pig-headed' and 'ignorant of aesthetic values'. The committee yesterday re-affirmed its decision that all city pillar-verandahs, including Ogg's in Collins Street, must come down. [pics]Ogg's, Oriental Hotel, & Swanston St verandahs] (Herald, 12/8/54)

54/8 Cr Gengoult Smith fought for MCC Building Regulations Committee to exempt Ogg's verandah, on grounds of 'Historic value' 'these vandals in the City Council... Why, they've just built a lavatory right in front of Government House.... I was born in Collins Street... [next to Oriental Hotel]' Verandah must be 80 years old. (Herald, 13/8/54, p.1)

Cr W.P. Barry, MLA, member of MCC Building Regulations Committee 'I can see nothing beautiful about these pillar verandahs. Ogg's and all the rest of them are dangerous. People have been killed because of these pillars. Are we still in the horse and buggy days or what?' Cr A.W. Finlay: 'The city will look a lot better when cantilevers replace them.' (Herald, 13/8/54, p.3)

MCC finally gave its reason for pulling down verandahs: some people were hurt when a verandah collapsed 29 years before, outside old Hoyts de Luxe Theatre in Bourke Street. But it was a *cantilever* type verandah! People leapt from the Hoyts verandah onto the old Theatre Royal pillar verandah next door, and it stood the strain. (Herald, 16/8/54, p.3)

54/10 Ogg's verandah has gone from Collins Street]but it has a new home. It was dismantled]on City Council orders]at the weekend... [pic]Ogg's minus verandah] It will be re-erected over the entrance of University House, the Melbourne University Professors' Club, this week. Landmark-loving Melbourne people weren't the only ones

disappointed today. 'It had to be this weekend,' grumbled many others as they were drenched and without shelter while waiting for suburban-bound trams near the Collins-Exhibition Streets intersection. ...It was their only shelter from Russell to Exhibition Streets. ...the City Council's own pillar verandahs at Victoria Market will stay because the council is keeping them to shelter stallholders at the market. (Herald, 25/10/54, p.3)

54/12 **[Pic]** The Oriental Hotel's pillared verandah—one of the last in Melbourne, apart from those at the City Council's Victoria Markets—will be gone in about 10 days.... 'It's too stupid for words,' Oriental's manager, Mr E.E. Tewksbury, said today. 'This portico is as safe as the day it was put up early in the century. It will cost us nearly £200 to pull it down....' The portico is supported by five-inch square, cast iron posts and is all-iron construction. The posts are set back from the kerby to the same distance as telegraph and tram standards. Cars have hit them from time to time—and always come off second best. Removal of the portico brings another problem to the hotel—it is the trademark embossed on all its stationery and crockery. (Herald, 3/12/54)

BUILDING HEIGHT

19thC The term 'skyscraper' was first used in the 1880s—earlier, the term was used to refer to a high-standing racehorse, a high hat or bonnet, a tall man, or a flyball in baseball or cricket.

Chicago led the way over New York until 1893, when a height limit was applied in Chicago—New York raced ahead. From the 1880s, architects, engineers and concerned citizens tried to impose a similar limit (150 or 200ft) in New York—unsuccessfully. New York skyscrapers attracted bad press from the 1890s onward.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society led the vanguard in New York, as in Melbourne. Landmark New York building built 1868-70.

In 1870s New York, buildings of 120ft+ were increasingly common—9 & 10-storey buildings were fairly common by early 1880s.

St Paul Building (1895-98)—15 storeys, 315 ft. Buildings of 200ft+ were commonplace in 1890s. Park Row Building (1896-99), at 391ft, was tallest building in the world until 1908.

Returning to New York in 1904 after 21 years away, Henry James wrote of 'the multitudinous sky-scrappers... like extravagant pins in a cushion'.

Singer Building (1908) was 612ft to the top of its tower—40 floors. Metropolitan Life Tower (1909) was 700ft and 50 storeys high. Tallest of all was the Woolworth Building (1913), at 792ft 1in. with a tower reaching to 55 storeys.

The Height of Buildings Commission, 1916, introduced new zoning laws. A new buildings could be 2.5 times the width of the street it faced, if built right to the street frontage; 5ft in height could be added for every foot set back. Spelt the end of unregulated gargantuan office buildings in New York. The Woolworth Building was still the world's tallest in the 1930s. (Rise of the New York Skyscraper, 1865-1913, Landau & Condit)

Queen Ann's Mansions (1873-90), built by developer Henry Hankey, was 151ft high and the tallest private building in London. So great was the public outrage (including Queen Victoria, resentful at being overlooked in Buckingham Palace) that in 1888 the London Building Act was passed, limiting the height of buildings to 80ft, or the width of the street in which they stood. The restriction on height played a crucial part in the development of London over the next sixty years, until the provisions were relaxed in the 1950s.

In spite of the regulations, in the 1930s some buildings (on wide streets?) rose as high as 220 ft.

In 1954 building licences [?] were removed, causing a huge jump in development. Between 1964-70, the Brown ban (named after govt minister George Brown) put a stop to new office developments. When the ban was lifted following the election of a Conservative govt in 1970, such developments flourished once more. (Goodbye London: An illustrated guide to threatened buildings, C. Booker & C. Lycett Green, 1973)

1883 The climate and the comparative cheapness of land give the colonists an aversion to height in their buildings, and even in the busiest parts of Melbourne most of the buildings have only two stories [i.e, a ground floor and one above... (Twopeny, Town Life in Australia, p.11)

The central city began in the 1880s to be transformed into a high-rise business core like some in the United States, but unequalled in Britain or on the Continent. This was abruptly halted by the Depression of the 1890s, but even the amount of development that

was completed presented specialised problems, such as the fighting of fires at heights beyond the reach of fire-engine ladders or mains water pressure. ...the problem of access for firefighters was ultimately dealt with in the 20th century by the imposition of building height limits. (Miles Lewis, Melbourne: The city's history and development, p. 61)

- c.1889 Height limit fixed in 1880s (after construction of 150-ft Australian Building) at 132 ft. It was scaled to limitations of brick construction and hydraulic lifts. (Herald, 14/6/55, p.17)

...hydraulic goods lifts... were installed in 1865 in the warehouse of L. Stevenson & Sons, which was described as the first tall building in Melbourne. The two lifts were said to be 'very unsatisfactory'. They ran on 'Yan Yean pressure' (that is the ordinary mains pressure from the Yan Yean Reservoir)... These were presumably low pressure goods lifts of the type which used ordinary water pressure to fill the cylinder, and allowed the water to drain away when the lift descended. This type of lift was unusable for about 15 or 20 days of a normal year, when Melbourne's water pressure was too low.

In 1879 the Whittier Machine Company showed what was supposed to be the first passenger lift in Australia at the Sydney Exhibition, and in 1880 the Melbourne drapers, Craig, Williamson & Thomas advertised that they had in their Elizabeth Street building a hydraulic lift 'comfortably seated and cushioned for passenger traffic'.... when W.F. Hall, Vice President of the Otis Company in America, came on a holiday visit in 1886[, h]e is supposed to have been stuck by the absence of tall buildings, and to have predicted that with its increasing population Melbourne would soon have to build upwards like Chicago and New York. He put this view to Friedrich Wilhelm Prell, who was then putting up a four storey building at 15 Queen Street, and convinced him that if he had passenger lifts he would get as good a rent for the upper floors as for the ground floor. Prell added two storeys and installed lifts. He then went on to build three further buildings of nine storeys at the south end of Queen Street in about 1888....

The Melbourne Hydraulic Power Company was formed in 1886 to supply Melbourne with 'motive power on the high pressure hydraulic system for the extinguishing of fires and other purposes'. ...Whilst firefighting was a suitably worthy objective, there is no doubt that the main motivation was the supply of hydraulic power for lifts.... The company... was duly authorised by Parliament, and then spent \$85,000 laying 11 kilometres of mains through Melbourne streets and on building its pumping station... near the Victoria Docks.... By July 1889 the company had extended a trunk main as far as Parliament House, and Prell's building at the corner of Collins and Queen Street had been connected up. By the end of the year 70 lifts were connected... By the middle of 1890 there were 250 lifts connected...

'There can be no doubt,' asserted E.J. Rigby in 1891, 'that it was the introduction of the elevator, and the possibilities of revenue which it opened up that gave such a largely increased value at this time to main street frontages in the city and in a considerable measure helped to make the memorable boom.' Sydney's hydraulic power company was established in 1892... Melbourne's hydraulic system appears, then, to have been the fourth in the world....

