



SHIRE OF MORAWA
Local Heritage Survey 2022
WINFIELD STREET HERITAGE AREA
MORAWA

PLACE No. 41

Category B HERITAGE LIST Retain & conserve.
 Considerable cultural heritage significance.



DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE AREA

WINFIELD STREET HERITAGE AREA

Morawa townsite was declared in 1912 but the boundaries for the townsite not approved until December 1913. In September 1914 lots were made available for lease. The Morawa-Merkanooka and Districts Co-op opened a store in 1915 and was selling land in June 1917 to establish the business “at once”, close to the siding when the railway came through.

The precinct comprises all lots on the west side of Winfield Street facing the railway, for two street blocks from White Avenue to Davis Street, in the main commercial area of Morawa.

The majority of the existing buildings were constructed in the 1920s and 1930s.

Considerable contribution: high-level significance.

Some contribution: moderate-level significance.

Little contribution: less significant.

Category B: HERITAGE LIST Planning Scheme and Local Planning Policy provisions. Development Application. A group of considerable cultural heritage significance to the Shire of Morawa. Retain & conserve.

The group listing allows for consideration of heritage places of varying levels of significance when any development is proposed, in order to assess any potential impact to retain the history, original fabric, scale and the assessed heritage value of each place, and its context in the streetscape of the group.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Winfield Street Heritage Area is of considerable significance as the commercial centre of the town of Morawa. The significant places that represent early development of the town in the 1920s and 1930s, and the post World War Two development that informs of the optimism and prosperity of that period from a significant historical group that captures the historic development of the town of Morawa.

WINFIELD STREET west side - north to south between White Ave and Davis Street

Place		Level of Contribution
Place No.42 House	(Lot 61)	Some
Place No.43 Jones' Greengrocer Shop (former)	(Lot 62)	Some
Place No.44 Sampson Building	(Lot 63)	Considerable
Place No.45 2 Shops	(Lot 64)	Considerable
Place No.46 Tilly's building (former)	(Lot 65)	Little
Place No.47 Morawa Drapery Store (SITE of Ross Bros Garage)	(Lot 66)	Some
Place No.48 Chemist shop (former)	(Lot 67)	Some
Place No.49 R & I Bank (former)	(Lot 68)	Considerable
Place No.50 Morawa Post Office	(Lot 69)	Considerable
Place No.51 Morawa Merkanooka & Districts Farmers Co-op Ltd (former) & Garage	(Lot 41)	Considerable
Place No.52 Bank of New South Wales (former)	(Lot 40)	Considerable
Place No.53 1970s building (ramp)	(Lot 39)	Some
Place No.54 Morawa Community Stall	(Lot 38)	Some
Place No.55 Tilly's Shop (former)	(Lot 38)	Some
Place No.56 Torrent's Stores (former)	(Lot 37)	Little
Place No.57 SITE Canberra Dining Rooms	(Lot 36)	Little
Place No.58 Shop	(Lot 36)	None
Place No.59 Chemist shop	(Lot 36)	None
Place No.60 Garage 1950s (former)	(Lot 35)	Some

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Residence	Place No. 42 Winfield Street (Lot No.61)
Contributory significance	Little
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	1922 Interwar
Description	Single storey dwelling on the corner of White Avenue
Historical note	



JONES GREENGROCER SHOP (Fmr) Residence	Place No. 43 Winfield Street (Lot No.63)
Contributory significance	Little
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	1922 Interwar
Description	The single storey dwelling has a zero setback frontage with a recessed veranda.
Historical note	James William Jones moved from Victoria in 1922 , built the shop that has since been modified to remove the shop front entry on the front boundary. Mrs Jones likely ran the shop until at least 1927. By the early 1930s it was a tearooms and grocery.

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SAMPSON BUILDINGS	Place No. 44 Winfield Street (Lot No.64)
Contributory significance	Considerable: The Sampson Buildings shops and garage (former) are a fine example of 1929 Interwar architecture in an original grouping of a significant historic variety of retail, agency and war time functions, in authentic condition that makes a substantial contribution to the Winfield Street Group and the historic townscape of Morawa.
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	1929
Description	<p>The single storey masonry shops have a gabled corrugated iron roof concealed by a two decorative parapets, similar in detail with the south parapet covering the 2 shops below and the north end over the garage, separated by pilasters to the outside edges and at the division. Each parapet is detailed the same: stepped parapet to a central pilastered rectangle with a series of rebates. The apex is a flat triangle. A low pitched skillion veranda extends across the entire frontage supported by square timber posts.</p> <p>The 2 shops at the south end of the frontage, under the main parapet, are identical: symmetrical with a truncated recessed entry with a step to a timber framed doors. The flanking sides have a rendered dado, expansive shopfront glazing with highlights above, that extend into the truncation. The garage on the north end of the frontage (under the smaller parapet) has a wide timber entry door on the south, and three similar wide timber doors across the remainder of the garage frontage.</p>

