

## Boot Factory - Bondi Junction



The Boot Factory in Spring Street, Bondi Junction, was built in 1892 by William Sidaway and Son, who had been in the boot production business from 1887, in Cowper Street, Bondi Junction.

The Factory, a three-storey building, was built well back on land fronting Spring Street. William Sidaway commenced the production of footwear at the factory soon after the building was completed. For an unknown reason the factory ceased production and was acquired by Mr. Fred Cull. This probably occurred in 1893. Mr. Cull had negotiations with Mr. James Bardon, also a footwear merchant from Randwick, to run the business from Spring Street. Mr. Thomas Bardon, brother of James, began production of high-class footwear under the auspices of George Cull and Sons. During 1920-21, Thomas Bardon purchased the Boot Factory from Mr. Cull and became the sole proprietor. Mr. Bardon died in 1938 and bequeathed the factory to his son, Thomas Charles Bardon. He carried on this flourishing business until he died in 1944 and left the entire factory to his wife and children, as well as the Caddy Family. Mr. Jim Caddy worked at the factory for many years, while his brother Herbert was manager until it closed.

The trustees of the Bardon estate authorised alterations to the building, including a general update of the workings of the plant to meet the rise of competition in the industry.

After World War II, the Bardon Boot Factory primarily produced fashion shoes for women. One well-known brand of the time, 'Sally Smart', was supplied to David Jones. Taylors Shoe Store of Bondi Junction sold many of the shoes produced at the factory and the tradition of quality footwear continued until it closed in 1969.

The Boot Factory was acquired in 1984, by Waverley Municipal Council which has restored the building as part of Waverley's Heritage.

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