THE advertisement below appeared in The Pretoria News in 1930 during the city’s 75th anniversary. The shop was John Jack Ltd at the north-eastern corner of Church Street and Van der Walt Street.

John Jack also had interests on the Reef, having teamed up with a Mr Simmer and founded the Simmer & Jack Gold Mine around 1886. And John Jack laid out a town at the mine — which he named Germiston, after his birthplace and ancestral home in Scotland.

The corner premises shown in the picture were bought by John Jack from E F Bourke who became the first elected mayor of Pretoria in 1903. Today the corner is occupied by Garlicks (picture alongside).

(Pretoriana picture submitted by Tom Andrews of the Old Pretoria Society. Text by staff writer Daan de Beer.)
PRÉTORIA is studded with historic places. New buildings and other structures have replaced well remembered landmarks. As a special feature, The Pretoria News publishes pictures every Friday showing how time has wrought changes to sites in the city; we print early photographs of the sites with photographs of them as they are now (although a new building sometimes obscures the view). Should any readers have pictures of Old Pretoria showing landmarks which have changed dramatically over the years, please forward them with a note saying when and where they were taken to the News Editor of The Pretoria News at PO Box 439, Pretoria 0001, or hand them in at the News Room, Second Floor, 216 Vermeulen Street. Unfortunately, The Pretoria News cannot be responsible for loss or damage to any photographs.

And this is the VALUE HOUSE that JOHN JACK built in PRETORIA.

Pioneers of Reduced Cost of Living.

RELIABLE in Weights and Measures.

ECONOMICAL in Value.

DURABLE in Quality.

All Goods Marked in Plain Figures.

THE VALUE HOUSE L. LTD.

302 CHURCH ST., PRETORIA.

This is the House that JOHN JACK built.

This is the House that JOHN JACK built.

1885

1930