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Historical note	<p>Richard Sampson, a publisher from Perth built the shops in October 1929. He founded the newspapers in Morawa: <i>Northern Producer</i> and <i>Morawa Perenjori Advertiser</i> at a different location from these shops. The shops served many functions over the years including: Samson's drapery store into the central shop. Fred Prater occupied the south shop from October 1929 operating a Goldsborough Mort & Co agency and in 1930 'The Producers Dining Room' with ice-creams confectionary and tobacco goods- he was bankrupt by May 1931. The north shop was occupied by M Mellidoni's Strand Café with fresh fish on the menu. By 1938 he was advertising a Super Waratah bowser at the store- day and night service. The cafe changed ownership and names several times up to 1960 when it was a greengrocery in 1963 though to c.1975 then a new owner in 1977 to 1980 and its been vacant since. In c.1945, Strand Café at north end, EA Leete's Tailor and mercer, and Lette's bike shop on the south. In 1939, Mrs Keown ran the Morawa Tea Rooms from the central shop. The garage was a base for commission agents who sold cars, tractors, trucks and insurance. During World War Two, the Australian Army occupied the shops in preparation for a potential Japanese invasion, anticipating the coastal population to evacuate inland.</p>
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2 SHOPS	Place No. 45 Winfield Street (Lot No. 65)
Contributory significance	Considerable: The two shops are a good example of an original shop with an addition in authentic condition that makes a substantial contribution to the Winfield Street group and the historic townscape of Morawa.
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	c.1925, c.1930
Description	The single storey masonry shops have a gabled corrugated iron roof concealed by a flat-metal-sheet stepped parapet across the entire frontage with a separate skillion veranda supported by square timber posts, that hips on the north end where there is a lean-to addition to the shop. The main shop is the north side of the frontage. It is symmetrical with a truncated recessed entry with a step to double timber framed doors. The flanking sides have a rendered dado, expansive shopfront glazing with highlights above, that extend into the truncation. The shop on the south end of the frontage is a later addition, possibly c.1930 utilising the decorative concrete blocks. It has a single framed shopfront glazing and a rectangular recessed entry adjacent to the north shopfront.
Historical note	

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TILLEY'S BUILDING (fmr) Shire of Morawa Administration	Place No. 46 Winfield Street (Lot No.66)
Contributory significance	Some
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	1928
Description	The single storey. Remnant of "Rosella" sign on the south wall of the Morawa Co-op building.
Historical note	GW Sykes managed George Tilley's General Motors Service Station when it opened in 1928. It was the bike centre of the town. Doubled the shop size in 1929. Changed ownership in 1930 and developed agencies. Blacksmith Pietra Canestrini worked from a shop at the rear of the building. Mrs Gordon operated the tearooms in the north shop prior to 1932. She achieved "fame" as the bachelors' friend. Her son Jim Gordon won a Victoria a Cross in World War Two. Horace Rushton occupied the northern most shopfront after the co-op burnt down in 1939. He operated a newsagency until 1958 The Morawa Co-op was formed in 1945. In 1948 the Morawa Co-op took on the fuel depot from Commonwealth Oli Refineries. In 1955 Smith's chemist shop was on the north end. The Ross brothers operated from the rear of the site before moving to their own premise on Lot 67. In c,1966, Westralian Farmers Co-operative Ltd took over, later known as various names including Wesfarmers Landmark after being acquired by IAMA Ltd in 2001. Landmark sold out in 2003 moving to a new premises. The Shire of Morawa refurbished the building in c.2005. to provide an administration office and Council Chambers

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SITE: ROSS BROS GARAGE Morawa Drapery Store	Place No. 47 Winfield Street (Lot No.67)
Contributory significance	Little
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	SITE 1955, rebuilt after fire in 1950 demolished in 1982. 1983
Description	The single storey face brick. Symmetrical with a pair of central aluminium framed doors flanked by expansive shopfront glazing about face brick dado walls. Suspended canopy veranda across the frontage.
Historical note	Thornton's Drapery Store opened in 1983.



