



Nomination Case Study

Betro Abicare (Abikhair)

Lebanese migrant and businessman
(c1870–1938)

Betro Abicare (sometimes spelt Abikhair) was a recipient of one of the first 21 Blue Plaques in NSW and his nomination is a great example of the goals of the Blue Plaque NSW program.

Portrait of Betro Abicare, c. 1902. Image courtesy of Mark Abicare.

Nomination Case Study: Betro Abicare

About the recipient

Betro was a Lebanese immigrant, builder and entrepreneur who was nominated for his significant contribution to the development of Albury's town centre. In 1912 he erected a building known both as 'The Big Store' and 'The Australian Building' in Albury's town centre. In 1927, he built the magnificent Regent Theatre on the opposite corner. Both buildings remain as notable Albury landmarks to this day.



The Big Store, Dean Street Albury, c. 1950. Image courtesy Albury City Collection ARM 16.163

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Why this nomination was successful



The nominator noted that Betro also represents the important contribution the early Lebanese community made to develop the commercial development of Albury. While Betro is less well known than some other Blue Plaque recipients, his story had an important impact on Albury and on Australia's early Lebanese community.

The nominator proposed 'The Big Store' as the location for Betro's Blue Plaque and attained the property owner's written support for the nomination. The proposed location was

visible, accessible and the nominator identified that there were no other plaques or statues of Betro in the area. They also submitted a summary of Betro and his contribution to Albury which was confirmed in primary and secondary sources by our independent historians.

Heritage NSW worked with the property owner of 'The Big Store' to finalise the location of the plaque.

The Betro Abicare Blue Plaque was

unveiled on the corner of the 'Big Store' on 7 November 2022.

For more information about Betro Abicare read his digital story on the Blue Plaques website:
<https://blueplaques.nsw.gov.au/blue-plaques/locations/betro-abicare>.