In 1887, even before the construction of Prell's three larger buildings... there were major lift installations in the Federal Coffee Palace in Collins Street and Walach Bros. at the corner of Elizabeth and Flinders streets, for Fink & Ivory....

The Australian Building had been planned to be of 15 storeys, and though it was ultimately reduced to 12, it was still 45 metres high—taller than any European office building, and comparable with the new American skyscrapers.... Here one-twelfth of the total cost was spent to obtain what were said to be the safest lifts known to modern engineering. They were therefore of the type which made no use of cables, but rested

directly on top of a steel ram rising out of the hydraulic cylinder. This meant that the cylinder had to be sunk into the ground by the same distance the lift had to rise, a depth of 30 metres....

In the City of Melbourne nine or ten new buildings per week were put up in the period 1885-90, and by 1890 it was said that many of those in the heart of the city were between six and twelve storeys high. (Miles Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, pp. 61, 79)

- 1916 In 1916, when the Melbourne Building act made legal the use of steel frame construction as part of the main structural plan, the revolution began. By the same act the height limit was fixed at 132ft, which is the height of the Equitable Building, probably the best proportioned building in the city. Thus it came about that our limit is not one and a half times the width of the street, which is frequently the standard adopted. (*Argus*, 13/3/30, *Camera Supplement* p. 3)

...the imposition of building height limits in Melbourne... There were no restrictions before February 1916, but in that year the City Council's new regulations came into force, specifying a maximum height of 132 feet for buildings of steel and concrete, and 110 feet for others. From 1922 to 1933, seventeen new buildings reached the 132-foot height limit, amongst them the Capitol Theatre, Temple Court, Nicholas Building, Myers,... T.&G. Building, Coles (Bourke Street), the AMP Society, the Manchester Unity building and the SEC headquarters. (Lewis, *Melbourne: The city's history and development*, p.93)

- 1930 Monahan's Building, which stood on the site of Nicholas Building, had base walls six feet in thickness. The present building, constructed in steel framing to the third floor, has columns of 2.5in base, with little or no wall between them. Because of the high cost of steel in Melbourne, reinforced concrete has been employed from the third floor, where the column thickens to 3ft. (*Argus*, 13/3/30, *Camera Supplement* p. 3)
- 26/2 With the advent of public company proprietorship or investment in commercial buildings, Melbourne is about to enter upon a great campaign of reconstruction of its city edifices. It is expected that very large masses of money will be gathered for the specific purpose of buying old buildings, demolishing them, and erecting them to the height limit of 132 feet prescribed by the City Council. Company ownership of buildings has been to a great extent the cause of the marvellous uprise of skyscraper structures in New York.... But the skyline is uneven, as the height of building is governed by the areas of land available to individual owners. ...a Building Zone Act was passed in 1916 by the [NY] City Council, which... created six height districts... They are designated as three-quarter times districts, one time districts, one and one-quarter, one and one-half, two times and two and one-half times districts. In a three-quarter times district no building can be erected to a height in excess of three-quarter times the width of the street, but for each one foot that the building, or a portion of it sets back from the street line one foot shall be added to the height limit of such a building... It is possible that the growth of Melbourne will follow along the lines of New York in due time, but with a level and moderate height limit of eleven or twelve stories its growth skyward will move towards ultimate uniformity... But to achieve the moderate ideal of a twelve-storeyed city it will be necessary to group sections of present pocket handkerchief sites into areas sufficiently large to warrant building up to the height limit allowing necessary air and light wells. (*Herald?*, 3/2/26)
- 26/9 Sydney, built on high ground, had a 150-ft height limit. (*Herald*, 27/9/26, p.1)

- 26/9 Proposal for 40-storey building next to Glaciarium, City Road, South Melbourne. MCC says skyscrapers would intensify traffic problem alarmingly. In New York, firms are reverting to horse-drawn traffic because of congestion—skyscraper workers in US have to leave work at 3 pm, to avoid jam. (Herald, 28/9/26)
- 27/8 Melbourne buildings are at present restricted, very wisely, to a height limit of 132 feet above the pavement in main streets, such as Collins, Bourke, Swanston and Elizabeth streets. This height is based on the width of these streets, with definite consideration for angles of light and good natural ventilation. ... One of the leading architects, Mr R.B. Hamilton...: 'Commercial considerations sometimes prompt suggestions for the raising of the height limit... Humanitarianism, surely, outweighs commercialism in the building of a fine city!... I am aware of the existing regulations whereby architectural features are permissible at corners...' The increase of the building height to permit of the introduction of architectural features... has been adopted in the new T and G building... This edifice will reach to the maximum height of 132 feet, but two minor ornamental towers will be erected at each end of the structure.... The Acting Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade...: '...In America, in streets where many sky-scrappers exist, there is a rule that certain of the tenants must vacate their offices at 3 p.m. daily, so that the footpaths will not be congested by the simultaneous discharge of thousands of workers late in the afternoon.' (Herald, 24/8/27)
- 28/3 Council considering widening approach to Princes Bridge—even roofing over railway yards (as unemployment scheme). Council wanted to widen Swanston Street at that point to 33 ft, to avoid a situation where 'high buildings' would be erected in the future. 'The day would come when only the tips of the spires of the Cathedral would be visible from the south.' (Herald, 12/3/28, p.1)
- 28/6 Twelve years has elapsed since the building regulations operating in Melbourne were comprehensively reviewed.... It is now admitted, even in America, that mammoth buildings towering skywards are fine things to boast about but they have their disadvantages. Where they exist they are making a traffic problem, which in any circumstances would be exceptionally difficult, impossible of solution. It is now widely agreed that the herding together in one building of many thousands of workers has proved a false economy. The point has been reached in New York where it is said to be necessary to require bodies of workers occupying the same buildings to begin work at different hours and to cease at various times during the afternoon, in order to make it possible, though very difficult, to move in the streets.... At present in streets of more than thirty-three feet in width a height of 132 feet is permitted in Melbourne. Comparatively few buildings have reached that maximum, and very strong reasons would be required to warrant any extension. (Age, 15/6/28)
- 28/6 The movement by the Victorian Institute of Architects to have the City of Melbourne building by-laws revised in some respects has opened up an interesting problem... Increased height and depth from the surface of the street and amendment of fire regulations are foremost points in the architects' move for revision.... The maximum height in Sydney, the highest limit in Australia, is 150 feet.... 'the higgledy-piggledy skyline of American cities—a set of broken teeth, structurally,' a Melbourne authority yesterday phrased it... (Age, 16/6/28)

- 28/6 Over three years ago Sir John Sulman, on returning to Sydney after an extensive tour abroad, said, 'New York, with its skyscrapers, is a city to wonder at and deplore, owing to the evils of congested traffic and the insufficient lighting and ventilation in most of its office buildings. This building insanity has now been stopped.' (more case against skyscrapers—Age, 29/6/28)
- 1928? Proposals which were made recently the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects for an increase in the height limit for city buildings were discussed in an address broadcast from 3LO last night by Mr Saxil Tuxen, one of the members of the Town-planning Commission. Mr Tuxen said that until the steel frame type of building construction was perfected the erection of skyscrapers was impossible. If brickwork only was used in a building the thickness of the lower portions of the walls had to be increased progressively as the height of the building was increased, to carry the great weight of the upper stories, and a point was soon reached when the thick lower walls occupied so much space and became so costly to construct that further increases of height could not be carried out economically. This factor had been eliminated by steel frame construction, which permitted the walls on all floors to be of nearly the same thickness, but there were other factors of equal importance to limit the height to which a building should be carried. It was necessary, for instance, that adequate lighting should be provided. City councils' by-laws provided that part of every building area must be give up to the provision of lightwells, and the width of these wells must be one-third of the height of the wall above. It followed that the higher a building was made the wider were the lightwells, and a point was ultimately reached in which the object of a high building—the greatest possible use of the building site—was defeated... Further, the area which had to be given to stairways, elevators, and fire escapes increased as the building height increased... From a town-planning point of view one of the greatest objections to high buildings was the congestion caused in adjacent streets. The buildings could accommodate so many people that in the peak periods footways and roadways near by were overtaxed by workers entering or leaving them until a point was reached when it became necessary to use costly two-level, and even three-level, streets to deal with the traffic. (Argus, n.d.)
- 29/2 MCC concerned to save Melbourne from a 'ragged skyline'. At present an ornamental tower of almost any height may be erected above the 132-ft building limit—the 'growing craze for towers'. Melbourne does not want 'a scrap-heap sky line'. (Herald, 14/2/29)
- The height limit in the city in the twenties [and thirties] was a unifying influence in the cornice line. This gave to the civic architecture of Melbourne a gracious atmosphere of scale, good manners and quiet dignity. (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, pp. 146-7)
- 29/4 Royal Victorian Institute of Architects proposed a height increase to 150 ft—same as Sydney. MCC said no (eventually). (Herald, 19/4/29)
- 32/12 A comprehensive revision of the building regulations of Melbourne City Council has recently been drafted... Nearly ten years have elapsed since the last group of additions and amendments... Until about twenty years ago, Melbourne's building code was based upon conditions of the gold days—an era of brick, stone and wood. Walls were required to be of brick or stone, of a greater thickness than in any other city on earth. At one time it was computed that in Collins-street alone, the unnecessary thickness of walls, in comparison with those made possible by improved construction, aggregated some 800 feet. In other words, the later adoption of improved methods made possible the virtual addition of a whole block of effective frontage... In the period 1910-16 revision was