CHEMIST SHOP (fmr)	Place No. 48 Winfield Street (Lot No. 68)
Contributory significance	Little
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	1963. Post war.
Description	The single storey masonry shop has an unadorned parapet. A suspended canopy shades the expansive aluminium framed shopfront windows above mosaic detailed low dado walls. The symmetrical front has a central aluminium framed glazed double entry.
Historical note	

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R & I BANK (former) SITE: Morawa Hall (1924-c.1955)	Place No. 49 Winfield Street (Lot No.68)
Contributory significance	Considerable: The former Rural and Industries (R &I) Bank is of historical significance in its development from the Agricultural Bank of WA in Morawa in 1915. It is a fine representative example of Post-war modernism that represents the positive development in Morawa in 1960, making a substantial contribution to the Winfield Street Group and the historic townscape of Morawa.
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	1960
Description	The single storey masonry building features a single rectangular rendered parapet with painted walls and a feature frontage of a square concrete tiles, and a recessed glazed entry on the north side of the frontage, that is accessed by a masonry ramp across the entire frontage, with metal railings.

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Historical note	<p>The Government's Agricultural Bank of Western Australia established a temporary office in the Hall. It was the first bank in Morawa. The Government Agricultural Bank Inspector had a house in Manning Street provided and he resided there between 1915 and 1921. The Bank provided banking services exclusively to farmers. The Bank attempted to purchase the hall site (lot 69) when it was touted for relocation, and also purchase the adjoining (north) Lot 68. Delays ensued: the hall building extended onto Lot 68 and both lots were designated specific to the hall.</p> <p>During the 1930's Depression, there was considerable ill feeling in the community as they felt the bank had let them down. One farmer attempted to burn the building down.</p> <p>In 1944 the Bank became a full trading bank renamed to the Rural and Industries Bank of Western Australia (The R & I). In 1947, lot 68 was finally transferred into the Bank's ownership. However, post-war materials shortages delayed construction of a new building, and some alterations were made to the hall to accommodate the bank's continued use in 1947 and 1948, and constructed a temporary building in 1949 that was used until 1953.</p> <p>In 1960 the new bank (at the cost of 7,500 pounds) opened by the Minister for Lands Forest and Immigration, and the Premier David Brand, the former local Member. Two Hundred people attended the opening. In 1956 it became a savings bank. It was incorporated in 1990 and changed its name to the Bank of Western Australia in 1994, with the trading name of Bankwest in preparation for privatisation. It was acquired by the Bank of Scotland in 1995 and has changed ownership several times since then.</p> <p>BankWest continues to occupy the building.</p>
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MORAWA POST OFFICE & TELEPHONE EXCHANGE	Place No. 50 Winfield Street (Lot No.69)
Contributory significance	Considerable: Morawa Post Office & Phone Exchange is significant as a social meeting place and provider of postal and phone services in the mid 1950s, and for the contentious history of its establishment. It is an uncommon style differing from standard post office constructions and represents the austerity of post World War Two. It makes some contribution to the Winfield Street Group and the historic townscape of Morawa.
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	c.1955 1953, 1955, 1957 Post war Functional- Austerity
Description	The pavilion-like building is set back from the front boundary. It has an asymmetrical frontage to Winfield Street with a set of three double set windows on the north end of the front next to a deeply recessed entry and the face brick on the remaining frontage featuring a vertical detail.

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Historical note

SITE of Morawa Town Hall

The reserve was gazetted in 1922 for a hall. Built c.1924, the hall also served as the school until 1926, and there-after for another 20 years, as an auxiliary to the school. In 1928, after the Morawa Road Board was formed, separate from Perenjori, and the hall was in need of attention, there were calls for a new hall. The hall was extended in 1933.

It was relocated to Merkanooka recreation ground by a fleet of tractors (Photo in 1961 history book) A more recent history suggests it was re-erected at the showgrounds in c.1955, but destroyed by a storm at that time. A new Town Hall and Lesser Hall was constructed in Prater Street.

Post Office

In 1912 Dreghorn's farm gained official recognition as a post office: North Morawa Post Office. Mrs Dreghorn was Post Mistress sorting the mail on the dining table: Merkanooka settlers called in for their mail. WC Cole, Samuel Moore's store manager, became the unofficial postmaster in Morawa in 1915 utilising Morse code for the telegraph system, the store became known as Lyon's Post Office Store.

In c.1924 the unofficial post office came under the control of the Morawa Merkanooka Co-operative (in Prater building) and was still operating in 1927. Demands grew for an official post office after 1927 recorded 138,00 postal items.

