



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION**

### **11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

#### **PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)**

- 3.26 Providing health services
- 9.7.1 Dealing with human remains
- 9.7.2 Mourning the dead

#### **HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)**

- 308 Commercial services and industries

#### **11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\***

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* exhibits a streamlined effect that implies cleanliness and efficiency, reflecting the modernisation of the funeral industry at the time of its construction; while preserving a sense of solemnity, restraint and discretion essential to the sombre nature of its intended business. (Criterion 1.2)

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street*, is a good example of a small scale building designed in the Inter-War Functionalist style of architecture. (Criterion 1.2)

Being of a distinctive design and located on a prominent corner site, *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* has strong landmark qualities and contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 1.3)

#### **11.2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* was built at a time when the professionalism of the funeral industry was consolidated in Western Australia. In the first decades of

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.  
For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

the twentieth century the trend was for undertakers to specialise in the provision of funeral services, phasing out the prior practise of providing other services, such as cabinet making or wheelwrighting, from the same premises. At the same time they increasingly provided modernised services, such as embalming, motorised hearses and refrigeration. (Criterion 2.2)

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* is associated with two of Western Australia's most prominent and longest running firms in the funeral industry, Arthur E. Davies and Co., and Bowra and O'Dea. (Criterion 2.3)

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* was designed by Samuel Rosenthal, a significant architect in Western Australia in the inter-war period, known primarily for his cinema designs. (Criterion 2.3)

The windows in the chapel at *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* were to a design by Barnett Brothers, a firm known for their stained glass and who provided the windows in several notable religious buildings in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

It is likely that *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* holds a special place in the memory of the community of families and friends who have lost loved ones and mourned that loss at the premises over the many years of its operation. (Criterion 4.1)

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* contributes to the local community's sense of place for its iconic presence since its construction. Its social value is evidenced by its inclusion in the Town of Vincent's Municipal Inventory. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* is rare as a purpose built mortuary, chapel and funeral business office that still operates with its intended function. (Criterion 5.2)

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* is rare for the application of the Inter-War Functionalist style to a building that is used, at least in part, for religious purposes. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

As a purpose built premise for use in the funeral industry, *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* represents the shift from undertaking to funeral direction at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, namely the phasing out of wheelwrighting and cabinet making as part of the business; the provision of progressive services such as embalming; and the presentation of a highly respectable, professional, modern image. (Criterion 6.2)

The new mortuary at *Bowra and O'Dea* represents the modernisation of the funeral industry, and the enduring success of the firm *Bowra and O'Dea*. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

The buildings are in a very good condition as they have been continuously in use and have a thorough maintenance schedule and maintenance caretaker on site.

#### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

Generally the integrity of the place is high with the original intent being clearly apparent, the current use highly compatible, being the original use, and the sustainability of the identified values is high.

#### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

The authenticity of the place is high, as alterations to the building have been done in a sympathetic manner with the original intent and much of the original fabric remaining. Where alterations have occurred it is very clear what was original and what is new fabric.

#### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Annabel Wills and Helena Waldmann in November 2006, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

##### **13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street*, comprises a single storey, rendered brick office, chapel, and adjacent residence, all in the Inter-War Functionalist style, with a covered driveway and garage, and recent, rendered brick mortuary. It was purpose built for the funeral industry and currently (2006) remains in use in that industry.

On 1 April 1865 Perth Town Lot N117 was transferred to Thomas Douglas of North Perth, for the consideration of six pounds, six shillings. It comprised one rood and sixteen perches, on the corner of Bulwer and Beauforts Streets, Perth.<sup>1</sup> In February 1886 it was transferred to Sarah Letitia Crawford (nee Douglas) of Perth, and in May the same year to Fanny Douglas.<sup>2</sup>

In February 1915 Perth Town Lot N117 was subdivided, and Lot 5 at the corner of Bulwer and Beaufort Streets was transferred to Arthur Pemberthy, Land Owner, of Perth. The land was transferred again in April 1923 to Patrick Andrew Connolly and two others whose names are illegible on the title.

