

BUILDING TITLE UNION HOTEL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF BALLAARAT

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

DESIGNATION H.B.P.C. REGISTER No. NATIONAL TRUST ☒ ☒ FILE No.

BUILDING TYPE HOTEL
BUILDING NAME UNION HOTEL
STATE VICTORIA
LOCAL GOVT AREA CITY OF BALLAARAT
STREET STURT No. 11
SUBURB/TOWN BALLARAT C.B.D
CITY BALLAARAT POSTCODE 3350
RURAL
NEAREST CENTRE Km.

TITLE REFERENCE Vol Fol
DIRECTORY
NEGATIVE FILE FILM 8/FRAME 17

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION
DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION JULY 1978



OWNERSHIP ORIGINAL JOSEPH RETALLACK
PRESENT BALLARAT BREWING CO LTD.
ADDRESS 309 DANA ST. BALLARAT

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE
BUILDER
ARTISANS/TRADES

TENDERS
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1863
ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

REFERENCE

BUILDING CITATION

The Union Hotel was built by J. Retallack in 1863 who previously had owned and presumably operated a blacksmith's forge on this site. The building is of an exceptionally pleasing composition. It employs Tuscan Doric engaged columns and pilasters at first floor level and slender Corinthian pilasters to the first and second floors. The building is a composition in five bays, at the first floor level two side bays contain elaborate and interesting relief panels, with central French doors and flanking matching windows. Originally there was a flat open decked verandah with balustrades. At second floor level there are five delicate arched windows. The top floor is surmounted by a balustraded parapet flanking a large name plate. With the exception of the verandah and ground floor doors and windows, the building is externally intact. The building is of major importance as a building type of the late gold rush period that has virtually disappeared, this apparently being the only survivor. The building is of most elegant design.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this building be added to the Historic Buildings Register, the Register of the National Estate, and 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
 - 01. LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION RECORDS
 - 02 1862 VALUATION BOOK
 - 1863 VALUATION BOOK

06 STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA, LATROBE LIBRARY
C1890 H 8061 "WHITEHOUSES UNION HOTEL"

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1. COLE COLLECTION, HELD STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA, LATROBE LIBRARY.
- 2. JHARGREAVES, BALLARAT HOTELS P.88.

ASSESSMENT OF LISTING

CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING VERANDAH REMOVED

SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING

LANDSCAPE/STREETScape/ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE PART OF RECOMMENDED
AREA A1.2

DOCUMENTATION JACOBS LEWIS VINES DATE SEPTEMBER 1978.
ARCHITECTS 283

UNION HOTEL, 11 STURT STREET
BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

The first licence for a Union Hotel was issued in 1858¹, but the hotel would appear to have been on a different site or lapsed before 1862, as the Council Valuation Book for that year gives the owner of the site as J.Retallack and a Blacksmith operated on the site. In 1863 J.Retallack still owned the site but a brick hotel had been constructed, operated by W.B.Laurence. The hotel has operated without a change of name since that time.

This building is an exceptionally pleasing Renaissance derived composition. At ground floor level, in a Tuscan Doric order, are a pair of engaged columns flanking the central entrance with a pair of pilasters flanking the two narrow side openings. There are central French doors at the first floor, designed to open onto a deck over the verandah which has since been demolished. This open deck was originally surrounded with a decorative balustrade in a similar manner to the Club Hotel, Clunes. This was apparently an American innovation, at one time quite widespread in Ballarat, as indicated by early photographs and a number of central French doors in existing buildings in Bridge and Sturt Streets.

A pair of windows flank the central French doors, which they are designed to match. In the narrow end bays are interesting decorative panels in relief of urns, foliage and putti. The windows and doors are surmounted by masks and the bays are defined by Corinthian pilasters.

In the upper floor, delicate arched windows are placed in all five bays, defined by another order of Corinthian pilasters below a bracketted cornice. The parapet is finished with a balustraded parapet flanking a large name plate above which is a small date plate marked 1863.

There is a gabled glass roof lantern located above the stairs, clearly visible from Sturt Street.

1. Liquor Control Commission records.

UNION HOTEL, 11 STURT STREET (contd.)

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

The building is externally intact but the ground floor interior has been extensively altered.

In summary a strong, elegant, vertical emphasis is produced by the first and second floor openings and the orders of Corinthian pilasters. The relief panels are of an interesting design, characteristic of this early period.

The building is of statewide importance as apparently the only surviving example of this style of hotel building of this period; the early part of Craig's Hotel is contemporary to this building, but is of a completely different design.

In addition this is a particularly elegant building of a most attractive design which immediately evokes the atmosphere of the late gold rush period in Ballarat.