

<b>Building:</b>	Tower Hotel	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	838-52 Heidelberg Road, Alphington	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	31 A11
<b>Building Type:</b>	Hotel	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1891
<b>Architect:</b>	T Anthoness?	<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown



<b>Intactness:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
G[ ] F[x] P[ ]		G[x] F[ ] P[ ]	
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>		<b>Recommended Heritage Listings:</b>	
Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]	Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]
Register of the National Estate	[ ]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[ ]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

## **History**

Hotels were established along Heidelberg Road in Alphington from the early 1850s, contemporary with Manning's first suburban subdivision of Charles Roemer's rural paddocks. These included the Darebin Bridge hotel, across Darebin Creek, which had been owned by William Dunn since the 1850s. Further west, Joseph G Foulkes owned the Alphington Hotel in the 1860s, which still survives, and Thomas H Bear leased a wine shop called the Vine Hotel to publicans Emmanuel King and Roger Croker.

Further east and, not far from the Darebin Bridge hotel, Thomas Wills of Lucerne Farm leased a modest hotel to John Leas in the late 1860s. It was possibly these premises that William Luscombe leased as the Half-way House Hotel in the 1880s, which was owned and occupied by Bridget Fawcett until 1891. In that year William George Frew purchased the hotel and rebuilt it as the Tower Hotel, possibly to the design of architect, T Anthoness. Two years later Frew sold the building to Ellen Murphy who later sold it to Eliza Peters.

The hotel occupies a corner site at the intersection of Heidelberg and Old Heidelberg Roads. The original ford crossing prior to 1856 again became a crossing place after 1903, and the re-routed road transverses the north side of the hotel.

Graeme Butler. *Northcote Urban Conservation Study*. 1982.

## **Description**

The Tower Hotel is a two-storey building of rendered masonry construction, with a three-storey tower at the corner, designed in an ornate Italianate style. Ground and first floor facades are articulated by paired rusticated vermiculated pilasters supporting modillioned cornices. Windows are semi-circular arched double-hung sashes embellished with Corinthian pilasters, moulded archivolts and keystones. An oriel window is located on the tower at first floor level.

Alterations include the infilling of a number of window and door openings, painting of the render, and the addition of numerous signs.

## **Significance**

The Tower Hotel at 838-52 Heidelberg Road, Alphington, is of local architectural and historical interest. The hotel is a good example of the Italianate style, notable for its ornate rendered facade, three-storey tower and asymmetrical composition. The hotel is a significant local landmark, on axis with Heidelberg Road.

The site has been continuously occupied by a hotel since the 1860s.

## **Original Source**

Graeme Butler. *Northcote Urban Conservation Study*. 1982.