

BUILDING TITLE *OLD COLONISTS' HALL*
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA *16-24 LYDIARD STREET NORTH*

NATIONAL ESTATE PROJECT No.
DOCUMENTATION OF LISTED HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN VICTORIA

DESIGNATION H.B.P.C. REGISTER No. *116* NATIONAL TRUST (C) FILE No.

BUILDING TYPE *HALL / SHOPS*
 BUILDING NAME *OLD COLONISTS' HALL*
 STATE *VICTORIA*
 LOCAL GOVT AREA *BALLARAT*
 STREET *LYDIARD NORTH No. 16-24*
 SUBURB/TOWN *BALLARAT C.B.D.*
 CITY *BALLARAT* POSTCODE *3350*
 RURAL
 NEAREST CENTRE Km.



TITLE REFERENCE Vol Fol
 DIRECTORY
 NEGATIVE FILE *FILM 1 / FRAME 21*

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION
 DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION *JULY 1978*

OWNERSHIP ORIGINAL *OLD COLONISTS ASSOCIATION / CLUB ROOMS*
 PRESENT *OLD COLONISTS ASSOCIATION*
 ADDRESS

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE
 BUILDER
 ARTISANS/TRADES

TENDERS REFERENCE
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION *1887-1889*
 ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE
 ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS *1901 VERANDAH ALTERED / MOLLOY & SMITH ARCHITECTS*

BUILDING CITATION

This building was constructed in 1887-89 for a cost of £4,500. The verandah was designed by Molloy and Smith, Architects and built in 1901.

The club was originally established by early inhabitants of Ballarat, some of whom were associated with the Eureka uprising.

The building comprises a restrained Renaissance facade, 4 bays of shops on the ground floor and a central arched entrance to the club rooms. An arcaded window treatment on the first floor is broken by a central window surmounted by a triangular pediment and flanked by engaged columns. The parapet is an elegant design. A balustraded section flanks a broken pedimental motif. The two level verandah is of interest with a central triangular gablet on the roof infilled by an unusual decorative iron panel. Internally there is an elaborate stair, hall and skylight. The building provides a particularly important example of a double storey verandah of a refined design associated with an elegant facade, and an interior of some interest. It is externally intact other than the ground floor shop fronts, and internally, the more important features have been retained.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this building be retained on the Historic Buildings Register the Register of the National Estate and that it be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule):

DOCUMENTATION SOURCES

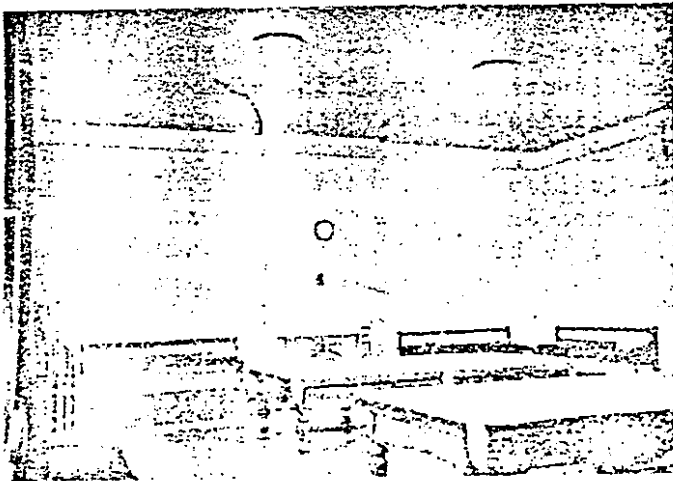
- 01 GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 02 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 03 ARCHIVES/CATALOGUES
- 04 ARCHITECTS INDEX
- 05 ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS/ILLUSTRATIONS
- 06 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS
- 07 NATIONAL TRUST FILE/ HISTORIC BUILDINGS PRESERVATION COUNCIL FILE
- 08 PRIVATE RECORDS

02 BUILDING PERMITS BOOKS, B.C.C.

06. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BALLARAT MINING EXCHANGE
1895 and 1900 HELD AT BALLARAT LIBRARY.
(SHOW THE OLD COLONISTS CLUB).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. COURIER 21 JUNE 1887
2. PHILLIP ABSON 'THE OLD COLONISTS' ASSOCIATION OF BALLARAT'. A BRIEF HISTORY
3. BALLARAT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 'SPIELVOGEL PAPERS' HELD AT BALLARAT REGIONAL LIBRARY



ASSESSMENT OF LISTING

CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT

SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING

LANDSCAPE/STREETScape/ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE PART OF RECOMMENDED AREA A.I.I.