On 17 August 1936, the land was transferred to Jasper William Green, Commercial Manager and Wallace Arthur Harold Green, Undertaker, both of Market Street, Fremantle.<sup>3</sup>

In October 1936 plans<sup>4</sup> were drawn up for premises on the site by Samuel Rosenthal, of Warwick House, Perth, an architect known as a cinema specialist. He first came to Perth in 1914, at the invitation of Harold Boas, but left for military service shortly afterwards and then worked in London. He returned to Perth in 1923 to work with Harold Boas again, and then established his own practice which he continued until 1941. After World War Two he joined the

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<sup>1</sup> Enrolment No.2031, Perth Town Lot N117.

<sup>2</sup> Certificate of Title Volume 16 Folio 276.

<sup>3</sup> Certificate of Title Volume 611 Folio 102. In 1940 George Barbiam Bockerill was added as a minor shareholder.

<sup>4</sup> Plans by Samuel Rosenthal, October 1936. Available at Town of Vincent local history collection, file No. D55/36 (entered as Pensioner Funeral Parlour, 117 Beaufort Street)

Commonwealth Department of Works, where he remained until his retirement in 1965.<sup>5</sup>

The plans by Rosenthal show that in 1936 the office building and residence were more or less as they are now (2006) with minor exceptions. What is now the entry foyer was separated into several rooms - the main office, a private office and a vestibule. What is now the lunch room was the mortuary, and where there were several toilets adjacent to the lunch room, there was initially only one, and a larger storeroom. The residence was also much the same, although it featured a staff room with access from the driveway, in a room that is now the eating area. The building specifications<sup>6</sup> detail an allowance for the glazier to install 14 panels in the chapel and two in the mortuary, to a design by Barnett Brothers.

The plan was titled "Proposed business premises corner Beaufort and Bulwer Sts for Arthur E. Davies & Co." and featured a fixed 6'x2'6" painted signboard reading "Arthur E. Davies and Co."

Davies had commenced his cabinetmaker and undertaker business in 1888, and during the early years also imported furniture. The business was in Collie Street, Fremantle. and it was not long before Davies focussed his business to undertaking. In 1904 Davies sold his business to William Jonas Green. When Green died in 1913, the business was taken over by his son Jasper William Green, and later two other sons, Horace Leslie and Wallace Arthur, joined the firm.<sup>7</sup>

Funeral practitioners rely on goodwill and a reputable name to sustain business, and it appears it was common for businesses to retain their names when bought out by other companies, as is the case with the name Arthur E. Davies being owned by the Greens. When choosing an undertaker, there is generally little time to compare companies, so reputation is of paramount importance.<sup>8</sup>

From the 1890s in Perth and Fremantle, the undertaking trade was dominated by three large firms Donald J. Chipper, Bowra and O'Dea and Arthur E. Davies. Up to 45 smaller firms opened from the 1870s to 1920s, generally in response to increased demand during outbreaks of disease, but most went out of business when the crisis passed. During this time, and up until the 1930s the undertaker business in Western Australia saw a gradual but definite change. Generally, firms stopped trying to offer all required services out of the one business, such as wheelwrighting, carpentry and furnishing etc., to focus on undertaking, and there were increased attempts for the industry to be viewed as respectable and professional. As the professional undertaker, or funeral director as they were becoming known as, became more involved with the process of dealing with death, families were becoming increasingly isolated from their deceased, a trend for which society was generally grateful.<sup>9</sup>

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5 Geneve, V. (1992) 'Samuel Rosenthal (1888-1967) Pioneer Modernist architect' in *Art Deco Society Newsletter*, March 1992.

6 Specification of Works required and Materials to be used in the erection of Business Premises, corner of Beaufort and Bulwer Streets, Perth. City of Perth Building permit No. D55, 13/11/1936.

7 Liveris, L. B. (1991) *The dismal trader, the undertaker business in Perth 1860-1939*. Park Printing Co., East Victoria Park, pp 77-78.

8 Liveris, L. B. (1991) *The dismal trader, the undertaker business in Perth 1860-1939*. Park Printing Co., East Victoria Park, pp 88, 182, 198-202.

9 Liveris, L. B. (1991) *The dismal trader, the undertaker business in Perth 1860-1939*. Park Printing Co., East Victoria Park, pp iv, 47, 81-88, 198-202.

