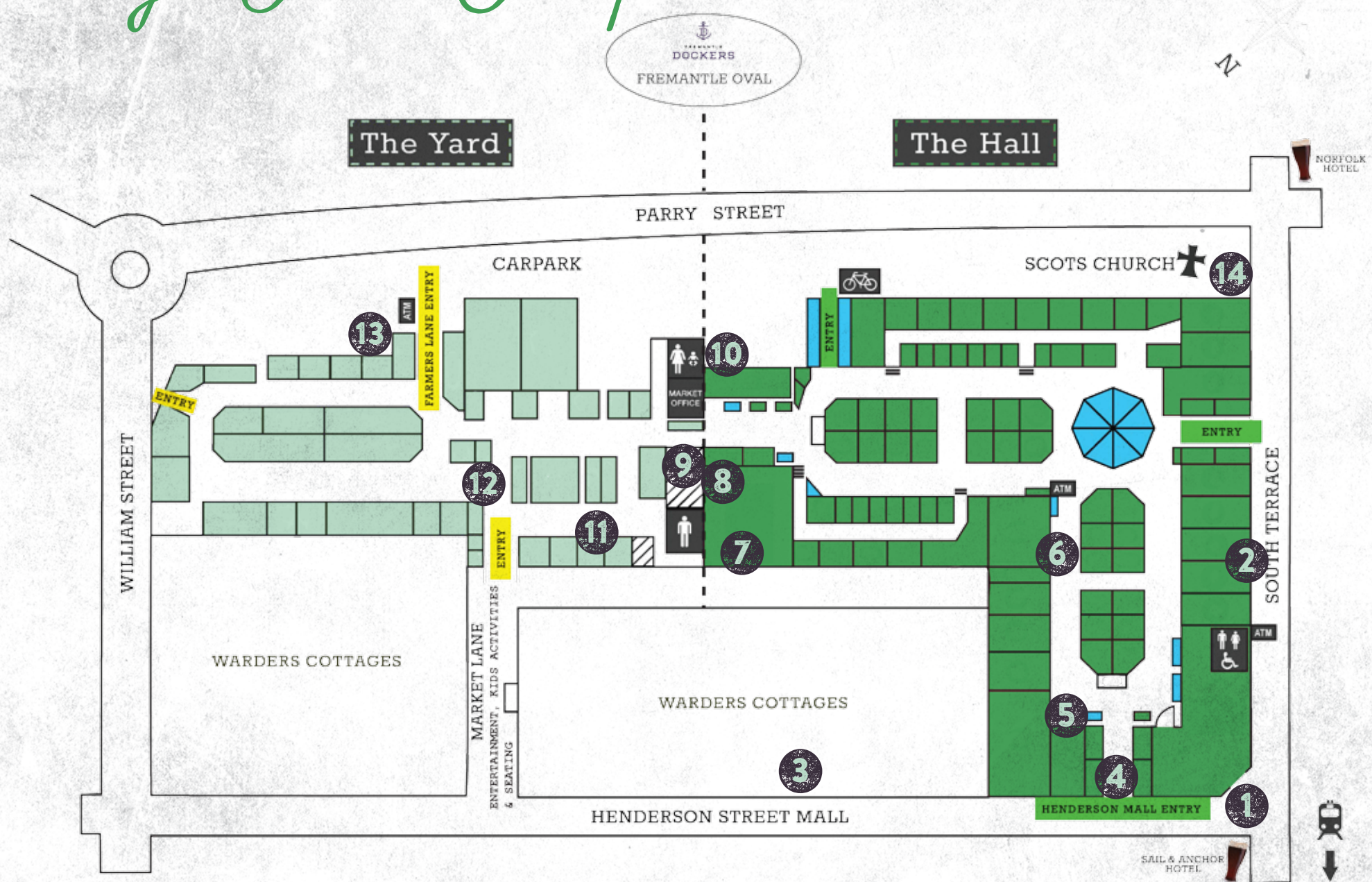


# FREMANTLE MARKETS

## Heritage Trail Map



### 13 THE STABLE LINK BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT

The market's old stables used to be found in the former service yard, which was an open utility space to the rear of the market building. Originally consisting of a bare corrugated iron clad stables building on the west side, and a pump on the north, it was the rugged 'working end' of Fremantle Markets where horses were fed and watered.

Horses were the lifeline of the settler and colonial days, especially during the heyday of the Gold Rush Era in Western Australia during the 1880s and 1890s. The rapid growth and development of Fremantle and its surroundings was partly due to these noble creatures who toiled alongside people. They were also the key form of transporting fresh produce to be sold to the residential community and those lured to the West by the temptation of gold.

