

# CALLANAN'S CHEMIST



CALLANAN'S CHEMIST  
SOHE 2008



1 callanans chemist entrance  
interior june01



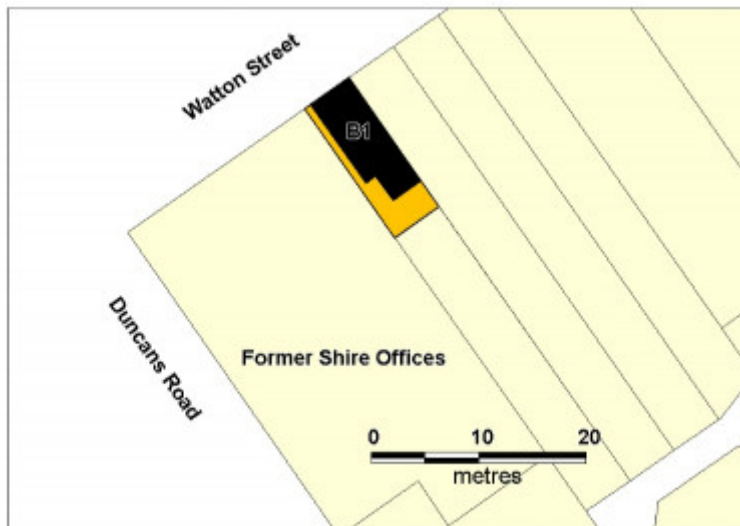
Callanans Chemist June  
2001



Callanans Chemist Interior  
Signage Dispensary June  
2001



Callanans Chemist Interior  
Signage Medicines June  
2001



callanans chemist plan

## Location

47 WATTON STREET WERRIBEE, WYNDHAM CITY

## Municipality

WYNDHAM CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1956

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO29

## VHR Registration

December 6, 2001

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

In 1926, Joseph Callanan, a prominent local businessman and founder of the Werribee Traders' Association, opened a pharmacy on the south side of Watton Street. In 1937 Callanan opened a new shop on the current site, and the old weatherboard building was demolished. Local builders Rushford and Walsh constructed the existing building in 1939. Joseph Callanan's son Michael and daughter Margaret also became pharmacists and continued to run the family business. Margaret served all of her working life in the pharmacy. The pharmacy was known for continuing to supply old-fashioned medicines and for its friendly service. The Callanan family made generous contributions of medical supplies during the Truganina bushfires of 1968- 1969.

The 1939 fitout is remarkably intact both internally and externally. A turnaround in chemist shop design and display occurred after the 1920's. The working area of the dispensary, with its drawers and bottles of chemicals and drugs which had been screened off from the public was opened up to public view. The medicines and other goods, including increasingly cosmetics, toiletries and other side-lines, were made visible with ample use of glass for display cases, shelving and counter tops. The shop front also had a major turnaround from a passive store-front to windows designed to attract customers with colour lighting and highlighted graphics. 1940s promotional material by the American pharmaceutical supplier Stearns, promoted the use in shops of clean lines, light, maximum display areas, front windows revealing the entire shop and a visible dispensary. Stearns produced ideal plan configurations for pharmacy shop design which are closely reflected in the layout of the Callanan's shop. This transition in retail approach was influenced by toiletry manufacturers who agreed to sell their products solely through chemists, and in return promotion and prestige given to the products by the professionally accredited pharmacists. Ipana toothpaste was one such product which was regularly advertised in the local newspapers by Callanans. The front windows were the scene for seasonal displays (Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Easter and Christmas) and promotion of prestigious products.

The interior fitout and street display is early Modernist in style with some Arte Deco influence, which meshed well with late 1930s ideals of progress through science, technology and efficient design. The interior retains its original purpose built display cases and signage. The double front doors, a low counter for baby weighing, dispensary

counter, display cases, long bank of individual medicine drawers, and service counter are all designed in a coherent, streamlined fashion. The internal colour scheme is bright blue with red detailing which highlight design features. The interior signage is comprised of large freestanding red lettering in a striking modern font set in curved back alcoves to enhance the three dimensional effect. The two window display cases on the exterior are surrounded by cream and black glazed tiles. The exterior signage follows a streamlined graphic style comparable with international examples of in the 1930s. The awning is a later addition.

How is it significant?

Callanan's Chemist, Werribee is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Callanan's Chemist is of architectural significance as a rare, highly intact 1930s modernist dispensary. The graphics used for the signage were stylish internationally in the 1920s to 1930s, and are a striking feature of this municipal chemist. It is rare to have such detail in a shop fit out in this context.

Callanan's Chemist is historically significant as a highly intact example of the building type of the chemist shop in the late 1930s and 1940s. It illustrates the transition from the enclosed and hidden dispensary, to a modern, transparent and efficient chemist shop. The design illustrates the adoption of a scientific approach and modernist principles applied to a progressive and forward thinking dispensary.

Callanan's Chemist is historically significant for its capacity to demonstrate a particular period in pharmaceutical practice in Australia and demonstrates the important relationship of the pharmacist with both pharmaceutical and toiletries manufacturers, and the public.

Callanan's Chemist is of historical significance for its association with the Callanan family, which was active in the Werribee Community.

The chemist shop is of historical significance as a striking modern expression in the pre-World War II central streetscape of Werribee.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

## Specific Exemptions:

Permit exemptions are given below which do not affect the overall significance of the structure or historic place. The exemptions generally are for maintenance and minor works to the buildings.

### General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

The purpose of the permit exemptions is to allow works that do not impact on the significance of the heritage place to occur without the need for a permit. Alterations that impact on the significant built fabric of the exterior are subject to permit applications. Of particular importance is the exterior signage and shop front.

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### Exterior

\*Minor repairs and maintenance that replace like with like

\*Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc. and making good.

\*Installation or repair of damp-proofing.

### Interior

\* All internal works that do not result in an alteration to the exterior.

THE ATTENTION OF THE OWNER AND/OR APPLICANT IS DRAWN TO THE NEED TO OBTAIN ALL OTHER RELEVANT PERMITS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS.

Construction dates        1939,

Heritage Act Categories    Registered place, Registered object integral to a registered place,

Hermes Number            11577

Property Number

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## History

### Contextual History:

#### Development of pharmacies:

Equation of the pharmacist with the shop - role of pharmacist with the model of the small trader.

In the 1920s the dispensary, with the remaining drawers, jars and bottles containing chemicals and drugs, was

screened from the shop. This culminated in the 1928 Act which made separation of shop and pharmacy mandatory. However, the screen became increasingly either a decoration or a display area. The shop area was in transition, with the introduction of pre-packaged goods from the wholesaler. Open dispensaries, as at Callanans, were adopted from the mid-1930s. Shop front windows were increasingly designed to attract attention and to actively promote products to increase profits. Various toiletry companies introduced "chemist only" marketing policies. Ipana was one such manufacturer which appears to have been adopted by Callanan. The window also became the site for seasonal merchandising. Neon lighting became popular in the 1930s for external signs. Large companies produced publications with advice on modern pharmacy designs, including layout, lighting, clean and curved lines, maximum display and the visible dispensary. Two plans from the Australasian Journal of Pharmacy illustrate these trends and have strong similarities to the Callanans layout (**see appendix x**)(Haines p258-9)

History of Place

## **Extent of Registration**

1. All the building known as Callanan's Chemist marked on B1 on Diagram Number 1956 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land shown on Diagram Number 1956 held by the Executive Director.
3. All the specified objects:  
All signage and display cases.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*