The proprietors of undertaking firms that were successful were active in their public duties and well known in their communities. New innovations such as refrigeration, motorised hearses, and improvements in embalming practise also impacted on the industry in the first decades of the twentieth century, as did the gradual acceptance of cremation as a funeral practise which culminated in the passing of the Cremation Act in 1929. Circa 1930, Donald J. Chipper, the market leader at the time, built new premises at 1023 Hay Street, Perth, and advertised with emphasis on the trustworthiness of the profession of undertaker and the modern facilities offered.<sup>10</sup> The streamlined design of Bowra and O'Dea, was no doubt an attempt to imply a sense of modernity, cleanliness and efficiency; while preserving a sense of solemnity, restraint and discretion.

In the Post Office Directories, Arthur E. Davies advertised itself from 1914 as "the oldest firm; the newest methods", taking advantage of its establishment in 1888, despite being owned by Green, a relative newcomer when compared to the biggest competitors, Bowra and O'Dea and Donald J. Chipper.<sup>11</sup> In 1937 following the construction of what is now *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street*, they took out a full page advertisement in the Post Office Directory, offering their services as "funeral directors and embalmers", featuring their newest branch location. At this stage they still had premises at 81-91 Market St, Fremantle and opposite the railway station at Claremont. They advertised "continual service day and night at all branches... complete and efficient funeral service".<sup>12</sup>

In 1948 ownership was transferred solely to Wallace Arthur Harold Green, Undertaker, of 16 Market Street, Fremantle<sup>13</sup> and on 8 June 1954 the land was transferred to a company in South Melbourne, which is illegible on the title.<sup>14</sup> It is understood that at this stage the place was used as tea warehouse.<sup>15</sup>

On 17 April 1972 the land was transferred to J.D. Green Pty Ltd, care of 442 Murray Street Perth<sup>16</sup> and on 22 November 1977 the previous certificate was cancelled, and a new one issued with the owner listed as W.A.H. Green Pty Ltd.<sup>17</sup>

The Green's business was bought out by Bowra and O'Dea, and as part of the transaction they purchased the Beaufort Street premises.<sup>18</sup> On 1 September 1978 the land was transferred to Bowra and O'Dea Pty Ltd of 68 Stirling Street, Perth.<sup>19</sup> As with Arthur E. Davies, Bowra and O'Dea was a long established undertaking firm.

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10 Liveris, L. B. (1991) *The dismal trader, the undertaker business in Perth 1860-1939*. Park Printing Co., East Victoria Park, pp 88, 168-202.

11 Wise and Co., Western Australian Post Office Directory 1914, p131. Similar advertisements appear in subsequent years.

12 Wise and Co., Western Australian Post Office Directory 1937, p809. From 1938 undertakers are listed in the directories as under "funeral directors".

13 Certificate of Title Volume 611 Folio 102.

14 Certificate of Title Volume 611 Folio 102.

15 Conversations between H Waldmann and various staff members of Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street, 9/11/2006 and 1/12/2006.

16 Certificate of Title Volume 611 Folio 102.

17 Certificate of Title Volume 1486 Folio 909

18 Conversations between H Waldmann and Neville Brankstone, Mortuary Manager, Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street, 1/12/2006.

19 Certificate of Title Volume 1486 Folio 909.

Michael O'Dea came to Australia from Ireland with his father Martin, an Enrolled Pensioner Guard, and mother Brigid in 1865. He was apprenticed as a blacksmith, had his own business, and in 1892 went into partnership with William Bowra. Bowra was born in Perth, apprenticed as a wheelwright, was the foreman of the Perth Foundry Co., and manager of Pioneer Carriage Co. While working at the Federal Furnishing Co., Bowra nearly lost his hand in an accident and subsequently went into the partnership with O'Dea.<sup>20</sup>

Bowra and O'Dea established their wheelwrighting premises at the corner of Goderich and Pier Streets Perth, and from 1893 they also advertised as the Standard Coach Factory which built "Wagons, Lorries, Express Wagons, English Delivery Vans, Double and Single-seated Buggies, Dog Carts and every other description of Vehicles built at the lowest possible rates" and also offered undertaking "done on the shortest of notice and in the most respectful manner".<sup>21</sup> The Standard Coach Factory continued to advertise as both coach and carriage builders and undertakers until 1904, when they advertised only as undertakers.<sup>22</sup> Michael O'Dea was a respected and active member of the Catholic community, and the firm was favoured by the Catholic community. It gained a reputation as the only Catholic firm in Perth.<sup>23</sup>