In the 1940s however, the service yard along with the stables fell into disuse as motor vehicles replaced horses as the primary means of transportation. Australia had grown up along with the market. The stables were demolished for a Timber Cool Store in this period and remained so until Fremantle Markets was refurbished in the 1970s and this area was incorporated into the new 'Farmer's Lane' where fresh produce stalls were installed. The original site of the stables stands as link between past and present, showcasing through its changing uses how Western Australian society had moved with the times.



The industrial feel of the site that used to house the chook pens is still evident. Poultry was once stored and auctioned here on Thursday mornings during the market's early days. More importantly however, the remnants of the chook pens highlights how Fremantle Markets was shaped over time into the beloved local institution that it is today.

Ron Rummer, who used to work for Scanlan and Simper in the 1950s, recalls how the chook pens area was part of their successful wholesaling business of produce and animal stock. This business was complete with a bevy of secretaries, auctioneers, clerks and men working on the auction floor to unload goods. However, were it not for the market's refurbishment in the 1970s, its subsequent decline as a wholesale, packing and distribution site would have spelt the death of Fremantle Markets in Western Australian history.

Luckily, this was not the case. When the market was launched for the second time in the 1970s, new life was breathed into its doors. As symbols of its wholesale origins, the chook pens now stand as modern stalls and were even turned at one point into a cooking school. Fremantle Markets is nothing if not innovative, while respecting its historical roots.



### 8 THE GHOST UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS

Every iconic building has a good ghost story and in the back passage of the Fremantle Markets Bar hides a particularly notorious one. One day, John Murdoch decided to nail up a small hatch in the floorboards of the bar. But a few days later, he and other people started hearing noises underneath

the floorboards. The eeriness of these noises was heightened by the close proximity of Fremantle Prison, with its infamous tales of lost souls and frightening hauntings. Soon it began to sound like one of these ghosts had lost its ways and decided to reside in Fremantle Markets instead.

But this ghost was more flesh than spirit, and the story had an internationally reported ending. It turns out there was a woman hiding underneath the floorboards all that time. Word had gotten out and newspapers and radio stations came to see what they called 'the ghost under the floorboards'. The story was so big at the time that it made it all the way to the news in New York and London, becoming a part of Fremantle's urban legends. It does sound like a story straight out of a Charles Dickens novel, so who knows what else, or who else, may be lurking underneath those floorboards.

### 10 A HOME WITHIN THE MARKET

Located in the corner of the Fremantle Market building between the Yard and Parry Street entrances is the Caretaker's Cottage. This old cottage is located where the toilets and office are now, comprising of three rooms. Originally built in 1911 in one of the Warehouse Stores as a four-roomed weatherboard cottage that had two bedrooms, a dining/lounge room, and a kitchen was added. Its interior is largely intact today, representing how it would have been used when caretakers used to live there, right down to the charming fireplace. The cottage stands as a reminder of the many loyal and dedicated caretakers who have entered the market's history and family.

It's believed that the first caretaker was Alexander Urquhart, followed by J. Harper. Another of the early caretakers was William Pearce Snr., who was appointed in 1925. He moved into the cottage with his family rent free, and in return he was responsible for

opening and closing the gates in the morning and night, sweeping the market floors and cleaning. His loyal service lasted for 18 years and was repeated by subsequent caretakers.

In more recent times, this loyalty has become one of the hallmarks of Fremantle Markets. In John Murdoch's own words, "the market wouldn't be what it is today without Rod and Colin". Rod was the caretaker until John Murdoch retired, after which Colin took over. Murdoch still affectionately remembers how Rod once told him that he feels "wealthy" because of his job and the love he has for the stallholders. The historical tradition of looking after the market like a home continues, just as this little cottage space endures.



### 7 THE UNBEATABLE MARKET BAR

In 1975, Fremantle Markets underwent dramatic refurbishment, while retaining the basic structure of the building. Changes to its internal layout included the establishment of permanent stalls in the main hall, arranged in sections according to what they sold. Just as significantly, a bar was built in one corner where potatoes used to be stored in the market's early days.

This bar was designed to fit with the overall Victorian atmosphere of the markets and the original architecture of the building. Victorian design features such as beautiful stained-glass windows, old-fashioned hotel mirrors, and a long Jarrah bar counter were designed in keeping with the historical roots of the building, helping to make the bar one of the most beloved areas of the market.