taken in hand... For the first time, concrete, reinforced concrete and fire-resisting construction were legalised, and adoption of the new code marked an epoch of reduced building costs and lessened fire losses....

On the important question of permitted height, the latest revision proposes only minor amendments, and the maximum of 132 feet (apart from ornamental towers, domes and spires) is left unaltered.... There is no justification for the 'skyscraper' type of building in Melbourne, which offers ample room in magnificent, but as yet insufficiently developed streets, for building expansion within the prescribed limitation. It is significant that for some years after this maximum was adopted very limited advantage of the permitted height was taken by property owners projecting new construction. (Age, 12/12/32)

- 34/1 Melbourne City Council considering introducing a *minimum* building height. '...foremost of all, the new buildings with the new lines—graceful towers of colour and harmony reaching to the astounded sky.' (Herald, 27/1/34, editorial, p.6)
- 37-38 A 'limit-height' building was 10, 11 or 12 storeys high. (Herald)
- 37/9 E. Keith Mackay, architect, recently returned to Melbourne after 6 years' study abroad—urged the attractions of a New York-style skyline—Melbourne should raise height limits. (Herald, 9/9/37, p.38)
- 37/9 Responding to an article proposing taller buildings for Melbourne, a correspondent wrote: 'with the increasing danger from hostile aircraft it would appear that our future city development lies underground.' (Herald, 13/9/37, p.10)
- 38/9 Suggestions that the new 11-storey Prince Henry's Hospital block in St Kilda Road, South Melbourne, is the tallest building in Melbourne... Prince Henry's architects and builders estimate that, on the St Kilda Road frontage, the block, to the top of the lift motor room, is 148 ft, and at the rear Wells Street frontage, 155 feet to the chimney top. But City Council architects... say the old Australian building is 153 ft to the top of its front gutter level. Chimney tops and motor rooms, they hint, are not ordinarily accounted for in height calculations. ... The Australian Building was erected to 153 ft before the imposition of the present 132 ft maximum.... Melbourne's highest structure is the 340ft spire of St Patrick's Cathedral. Second highest is also a spire—the main spire of St Paul's Cathedral, rising 300 ft. Next in order are the towers of the APA Building, in Queen Street (234 ft); the T and G Building (225); the front spires of St Patrick's Cathedral (216); the Manchester Unity (210); the twin spires of St Paul's (172); Howey Court (168); the State Theatre (145), and the look-out floor of the Eastern Hill Fire Station tower (130). (Herald, 28/9/38)
- 43/4 MCC considering increasing height limit to 133' 6". Cr Solly argued that skyscrapers were not wanted in Melbourne—argued for decentralisation. MCC wanted exceptions made where ground extent allowed—Cr Solly: if so, then sky's the limit—Myers or Town Hall could built to 250 ft—Melburnians did not want to see 'some spectacular building sneak up to the skies.' (Herald, 14/4/43, p.5)
- 49/3 MCC's 3-storey height limit for residential buildings under review. Professor Brian Lewis, Dean of Architecture, University of Melb: 'look at St Kilda Road, where a magnificent boulevard is defaced by old two-storeyed houses patched up and converted into inconvenient and expensive flats...' (Herald, 30/3/49, p.4)

- 53/9 A limit-height blue glass and aluminium building is to be erected at the corner of Collins Street and Alfred Place... This is the last vacant block in Collins Street, west [east?] of William Street... Construction will be in reinforced concrete, faced with pale blue wired glass from pavement to roof on the Collins Street and Alfred Place facades. [pic] (Herald, 18/9/53)
- 55/4 150-ft Australian Building, construction of which prompted imposition of 132-ft height limit in 1880s, was still Melbourne's tallest building in 1955. (Herald, 5/4/55, p.4)
- 55/5 First word of plans for 20-storey building for ICI 98 ft higher than present limit. (Herald, 12/5/55, p.3)
- Editorial: 'Too many old, two-storey buildings from our main streets. Taller buildings, with garden space around them, would improve the city.' (Herald, 13/5/55, p.4)
- The waste of precious inner-city space by ridiculous midget buildings surviving from colonial times has done much to create the notorious Melbourne sprawl. (Herald, 28/5/55, p.4)
- 55/6 Height limit was scaled to limitations of brick construction and hydraulic lifts. It cramps modern construction like an outgrown overcoat. ICI application for 98-ft increase deferred indefinitely by MCC Building Regulations Committee. (Herald, 14/6/55, p.17)
- 55/6 Plans for 20-storey ICI building approved by State Building Regulations Committee moves to review height limit. ICI House will have no more floor space than existing height limit buildings but will have lawns, gardens, carpark and more natural light. (Herald, 25/6/55, p.3)
- 55/7 Robin Boyd: With ICI building approved 'the red tape which restricted Melbourne to 132-ft building-height is broken... In parts of Melbourne the natural foundations are poor, but most of the city's ground could carry limitless height. From now on, economy, not techniques or arbitrary law will set the limit. (Herald, 5/7/55, p.4)
- 56/6 MCC waived 132-ft height limit to allow buildings up to 230 ft high on the Eastern and Western markets sites, now being thrown open to development by private enterprise. (Herald, 27/6/56, p.4)
- 56/8 The Melbourne city area has a good chance of getting a new building height limit of 230 ft 27 ft more than intended thanks to a town hall typist's error. When the architects of the new ICI building at the corner of Albert and Nicholson Streets submitted their application to the City Council for an above-height-limit building, they asked for 203 feet, compared with the present 132 ft limit. After much public controversy, the council's Building and Town Planning committee last year approved the architects' plans. But the memorandum to the committee about the plans, typed in the Town Hall, gave the desired height at 230 ft, instead of the correct 203 ft. The architects, on being told they could have a 230 ft building, altered their plans accordingly... Now the council rests content with a 230 ft limit provided that a building of that height has no more floor space than a 132 ft building and it is asking the State Government to make the 230 ft limit law. (Herald, 1/8/56, p.4)

57/7 132-ft height limit still in place—any application to build higher must go to the State Buildings Regulation Committee. But height limit about to go. (Herald?, 12/7/57, p.1)

57/7 The statement that Melbourne had the first skyscraper is contested—by New York, which claims that the 157 ft Australian Building... was only 'one of the first'. But it's certain that, of all the world's cities, Melbourne was the first to take full advantage of lifts and send buildings beyond the level that their occupants could comfortably walk. Next came problems, shared by all the world's cities, of traffic, lighting, and height limitation, the last being due mainly to the hazard of fire. America ignored them, London set a height limit of 100 ft., Sydney made this 150 ft, and Melbourne 132 ft. Now, pressed by another problem of outward spread, in what might be called its middle age, Melbourne has been forced to decide on another drastic step.... In New York, the race to build giants, bigger and taller than the rest, created traffic chaos on a similar scale and turned the streets into caverns of darkness throughout the day. In Melbourne there will be strict rules about the daylight accessible in the streets, to the workers in the skyscraper and to those in the less ambitious office blocks next door.... And each will be allowed to accommodate few, if any, more workers than it would if spread over the entire site and up to the present 132 ft level. This requirement, called the floor space index, relates the floor space to the land space... So, if a firm decides to demolish its 132 ft building and put a skyscraper in its place, it will have to take in the seams to become slender and tall. (Herald, 22/7/57, p.4)