The partnership of Bowra and O'Dea dissolved amicably in 1913 when William Bowra retired. Michael O'Dea continued the business using the established name, apparently because it was an early listing in the phone book alphabetically, it was respected in the community, and the "Bowra" implied that it was not an entirely Catholic firm.<sup>24</sup>

After purchasing the Beaufort Street property, Bowra and O'Dea commenced operation of "Pensioner Funeral Services" from the premises, and during this time the mortuary was not used. All Bowra and O'Dea mortuary preparation took place at their central Perth branch, at 68 Stirling Street.<sup>25</sup>

In 1992 plans were submitted by Walter Hunter Architect of South Perth for minor refurbishment and repairs, and to secure the carport, to the value of \$80,000. Among other works, internal walls were removed, creating a larger entry foyer; a wall in the residence between the kitchen and dining rooms was removed; and new roller doors and gates were installed.

On 10 June 1997 the existing block on the corner of Beaufort and Bulwer Streets was amalgamated with the block to the north that Bowra and O'Dea had purchased in 1995.<sup>26</sup> The house on the block was demolished and a large mortuary built. The mortuary was, and still is, the biggest in the Southern hemisphere and since its construction has been used as a benchmark for other

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20 *Twentieth century impressions of Western Australia* (1901) (microfilm) p411-413.

21 Post Office Directory 1893, Advertisements section, p20.

22 Post Office Directory 1904, Perth Advertisements section, p249. They ran an identical advertisement until 1930 when the illustration of a carriage was replaced with a car.

23 Liveris, L. B. (1991) *The dismal trader, the undertaker business in Perth 1860-1939*. Park Printing Co., East Victoria Park, pp 86, 94.

24 Liveris, L. B. (1991) *The dismal trader, the undertaker business in Perth 1860-1939*. Park Printing Co., East Victoria Park, p74.

25 Conversations between H Waldmann and Neville Brankstone, Mortuary Manager, Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street, 1/12/2006.

26 Certificate of Title Volume 2106 Folio 55, Certificate of Title Volume 720 Folio 141. In 1999 Horace L Green Pty Ltd and Betty Jean Nominees were added as minor shareholders.

mortuaries. The mortuary at 68 Stirling St was decommissioned, and *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* became the central branch for all Bowra and O'Dea mortuary preparation.<sup>27</sup>

In 2006 the place deals primarily with funeral administration and mortuary preparation, and is the residence of the mortuary manager. All transfer vehicles, and the best of Bowra and O'Dea's limousines and hearses, are kept on this site also. The chapel is used for viewings, but funeral services are not held on site and the public rarely have occasion to enter the premises.<sup>28</sup>

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street*, comprises a single storey, rendered brick office, chapel, and adjacent residence, all in the Inter-War Functionalist style, with a covered driveway and garage, and recent, rendered brick mortuary. It is located on the corner of Beaufort and Bulwer Streets, Perth on Lot 103, Diagram 92080 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 2106 Folio 55.

The intersection of Beaufort and Bulwer Streets is located to the north of the Perth city centre in a residential and small commercial area. *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* is approximately 1.4 km from the Perth GPO and falls within the Local Government Area of the Town of Vincent.

Opposite the place, on Bulwer Street is Birdwood Square, a grassed and treed park. On Beaufort Street, is the Central Oriental Food Supplies, a single storey painted brick building with a parapet and a Caltex petrol station, a rendered brick building with a parapet. The opposite corner building is a single storey brick building containing several restaurants.

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street*, was constructed as an undertaker's premises. Currently the place does not hold funerals, but does contain the mortuary facilities for the Bowra and O'Dea funeral business. Viewings can occur in the chapel at the premises and then the body is transferred to the place of the funeral.