For many years, the Fremantle Markets Bar was an institution that provided a tangible link between old and new. In its heyday, it was a lively and sociable place to come have a drink, and was a very popular hangout with the locals. During those days, its cosy and unassuming interiors harked back to hard settler days when the pub was a place to come unload your troubles and find refuge from the harsh Australian weather. Today, the site in which the bar used to sit reflects our changing, international modern world, as it is now used as a dynamic tourism and social space that reflects the more contemporary ethos of the market.

But those heritage stained-glass windows have seen a lot of history, and remain to this day, mixing their tradition with the site's new function, and reminding visitors of the talent that once performed in this space. The Friday night performances by buskers and musicians at the market bar have now become the stuff of legends, with a multitude of performers gracing the old bar, including the now famous John Butler.



### 14 & 3 THE WARDERS' COTTAGES UNDERBELLY PAST

The story of the Warders' Cottages begins in 1850 with the first arrival of convict ships to the Fremantle Port under the direction of Captain Edmund Henderson, Royal Engineer and Comptroller General of the convicts. About 10,000 men were transported to the Swan River Colony during the period of 1850-1868, and along with them came many Royal Engineers, Royal Sappers and Miners, Pensioner Guards and warders.

As their name suggests, the Warders' Cottages were associated with those who travelled by sea to the new colony. In 1851, the site of the present Fremantle Markets was part of the 39-acre Imperial Convict Establishment. By 1858, three duplex cottages were erected on the South Terrace's front between Henderson Street and Parry (formerly Norfolk) Street as residences for more senior members of the Instructing Warders and their families. (14)

The cottages were built to provide accommodation for the sappers and miners of the Royal Engineers. These humble limestone and brick buildings were some of the best examples of Western Australia's early convict establishments. The sappers and miners were in those days called 'Instructing Warders' since they supervised and instructed the convict workforce, thus also giving the official name for the cottages that became their homes.

The instructing warders were also deployed in prison workshops and worked on rural road gangs

throughout the colony between Fremantle and Perth, bringing grisly tales of those harsh penal days along with them to the sites of the cottages. These gruesome beginnings for the location that would later become Fremantle Markets mark a direct link between the origins and later refurbishment of the market.

In the very early days of the market's re-opening to the public during the 1970s and 1980s, Fremantle was like an episode of Underbelly. John Murdoch remembers how that affected the history of the market when he was running it. He describes tales of bullets above his head, drive-by shootings, ladies of the night, wild nightclubs, and a thief who hid in the roof of the market where nobody could find him for days. The market building and site has always been home to some of the most notorious characters in WA history.

The three Warders' Cottages remained intact in their original form until 1889. After this period, the cottage at the corner of Parry Street and South Terrace was demolished and in its place Scots Presbyterian Church was built. The two other cottages remained until 1894 when they too were demolished to make room for the construction of Fremantle Markets. Their memory lingers however in their original site as a reminder of Fremantle's transition from convict establishment to a thriving and booming Gold Rush Era town. 2 blocks of Terrace Warder's cottages in Henderson Street Mall were constructed to house Warders and their families and still remain today. (3)





FREMANTLE MARKETS

Heritage Trail

FREMANTLE MARKETS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1897, AND THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, HAS BECOME AN ICONIC TOURIST DESTINATION. STEEPED IN THE PORT CITY OF FREMANTLE'S RICH INDIGENOUS, MARITIME, CONVICT, COLONIAL AND MIGRANT HISTORY, THE MARKET IS ONE OF THE MOST VISITED PLACES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. IT IS LOCATED AT THE SOUTHERN END OF FREMANTLE'S 'CAPPUCCINO STRIP' AND HOUSED IN A GRAND VICTORIAN HERITAGE BUILDING.

This building is one of only two surviving municipal market buildings in Western Australia, and one of the few in Australia that continues to be used for its original purpose. The market building is bounded by Parry Street, South Terrace, William Street and Henderson Street Mall, with several entrances off Henderson Street Mall, South Terrace and Parry Street.

Today, this historic building is home to over 150 stalls that hold a fascinating array of wares, people and stories. Walk the Fremantle Markets 'Heritage Trail' to explore the unique place the market has in the city's history. This brochure will help you discover the atmosphere, architecture and tales that lie behind one of the most famous attractions in Fremantle. For your easy reference, there is a map Fremantle Markets located on the last page of the brochure.



