

261-263 LIVERPOOL ROAD and 27 HERCULES STREET: **Shops and other occupancies**

Brief description

A two-storey complex of eclectic design including Georgian Revival and Arts-&-Crafts detailing. Above the suspended awning the Liverpool Road facade is symmetrical, with a centre motif of grouped windows under a low-pitched pediment and raised parapet; this is flanked by plain and oriel windows. This pleasing arrangement continues around the splayed corner into Hercules Street. One shopfront includes what appears to be original Monel Metal window framing.

Outline history

There was a house and shop on this corner as early as 1889. It was a two-storey Free Classical building owned by James Fox and occupied by H H Hodgens, grocer and draper, for many years. In 1923 a building application was lodged by R A Gale to enlarge the property to include six lock-up shops and a billiard saloon, to the design of Sydney architects Morrow & DePutron. The shops were increased to eight and the property was sold to the Georgiades family. It became known as *Gale's Buildings* and was acquired by Washington H Soul, Pattinson & Co in 1926 and occupied by that firm from 1929. The corner business was a fruiterer. The billiard saloon had gone by 1961.

Reason for listing

This property has an interesting history and excellent townscape value. It is also a good example of the work of a well-known Inter-War architectural practice. *Criteria (a), (b), (c).*

Other relevant documentation

Rate Books, south ward, 1889-1906; Valuer-General's records, 1908-61; BA No 1820 of 1923; all in Ashfield Council Archives. *Sands Directories.*

