

Star Hotel, 81 Myers Street

History

Ratebooks list Mrs. Roche as the first owner of a brick hotel with 13 rooms, two kitchens and an underground cellar in 1855-6.¹ Allan McDonald, Pat O'Toole, Robert Grant, John Abel and many others were licensees from that date.² One 'Flood' owned it in the 1860s and the ubiquitous Hodges Brothers, Geelong brewers, had acquired it by the 1890s.³

During their tenure, Olivia Rourke, Mary Scanlon and Emile Phelan, ran the hotel.⁴ It was also McAdam's Hotel early this century.⁵

A marked change in use occurred when George Furuya owned and operated a Japanese laundry on the premises during the 1920s and 1930s.⁶ Miss A.B. Quinn ran the

building in the 1940s, but it had become a confectionery shop by the late 1950s.⁷

A Mrs. Bridget Roche ran the Barabool Hills Rising Sun Hotel in the late 1850s and hence it is fitting and probable that she was the Star's first owner.⁸ Mr. & Mrs. Roche commenced the Rising Sun at Ceres in mid-1853, but late in the next year they were reputed to be leaving the colony and sold out. However, their daughter's death at Myers Street in 1857 confirms the connection.⁹

The 'Flood' ownership may have been the pilot, Cpt. William Flood of the *Victoria*, who was in the Geelong Courts in 1853 for failing to land mails at Shortland's Bluff.¹⁰

Architect, Walter Sheridan, called tenders for an hotel in Myers Street during 1854.¹¹ Directories of 1858 and 1861 list no other hotel in the street, indicating that Sheridan designed the Star. Sheridan, with George Wright, was

- 1 RB1855-6, 144
- 2 B1860-1, 289; VB1870-1, 259; RB1885, 281
- 3 VB1865-6, 258; VB18895-6, 371
- 4 RB1910, 349; RB1900, 357
- 5 D1915
- 6 D1920-35
- 7 D1944-5, D1961
- 8 INV. 9/1972, p.76-7
- 9 GA 28/4/57
- 10 INV. 11/1970, p.234
- 11 Huddle cites GA 24/1/1854

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study
Significant Sites

considered one of the most prolific of Geelong's gold rush-era architects.¹

Description

Typical of Geelong's 1850s round-cornered hotels, this is stuccoed and two-storey, with six-pane sashes in most windows. Judging by the depth of sills and minor string moulds, the stucco may have been added, although the stop-chamfered opening edges suggest (if it was done) that it was done early. The cornice and major string moulds are nevertheless boldly executed, particularly if the stucco was added. Cellar-lights and a hatchway are still visible.

External Integrity

Alterations include the corner entrance, reduced in height and the joinery replaced, some reglazing at ground-level (three windows) and extensive unrelated rear additions.

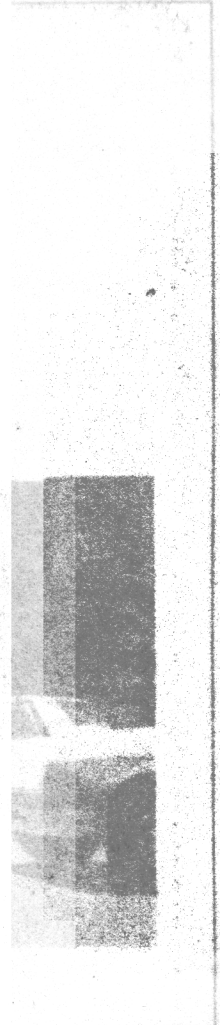
Streetscape

Isolated, but corner-sited, as was traditional for hotels.

Significance

Architecturally, it has the round-corner form synonymous with Geelong and possesses some valuable window joinery (mullions).

Historically, a substantial example of one of Geelong's gold-era buildings and a social centre for over 50 years, as an hotel.



Geelong Trades Hall
123-127 Myers
History
The Geelong Trades Hall was started in 1870, with the first meeting held on 18th January 1871. The hall was built on the corner of Yarra and Elizabeth Streets, using architect T. J. Smith. The hall was previously vacant and was glad to receive his lease to pay his rent.
Description
The Trades Hall, an Authority Building, is a two-story building with a prominent corner entrance. It is a substantial example of one of Geelong's gold-era buildings and a social centre for over 50 years, as an hotel.