

BUILDING TITLE THE LOG TAVERN
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 SHOP
BUILDING NAME
STATE VICTORIA
LOCAL GOVT AREA CITY OF BALLAARAT
STREET STURT No. 23
SUBURB/TOWN BALLARAT
CITY BALLAARAT POSTCODE 3350
RURAL
NEAREST CENTRE Km.

TITLE REFERENCE Vol Fol
DIRECTORY
NEGATIVE FILE FILM 2 / FRAME 6

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION
DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION JULY 1978

OWNERSHIP ORIGINAL
PRESENT A. MITRAS & C. KOUTSOVASILIS
ADDRESS 4/- 5 PARKWOOD STREET, ALFREDTON 3350

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE
BUILDER
ARTISANS/TRADES

TENDERS
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1891
ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

REFERENCE

BUILDING CITATION

This building is an Edwardian Flemish baroque composition employing the use of contrasting materials and colour to special effect. The principal element of the first floor is the recessed balcony and its intact windows. There are two arches which enclose the verandah, of which the archivolt is rusticated with radial panels of brickwork. Above this is an elaborate gable with coloured tiles, principally a striking blue colour. Internally the stairwell is of considerable interest with late art nouveau work with pressed metal ceilings and skylight open and elaborate joinery and leadlights. The building is extraordinarily intact, particularly the external red brick, render, tiles and paint finishes. It is a unique and important example of the use of colour in architecture, heralding the emergence of a conscious Australian style.

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

02 RATEBOOK

1900 23 STURT ST. DEARDON, JOHN, PHOTOGRAPHER, BRICK STUDIO
OWNER, EXEC. OF THE LATE THOMAS BELSON.

04. DATE GIVEN AS 1891.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BALLARAT PROGRESS ASSOC. GUIDE TO BALLARAT 1905/1906 P.2

ASSESSMENT OF LISTING

CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING SHOP FRONT ALTERED

SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING

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

DOCUMENTATION JACOBS LEWIS VINES DATE SEPTEMBER 1978

ARCHITECTS 290

THE LOG TAVERN, 23 STURT STREET
BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

This building was constructed in 1891¹, apparently for Thomas Belson, and was operated as a photographic studio in 1900 by John Deardon.²

This building is an Edwardian composition in Elizabethan/Flemish Baroque. Although the ground floor has been altered, the rest of the building exterior and interior is amazingly intact. There is a large arch over the ground floor which is surmounted by a recessed balcony behind two arches of which the archivolt is rusticated by radial panels of brickwork and render. The balcony has two projecting bay windows, notable for the apparently original red painted finish and leadlight highlights. The arched section is surmounted by panels of striking blue ceramic tiles and an elaborate gable section including three circular oculi; a course of impost blocks flanked by scrolls and a panel capped in a recessed pediment, and flanked by brick quadrants.

The building is externally intact above first floor level, particularly the finishes, natural cement, blue tiles, face brick and the apparently original red paint on the joinery in the balcony recess.

Externally some comparison may be made with a red brick and tile panelled house at Kyneton. However in form this building has no surviving comparative examples.

Accordingly this building is considered to be of statewide importance, representing an important and intact example of faience work with contrasting materials. This design approach was popularized by architects such as Nahum Barnet. The use of coloured contrasting materials was considered more suitable to the bright Antipodean skies than plain stucco.³ This building in fact bears some relationship to Barnet's work of the 1890's, since demolished.

1. Architects Index.

2. City of Ballarat 1900 Ratebook.

3. Nahum Barnet wrote an extension article in the *Victorian Review* November 1, 1882. qd. Nigel Lewis "Biographical Study of Nahum Barnet 1895-1931" Investigation Programme, School of Architecture, Nov. 1974.

THE LOG TAVERN, 23 STURT STREET (contd.)

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

Internally the shop section has been altered but the stairwell of the upper level is largely intact with late art nouveau decoration, pressed metal ceilings and cornice, and a skylight opening on to one side - all done in pressed metal.

There are windows in leadlight post art nouveau glazing, door surrounds in the Greek revival fashion with roundels at the corners and moulded architrave in between. The doors are fairly coarse, with six panels with the same roundel corner motif in the frame of each panel, and basket work decoration inside the panel.

The newel post at the top of the stairs on the left hand side is an open work one consisting of four round colonettes carrying a pyramidal top and a little object like a lantern light rising above that, while along the side of the stairway is a dado in relief paper work, now unfortunately painted over. To all intents and purposes, the upper floor is more or less intact.