

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Bush Inn Hotel

Project File No: 0893

Address: 58 Corio Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1855-1856

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 10.17

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site is located on part of Allotment 17, Section 36, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1858. Corio Street, with uninterrupted views over the bay, was the business centre of Geelong in the 1850s, and the Bush Inn was one of Geelong's earliest hotels.

The hotel was built some time in 1855-56. There is no record of the architect or builder but it may have been designed by Snell and Kawerau, architects of Geelong. They were responsible for the similarly designed Great Western Hotel in 1854. It was originally a freestone building with a slate roof and simpler parapet, and was accompanied by two adjoining brick cottages when Edward Marron bought the property. After Marron, the hotel was taken over by Thomas Puflett, followed in 1859 by his son, James.

In 1901 the business was acquired by the Volum Brewing Company, which carried out numerous alterations and additions, including the stepped parapets. In 1913 a dining room, kitchen and scullery were added to the rear of the building and in 1926 Buchan Laird and Buchan integrated one of the adjoining cottages with the hotel, its roof being removed, and six bedrooms added upstairs. The four stables at the back were converted into garages. It is not known what happened to the second cottage. In 1934, Buchan Laird and Buchan, architects, were again commissioned to replace an upstairs bedroom

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with a bathroom, and internal walls were relocated. In December 1935 and in 1937 further small alterations were made and a hot water service installed.

The Volum Brewing Company was bought out by the Ballarat Brewing Company in 1952, and they were still the owners of the hotel in 1990. Renovations carried out by the Ballarat Brewing Company have included painting and plumbing in July 1954, the alteration of two single bedrooms in July, 1956, removal of a wall in the downstairs bar in November 1961, and various other modifications in the period 1961-1964. A major renovation occurred in 1988 to create more open space downstairs, replacing the old kitchen and servery, and altering the decor.

Description

The site at 58 Corio Street, Geelong, is dominated by the two storey Bush Inn Hotel building. This building is situated in one of the earliest commercial areas in Geelong developed in the 1850s.

The two storey, rendered freestone (with later overpainting), Victorian styled hotel building is characterised by large stepped parapets, straight angled corner and prominent quoinwork about the building corners and openings. The building has several window openings, with timber framed double hung windows, and more recent timber framed windows on the ground floor. The building is accessed through a corner doorway, and through single door openings on the side facades. These timber framed and glazed doors have been introduced.

Other early features of the design include the title panels and projecting mouldings in the stepped parapets, projecting masonry window sills, and the projecting masonry plinth.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The Bush Inn Hotel building, 58 Corio Street, Geelong, has significance as one of Geelong's earliest hotel buildings, having been constructed in c.1855-56. It has a capacity to demonstrate the early hotel industry in Geelong over an extended period from the mid 19th century. The building is reasonably externally intact, having experienced some changes, and has possibly been designed by the early Geelong architects, Snell and Kawerau.

The Bush Inn Hotel building, 58 Corio Street, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the large stepped parapets, straight angled corner and prominent quoinwork about the building corners and openings. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the timber framed double hung windows, corner doorway, single door openings on the side facades, title panels and projecting mouldings in the stepped parapets, projecting masonry window sills, and the projecting masonry plinth.

The Bush Inn Hotel building, 58 Corio Street, is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with the development of the hotel industry in Geelong from an early period in the mid 1850s. The building possibly also has associations with the Geelong architects, Snell and Kawerau.

The Bush Inn Hotel building, 58 Corio Street, is socially significant at a LOCAL level. It is recognised and valued by sections of the Geelong community as a long time recreational meeting place.

Overall, the Bush Inn Hotel building, 58 Corio Street, is of LOCAL significance.

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References

P. Black, 'The Bush Inn Hotel', research project, School of Architecture & Building, Deakin University, 14 July, 1990.

Black cited the following sources:-

Map of the County of Grant

Buchan Laird and Buchan, Contract, Account and Day Books, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong City Council Rate Books, Kardinia Ward.

W.J. Morrow, 'Geelong Advertiser Index'.

"Investigator", Journal of the Geelong Historical Society, Vols. 2 & 8.

Pamphlet: HL8 "Bush Inn Geelong".

Oral evidence of Hotel Manager, 1990.