Among the first buildings with open space provided at ground level was the CRA (Conzinc Riotinto of Australia) Building, at 89-101 Collins Street... this curtain walled office building was set back along its entire face from Collins Street to provide a north facing garden entry. The breaking of the building line along Collins Street was the beginning of the 'lost teeth syndrome' of high rise development of the 1960s and 1970s. Plazas of varying sizes came to be included as a quid pro quo for various dispensations offered to developers. (Lewis, Melbourne: Its History and Development, p136)

33. WRECKING

27/5 Melbourne is becoming accustomed to the thunder of the building wrecker—crashing brickwork and clattering drills—as old landmarks fall in nearly every block.... The wrecker begins where the builder left off—on the roof. After this has been stripped he works downward, removing the windows, doors and fittings, and then the floors. In some buildings the walls must be demolished from floor to floor, but in others the entire interior can be removed before the brick or stone work is touched. The wreckers work on no set plan and their methods depend on the structure of the building.... A use is found for all the materials obtained by the wreckers. After it has been sorted, a good deal of it is sold to the public. Machine-made bricks meet with a ready demand and good hand-made bricks are used for paving, foundations for concrete paths and buildings. Hand-made bricks are often used in houses, as they are porous and give a better hold than the machine-made. Brickbats are given away for the cartage. The timber is easily disposed of for building purposes, while slates and galvanised iron are used for re-roofing and repairing. There is a strong demand for galvanised iron in the country and by poultry farmers.... When Williamstown road was being made 18 months ago the Country Roads Board bought huge quantities of spoil from demolished buildings to make a foundation. At present all the spoil is going to Flemington Bridge, to fill in a swamp area. (Herald, 21/5/27)

1929 [Harold Ross, founding editor of the *New Yorker*] had long wanted a profile on Jacob Volk, a building wrecker out of Herculean mythology, who tore down two hundred and fifty big structures in Manhattan during his lifetime and never passed the Woolworth Building but what he dreamed of the joys of razing it. I had wanted the piece for Talk [of the Town], where it seemed to me it belonged, but Ross assigned Robert Coates to do the profile.... I got Jake Volk for Talk, in spite of Ross, because the famous wrecker died while the Coates profile was in the works, and we never wrote profiles about dead men.... We laid Jake Volk to rest in 'Talk of the Town', while dealt with the dead as well as the quick.

He had died two months before another wrecker began taking down the old Waldorf [Hotel], on whose site the Empire State Building was erected.* The original Waldorf was a toughly constructed building, and the wrecker who took it apart was paid \$900,000 for the job—old Jake had paid for the privilege of tearing structures down, and made his profit by selling intact sections, but the debris of the Waldorf was all taken out to sea and dumped....

Jake shook his head at mention of Stanford White. 'When he built 'em they stayed built,' he would say sadly. One that stayed built has just been made over into apartments for fifteen or twenty families.... I trust that the ghost of Jacob Volk, seeming to munch one of the caviar sandwiches he so loved, does not mournfully stalk the corridors of the old mansion just off Fifth Avenue. (James Thurber, 'Life with Ross', *Atlantic Monthly*, Feb 1958, p.52)

*Demolition of the Waldorf began in Sept 1929; a Herman Volk, aged 55, died in July, run down near his home by an actor on his way to perform in a revue. (*NY Times*, 27/7/29, p.16)

On September 23, 1929, a group of five men visited the Waldorf Astoria Hotel (bounded by 5th Ave., Astor Court, 34th and 33d Sts.) in New York City and made a preliminary survey with the idea of getting the demolition work started immediately. ...destruction was completely accomplished, down to the very last stone buried below the old machinery foundations, on March 12, 1930—less than five months later. The total reduction of these

- buildings resulted in 24,321 loads of material, principally debris which was dumped from scows, 20 miles out at sea... When demolition work on the superstructure reached its peak on Nov. 22, 1929, a force of 719 men was employed. ('Notes on Construction of Empire State Building—Wrecking the Waldorf Astoria Hotel (An empty hotel)' in [book on construction of Empire State Building—Redmond Barry Reading Room, SLV])
- 1932 Rival wrecker, Walter de Leyland—wrecking and building for nearly 50 years. Wrecked 4-storey building in Bourke Street (between Swanston & Elizabeth) in one week—I contracted for seven days and I'll do it... When you're wrecking you've got to be quick. ...If I had quoted three weeks on this job I'd never have got it.' (Herald, 22/4/32, p.8)
- 32/6 The Art of Wrecking. The Wreckers are at it again. This time the scene of their activities is at the corner of Elizabeth and Little Collins Streets, where they are demolishing the old Colonial Bank Building to make way for new business premises. Crowds of curious citizens gather to watch them at every hour of the day. Few, however, realise that the wreckers' apparent carelessness in knocking down walls and tossing blocks of stone around is really highly skilled work. The fine art of wrecking lies in attacking walls with pick and lever in such a way as to ensure them falling in a certain direction, in throwing stones from heights of 50 or 60 feet without breaking them or injuring anyone, in removing tiles from the roofs of buildings without damaging them and in a hundred other little tricks of the trade. How the wreckers start their job is decided by the type of building they are dealing with. It seems the natural thing in demolishing a building to start from the roof and work downward. This is often done, but just as often the wreckers, begin their work of destruction on the ground floor and 'eat their way' through floor after floor to the top, which is uncovered at last to leave only the shell of the building standing. This in its turn is demolished from the top down, the wreckers, to the eye of the layman, apparently doing their best to commit suicide by swinging their picks into the walls on which they stand. Actually they are working in complete safety by the exercise of the wrecker's art. (Herald, 23/6/32)
- 1933 Plaque outside Royal Australasian College of Surgeons building includes a memorial to its demolition:
- Melbourne High School [&c]...
was located on this site.
The building was demolished between
August 28 and September 27, 1933.
- 1962-3 Demolition of Euston Station Great Hall and Arch—"The Euston Murder"... The only person who emerges with credit from the affair is the demolition contractor, Frank Valori, who offered to have the stones of the Arch itself numbered on his own initiative in case of an official change of heart [on reërecting the Arch]. ... The public protest which greeted British Rail's proposals to demolish both King's Cross and St Pancras in 1966 was as much a memorial to the Euston Arch as the model of the Arch presented to the Victorian Society by Frank Valori. [Pics—Euston Station Arch, and wreckers demolishing the Great Hall. (Hermoine Hobhouse, *Lost London: A Century of Demolition and Decay*, Macmillan, London, 1971, pp.234-7)

The model of Euston Arch [pic on file] was cast in silver by Carrington's and was stolen from the Victorian Society's office in Great Ormond Street in 1968. The Society is still seeking its return. (Vic Soc website, June 2004)

1967 One smoggy morning not long ago, we went down to lower Broadway to take a last look at the Singer Building, an ornate Beaux-Arts landmark that is being torn down to make way for a modern fifty-storey office building. Entering by the Liberty Street side door, which is ornamented with one of the fiercest stone lion masks in the city, we immediately came upon two large red signs announcing the presence of our old acquaintances the Lipsett demolition company's workmen, who within the last three years have eliminated, among other things, Pennsylvania Station, the Savoy-Plaza, and the Park Lane Hotel. The demolition superintendent, Mr Harry Glick, greeted us by pushing back his helmet and giving a short sigh. He is a courteous, circumspect, and soft-spoken man who looks quietly harassed, as if he had his mind on ten things at once, and he usually has. 'This is the tallest building to come down yet,' he said. 'Anywhere in the world.' ...

The Singer Building was built in several stages, beginning in 1897 and ending in 1908, amid a flurry of ceremony and publicity and enthusiastic turn-of-the-century optimism that would be hard to match today. ... we went upstairs, and found Mr Glick waiting to take us up into the tower. As we rose—slowly, for the elevator's speed had been reduced to make it safe for workmen bringing down heavy loads—Mr Glick remarked, 'There's supposed to be a silver brick somewhere in the top of the tower. It was put there to celebrate the fact that the building was the tallest in the world when it was finished—six hundred and twelve feet.

We said that, as we recalled it, the height record was held for only eighteen months, being outdistanced late in 1909 by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Tower, on Madison Square, which rose to seven hundred feet, and which was itself outdistanced in 1913 by the Woolworth Building, leaping upward seven hundred and ninety-two feet.

