

Building:

"Grace Darling" Hotel, 144 Smith Street



<u>Allotment Reference:</u>	52
<u>National Trust Register:</u>	Classified
<u>National Estate Register:</u>	Recommended
<u>Historic Buildings Council Register:</u>	Registered
<u>Location within Precinct:</u>	Collingwood Slope
<u>Photograph Date:</u>	12.6.87
<u>Grantee:</u>	S.A. Donaldson
<u>Original Owner:</u>	
<u>Present Owner:</u>	

574

Original Use: Hotel

Present Use: Vacant

Construction Date: 1854

Architect: George Wharton

Builder:

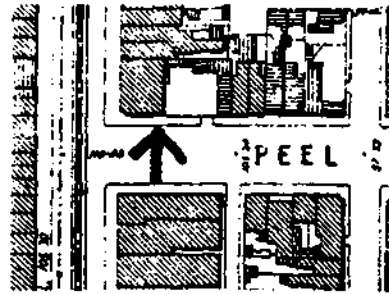
Description: A two storeyed early Victorian bluestone hotel with stuccoed portion facing Peel Street. The facade stonework is rusticated and tuckpointed, the simple cornice stuccoed, the stringcourse of plain stucco and the window dressings important decorative elements relieving the otherwise simple facade treatment. The hipped roofs are concealed behind an undecorated parapet wall, the western portion being lined with corrugated iron and the eastern with slate.

Condition: Good

Integrity: Good

History: Donaldson, the grantee, sold his land to Captain Charles Hutton, pastoralist and early member of the Melbourne Club during the 1840's. In 1852, Hutton began to subdivide his holding, selling lots 1, 172, 173 and 174 (site of the "Grace Darling") to Thomas Risby, a timber merchant from Tasmania. Risby became the first licensee in December, 1854, a tender notice by the successful hotel architect, George Wharton, appearing in "The Argus" on 25.1.1853 for a bluestone hotel at Collingwood.

The 1856-57 Victorian Electoral Roll lists Thomas Riseby, gentleman, as the owner of the hotel, whilst the 1858 Hodgkinson map shows the western portion of the building as it is today. The hotel name commemorates the heroine of the wreck of the "Forfarshire" of 1838. It was sold to John Woods in 1870 and altered at that time. The MMBW 1897 litho shows the buildings in that year.



It was in 1892 that a committee meeting associated with the formation of the Collingwood Football Club was held here. In 1928 Smith Ogg and Serpell, architects, undertook the sympathetic extension visible along Peel Street, whilst further works have been undertaken since that time.

**Significance:**

The Grace Darling hotel is important at the State level as one of the few remaining 1850's hotels in Melbourne. It is an important extant work of the prolific architect, George Wharton, who appears to have designed the Victoria Brewery old brew tower nearby and was associated also with work at the Northumberland Street distillery of Thomas Aitken. It is of regional importance as a major bluestone building in Collingwood and is one of the earliest buildings to survive in the municipality. It is important, also, as a meeting place and social venue within Collingwood since 1854.

**Recommendations:**

Recommended for inclusion on the National Estate Register and for planning scheme protection.

**References:**

Kellaway, C., research notes for MPE, April, 1987  
National Trust File No. 3840  
"The Observer", 16.11.1893.

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570