The place contains a reception and gathering space, a chapel, an office and reception, toilet, change and storage facilities and a lunch room within the main building. Attached, and an integral part of the building design, to the western side of this main building is a small residence. Between the main building and the residence is a covered driveway with a roller door. North of the main building, along Beaufort Street, is a large sliding solid door which opens to the carport. This is where the best of Bowra and O'Dea's vehicles are kept. To the rear of the residence and the carport is the mortuary. This is a relatively new building which was not able to be inspected internally. On its own it has no heritage significance, but as part of the complex of buildings it contributes to the ongoing function of the place.

Externally the building displays characteristics of the Inter-War Functionalist style of architecture, with the asymmetrical massing of simple geometric shapes, long horizontal painted banding contrasting with the vertical element containing the cross, metal framed windows, roof concealed by parapet and decorative

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<sup>27</sup> Conversations between H Waldmann and Neville Brankstone, Mortuary Manager, Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street, 1/12/2006.

<sup>28</sup> Conversation between H Waldmann and Charmian Kirgan, Assistant Manager Operations, Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street, 9/11/2006.

elements typical of this style. Also the siting of the building on a prominent corner was typically utilised to exploit the three dimensional aspects of the building. The streamlined effect, with its implications of cleanness and efficiency meant that this style was often used for hospital buildings. Its use for a funeral home and mortuary would tend to follow this trend.

Externally the building had rendered and painted walls with painted horizontal banding. Windows are generally metal framed (timber to the residence). There are decorative mouldings surrounding the front door, located on the truncated corner. A metal awning is located on both sides of the building although not over the residence. The parapet wall is continuous across the face of the main building and the residence. There is a large vertical element with horizontal banding that contains a large cross. The roof behind the parapet is a half gabled pre-painted corrugated galvanized steel roof.

Internally the building is accessed from the truncated corner through a pair of timber framed and glazed doors. Originally three separate rooms this space has had walls removed (leaving nibs) to form a large 'L' shaped room. This is the main reception and gathering space for the visiting public. The most notable features in this room are the decorative ceilings, cornices and wall frieze. Where the wall frieze is not located a painted band has been continued around the room, giving a continuity to the space, without creating decorative detail that wasn't original.

To the north of the reception space is a separate room for an office. To the western end there is a pair of double timber doors leading to the covered driveway.

Opening from this reception space is the chapel. A rectangular space with artificial light from false windows, the chapel is a very calm and serene space. The chapel is now used for viewings only. The doors and decorative panel behind the altar are clad with highly lacquered timber panels in a herringbone pattern. The ceiling has decorative cornices and has a series of raised coffers concealing air conditioning diffusers. There are skylights to the ceiling. Backlit leadlight windows run along the two side walls and behind the altar with two of the windows having decorative plaster mouldings instead of leadlight glazing. The design of the leadlight windows and matching plaster mouldings is distinctive, comprising an obelisk-like object within a wreath. The symbolism of this design requires further investigation. There is a decorative wall frieze and rendered window sills all with a vertical ribbed pattern. The walls are rendered and have a block pattern struck into the render. There are wall vents at dado height. The floor is carpeted. The doors have decorative round centrally located door handles.

The office has a carpeted floor, simple rendered and painted walls and a battened, plasterboard ceiling. There are high level fixed and pivot windows facing west to the corridor.

The corridor, storage rooms, toilets and lunch room all have carpeted, vinyl or tiled floors, plaster board ceilings, rendered and painted walls and simple cornices and skirting boards.

The covered driveway has a concrete floor, painted brick walls and a steel truss roof clad with corrugated iron and clear roof sheets. There is a roller door opening onto Bulwer Street.



The carport area has a concrete floor with large drains. Part of this area is covered by a metal framed and roofed structure.

The mortuary is a new rendered brick and metal deck roofed building which was not able to be inspected internally.

The attached residence was designed in the same style as the main building. It is attached to the main building along Bulwer Street by the covered driveway and continuous parapet.

Internally the residence has rendered and painted walls. The bedrooms and lounge have decorative cornices and ceiling details. The bedrooms have a rail at dado height. The lounge is located adjacent to the driveway. The door to Bulwer Street is still operable but is kept bolted for security reasons. The front door leads to a tiled vestibule and corridor with glassed timber doors and skylight.

