

History of 63 Jerilderie Street, Jerilderie

Apart from the Title Deed to this parcel of land being destroyed during the bank raid, there is another connection with this property and the raid on Jerilderie by Ned Kelly and his Gang, albeit a rather tenuous one, and that is that in April 1883 Mr Rudolph Gartman purchased the property to establish his own chemist shop, which he carried on at this address until October 1888, when he sold out and left Jerilderie.

At the time of the raid, Rudolph Gartman was the pharmacist employed by Mr Louis Monash in a chemist shop located opposite to what was the site of the Courthouse Hotel, on the south-west corner of Jerilderie and Bolton Streets.

At some stage during the day of the bank hold up, Mr Gartman, responding to a rumour that something strange was going on in the vicinity of the bank and Royal Mail Hotel at the western end of the town, decided to investigate.

He walked into Mr Harkin's store just as Ned Kelly, in company with James Rankin Snr, was "re-arresting" Mr Harkin. Mr Gartman was also taken into custody by Ned and then escorted to the bar parlour of the Royal Mail Hotel where the three gentlemen, along with other hostages, were left under the watchful eye of Dan Kelly. On being bought a drink by Ned Kelly, it is believed that Mr Gartman was most put out at not being allowed to return the compliment!

Later, after all of the Kelly gang had departed from Jerilderie, Mr Gartman joined the local school teacher, Mr Elliott, and the junior bank teller Mr Mackie, as they went past his shop on the way to the Police Barracks to see what could be done with the prisoners locked up in the police cells.

Mr Rudolph Gartman was Polish by birth and in 1863 was a student in Warsaw when the insurrection against the cruelty by the Russians towards the Poles, broke out. After fighting in several guerilla skirmishes, Mr Gartman managed to escape when the revolt was suppressed, making his way to London where he completed his studies in chemistry.

In 1876 he migrated to Victoria and, after being there some months, was engaged by Louis Monash to manage the chemist shop that he, Monash, had just taken over from Mr J B Hudson of Corowa.

Mr Gartman died in Melbourne on 11 November 1908. He was approximately 67 years of age at the time of his death, and for several years prior to his retirement in 1905 he had been dispensing for several Friendly Societies in Brunswick.

Mr James Morris, the original owner of this parcel of land, acquired on 12 June 1877, was approached by Thomas Beveridge, former owner and licensee of the Royal Mail Hotel, from 1876 to 1877, to sell his property as he, Mr Beveridge, wished to establish his son Robert in business as a watchmaker and jeweller; watches appearing to be the most desired accessory at the time. Unfortunately for Beveridge Snr, son Robert was not so enamoured of his father's plans for his future for, on acquiring the land on 12 July 1879, and constructing what was believed to be the left, or western, section of

the present building as a jewellery shop, the property was sold less than three months later to a clergyman living in Urana.

In October 1888, the Whitby family, who conducted a blacksmith business in Powell Street, Jerilderie, acquired the property and added to the building to create a residence. The Whitby family sold the property to Mr Alf Hacker in December 1919 who, while living there, conducted a tailoring business for some 25 years. Mr Hacker died in 1945 and his widow continued to reside in the premises until she passed away in 1956. The property was then sold to Mr Lou Strano in 1961, who in turn conducted a hairdressing business and taxi service from the premises for many years.



In 1998, the then Jerilderie Shire Council received a grant of \$40,000 from the State Rail Authority to establish a bus stop and public toilet facility in the central business district of Jerilderie. Eventually, in early 2002, Council purchased the property for that purpose, originally proposing to demolish the building and either renovating the nearby War Memorial Hall to incorporate the public toilets, or to build new public toilets on the cleared site. After much public discussion, surveys, petitions, offers of additional grants from the Heritage Council of NSW and the like, public opinion persuaded Council to reverse its original decision and devise plans for the provision of the public toilets, utilising the buildings that existed on the site at the time of purchase.

In March 2007, Cr Terry Hogan, AM, Mayor of Jerilderie Shire Council, officially opened these amenities for public use.

