

NAME: Aberdeen Hotel

ADDRESS: 324 St. Georges Road

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1889
ALTERATIONS: 1938 - ground floor
altered
ARCHITECT: unknown
BUILDER: unknown
FIRST OWNER: James Donovan
PRESENT OWNER: E.A. and M.M.McDonell
(occupiers)
CONSTRUCTION
MATERIALS: rendered brickwork
CONSERVATION AREA: -



BUILDING CITATION:

This three storey hotel constructed in 1889 is of a fairly primitive eclectic classical character. The unusual feature is the three bayed verandah/balcony on the St. Georges Road side. The upper section remains open (with cast iron balustrading replaced by wire mesh) but the ground floor is flush to the pavement and was extensively altered in 1938. The rest of the building is elaborately but somewhat crudely detailed. The windows on the north elevation and the large windows to the ground floor were also altered in 1938. This building is of interest in a local context only and provides a strong streetscape element.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this building be added to the Register of the National Estate and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

BUILDING ANALYSIS:

This three storey hotel building was constructed in 1889¹ on an angled site. It is unusual for the three bays of verandah/balcony on the St. Georges Road side. The upper section remains open but the ground floor was altered in 1938² when the hotel was extensively renovated. The ground floor corner windows were also altered at this date. The cast iron balustrades have been replaced by wire mesh but the iron friezes and brackets are still intact. French doors open from the bedrooms onto the balconies.

The remainder of the facade is in a fairly primitive eclectic classical manner. On the first floor there are three windows surmounted by a horizontal window hood with brackets at either end. Breaking through this are corbelled pilasters and half pillars which support a pediment surmounted by a decorative acroterion. On the first and second floor level on the Holden Street elevation there are two arch headed windows with engaged columns at either side. Roundels or paterae fill the spandrels on either side of the arches and a cartouche or scroll replaces a keystone. This is similar detailing to that employed by the architect Walter Scott Law.

On the splayed corner, on the first and second floor levels there are smaller arch headed windows which have similar cartouche keystone motif. The whole row of ground floor arch windows on the Holden Street side also have the scroll cartouche keystone. There is a balustraded parapet and the bases remain of urns. The chimneys are banked together and in one case five flues are grouped together with semi-circular divisions according to the Doulton patent.

1. Fitzroy Ratebooks 1889.

2. Drawings held at the Fitzroy Town Hall. Four drawings of alterations.
Architects: Sydney Smith, Ogg and Serpell; Builder: A.H.Duncan.