An adjacent room is a bedroom. The main bedroom is located behind this. A linen press is located at the other end of the corridor, as per the original plan. It has been altered to include an entrance to the bathroom. The bathroom, wc and laundry have all new fixtures and fittings. A door has been added between the toilet and laundry, although appearing to match the original doors in detail it is not in an original location. The kitchen has double glazed doors with sidelights that face the new mortuary. All rooms are carpeted, with the exception of the kitchen which has a vinyl covering.

The buildings are in a very good condition as they have been continuously in use and have a thorough maintenance schedule and maintenance caretaker on site.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

In terms of function, there are very few comparative places on the Heritage Council database, none of which are on the Register of Heritage Places. P02845 Commercial Building (1879) at 155 Avon Terrace, York was used as an undertaker's at some point, but was constructed as a bank, and has at other times been a dentist's and a residence. P12699 Undertakers House (fmr) (c.1920) at 19 Absolon Street, Lake Grace was the residence of Tetley, the local carpenter and undertaker. There is no indication in the Municipal Inventory that the place had any other use than a residence. P13169 J. Squire's, Wheelwright and Undertakers (fmr) (1906) at 21 Richardson Street, Katanning is used as a funeral parlour by B.D. Coventry and Sons, but it is not clear in the Municipal Inventory if it was constructed for this use, and if not, at which point it commenced this use.

Liveris (1991) provides a table of funeral directing companies and the location of their premises, but as none correspond to files on the Heritage Council database it is difficult to establish any information about the buildings. Those on the Liveris table that are from a similar era and that correspond to funeral businesses in the current telephone directory are:

- Gibbs and Son, 289 Albany Hwy, Victoria Park (1926) - now Purslowe Funeral Homes
- Mead, Son & Gibb, 190 Albany Rd, Victoria Park - now Chippers Funeral Home and Mead Funeral Services.
- Prosser, Scott & Co., 355 Hay Street, Subiaco (1928) - still in business.

Other entries to the table do not have complete addresses, so it is difficult to find more information about them.<sup>29</sup>

Examples from interstate registers include Creighton Funeral Parlour (1938) at 37 Mann Street, Gosford, New South Wales. This two-storey Art Deco building was constructed for the firm of R.H. Creighton Funeral Directors, a family run business that has been in operation since 1844. It is of brick with a textured rendered finish, with a monumental entrance featuring a pointed arch surrounded by vertical piers.<sup>30</sup> The place is entered as an Indicative Place on the Register of the National Estate, and Creighton's Funeral Service still (2006) operates out of this address.

The Holdsworth Buildings (1871) at 380 Lygon Street, Carlton, Victoria, is a row of three, three-storey shops that were constructed for John Daley, an undertaker, and sold in 1908 to another undertaker, Josiah Holdsworth after whom the building is named. Holdsworth used the centre shop to run his undertaking business until 1972. It is not clear from the Heritage Victoria listing if there were any mortuary facilities or a chapel at the place, nor if the first undertaker, Daley, operated his business from the premises. The rear portions of the buildings were removed in 1984 for a shopping plaza development.<sup>31</sup>

Generally, other comparable places listed on interstate registers are either chapels in cemeteries or mortuaries in hospitals.

While the Register of Heritage Places has many places associated with the phases of life such as hospitals, churches and cemeteries, the funeral industry is not represented. *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* is a good representative example as it was a purpose built for the funeral industry, is still used in the funeral industry (and has been in use in the funeral industry for most of its history, excluding a period in the 1950s and 60s when it was used as a tea warehouse), and is associated with two prominent firms, that each have been in the industry since the 1880s.

Registered places on the Heritage Council database associated with architect Samuel Rosenthal include:

- P00593 *Cottesloe Civic Centre* (1889-1936) for which Rosenthal collaborated with Melbourne architect Sir Bernard Evans in the transformation of Overton Lodge to the Spanish Mission style in the early 1930s.
- P01060 *Radio Theatre Building* (1937) Geraldton, a rendered two-storey brick building that comprised a picture theatre, service station, motor showroom, two shops and four flats. It is a fine and relatively intact example of an Inter-War Art Deco building, and a good example of his theatre designs.
- P04586 *Old Cable Station* (1926) Cottesloe, a group of three masonry and tile buildings purpose built as a cable station, later converted to a community centre.

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29 Liveris, L. B. (1991) *The dismal trader, the undertaker business in Perth 1860-1939*. Park Printing Co., East Victoria Park, pp 230, 231.