Mr Glick laughed. 'History moves fast,' he said. 'I've been in demolition work for nearly forty years—on jobs ranging from chicken coops to skyscrapers. My father was a demolition man. He and his partner in the Louis J. Cohen Wrecking Company took down the old rising academy at Fifty-ninth Street and Fifth Avenue to make room for the Savoy-Plaza, and now *we've* taken down the Savoy-Plaza to make room for General Motors. History moves fast.'

... we slowly descended to the lobby, wondering on the way down what [Ernest] Flagg [the building's architect], who died in 1947, would say about the demise of the building, which he had called 'as solid and lasting as the Pyramids'. ('Tallest', *New Yorker*, 9 Sept 1967, pp.37-8) (see also 'End of a Skyscraper', *NY Times*, 27/3/68, p.49)

1972? from Vincent Buckley's poem 'Golden Builders'—

(i) 'The sun dies half-glowing in the floating brickdust./suspended between red and saffron.' 'In gaps of lanes, in tingling shabby squares,/I hear the crying of the machines.'
(xxii) 'Taller than any buildings the crane leans, angling for its meat.' 'They crush the sides of bluestone./The great ball cancels the window side./The press of towers crumples over the stairs...' '...will the builders find there in the courtyard,/or under the last cornerstone nickel silver raw iron/ seeds of copper...'

SAFETY

(see JPW injuries, in 'WW Company History')

25/6 Apparently weakened by the attempts made to demolish the remaining portion of the building which collapsed in Little Bourke street on Wednesday afternoon, the beams, which had prevented hitherto the complete collapse of the structure, broke away at 9 o'clock last night, and the roof of the building fell in. Under the direction of Mr D. Whelan, a gang of men yesterday afternoon attached a hawser to one end of the roof of the building, and it was hoped with the aid of a hand-operated winch to pull the structure down, but the attempt was not altogether successful.

The winch was installed in a right-of-way off Wright's lane [formerly Kirks or Racing Club Lane?], and Mr Whelan and several men succeeded in passing the end of a steel hawser round the roof of the damaged building, which is of corrugated iron. The other end was placed over the roller of the winch, which two men then began to wind up slowly. The crackling of timbers and the falling of glass within the building gave the first warning of an impending crash, and suddenly with a terrific noise, the roof gave way, the rear portion falling into the excavation, taking with it hundreds of bricks. Many bricks also fell into Little Bourke street. When the atmosphere cleared it was seen that the front portion of the roof had not come away but was hanging precariously over the excavation. The position of the side wall had scarcely altered. For some time after the attempt to wreck the building had been made, the creaking of the broken woodwork and the occasional falling of bricks and glass from the windows indicated that a further collapse was imminent. Special precautions were taken by the constables on duty to restrain sightseers from approaching too close to the building. Suddenly, shortly before 9 o'clock, a succession of sharp reports from breaking woodwork gave warning of a further collapse, which caused the front portion of the corrugated iron roof to fall. Fortunately, the roof fell into the excavation adjoining. Only some of the brickwork of the building was disturbed. The noise attracted a large crowd, but there was little to be seen. Portion of the front and back walls now remain standing, but it is expected that no serious difficulty will arise in the demolition of the ruined buildings. (Argus, 27/6/25, p.31) **Pic** of collapsed building—Argus 26/6/25, p.9

1931 Scaffolding—see Herald article on file, 11/7/31, p. 17

32/1 It is one of [JPW's] proud boasts that in all his experiences there have been few fatalities, and this, he says is due to the fact that all his men are specially trained in the risky work of demolition. (Sun, 9/1/32)

32/1 Mr Whelan has been in 12 accidents, and he has had to be extensively mended as a result. He has three plates helping to support limbs broken at various times. His first accident was at a brick kiln in Brunswick, when the side of the kiln fell on him, nearly smothering him and breaking an arm and a leg. He fell 35ft from a building at the corner of Little Collins street and Queen Street, and upon another occasion a brick fell on his head from the six-storied Watson Chambers. (Argus, 23/1/32)

The workmen would stand high on the walls and chip chip away, knocking away the bricks underneath. It was considered to be safer up there because there had to be another team down below clearing away the bricks as soon as they fell. You didn't want bricks to be falling on bricks because there would be more chance of their breaking. So they had to work like crazy clearing the ground to make room for the next lot. (Keith Dunstan, Sunday Age, 8/12/91, Agenda, p.5)

- ...a perpetual limp (a souvenir of a four-storey, 45ft fall, from the National Mutual, Queen Street. (Herald, 31/12/55)
- 33/1 'Wrecking a building the wrong way might result in a catastrophe. My men do it the right way, and have never hurt anybody.' (JPW, Herald, 16/1/33)
- 37/2 State Government officials said today that the risks undertaken by workers in demolishing old buildings could be minimised by an amendment of the Local Government Act, making it compulsory for scaffolding to be used by wreckers. The Act, which is administered by councils, now makes provision for the erection of scaffolding only when a new building is being erected. The Labor Department has no power to make regulations for the protection of men employed on buildings which are being demolished. At an inquest on a man who was killed while assisting to demolish a building, the Coroner... said that the regulations governing the work of demolishing old buildings were for the protection of the public and not of the workers. (Herald, 15/2/37)
- 39/? WW wrote to architect, Harry A. Norris: 'The reason for delay in not completing our contract at 27 Swanston St on time was due entirely to our inability to use Cocker Alley as means of carting our debris and bricks away. As you are aware the retaining wall of Softgoods Club along the R.O.W. collapsed taking with it parts of same, hence the Council's decision to close the R.O.W. against our heavy traffic. This necessitated us using one entrance with one truck only at a time.' (Letter, n.d., in WW/SLV, 65/2)
- pre-WW2 Melbourne's older buildings plagued with bugs and fleas. Jim Whelan: 'You could stand at the doorway and see the fleas jumping around.' (Sun, 16/3/61)

In the pre-war days we entered old buildings very warily. You could smell the bugs and see the fleas jumping about. It is a very strange thing, but we hardly ever see them about in the buildings we wreck today. (Jim Whelan, Age, 16/3/61)

- 1960 Eastern Market job
 6/7/60□D. Tekas received a nasty scalp wound at about 11 a.m. A loose brick fell from a wall, and struck him on the scalp. He was immediately sent to the Clinic in Collins St [no. 12), and later returned to work.
 7/7/60□At 1 pm R. Alexander had a nasty fall caused by a wall crumbling when he was on it to adjust a sling. He was taken to the Clinic, and after examination was sent home. At 4.5 pm an archway collapsed on one of the front walls in Bourke Street, knocking over one section of hoarding and spilling a small quantity of bricks etc. onto the footpath. This was immediately cleaned up and the hoarding re-erected. No damage was done to anything. (Eastern Market job diary, SLV/WW, 30/3)

...every now and then, those fellers would be up there on the top and working away—you know, no scaffold—and sometimes a brick could... and it'd hit something there and it'd take off. Oh, I've nearly been hit myself, you know, with one that'll bounce. And you say, 'Gee whiz!' But that comes back to the—again, digressing a little bit—to the hard hats. The hard hats came in. I can remember, we were pulling down the building at the back of the L&G Building [cnr Queen & Collins], at the rear of there. And it was about this time when we said, well, we've got to have these hard hats. And gee, the blokes used to feel like Charlies, wearing these hats. And old George, Scratchy, you know, he was... ohhh. And if you didn't watch them, they'd throw them in the corner and have their old

[inaudible]. And then, of course, you'd get to the stage where you said, 'If you don't wear it, you've got to go off the job.' And the unions were stacking on an act and what-have-you. So it gradually came on and, in the end, fellers felt naked if they didn't have the hat on. And it was fair enough. They weren't that hard to wear.

With those fellers walking up on the walls... you'd never force a bloke to go up on a wall like that, because if he wasn't happy and if he wasn't contented up there, you're wasting your time because he's not going to do any work. Some blokes'd get dizzy putting their foot on the first rung of the ladder, but they were more than happy to work down below. And, again, they'd be working and chipping those bricks away and they'd be falling down, and they didn't want them to fall on top of one another because they'd break them. So they'd stop, and then a bloke'd come in and pull them back. And then away they'd go again.

[RA: Obviously some people are quite fine at heights.]

