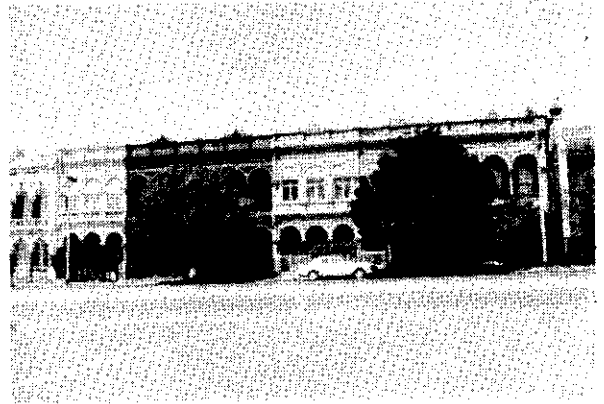


NAME "Catherine Terrace"  
ADDRESS: 150-160 Nicholson Street  
CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1888  
ALTERATNS/ADDITNS: Infilled upper balcony  
to Nos. 152, 154 and  
160. Parapet balls  
removed.  
ARCHITECT: Walter Scott Law  
BUILDER: Joseph Humphries  
FIRST OWNER: Leon Cohen  
FIRST OCC./USE: Ditto/residences  
CONSTRUCTION  
MATERIALS: Rendered brick  
INTACTNESS/  
CONDITION: Substantially intact  
AREA/STREETScape: Part of recommended area A1.



IMPORTANCE:

This row of six double storey arcaded terrace houses was constructed in 1888 for Leon Cohen, to the design of architect, Walter Scott Law, and built by Joseph Humphries.

The terraces are substantially intact apart from the glazing of the balconies to numbers 152, 154 and 160. The cement rendered (and now painted) arcade is decorated by delicate relief spandrel panels, cornice moulding, and delicate pedimental relief treatment. The facades behind are simple, with continuous acanthus stringcourse at impost level and applied pilasters with stop chamfered edges.

This terrace is of considerable architectural importance and is possibly the best example of an ornate continuous boom style arcaded terrace sequence in Melbourne. It would be considerably enhanced by the removal of the glazing to the upper floor arcade and the painting of the facade one continuous colour.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this terrace be added to the Historic Buildings Register. A detailed comparison with other contemporary terrace house sequences would verify its importance on a state wide basis. It is also recommended for addition to the Register of the National Estate and for specification under Clause 8 of the Town & Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND EVIDENCE:

This row of six terrace houses was constructed in 1888 for Leon Cohen, a bookmaker<sup>1</sup>, to the design of architect, Walter Scott Law. The contractor was Joseph Humphries of Fitzroy<sup>2</sup>.

1. A. Sutherland (ed) *Victoria and its Metropolis* vol. 2 p.709 article on Leon Cohen.
2. *Australasian Builder & Contractors News* 17.3.1888. Tenders accepted for 6 two storey houses for L. Cohen. Walter Scott Law, architect. Contractor J. Humphries.

The terrace was built on vacant land apart from number 150 which replaced a five roomed stone cottage<sup>3</sup>. The terrace probably gets its name from Cohen's wife, Catherine, who owned the properties after 1895.

Humphries was a successful Fitzroy contractor, who arrived in Melbourne in 1885: "... he erected twenty-one two storey houses and one terrace at Mitcham, a hotel at Middle Park and terraces, stones, residences, etc. in Melbourne and the surrounding districts, nearly seventy in number"<sup>4</sup>.

The terraces are substantially intact, apart from the glazing of the balconies to numbers 152, 154, and 160. The facades are adorned by a double storey arcade with delicate relief cement spandrel panels, cornice decoration and pedimental motifs. The facades behind are plain with stop chamfered window surrounds. The acanthus leaf impost string moulding is typical of Walter Scott Law detailing.

The original encaustic tiles survive to all verandah floors and pathways, and numbers 146 and 148 have original etched ruby glass side lights and transom lights. The original cast iron on bluestone plinth survives and runs the whole length of the terrace.

This terrace can be compared with other Walter Scott Law buildings: 93-105 Drummond Street, a three storey, more modest terrace house and "Benvenuta", 48 Drummond Street an ornate double storey arcaded residence.

This arcaded terrace is of considerable importance for the substantially intact state of preservation and the fine cement detailing to the facade (non painted). The original cast iron fence on bluestone plinth survives and is continuous across the front of the buildings. It provides possibly the best example of an ornate continuous boom style arcaded terrace in Melbourne and would be considerably enhanced by the removal of the glazing to the upper floor arcade.

The terrace forms an important streetscape element to the Nicholson Street precinct.

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3. Fitzroy Ratebooks. 1887-88. 128 Nicholson Street.  
Stone house 5 rooms £45. Leon Cohen Brick house 8 rooms £100.
  4. A. Sutherland (ed) *Victoria and its Metropolis* Vol. 2 p.643.  
article on Joseph Humphries.