

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Hotel

**Project File No:** 1119

**Address:** 97-99 Ryrie Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1938

**Integrity:** Moderate-High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 03.10

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 97-99 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is located on Crown Allotment 12, Section 35, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1858. J. Tolson was the original owner of the land.

The Queens Head Hotel was built at this location in 1852, probably for John Olive who was listed as the owner in the earliest available Villamanta Ward Valuation Book in 1854. The first licence was granted on 28 April 1852 to "William Edward Parsons", or more likely Edward William Parsons, who held the licence until his death in 1855, aged 35 years. The 2 storey stone hotel consisted of a bar, 14 rooms, kitchen, and 5 stall stables and was valued in 1853 at 1,000 pounds per annum. In 1854, this had been reduced to 500 pounds. John Olive progressively reduced the number of accommodation spaces to 11 rooms by the 1870s. James Cowie owned the hotel briefly in 1879, followed by a period in which it was in the hands of Trustees. James Munday, a tanner, was reported to have purchased the Queens Head Hotel in June 1888, together with an adjoining shop belonging to H. Davies & Sons. Renovations and additions were undertaken at the site during the building boom of 1887-1889. In the 1890s, the premises (then numbered 121 Ryrie Street) was acquired by Honora Mary Hourigan, and she appears to have again increased the accommodation available to 15 rooms, as well as providing the hotel with a cellar and stables in c.1900.

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Hourigan retained possession of the hotel for at least 25 years, with the property continuing to be administered by the trustees of her Estate, Executors' Agency Co., for a further 15-20 years. It was sold in c.1950 to a consortium or partnership comprising William T. and Sylvia M. Neale, Johann W. Piper, Honora C. McLeod, and Thomas J. Connolly, of Airey's Inlet. Sanitary facilities were upgraded in 1918, and renumbering of the street was carried out in the early 1920s, with the hotel being addressed as 99 Ryrie Street and later in the 1930s as 97-99 Ryrie Street. Alterations appear to have been carried out in c.1938, providing an interwar Moderne style to the external facade. Major renovations were carried out in 1972 by Alan Clifford and his wife, Lesley Roslyn Thiele, who had taken over the premises in the mid 1960s.

Licencees over the years after William Edward Parsons have included:

- Edward Walford (1856-1858)
- Michael Clanchy (1859-1887)
- Mary Ann Gebbie (1889-1891 and 1894-1898)
- George Golightly (1899-1904)
- James William Wimble (1905-c.1907)
- Thomas Hume Warden (c.1910)
- Philip Harper McGrath (c.1915-c.1923)
- Daniel Joseph Sullivan (c.1924-c.1935)
- Annie Hennessy (1936-1937)
- Inez Alma McMahon (c.1938-1950)
- C.R. and H.A.M. Evans (1950-c. 1957)
- Gerald Patrick and Alice Marguerite Phillips (c. 1960)
- Alan Clifford and Lesley Roslyn Thiele (1960s-1990s)

### Description

The hotel building, 97-99 Ryrie Street, Geelong, forms part of the central Geelong commercial area. This two storey, painted brick, interwar Art Deco/Moderne styled building is characterised by a streamlined rectilinear wall plane that is accentuated by the emphatic stepped vertical brick articulation at the western end, typical of the style. The three bayed first floor composition of window openings is early, but the timber framed windows appear to have been introduced. The projecting flat first floor window head (with parallel line motif on the ends) balances the strong vertical element of the stepped brickwork, as does the austere parapet line and the projecting cantilevered verandah that also has parallel line motifs on its ends. There is also an early portal window at the east end on the first floor that has been blocked up.

The ground floor has an early double doorway opening with smoothly rusticated and curved corner at the western end, but the timber framed windows and aluminium framed and glazed door form the bulk of the ground floor have been introduced.

The "Wild Westcoast Saloon" signage above the first floor windows and on the projecting verandah have been appropriately introduced, but the recent banner over the windows is inappropriate.

Behind the front parapet is a hipped roof form clad in lapped galvanised corrugated iron. There are also some rear two storey brick wings with hipped roof forms in galvanised steel. These wings have early timber framed double hung windows.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The hotel building at 97-99 Ryrie Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the interwar Art Deco/Moderne style. Built originally in 1852 and with

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alterations in c.1938, the two storey building has a long history as a hotel building and continues to serve this purpose today.

The hotel building at 97-99 Ryrie Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Art Deco/Moderne style. These qualities include the streamlined rectilinear wall plane that is accentuated by the emphatic stepped vertical brick articulation at the western end, three bayed first floor composition of window openings, projecting flat first floor window head (with parallel line motif on the ends), austere parapet line, portal opening (now blocked up), and the projecting cantilevered verandah that also has parallel line motifs on its ends. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the double ground floor doorway opening with smoothly rusticated and curved corner, ground floor window and door openings, hipped roof form behind the parapet with lapped galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, and the rear two storey 19th century hipped roof wings with galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, brick wall construction and timber framed double hung windows.

The hotel building at 97-99 Ryrie Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with commercial and hotel developments in Geelong from the mid 19th century and during the interwar (c.1920s-1940s) until the present day. In particular, this building has associations with John Olive, original owner in c.1852-54 when a Queens Head Hotel was known at this location. The current building exterior survives from the interwar (1920s-1940s) period.

Overall, the hotel building at 97-99 Ryrie Street is of LOCAL significance.

### References

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