Oh yes, and they're invaluable, those fellers. Because you couldn't give them, you know, protection. But scaffold wasn't known in those days. No one had the scaffolding. You shudder when you think of it there, but, I mean, all these things are an evolving part. And even today, with all the latest scaffolding regulations, it's very hard to give a bloke complete protection, because it's a hazardous industry. The whole industry is hazardous. You can't remove it all. And you can't stop people from doing silly things. By law, you're supposed to stop them from doing them, but that's an impossibility. It's just physically impossible. (Owen Whelan interview)

- 65 Legal & General building (cnr Collins & Queen) was one of tallest buildings in Melbourne. As usual, WW used timber outriggers rather than scaffolding. The union called a stop-work on the site and gang was about to walk out on strike until scaffolding was erected. But WW hadn't factored scaffolding into the cost of the demolition. Jim Parker persuaded the workers to stay, on the proviso that scaffolding would be used on all future jobs. It was. (Jim Parker, pers comm, 5/9/03)

WW had only two fatalities on the job in 70 years (up to 1967). (People, 3/5/67□scrapbook, p. 12)

- 1970 Workers' compensation rates classified demolition as the most dangerous area of the construction industry. 'If you pay workers' compensation for every \$100 wages, you should be paying about \$40 workers' compensation premiums...'□compared with \$3 to \$6 for ordinary workers. (Myles Whelan evidence to ?NSW Govt Building Inquiry, 1970□in SLV/WW, 65/3)
- 1981 ...the firm's Workers' Compensation Insurance premiums are constantly under review. In 1980 some [demolition] firms were required to pay up to 100 per cent of the wages bill [in workers' comp]. Owen Whelan is clearly proud of the fact that his firm led the field in such safety devices as outriggers from windows, wall bracket scaffolding and protective canopies over footpaths. Now compulsory on demolition sites in most cities, these were in use by Whelan the Wrecker long before the law moved in. Another safety procedure much practised by Whelan is the use of cranes to lower material to the ground, rather than relying too much on gravity. It might be quicker and it might be cheaper, but it is also far more dangerous, Owen Whelan says. (Brian Carroll, *The Builders*, p.118)
- 1983 Union bans of various demolitions□asbestos. (SLV/WW 57, p.153)

‘Old picture theatres are about the most dangerous jobs you can tackle,’ Myles Whelan says. ‘They are held together by big roof trusses. Cut those trusses and the whole thing can collapse outwards or inwards. You can’t be sure which.’ (Sunday Review (magazine), Sun, 13/1/91, p.9)

DEMOLITION METHODS

In the early days, the work was sometimes 'given a shake-up' by explosives. Frank Bock was a powder monkey who came down from Warburton where he used to blow up trees, stumps, etc. (Jim Doyle, 1976 □SLV/WW, 64/3)

24/7 Felling a Chimney. Difficult Task in City. Eight huge pieces of stone, weighing in all about four tons, crashed from a height of 150 feet into the yard of the General Post-office yesterday morning, but they crashed by design...

The task is extremely difficult, for there is a very restricted area around the base of the chimney in which the debris may fall. It would be impossible to fell the chimney from the base, owing to the buildings which surround it, and, moreover, the concussion would shatter windows for a considerable distance. Such being the case, the destruction has to be carried out piecemeal from the top. Even so, much care has to be shown, as, if the bricks were allowed to fall to the east, they might fall on Myer's buildings, or break the mains in the adjoining right-of-way. Therefore they must fall at the base of the chimney, away from the east.

Mr J. Whelan of Brunswick, has the contract for the demolition, and the actual work is being done by Mr J. Thorpe, who commenced his task yesterday. Making his way to the top by means of the inside rungs, he set to work with an ordinary, single-headed miner's 'pick' on the overhanging stone eaves, which he sent to earth in eight sections, cleverly working each round so that it would fall to the west...

Mr Thorpe who appeared quite at ease in his perilous work, recently completed the felling of a chimney 200ft high. (Argus, 30/7/24, p.22)

Pic (on file)—shows Jacky Thorp dropping a piece of coping (weighing several hundredweight) from top of chimney. Panorama of city roofs forms backdrop. (Argus, 30/7/24, p.17)

The Whelan workers used steeplejack ladders, little light ladders and they pegged them all the way up. They would stand on the chimney top and then tap, tap, chip all the wall down. Come lunch time, it was too far down to make the effort to return to the ground, so they hauled up their lunch and a billy on the end of a rope and sat there, feet dangling over the side. (Keith Dunstan, Sunday Age, 8/12/91, Agenda, p.5)

1930 The demand for speed in house wrecking which in part prohibits the salvaging of materials is fast becoming a large economic factor in the high cost of new construction in New York, according to Albert A. Volk, president of Albert A. Volk, Inc., who has directed the demolition of many famous landmarks here... 'It costs so much now to destroy a building of any size that it does not pay the wrecker to even try to salvage material. Take old bathtubs, for example,' he said. 'We used to get from \$15 to \$25 a tub, while now, under the penalty and bonus system rapidly coming into vogue in handling demolition jobs, we smash these tubs up and they sail out through the Narros on Father Knickerbocker's trash-carrying scows to find a well-earned rest at the bottom of the sea along with the old brick that only ten years ago brought \$60 a load to the wrecker, who would clean the old mortar from their sides; and sometimes he didn't even bother to do that... The builder wants his site cleared on time... He will even pay a bonus if the structures on the site are removed ahead of time. On the smaller jobs the wrecker may cart off the brick and trash and sort it at his leisure, but it does not any longer pay to recondition the basic building material coming off a typical big-town wrecking job. We thought we had found a new way of decreasing wrecking cost by discarding the old brick

in a way that would eliminate the handling of them at the present high cost of wrecking labor. Our plan was to rip a slot next to the four walls of a building, and while the workmen operated from scaffolding on the outside, chute the brick and other wall material through this slot direct to the cellar, where we could remove it by steam shovel direct to trucks—brick, dirt and all; but this method [called ‘breaking through’] has been frowned on [by unions] emphatically enough to remind us of the time, some years ago, when the brick, after being taken from the wall, were lowered to the basement in baskets. Those were the days when most of the brick we took out of the walls were laid up in lime mortar, but today the great bulk of the buildings we wreck are those that have been erected within the last ten to twenty years, and in such structures the brick is gripped in mortar of cement. In such a state the brick do not convert to individual units. They can only be taken out in lumps, and for the most part are dumped into the trash scows in that condition. Certain interests are agitating against this cost-saving device, which cuts the time of wrecking from one-third to one-half. They want the wreckers to go back to the costly system of handling second-hand brick by the wheelbarrow method, with manual labor...’ (*NY Times*, 10/2/1930, p.44)

(see also ‘Finds, Scrap, Artefacts—Building Materials’)

Mr Whelan’s system of working differs according to the building he has to demolish. Sometimes, he charges for the work; sometimes, he performs the job for nothing; sometimes he actually pays a substantial sum for the right to pull down a building and sell the material. It takes years of experience to be able to appraise the worth of a building,’ he said. ‘I can generally tell, after seeing the outside of a structure, just how much it will be worth to me, and how much work will be involved. (*Herald*, 21/6/30)

[JPW] developed the profession of destruction to such a fine art that he was eventually able to sum up the value of a structure and the amount of work involved in bringing it down by a study of it from the street. (scrapbook, p. 38)

1932 ‘Pulling down is nothing,’ Mr Whelan summed it up. ‘It’s the taking away that wants careful organising.’ (*Herald*, 1/1/32)

1938 The generation gap showed up on at least one occasion, just before World War II, when ‘the boys’ wanted to buy one of those new fangled air compressors. Whelan Senior spurned such effete aids, saying that one good labourer with a slogging hammer and gad could beat any such device. He was eventually persuaded to stage a competition. The air compressor had a convincing win, and the firm soon bought one. (Brian Carroll, *The Builders*, p.115)

JPW used to say, ‘The machine isn’t made than can outwork a man’—according to Owen. His sons, Jim and Tom, wanted to move with the times and, at their urging, James Paul agreed in 1938 to a trial—men vs. machines—in razing two comparable buildings. Old James urged on a team of 20 musclemen who slogged away with hand tools at a four-storey reinforced concrete building for six weeks. But his sons won the race: using machines, they had levelled their building in four weeks! More important than that, they had cut costs by 200 per cent. A few months later the old man died. [Apocryphal?]