30 Department of Environment and Heritage, Australian Heritage Database, Place ID: 100998. Available at <http://www.deh.gov.au>

31 Heritage Council of Victoria, Search the Heritage Register and Inventory, file No. H0074/604003. Available at: <http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au>

Other places on the database associated with Rosenthal, for which information is incomplete are P13610 Residence (1963) 6 Jutland Pde, Dalkeith; P03615 Beacon Theatre and Gardens (1937) Beaconsfield (current assessment program), a prominent Art Deco building on the corner of Wray Avenue and Hampton Rd that is now a supermarket; P03614 Slovenian Hall (formerly Regent Theatre and Gardens) (1926) James Street, Guildford; P03434 Methodist Church (fmr) (1922-83) Cottesloe (Parry and Rosenthal); and P03611 Wembley Theatre and Gardens (1937). The theatre at this place was demolished and the remainder has been extensively damaged by fire.

Other buildings designed by Rosenthal that have been demolished include Methyr House (1925), St George's Terrace; Prevost House, Mosman Park; Wilmar House, Mosman Park; Richmond Theatre, North Fremantle; Hurlingham Theatre and gardens (1930); the Premier Theatre (refurbishment 1937); and what the Art Deco Society calls his "finest cinema design" the Mayfair Theatre (1939), Bunbury.<sup>32</sup>

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* is a good, highly intact example of Rosenthal's work.

The chapel windows for *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* were supplied by Barnett Brothers, who also supplied stained glass to the following registered places: P00491 *Christ Church and Rectory, Claremont* (1898, chancel glass 1911); P1943 *St John's Lutheran Church, Northbridge* (1936); P2340 *Chapel of St Michael and All Angels, Mount Lawley* (1927); P11595 *First Church of Christ, Scientist, Perth* (1939). The chapel windows are in good condition and are highly intact examples of the Barnett Brothers' work.

There are 92 buildings on the Heritage Council database designed at least in part in the Inter-War Functionalist style, 27 of which are on the Register of Heritage Places. There is no database field for mortuary, the closest would be religious use, which includes chapels. There is only one registered place with a religious use and the Inter-War Functionalist style, which is P02385 *St Mary's Anglican Church Complex* (1931 and 1936) South Perth. *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* features a small chapel when compared to this considerably sized church, and has very little visual similarities due to the variety of style influences at *St Mary's Anglican Church Complex*, so it is not comparable.

*Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street* also functions as an office. There are nine offices on the Heritage Council database in the Inter-War Functionalist style, three of which are registered. They are P02007 *Harper's Buildings* (1937-1948) Hay Street, Perth; P04587 *P&O Building (fmr)* (1930) William Street, Perth; and 06185 *Beaucott Building* (1905-1937) Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley. All are considerably larger than *Bowra and O'Dea, Beaufort Street*, and as discussed above are not directly comparable in terms of specific function.

There are 115 places in the Heritage Council database designed at least in part in the closely related Inter-War Art Deco style, 33 of which are on the Register of Heritage Places. Of these, only two have a religious use. They are P02385 *St Mary's Anglican Church Complex* (1931 and 1936) South Perth and P11595 *First Church of Christ, Scientist, Perth* (1939). There is only one office listed on the

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<sup>32</sup> Geneve, V. (1992) 'Samuel Rosenthal (1888-1967) Pioneer Modernist architect' in *Art Deco Society Newsletter*, March 1992.

Heritage Council database that is in the Inter-War Art Deco style, P02000 *Devon House* (1937-8) Hay Street, Perth (registered). This is not comparable as it is a four and five storey building, and it has a retail component.

#### **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

No key references.

#### **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Extensive research into whether or not comparable places in Perth are still extant, has not been undertaken at this stage. Such places may include other Bowra and O'Dea branch locations, earlier premises of Bowra and O'Dea, the premises of other long established and reputable family firms such as Chippers and Davies, or the premises of smaller companies that may have gone out of business or been taken over by larger ones. 'The Dismal Trader' by Leonie Liveris (1991) contains a table of undertaker firms of Perth and Fremantle, with their business addresses and the duration of the business, which would provide a good starting point.

The symbolism of the chapel windows also requires further investigation.