With the establishment of the Morawa Road Board in 1928, the intent was for an official post office in preference to an allowance post office touted by others including the government. In 1929 the Government commenced construction of a timber and fibro Allowance Post Office, that was specified as masonry. The issue was aired in Federal parliament. The first semi-official post office opened on 1 May 1929 with all the old equipment from the Pater building. Mr Hooker was the first postmaster. The only post box was at the post office on the east side (Solomon Street).

In 1940 there was another attempt to establish an official post office on the west side of the railway line. World War Two intervened and it was 1947 before the community raised the issue again and the Road Board considered lots 68 and 69 before realising the bank had Lot 68 and the hall building was still on lot 69.

In 1949 Lot 49 was gazetted to the Commonwealth specifically for an official post office. Except there were ownership legalities that were finalised in 1951. The Postmaster General's Office (PMG) advised that from 30 June 1950 Morawa would have an official Post Office. Further controversy: the Department planned for a prefabricated PO building rather than a permanent brick structure. Problem was that the bricks were "controlled materials" in shortage in the Post World War Two situation. Geraldton bricks were sourced, but the State had a backlog of projects, eventually the tender was let in November 1954. In 1955, 312,000 postal items and 14,000 telegrams had been handled in the Allowance Post Office.

The Morawa Post Office was officially opened on 15 August 1956, including a telephone exchange.

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<p>Morawa Merkanooka & Districts Farmers Co-op Ltd (former) & Garage (former)</p>	<p>Place No. 51 34 Winfield Street (Lot No. 41)</p>
<p>Contributory significance</p>	<p>Considerable: Morawa Merkanooka & Districts Farmers Co-Op Ltd (fmr) has considerable historical significance as the site of the first store in Morawa in 1917 destroyed by fire in 1939, aesthetically for the landmark modern building of 1939, appropriately extended along both street fronts to have a significant presence in the Winfield Street Group and makes a substantial contribution to the historic Morawa townscape. The garage (fmr) is one of the few remaining garage type buildings that represent the automotive and engineering businesses that were prevalent throughout the town. Its presence with signwriting still identifiable makes a significant contribution to the group and the historical townscape.</p>
<p>State Heritage Office</p>	<p>InHerit database No.10147</p>
<p>Construction date, architectural style</p>	<p>SITE 1917, 1926-1939: original store Corner store: 1939, 1954, 1957 Garage: 1956 Post war moderne. Garage</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>The single storey store addresses the street corner with a truncated faceted entry. The expansive corner entry area is rendered under a boxed veranda that is supported by round slender posts. The flanking walls (1954 and 1957) are detailed in the decorative concrete blocks. The corner has a rectangular stepped parapet with pilaster, the Winfield Street frontage has a mural that depicts the Morawa Merkanooka & Districts Farmers Co-op Ltd Store that was located there prior to the 1926 fire, and an unadorned stepped parapet above. The Prater Street frontage has a simple parapet with a semi-detached corrugated addition at the rear. Separate at the west end of the site facing Prater Street is the timber framed and corrugated clad gable garage with the front opening onto Prater street. There is signage in the "front" gable and the west wall.</p>

