

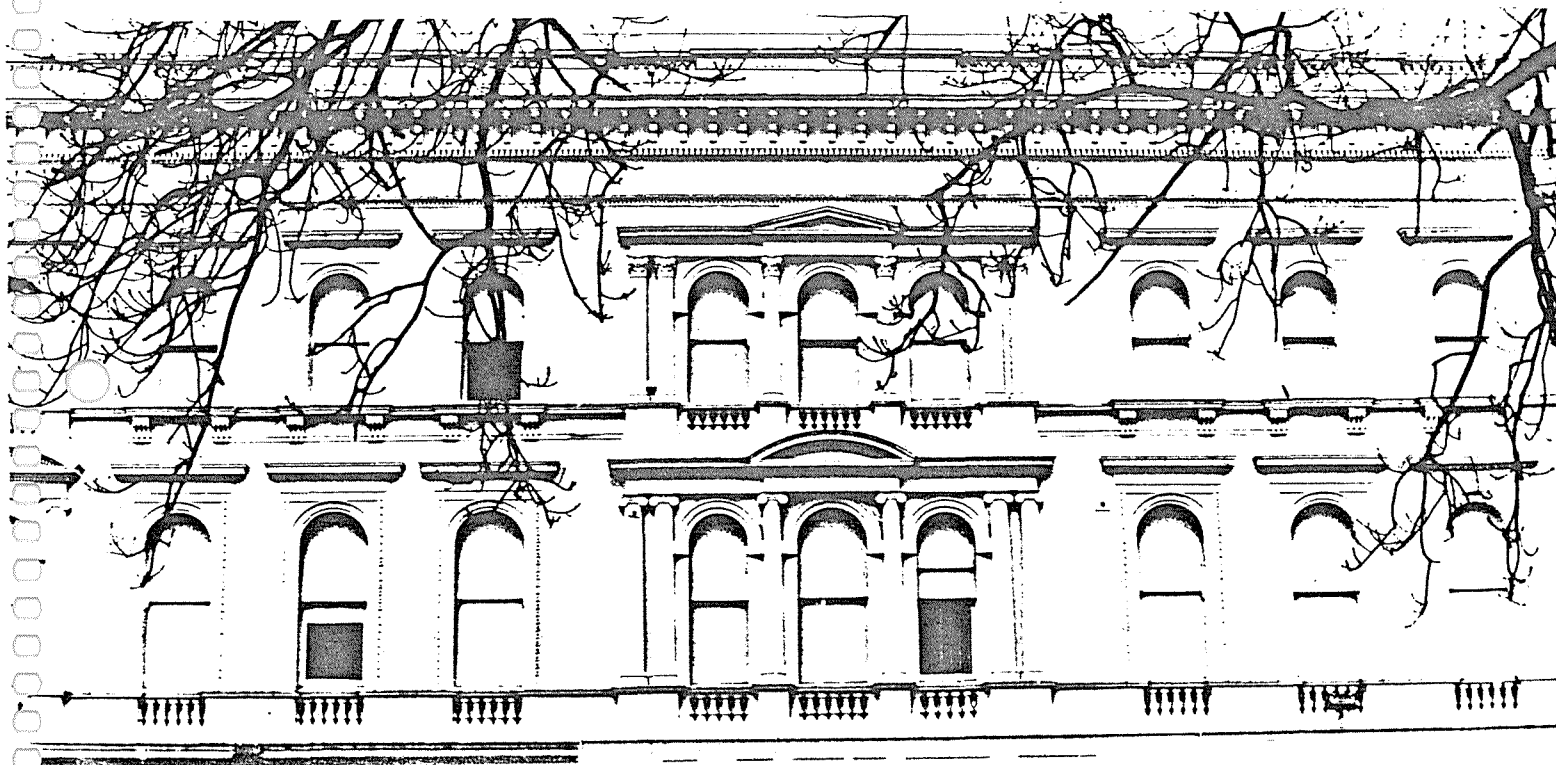
## MITCHELL'S BUILDING

Sturt Street, corner Armstrong Street

erected 1869-71

architect: H.R.Caselli

contractor: William Blomeley (cast iron verandah)



## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Mitchell's Building be added to the Historic Buildings Register, the Register of the National Estate and be specified using the provisions of Clause 8 of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1961* (Third Schedule).

## BUILDING HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

One of the earliest large retailing outlets in West Ballarat was that of R.J. Mitchell. His shop was begun twelve months before the adjacent Town Hall, and when completed, Mitchell's Building surpassed even David Jones and L.S. Christie's large drapery establishment on the opposite corner of Sturt Street and Armstrong Street.<sup>1</sup>

