

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 149

Richard Peterson Architect & Conservation Consultant. Daniel Catrice Historian 1994.

NAME: Court House Hotel.			
PREVIOUS NAME: Purday & Smith Saddlery.			
ADDRESS: Main Street (NE cnr Gisborne Road).			
TITLE DETAILS:			
USE: Hotel			
PREVIOUS USE: Saddlery, (1857-64).			
SIGNIFICANT DATE: 1857		CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1911	
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:		DATE: 1928	
DESIGNER: J.B. Grut/ Rupert Taylor.		BUILDER: - /J.F. Taylor	
CRITERIA: H2:/ H1,4; Ar1,3; So3.		SOURCE: 1	
HISTORIC THEME: Township, Community life, Transport.		SOURCE: 1	
DESCRIPTION:		STORIES: 2	
MATERIALS:		STRUCTURE: Lb	
CONDITION: Reasonable		INTACTNESS: First Floor, good	
THREATS: Road widening.			
SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:			
FORM. FACADE. ROOF FORM. USE.			
EAVES DECORATION. ROOF DECORATION.			
CHIMNEYS. ? WINDOWS. CONTEXT 148, 147.			
SIGNIFICANCE:			
TYPE: HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SOCIAL.			
LEVEL: LOCAL.			
DESIGNATION EXISTING: Nil			
RECOMMENDED CONTROL: PLANNING SCHEME. AREA 1.			
MAP NO: U4.07		SURVEY: DC & RP	
DATE: 15.1.94		NEGS: 12.4	



HISTORY: Joseph Purday and Alfred Smith purchased the land at the corner of Main Street and Gisborne Road in 1857, establishing a saddlery to take advantage of the passing trade. Smith later moved to the Pentland Hills, and Purday, now in partnership with Henry Tanner converted the shop into a single storey hotel. A licence was granted for the premises on 1 July 1864. Henry Tanner was a keen member of the Prince of Wales Volunteer Light Horse, and the Werribee Lodge of the G.U.O.O.F. Both associations held meetings at the hotel, and Tanner, ever obliging had their insignia painted on the hotel parapet. Tanner was proprietor at the hotel until his death in 1875, after which his wife, Ann, became licensee. The hotel remained in Purday's estate until sold, *circa* 1949, to John Tyquin.¹

In 1911, the Court House Hotel was demolished and rebuilt in brick to a so-called "Swiss Chalet" style designed by architect, J.B. Grut. Between 1886 and 1913, Mr Grut designed at least eighteen hotels and houses in Melbourne.² Further alterations were carried out in 1928 when the Main Street facade was extended by local builder, J.F. Taylor, to a design by his son, architect Rupert Taylor.³

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: An Edwardian, two-storey brick corner hotel with some Old English characteristics. It has a Marseilles terra-cotta unglazed terra-cotta tile roof, with cresting and finials. There are three bays to Gisborne Road, and four bays to Main Street. Each bay, (except two to Main Street and one to Gisborne Road) has a jettied upper gable, timbered on joists and brackets, with pendant barges with discs. There is apron decoration beneath first floor windows.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: There are six early operating hotels in the Shire, five of which are in the town (also refs: 71, 72, 153, 157 and 263). All have their own individual significance, the others are building complexes that have developed over time. This is the only hotel designed by an architect and built at the one time. Mr Grut was also architect for the additions to the Border Inn (ref: 153) in the same year, 1911.

SIGNIFICANCE: An Edwardian two-storey corner brick hotel designed by the architect J.B. Grut, with some characteristics of the Old English style and built in 1911. It was altered in 1928 to Rupert Taylor's design. There was continuity in the Purday family's ownership from c1857 until 1949.

It is of local historical significance for its association with developments in the community life of the town, as a business on the route to the goldfields, for its hospitality since the 1850s and as a representative embodiment of the community's life for over eighty years.

¹ "Court House Hotel", Local History File, BMDHS.

² Lewis, M. (Ed.). *Australian Architects' Index* (School of Architecture and Building, University of Melbourne) & Lewis, M., *Architectural Survey Final Report*, University of Melbourne, Melbourne 1977, p.43.

³ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 18 February 1928.

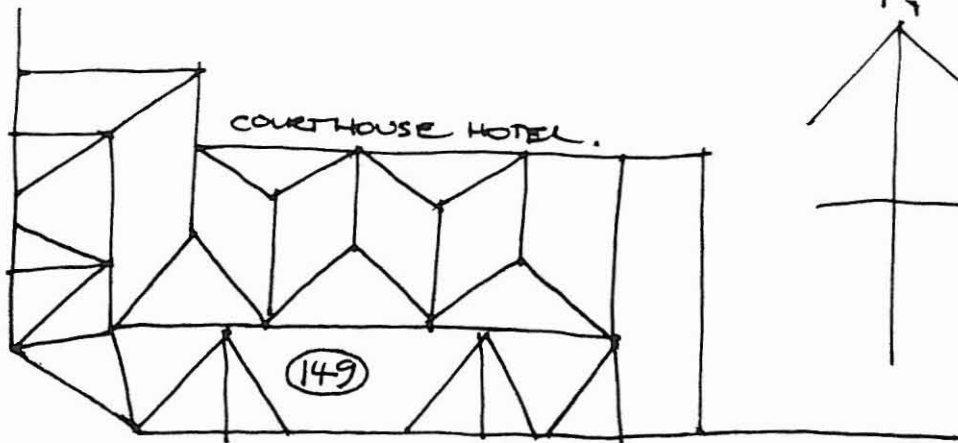
It is of local architectural significance as a representative and relatively intact example of an Edwardian style hotel, and social significance as traditional focus and meeting place for the community and for travellers.

INTACTNESS: Good above ground floor level. Verandah is demolished. Brickwork is painted.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Reasonable. Road widening?

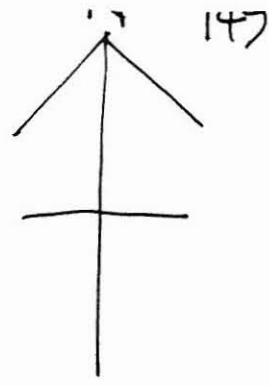


GISBORNE ROAD



COURTHOUSE HOTEL.

MAIN STREET



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