14 LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

The traditional owners of the land upon which Fremantle Markets now stands are the Whadjuk Noongar people. The indigenous Australians called the area Walyalup, translated as "the place of crying", highlighting Fremantle's historical importance as a site of ceremonies, traditional cultural practices, and trading.

Fremantle Markets was born from these traditions and the ceremonial laying of its first stone is a symbol of this history. Sir John Forrest, the Premier of Western Australia, laid the foundation stone for the market on 6 November, 1897, with construction finishing in 1898 at a cost of £8268.

The site upon which the foundation stone was laid was allocated in 1851 by the Colonial Government as part of the original convict grant. However with the rapid growth in population, the demand for fresh food and produce meant that the site became earmarked for a new purpose as a fresh produce market. Two of the original three Instructing Warder's Semi-Detached Cottages were demolished in 1894 to make room for the construction of Fremantle Markets. (14)

When the foundation stone was laid, the market had 15 shops and a further 13 interior shops, with a total of 18 businesses recorded as operating during the first year. Some of the original merchants included grocers,

tailors, dressmakers, confectioners, fishmongers, butchers and even bird dealers. There were also local shops offering poultry, eggs, fruit and vegetables to local restaurateurs and exporters, highlighting the market's key role in Western Australia's historical home-grown businesses.

The building functioned as a wholesale food and produce market until the 1950s, showcasing the eclectic and multicultural origins of the many migrants who came to the port city of Fremantle. Today, it still embodies Western Australia's multicultural roots.

The symbolism of the foundation stone is steeped in tradition. This stone is usually a cornerstone which determines the position of all the other stones that make up the building. In ancient times, offerings such as wine, oil and grains were placed under this cornerstone to show the people's close ties to the land upon which a new habitat was built.

When Sir John Forest laid the foundation stone for Fremantle Markets it was a grand gesture that paid homage to the market's affinity with its own surrounding environment and people. Stepping inside Fremantle Markets is encountering over a hundred years of vibrant culture and heritage.



2 Where NATURE & HISTORY Meet ARCHITECTURE

Fremantle lies on a series of limestone hills known by the traditional owners as Booyeembara and is located at the mouth of the Swan River. When the city was settled by Europeans in 1829, its buildings took shape from the surrounding landscape. Fremantle's colonial-era buildings were mainly built from the locally sourced limestone. Nature met architecture with the typical Edwardian style of the period, including decorative 19th-century façades.

Fremantle Markets is considered a prime example of this colonial architecture, with construction of the market building occurring between 1897 and 1898. Its ornate Edwardian arches on the Henderson Street and South Terrace frontages and limewashed interiors exemplify its historical origins.

The market building was originally designed by architects Joseph Herbert Eales and Charles Oldham in what is now known as the Federation Romanesque style. This particular style refers to the colonial architecture that was built all around Australia from 1890-1915. Although inspired by English Edwardian architecture, named after King Edward VII, it is strongly influenced by architect Henry Hobson Richardson's modification of medieval architecture for the modern United States.

The Federation Romanesque style was used throughout the United States and was seen as a hardier, more innovative and technologically progressive architecture, made for vast lands such as America and Australia. It was a style that was particularly popular for commercial building at the time. Because of its mix of old and new, it was the perfect style for the Fremantle Markets building. The influence of the Federation Romanesque Style is clearly evident in the main entrances to the market building, where the medieval-inspired ornamentation is composed with the strength and solidity of modern durability.



1 THE LURE OF THE Sea Breeze

Before entering, stand at the main entrances of Fremantle Markets on Henderson Street and South Terrace. At certain times of the day, the affectionately named 'Fremantle Doctor' will silently greet you at these entrances. This regular sea breeze is welcomed by the locals for its cooling relief on hot summer days. But more importantly, it wafts in and out of the market building, reminding all of the maritime history that has shaped those who came and still come to trade within its doors. In the early days, this breeze came on the sails of visiting ships, for which the market provided fresh produce. Follow this breeze inside to reveal a slice of Fremantle Markets' intriguing migrant history.

The market has always been a hub of people from all over world. When John Murdoch re-opened the abandoned Fremantle Markets building in 1975, he remembered it being "like the UN" with many nationalities, different languages being spoken and a mixture of people from all walks of life creating

that energetic atmosphere that is unique to Fremantle Markets. Many of these people came to the market via the sea.

Some have ancestors from long ago, some arrived via convict ships, while others sailed to Western Australia with dreams of a better life. The oceanic ancestry of Fremantle can be traced right back to the when city was named after Captain Charles Fremantle, the English naval officer who established a settlement there on 2 May, 1829. Fremantle then became the main port of entry to the capital of Perth.