When he demolished a building, old Whelan would tear off the roof, ‘gut’ every floor, and leave the bare walls standing, sometimes several storeys high. Then, he would perch his men at the top and, with pick, hammer and gad, they would pound down the walls, brick by brick. (*Australasian Post*, 11/5/72, pp.6-7)

1939 Union House, 284 Lt Collins 'I will demolish and remove Union House in Lit. Collins St. and brick buildings at the rear in Union Lane. ...anticipating that in the near future concrete buildings of Union House [illegible] would be demolished, we purchased 2 new concrete breakers (1 diesel, 1 electric). It is only with the aid of these machines that we will be able to demolish Union House in the quick time of 8 week. (Letter, 16/6/39, from WW to architect, Harry Norris [in SLV/WW, 65/2)

Union House set new problems as a wrecking job 'first large modern steel reinforced concrete building listed for demolition in Melbourne' 'neither architects nor wrecking firms are quite certain how the wrecking will be carried out. Their comment is that the work will be 'tough going' 'Another problem will be disposal, for, unlike average buildings, concrete structures contain little of resale value. This adds also to the cost of wrecking. The tentative plan is to rebreak all slabs on the site, then cart the concrete and dump it as junk on a city tip.' (Herald, 4/7/39, p.8)

195? Tom Whelan: 'When a gang walks into an old building to pull it to bits, they go really mad for the first couple of hours. They tear at walls and floors, and there's stuff flying about everywhere. After a while they fall into their usual routine, and things settle down.' 'Don't wreckers PULL buildings down?' Tom was asked. 'Most of our competitors do,' he said. 'But we like pushing them inwards. No particular reason. It's just that we've been doing it that way for the past sixty years.' ('He loves wrecking' 'it's in his blood', article re. wrecking for ICI House, 195? [in SLV/WW, 64/7)

60/10 The modern Whelans demolish a building one floor at a time where Old Jim's boys used to gut the whole building first and then perch on the walls and knock them down, more or less, brick by brick. (Sun, 24/10/60)

I can always remember at Scott's Hotel, alongside Temple Court, there was a comparatively modern reinforced concrete, sort of bedroom annexe put up, right alongside of it. And when I was going around [to cost the demolition], I remember going with Jimmy and we're turning around and, oh, you used to have a little geological hammer and you'd pick at the bricks or the concrete, to see how hard it was. You know, were they lime-mortar or were they cement-mortar? And Jimmy said, 'What the heck are you doing?' And I said, 'I'm just seeing how hard the concrete is.' He said, 'Put it away, pal,' he said, 'it'll be rubbish.' He said, 'Old Pop Shillabeer built this,' (he was one of the early builders) and he said, 'He was renowned for waving a cement bag in front of the concrete-mixer.' And do you know what? That's exactly what... it was really light-on, to such a degree when you... you know, you pulled buildings over and sometimes you were fracturing the floors and it was quite dangerous. (Owen Whelan interview)

Instead of gutting all floors at once, we now leave the floors in, and demolish the masonry storey by storey, for greater safety [Owen. (Australasian Post, 11/5/72, p.7)

City Council allows street frontages of multi-storey buildings to be demolished only on Sundays [formerly allowed only at night (see CML). (Age article, n.d. (c.1971), in SLV/WW, 57, p.50)

...in all that period, we were the dominant people. And I think it always sprang from the CML because, as I said, there were so many problems associated with that that we had to

alter our thinking. Particularly from a... everything done by hand to somebody saying, 'Hey, we've got to get mechanised. We've got these cranes and we want this and we want that.' We bought our own tower crane, which was unheard-of at one stage. We had mobile cranes, traxcavators, and little bobcat loaders and, you know, we just went on and on and on. And you had to do that too, to keep up. Impact hammers, hydraulic hammers. Because you were into a different type of demolition. You weren't doing these old soft walls; you were into reinforced concrete and steel-and-concrete buildings. So it was a different ball-game. (Owen Whelan interview)

1970s Those early compressors drove shuddering jackhammers held by shuddering men. By the early 1970s they were being replaced by such massive machines as the Japanese-made Impact Hammer, a \$25,000 track-mounted unit not unlike a small bulldozer. The driver sits on top, while the machine's front-mounted ramrod belts its way through solid concrete walls 60 centimetres thick in a tenth of the time taken by a man with a hand-held, compressed air jackhammer. (Brian Carroll, *The Builders*, p.117)

71/3 Broken bricks, and the occasional hand-made one, are tossed down a hole punched through three floors to ground level, to be carted off for filling. Whole bricks, and those not too hard to clean, are tossed into a big metal bucket, or kip, and taken away to be cleaned and sold for re-use. ... Although the jackhammer is the generally accepted symbol of the wrecker, on this building the oldest tool of all—the pick—is king. The wrecker's pick is different from the miner's or trenchdigger's pick. Its head carries a long curved tapered spike, flattened at the tip into a 1 in. blade, while at the opposing end is a stubby, square-faced hammer. The head, weighing around 4 lb, is fitted to an axe-type handle instead of the conventional rod-like pick handle. It is a tool of infinitely more finesse than the normal earth pick. Its curve means that the spike strikes the surface in front of or below you in an almost horizontal arc, shattering the surface on impact, piercing then levering upwards to break the material out. The curved handle gives the tool a balance and flexibility found with, say, an axe, but never with the normal pick or mattock type tool. Mario... [climbs] to the top of a brick pier, kicks some rubble away, then bends out over one corner, lifts his pick to shoulder height and lets it fall in a loosely guided arc. It strikes mortar between layers three bricks beneath his feet, a crack spreads 18 in. in each direction, then, with a flick of his wrists and a slight upwards wrench, six or eight corner bricks separate from each other and tumble to the floor 12 ft below.... Buildings are rarely demolished: they are mostly dismantled. You work in layers, or sequences, working as the builder would have—but in reverse. And you learn short cuts, weak spots, keys to structures which are masked by paint, plaster, poured concrete, tiles, flooring boards. (Roger Aldridge, *Age*, 6/3/71)

...working out a tender is not so easy for a wrecker as it is for a builder, who knows exactly what he has to do. When a wrecker starts a job he may not be at all sure what to expect. Whelan always tries to get the original plans of the building to be demolished; in particular if it is a very big job. But that is not always possible. And sometimes what the plans show has little relation to what actually happened when the building job was done. The biggest problem is always reinforced concrete, particularly if its presence is unexpected. Tendering for demolition jobs is a mixture of experience and intuition, a sort of averaging process that usually works out profitably in the end. ... Salvage is still a significant part of many demolition jobs. A wrecker may tender \$100,000 for a job, knowing full well that it will cost \$150,000 to do it. But the salvage will make it profitable. (Brian Carroll, *The Builders*, p. 117)

Usually a building's saleable bits and pieces become the demolisher's property, and this is taken into account when the cost of demolition is negotiated. (Owen, Age, 21/4/76)

...sandstone bricks. Lovely material of this sort is fairly easily recovered in house demolition. It is not possible in the city, where generally the value of materials is not a major item in a demolition job. In the city, materials are not carted away from the site as they are in other places. The public is invited to buy the material... on the site. When you are pulling down on top, you are selling doors underneath.* ...House demolition can be a dismantling job, but demolition for commercial development is a straight-out demolition job. (Myles Whelan□evidence to ?NSW Govt Building Inquiry, 1970□SLV/WW 65/3)
*Myles disapproved of the practice□considered it dangerous.