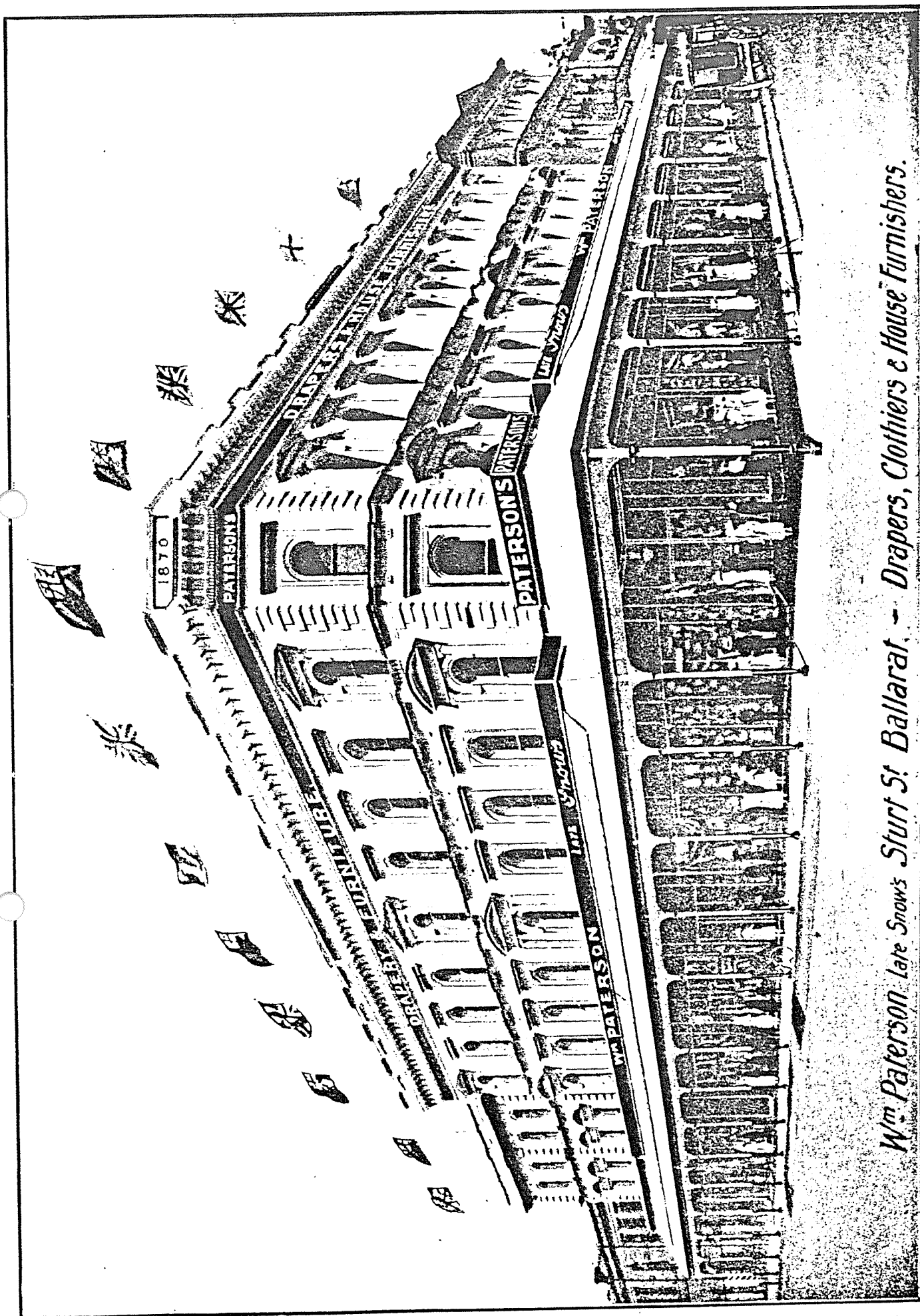
Mitchell's Building, erected at a cost of £10,000, had one of Ballarat's earliest cast iron verandahs, designed by H.R. Caselli and cast by local foundryman William Blomeley.<sup>2</sup> The original verandah was a simple post supported construction and this was later modified to include long clerestory sections along Sturt Street and Armstrong Street with a superb pavilion at the corner junction. Lighting provided by the clerestory sections was also supplemented by glazed panels running along the corrugated iron verandah roof.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Weston Bate, *Lucky City*, M.U.P. 1978, p.178.

2. *ibid*, p.179 (also includes photograph dated 1871).

3. Illustrated in *Ballarat Illustrated*, c.1919, facsimile edition, 1972, p.36.



*Wm Paterson late Snow's Sturt St Ballarat. - Drapers, Clothiers & House Furnishers.*

Mitchell's Building, c.1919 (Illustrated in *Ballarat Illustrated*)

The building itself is of three storeys, although the ground floor has now been completely altered. The two upper floors have arched windows set in rectangular surrounds capped by a small cornice. Further articulation is provided by the end windows and a central tripartite arrangement of windows on the Sturt Street facade. The end windows have pediments; semi-circular on the first floor and triangular on the upper floor, and this device is also employed on the central tripartite section. Balustrading is provided at the base of each first floor window as well as the major upper windows, and the balustrading is repeated on the parapet, with a central panel bearing the incised name MITCHELL'S BUILDING occurring over the tripartite window. The edges of the facade are defined by simple quoining and a splayed corner faces the Sturt Street-Armstrong Street intersection.

Today Mitchell's Building no longer possesses its post supported verandah or original shopfronts, but the intact facade and the early date of construction make it a building of great individual merit. As well, its location in Sturt Street and Armstrong Street, in the vicinity of the Town Hall makes Mitchell's Building a most significant element in the streetscape.

(It should be noted that Mitchell's Building was identified as part of area A1.1 LYDIARD STREET AND RELATED AREAS in part one of the study. Refer "Ballarat Conservation Study", Part One, 1978, Volume One, p.99.)