Later in 1897, the Irish-born engineer C. Y. O'Connor helped make Fremantle a key commercial port by enlarging the harbour. This was at the height of Western Australia's great Gold Rush Era, turning Fremantle into one of Australia's capital cities of trade and a gateway to the world. This boom time resulted in the construction of many buildings that are now considered heritage sites, including the Fremantle Markets.

To this day, the market embodies the adventurous and enterprising spirit that has shaped the city. As tourists flock to Fremantle Markets, they meet traders from all over the world who have been likewise lured by the sea breeze.

12 The beloved FARMER'S LANE

When the refurbished Fremantle Markets was reopened on 31 October 1975, there was a significant addition that continues to be one of its most popular attractions: 'Farmer's Lane'. This area to the rear of the market's building became the site where fruit and vegetables were sold. It was not until 1993 however, that the permanent building to 'Farmer's Lane' was completed, designed by Brian Kloppe. The building was awarded a Royal Australian Institute of Architecture Commendation in the same year.

The importance of Farmer's Lane lies in its successful blending of the practical uses of a free-standing food/ fruit and vegetable hall and an architectural and aesthetic site of note. As a local Fremantle architect, Brian Kloppe interpreted the desires of the community, the market's historical relevance and the needs of contemporary stallholders through a mix of modern and traditional building forms that utilised industrial and recycled materials which were naturally expressed in the building design.

Today, Farmer's Lane is a lively area where tourists and locals not only come to buy produce, but also to have a delicious breakfast, chat over brilliantly-brewed coffee, cuddle a visiting piglet, enjoy a freshly prepared international dinner, or just listen to some great music over a friendly glass of wine on a Friday night.

4 REVEALING THE COBBLESTONES

Hidden beneath the bitumen paving of Fremantle Markets are the original granite cobbles, located in the market's South Terrace and Henderson Street entrance. These old cobblestones speak of a time when stallholders would deliver goods to Fremantle Markets by horse and cart.

Cobblestones were used in the construction of early streets and had both aesthetic and practical functions. The word 'cobble' itself is from the old-fashioned English word 'cob', which referred to a pebble that was rounded by water. These smooth, natural and attractive pebbles, which formed from streams, were collected and then used as pavements for streets and sites of commerce.

Cobblestones were tougher than dirt roads and they had the distinct advantage of creating that recognisable clunk, clunk noise when horses would pass over them, warning pedestrians of oncoming 'traffic' and saving many lives in the process. In the market's early days, these nostalgic clunking noises would have been part of the everyday rituals of trading life.

9 WEIGHING & WATCHING IN THE WEIGHBRIDGE

The former Weighbridge Office, which is now the Switch room, used to house a freezer motor. This room once belonged to the operator who ran the weighbridge located next to it outside the rear gate of Fremantle Markets. Its north-east windows allowed the operator to view the vehicles coming into the service yard.

Its historical significance lies in its recording of historical trading practices as it was originally used as a site to auction goods and produce by weight. While this method is now disused, its remnants in the form of the Weighbridge Office give us a glimpse into how businesses used to run in the early days of trade. Fascinatingly, there is still some of the original graffiti from those early days on the walls of the room. It is literally like watching history in action.



5 & 6 SIGNING the TRADITION

Original signs from the early days of the market are some of the best evidence we have for its original use. Painted on the door of the internal shopfront to Shop 15 is the original sign: "SAFETY BOX FACTORY PTY LTD, Entrance at Henderson St", which illuminates on one of the market's oldest businesses (5). At the southern end of the market hall are two side areas that would have originally been enclosed with shopfronts. At their intersection there is surviving early 20th-century signage with the text, "Scanlan and Simper Pty Ltd" (6). This sign is a small record of the longest-known tenants at Fremantle Markets. H. J. & F. Simper Ltd were fruit and produce merchants who opened shop in 1903. Michael Scanlan joined the Simper brothers in 1923, forming a

business partnership in Fremantle Markets known as "Scanlan and Simper" which would last until the early 1970s.

This partnership is representative of the Fremantle Markets ethos, expressed through the tenants who have flourished within its premises. Stallholders and businesses such as Scanlan and Simper often started out small, but went on to create long-lasting traditions of trading local produce and wares for decades within the market. It is a tradition that lasts until this day, and one which is metaphorically encapsulated by the original Scanlan and Simper Signage.