DOCUMENTATION JACOBS LEWIS VINES DATE SEPTEMBER 1978.
ARCHITECTS 140

THE OLD COLONISTS HALL - 16-24 LYDIARD STREET

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

The site was formerly occupied by the barracks and stables of the gold escort.¹ The foundation stone for this building was laid on 21st June 1887² and completed in 1889. Although the *Courier* carried details of the ceremony, no mention was made of the architect or builder. The cost of the building was £4,700.³ However more is known about the verandah. A permit for its construction was obtained by Molloy and Smith, Architects, on 5 February 1901⁴ and was added the same year.⁵ Club members originally comprised early arrivals to Ballarat and included people associated with the Eureka uprising. It was named the Old Colonists Association in 1883.⁶

The building, excluding the verandah, is a restrained Renaissance Revival composition. The ground floor is divided into 4 bays of shop fronts with a central arched entrance to the club rooms. The original shop fronts have been removed and replaced with a variety of later shop fronts; the right hand shop has some character - an elaborate design with bronze frames and leadlights. The banded piers dividing these shops and the elaborate treatment of the semi-circular arched clubrooms entrance have fortunately survived, as have the original bolection moulded entrance doors.

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1. Phillip Abson "The Old Colonists' Association of Ballarat, A Brief History", p.3.
 2. *Courier* 21 June 1887.
 3. Spielvogel Papers, p.178.
 4. Building Permits Book B.C.C.
 5. Spielvogel loc. cit.
 6. Abson, loc. cit.

THE OLD COLONISTS HALL - 16-24 LYDIARD STREET

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION (contd.)

The fenestration of the upper floor is a simple repetition of elements, a structural representation of part incised piers supporting an arcade of semi-circular arches which is broken only by a central window section. This consists of a tabernacle motif capped by a segmental arch pediment over the front entrance which is flanked by engaged columns. The parapet is notable for having two levels. The lower section comprises a bracketed cornice projected forward over the entrance.

The upper level is elegantly balustraded and extends above only the two central bays and entrance. It is finished with pedestals and scrolls. The upper level flanks a central interrupted triangular pediment which houses the Old Colonists Association Coat of Arms in full relief. There are six urns located at each change in profile of the parapet.

The verandah, as discussed earlier, is a later addition. Early photographs show it first with no verandah and then with a single storey convex roof.⁷ The present verandah is constructed in two levels. The ground floor has slender iron Corinthian columns equally spaced except for the narrower entrance bay. The fine decorative iron frieze is of a design specified by the City of Ballarat in 1908.⁸ The first floor comprises similar columns to the ground floor, only more slender. The balustrading employs an interesting alternate sequence of decorative iron panels and simple balusters.

The iron frieze is enclosed and supported by decorative iron brackets with pendants. The roof is convex corrugated iron with a transverse triangular gablet enclosing an unusual decorative iron panel and capped with an elaborate iron finial.

7. Photographs of Ballarat Mining Exchange c.1895 and c.1900 held at Ballarat Library.

8. "Plan referred to by Regulation No.39 Relating to Porticos over footpaths etc." 12/8/08. Ballarat City Council.

THE OLD COLONISTS HALL - 16-24 LYDIARD STREET

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION (contd.)

At the rear of the building there is a first floor balcony off the billiard room with iron columns and a decorative frieze.

The interior is also of special interest. The entrance hall has an elaborate skylight with coved and ribbed surrounds and a rectangular lantern structure. The stairs have decorative iron balustrading with tiles and wood graining, recently redone, allegedly by the original craftsman.

The club rooms are on the first floor; the front rooms are still in an essentially intact but painted condition. The billiard room at the rear is also of special interest. The deeply coved cornices return elegantly over the fireplace. There are large ceiling roses and smaller ventillating rosettes. There is much original furniture and equipment.

