

Building:	Shops	Significance:	B
Address:	958-964 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill	Melway May Ref:	47 D9
Building Type:	Shops	Construction Date:	1936
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:		Condition:	
G[x] F[] P[]		G[x] F[] P[]	
Existing Heritage Listings:		Recommended Heritage Listings:	
Victorian Heritage Register	[]	Victorian Heritage Register	[]
Register of the National Estate	[]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

History

Andrew Lemon records that, “[In 1936] on the corner of Station Street and White Horse [sic] Road the Serpells, who had sold their business to Ron Watkins, demolished their old shops and leased the site to Ezywalkin who built a village-flavoured two-storey building with half a dozen shops,”¹ reminiscent in style to the Wattle Park Chalet.

Serpells General Store had been established by Alfred Serpell in the early 1880s. A single-storey timber shop with a verandah, it claimed to charge ‘Melbourne Prices’. In 1920, the shop was occupied by J S Tait, draper and milliner. When the Railway Hotel on the opposite corner (see separate datasheet) closed in at the end of 1920, Tait’s business moved across the road, giving the former hotel building the name Tait’s Corner.²

Description

This property also incorporates the shops at 914-918 Station Street.

The building on the south-east corner of Whitehorse Road and Station Street is a group of six shops with residences above. Broadly designed in the English Domestic Revival style, the first floor facades are of rendered brick with brown tapestry brick sills and lintels, and glazed brick string courses. There are paired gables to both street elevations and a narrow corner gable. The side gables surmount French doors with balconettes, while at the corner is a semi-circular diamond pattern oriel leadlight window. The hipped roof is clad with glazed terracotta tiles.

The ground floor shopfronts have been completely altered, and a cantilevered balcony has been added.

Comparative Examples

Former Railway Hotel, 950-956 Whitehorse Road (corner Station Street), Box Hill

Significance

The shop building at 958-964 Whitehorse Road is of aesthetic importance. It is a sophisticated expression of the English Domestic Revival style applied to a commercial building. The first floor facades of the building are remarkably intact. The building balances well the former Railway Hotel on the opposite corner, an important element in the Whitehorse Road and Station Street streetscapes.

Source

Andrew C Ward & Associates. *City of Box Hill Heritage and Conservation Study*. 1990.

Additional Historical Information.

Andrew Lemon. *Box Hill*. Melbourne, 1978.

Eleanor Finlay & Margery Morgan. *The Days Before Yesterday: A Picture Book of Early Box Hill*. Box Hill, 1993.

1 *Reporter*, 10 July 1936. Footnoted in Andrew Lemon. *Box Hill*. Melbourne, 1978. p 173.

2 Eleanor Finlay & Margery Morgan. *The Days Before Yesterday: A Picture Book of Early Box Hill*. Box Hill, 1993. p 15.