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Historical note	<p>Morawa Merkanooka & Districts Farmers Co-op Ltd first occupied the site in c.1917 with a general store on the south side of the site and a chemist on the north side on the same lot. In 1939 the store and the chemist were destroyed by fire. The impact of the fire put Morawa Merkanooka & Districts Farmers Co-op Ltd into liquidation. The property was acquired by Horace Rushton.</p> <p>The new Rushton's Store building of concrete blocks was constructed in 1939 on the southeast street corner of the site. In July 1945 Rule took over from Ruston and it became Rules' Store. Rule ceased dealing in groceries (due to purchasing limitations) and concentrated on hardware and agencies promoting Sydney Atkinson (Chevrolet, Holden, Maple-leaf and Pontiac), Goldsborough Mort, McKay, Massey Harris and others.</p> <p>In 1950 Rule was granted a liquor licence after a contentious process.</p> <p>In 1954 he extended the shop along the Prater Street frontage for showrooms for agricultural machinery and automobiles.</p> <p>In 1957 he extended the Winfield Street front (over the site of the Morawa Merkanooka & Districts Farmers Co-op Ltd where the mural is).</p> <p>In 1958 the place was advertised as Ironside Rule Pty Ltd. In 1964 the name changed to Morawa Traders. In 1972 George Ironside became the owner. Subsequent changes of owner ship have taken place since that time.</p> <p>In 2021 it is an IGA (Independent Grocers' Association) supermarket.</p> <p>GARAGE</p> <p>From 1 July 1956, Rule's Store provided 'a modern service station and lubritorium" under the control of a mechanic approved by Sydney Atkinson Motors Ltd. In 1964, electric fuel pumps were installed.</p> <p>In 1970, Robert Guerny expanded his Morawa Smash Repairs business, became the official Ford agent (Guerny Ford) and moved his operation from the garage at the Prater Street frontage at the rear of the store. He planned to expand onto the site that is now Jubilee Park. However, the Shire had planned that site (lots 42, 43) for municipal offices, or failing that a shopping centre - just not a smash repair business. However, a lease was effected and vehicles were parked there. The contentious situation continued until in 1975, Parkwood Engineering took over the garage premises and were permitted to display John Shearer machinery, Allister Calmers equipment and Leyland vehicles, until at least 1977.</p> <p>In 2021 the garage is vacant.</p>
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BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES (former) & RESIDENCE	Place No. 52 46 Winfield Street (Lot No. 40)
Contributory significance	Considerable: The former Bank of New South Wales is of historical and aesthetic significance as a fine representative of Interwar classical architecture, the only example in Morawa that represents the optimism for the future at that time. It makes a considerable contribution to the Winfield Street Group and the historic townscape of Morawa.
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No. 1623
Construction date, architectural style	1926 Interwar Classical architectural style
Description	The single storey bank building has a symmetrical frontage with a recessed central entry flanked by single windows each side. The frontage is detailed with a moulded cornice line that aligns as window headers, and a bracketed moulding with stepped parapet above. The residence is behind.
Historical note	The branch of the bank initially operated from the Prater building The bank opened on 4 October 1926 with Oliver Greenwood as manager who remained until 1933. Morawa Merkanooka & Districts Farmers Co-op Ltd (fmr) (on north side-Lot 40) burnt down in 1939, damaging part of the bank residence and locals carried all the furnishings and contents from the residence. The Bank of New South Wales closed in 1999 and in c.2005 the Morawa Telecentre and Landcare office relocated to this premises.

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SHOP	Place No. 53 Winfield Street (Lot No. 38)
Contributory significance	Some: A good example of c.1970 store that makes a contribution to the Winfield Street group and the historic townscape of Morawa.
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	c.1970 Post war.
Description	Single storey face brick.
Historical note	



MORAWA COMMUNITY STALL	Place No. 54 Winfield Street (Lot No. 37)
Contributory significance	Little
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	
Description	
Historical note	

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TILLY'S SHOP (fmr)	No. 55 Winfield Street (Lot No. 37)
Contributory significance	Some
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	c.1950 Post war.
Description	The single storey masonry shop with a full width veranda and a stepped parapet
Historical note	In 1928; S Goode's Sample Shop, General Motors Garage. After flooding in 1928, and 1929, Tilly moved into the central shop at Lot 64 in October 1929.



TORRENT'S STORE (fmr)	No. 56 Winfield Street (Lot No. 36)
Contributory significance	Some
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	c.1950, 1953, 1955, 1957 Post war.
Description	The single storey masonry shop has an expansive shop frontage with a full width veranda and stepped parapet across front.
Historical note	Andrew Torrent from Spain took over a café in 1952, made alterations and changed the business to a supermarket in 1953. He made a number of additions to the building. He had a cool drink factory. Manufacturing lemon squash from 1953. He introduced self-service shopping to Morawa. In 1969 Torrent sold out and Coyne's Store traded as a 4 Square franchise supermarket and subdivided the store into 3 sections: self-serve grocery, greengrocer and confectionary. In more recent years it operates as Morawa Traders Supermarket.

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SITE CANBERRA DINING ROOMS SHOP CHEMIST SHOP	Place No's. 57, 58, 59 Winfield Street (Lot No. 35)
Contributory significance	NO
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	
Description	The single storey shop.
Historical note	No. 57 Mrs RH Williams operated the Canberra Dining Rooms in Sampson's building in 1928. No.58 No.59



GARAGE (former)	Place No. 60 Winfield Street (Lot No.34)
Contributory significance	Little
State Heritage Office	InHerit database No -
Construction date, architectural style	c.1950 Post war.
Description	The single storey masonry.
Historical note	

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LISTINGS	
Department Planning, Lands & Heritage	inHerit database No. 01624
Register of Heritage Places	
National Trust classified	
Shire of Morawa: Heritage Inventory 1996	

SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY
<i>The History of Morawa</i> F.H.Goldsmith. 1961. <i>The History of the Morawa District from 1850-2006</i> . M. Walter: Morawa District Historical Society. 2008.