



# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## OUR NEXT MEETING.

Friday September 19 Our quarterly evening meeting.  
at 7.30 pm in the Amenities Room, Ground Floor,  
Petersham Town Hall. A panel discussion on restoring  
and sympathetically renovating houses.

Saturday September 20 A Daytrip to Leura, visiting houses and  
gardens in the region. The bus will depart from Petersham Town Hall  
at 8.30 am. Contact Anne (406-4862) or Shirley (569-1768).

Saturday September 27 A talk on Federation Architecture by  
Richard Apperley of the School of Architecture, University of  
N.S.W. Background to this subject was given by Mr. Apperley when  
he spoke to the Society in February this year.

Saturday October 25 A visit to St Stephen's Church, Newtown;  
Camperdown Park and environs.

Saturday November 22 Local costumier and milliner, Mrs Betty  
Viazim will speak about her long and interesting career.  
This will be followed by our Christmas Picnic at Petersham Park.



## ROSE'S EMPORIUM 1885 to 24 AUGUST 1986

More words have been written about Rose's Emporium in the last two weeks than in all of its 101 years of existence. Everyone is talking about the early morning demolition of "that old building on Parramatta Road" but many do not really know why it was considered historically important.

Rose's Emporium was the best example of a two storey Italianate retail building remaining in Sydney. It also featured fine cast and wooden display windows, which were the last remaining known examples to be found anywhere in Sydney. The operative words are 'the best' and 'the last', and seeing such a significant part of our architectural heritage lying at your feet in ruin does give a sense of irreplaceable loss.

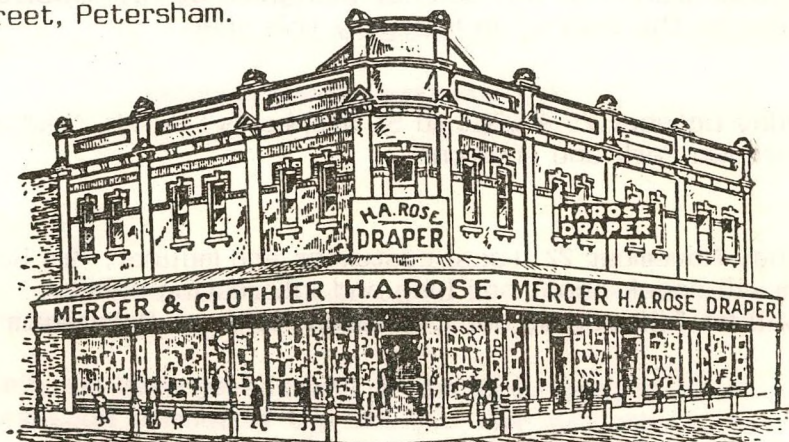
The building was first occupied in 1885 by John Littlewood, who was a plumber and a gas fitter. In 1890 it was the Mathieson Bros. grocery store and by 1895 it was occupied by Robert Duffield, piano importer. From 1902 to 1930 it was owned by H.A. Rose, who advertised as a direct importer of reliable drapery. It was until recently B.S.A. Textiles, selling carpets and other floor coverings.

The commercial use of this building is a typical illustration of the history of retailing in the Sydney metropolitan area.

Sitting on Taverner's Hill, Rose's Emporium occupied one of the choice corner sites and with its excellent ground and first floor detailing, it was an impressive presence. Watching its destruction under the bulldozers was a distinctly unpleasant experience.

August 24 1986 was a black day but, hopefully, it will make people more aware of what we still have and that it should be protected and appreciated. With the demolition of Rose's Emporium the best of its kind has now gone and the future will have to be content with second or even third best.

Full credit for trying to save the building must go to Chris Pratten, Assistant Director of the National Trust and to the vigilant residents of Railway Street, Petersham.





## ILLEGAL DEMOLITION - TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

Following representations to the Heritage council by the National Trust, the Minister for Planning and Environment issued a "no-demolition" order - gazetted on August 14 - under Section 130 of the Heritage Act. A copy of the order was delivered to B.S.A. Textiles, the registered owner of the building, that day.

Shortly before this, B.S.A. had exchanged contracts with Mr Bill Caralis and Pamela Caralis for the sale of the property.

On 19 August, Marrickville Council issued a demolition order on the building.

At about 4.50 am on Sunday 24 August, Mrs Jones of 4 Railway Street Petersham phoned Chris Pratten of the National Trust, advising him that demolition had commenced at about 4.15 am.

Jennifer Moore, of 2 Railway Street, contacted Alderman Pat Clarke and the police at 5.10 am. Police ordered work to stop because of the noise.

At 5.15 am, with only a breach of 4 or 5 metres wide in the Railway Street facade, Chris Pratten advised the demolition foreman and Sgt Hanrahan (Petersham), the senior police officer present, of the preservation order.

Mr McManus of the Heritage and Conservation Branch, Department of Planning and Environment also attended and at 6.30 am copies of the order were handed to Sgt Hanrahan and the owner's representative. Apparently, neither was satisfied with the documentation and the police allowed work to recommence at about 6.45, after Pratten and McManus had left the site.

Following another phone call from Mrs Jones, Chris Pratten returned, to be informed by Inspector Duffy and Sgt McGrath that they were not convinced the order had been gazetted. Work was stopped again at 9 am.

By now both Mr R Power and Mr G Gaweda, Secretary, Heritage and Conservation Branch, were also in attendance. It is reported that the Manager, Heritage and Conservation Branch expressed the view that the building could be secured safely until the Heritage Council and the Minister could assess the building, a view which the Director of the Department of Planning and Environment supported. This was conveyed to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and building surveyor of Marrickville Council and to police.

Mayor Barry Jones accepted a handwritten report from a structural engineer called in by the developer that the building was in danger of collapse and recommended its demolition, which finally commenced about 2.15 pm.

Legal Officers of the Heritage Branch, Dept of Planning and Environment are gathering all available information preparatory to proceeding against the owners under the Heritage Act.

The Act provides for a fine of \$10,000 or six months gaol or both,



## DEMOLITION (continued)

and the Minister has the power under Section 160 of the Act to freeze development of the site for up to 10 years.

Further, the Minister may require that the building be rebuilt.

The local State Member of Parliament, Peter Crawford, has written to Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment, asking the Minister to direct the owners to rebuild.

Marrickville Heritage Society has written to the Minister for Planning and Environment and to the Minister for Police, Mr Paciullo.

We will keep you informed of developments.

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## URBAN CONSERVATION AREA - STANMORE

The National Trust has defined the majority of Stanmore as an Urban Conservation Area. This recognises the existence of Stanmore as a well preserved, compact example of a late 19th and early 20th century suburb. We hope that this recognition will serve to promote the development of pride in the area - though as the experiences of late show, it does not offer exclusive protection.

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## PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Our Publications Chairperson, Jan Pittard, has resigned from the position, so an election for a new chairperson will be conducted at our September 27 meeting. Members may also nominate to be on the sub-committee, which is in need of more members. Please keep it in mind.

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## NEW MEMBERS

Gary Allen, Jim Shannon, Miss Gaston, who is a member of one of Marrickville's pioneer families.

Unfortunately, we have just learnt of the death earlier in the year of Jessie Ryan, a foundation member of the Society. Our sympathy to her family.