Owen Whelan says that to be a successful wrecker you must assess pretty quickly the value of the 'dismantled commodity'. How much will the bricks, timber, steel, joists, flooring, doors, windows, glass, fetch on the open second-hand market? ... 'Pulling down only provides our bread and butter. It helps to pay the huge insurance premiums that cover all our workers. We make most of our profit from selling the junk...' (Owen, Australasian Post, 11/8/66□scrapbook, p.2)

Myles used to carry a small magnet in his pocket when quoting for demolition work. Would use it to detect which metals were as they seemed. Some steel partitions turned out to be masonite. (MJW interview, SMH, 28/5/65)

'We try to get hold of the original plans for most of the large buildings we wreck,' says Whelan's NSW manager, Neville Bowen, 'but it's often surprising how much the plans don't tell you.' (Bulletin, 11/9/71)

Our biggest problem is always reinforced concrete, particularly if it's unexpected□Owen. (Rydges, October 1972)

The first 'armoured concrete' buildings to be permitted by the City Council were 2 & 3 Olivers Lane, built in stages from 1910 onwards... (Wilson & Sands, Building a City, p.130)

Jackhammer noise the subject of many complaints. (SMH, 31/5/63)

Demolition noise increased due to the use of reinforced concrete since the mid-1920s. 'The sturdier the building is, the heavier its construction, the more force□and more noise□it takes to remove it.' (MJW in Financial Review, 29/7/72)

1970 MJW: Demolition is building in reverse. Emphasised 'organised chaos' as definition of demolition work. 'You must be tidy in the arrangements. Safety is a big motive in any job, big or small. By being tidy, one keeps control of the job. If a by-product is taken off properly and neatly, you can sell it.' (Evidence to ?NSW Govt Building Inquiry, 8/4/1970□in SLV/WW, 65/3)

The Whelans always refer to their occupation as real estate in reverse. (Keith Dunstan, Place in the Sun, 24/12/70)

- 1972 The 80 men now employed are doing more work than was done by the 300 who worked for the firm at its employment peak, during the Depression—Owen. (Australasian Post, 11/5/72, p.7)
- 1976 A 30-man team was considered big. WW did 250-300 small jobs (like demolishing houses) and about 10 to 12 big jobs a year. (Age, 21/4/76)

Demolition workers more of a maverick bunch than builders. Pick is demolition labourer's basic tool. (Bulletin, 11/9/71)

Wrecker's pick—different from miner's or trenchdigger's. 'Its head carries a long curved tapered spike, flattened at the tip into a 1 in. blade, while at the opposing end is a stubby, square-faced hammer. The head, weighting about 4 lb. is fitted to an axe-type handle... Its curve means that the spike strikes the surface in front of or below you in an almost horizontal arc, shattering the surface on impact, piercing then levering upwards to break the material out. The curved handle gives the tool a balance and flexibility...

You work in layers, or sequences, working as the builder would have—but in reverse. And you learn shortcuts, weak spots, keys to structures which are masked by paint, plaster, poured concrete, tiles, flooring boards. (Roger Aldridge, 'Aldridge at Large', Age, 197?, in SLV/WW 57, p.50—Roger Aldridge worked for WW on CML job)

Wrecker's ball used when speed is important. Few men employed on a demolition job in the 1960s. More were needed in the 20s and 30s, 'because very piece of material, including steel girders, was manhandled. Now the modern method is crane.' 'And the bricks from a wall... well, that we'd try to salvage. They would be handled off the wall, thrown onto the floor, handled again, handled into a barrow, dropped down by hand (not in barrow loads), and then throw back from below and loaded into a lorry. All by hand. Now it's off the wall, into a kibble or large bucket, and down.' (Owen?, People, 3/5/67—scrapbook, pp.12-13)

PHILOSOPHY OF WRECKING

- Charon—in Greek mythology, the old man who ferried the spirits of the dead over the rivers Styx (the River of Hate) for the fare of an obolus (a small coin). (Brewers)
- The destruction of older buildings in Melbourne is a sign of progress, prosperity and expansion. [WW had pulled down 20 city buildings in past year] (Port of Melbourne Quarterly, Oct-Dec 1958, pp. 11-15)
- 58/11 The noise of wrecking is also the sound of progress. The town is loud with drilling and the crash of old walls. We are losing something as slabs of Melbourne's short history become rubble, and gaining a more modern city. (Herald, 29/11/58, p.4)
- 60/10 Jim Whelan has a student's knowledge of the buildings he pulls down. 'There's no use doing a job unless you find out something about it, is there?' Young Jim said. For a man who can become sentimental about an old building, it was not surprising to hear Jim Whelan admit to feeling a 'little bit of a pang' when one came down. 'But times are changing,' he added, 'and we don't want a dingy old city, do we?... There is any amount of Melbourne that can come down yet.' (Sun, 24/10/60)
- 60/11 Mr Whelan's current orgy of destruction is merely a symptom of the pressing prosperity now menacing the country in general and probably Melbourne in particular. ...The citizens are glutted with destruction and already most of them have forgotten what yesterday's skyline was like. As the curious box-like structures of the space age rear blunt heads that brush the lowering rain clouds, the old city contemplates its fate calmly. Progress can swamp a city, but Melbourne is absorbing its progress with dignity. (APITS?, Sun, 23/11/60)
- 62/8 Romance of Wrecking—Consider the concealed constructiveness of wrecking throughout the ages. The Incas placed their stupendous buildings... on the ruins of earlier cultures. They wrecked what had stood before. So did the Aztecs, the Chinese, and the Persians. This—the perpetuation of history in layers—is the habit of mankind. Raze first, and raise anew.
- Consider also the cultural excitements which are possible only by virtue of prolonged wrecking. The Saxons who levelled the superior Roman buildings in Britain left remnants which are the delight of modern discoverers. In fact, a complete academic field—archaeology...—owes its existence to invading hordes who swept away, so they thought, all traces of the civilisations they overthrew....
- The stories of Babylon, Rome, Athens and Carthage are all the more fascinating for their interpretations from the fragments left by the ancient wreckers. More can be guessed from a piece than a whole, the complete structure having the inhibiting effect of confining speculation by presenting solid fact for all to behold.
- So wrecking has a valid, romantic tradition, which the splendid tradesmanship of the modern, professional practitioners with their explosives and bulldozers should do much to promote. (Building Materials, Aug/Sept, 1962, p.21)
- 64/7 WW took out a screen advertisement at the Sydney cinema showing 'The Fall of the Roman Empire'. (Daily Telegraph, 30/7/64)

Vandals poured sand into the petrol tank of a WW truck on the demolition site for Australia Square, Sydney. The next week, a lighted kerosene lamp was placed under the tyre of a crane on the site—crane extensively damaged. (Daily Telegraph, 8/5/64)

c.66 ‘We’re wrecking them younger every year.’—Myles Whelan, re. demolition of a 1939 building in Martin Place, Sydney. (APITS, Sun, n.d.—scrapbook, p.6)

66/8 Everything that has been built must come down one day, so we go to work with the philosophy that nothing is impossible. (Owen, Australasian Post, 11/8/66—scrapbook, p.2)

...Owen Whelan always feels a bit sad when it comes to wrecking a place. ‘Especially when it’s a home,’ he said. ‘You feel as if lives are being lost as they go down.’ (press cutting, n.d.—scrapbook, p.3)

c.68 Barry Humphries: ‘I love Melbourne. Why? Because it needs someone to love it. Everyone else seems to be trying to pull it down. I wouldn’t be surprised if Whelan the Wrecker got a knighthood.’ (Sun?, n.d.—SLV/WW 64/7, p.33)

Pic—Barry Humphries with WW sign at Temple of Jupiter, Lebanon—Australian, 9/7/66, p.26—10 x 8 print at SLV/WW 65/5

Barry Humphries, leaving on a 4-week trip to Prague, to work on a novel and a play. He plans to visit Transylvania—‘I particularly want to visit Dracula’s castle and I am taking with me, in my luggage a WHELAN THE WRECKER IS HERE sign, which I will hang on the castle.’ (Australian, Aug 72—SLV/WW 57, p.66)

Dame Edna said ...: ‘Melbourne is always abolishing things, pulling things down, it’s a tradition here really. It’s a miracle there’s anything left standing.’ (Age, 1/5/2003)

68/6 It’s no good going crook at us. We’re just the tools.... I get a pang of regret occasionally. You hate to see them go but it’s just not practical. I do feel very sad about an old house that has been really something in its day, but has been really degraded. (Owen, Herald?, 7/6/68—scrapbook, p.17)

71/11 Owen Whelan talked at an open forum, ‘Is Wrecking Vandalism?’, with Nat Trust architect and an architect-town planner. (Herald, 12/11/71)

72/5 Whelan is more destructive than dynamite. (Australasian Post, 11/5/72, p.6)

86/12 Myles: ‘Sometimes we look at a building and might think it’s a shame, but then we remember that we are merely following the decision made by others. It’s not our doing.’ (Sunday Press, 21/12/86, p.18)

91/1 Myles: ‘All things come to an end. In Europe demolition instructions are incorporated in the architect’s construction plans.... Demolition is the first step of progress.’ (Sunday Review, Sun, 13/1/91, p.9)

When construction of BHP tower (Bourke & King-Menzies site) was half-finished, Owen speculated about how he'd go about wrecking it: 'Well, it wouldn't be difficult...'
(APITS, Sun, c.1974-SLV/WW 66/5)