PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

155 Church Street

TITLE

former Bridge Hotel

TYPE

[X] Single Residence   [ ] Multiple Unit Res.
[ ] Shop   [ ] Outbuildings
[ ] Office   [ ] Industrial Building
[ ] Landscape feature   [ ] Public building
[ ] View   [X] Other former hotel.

EXISTING DESIGNATION   HBR [X]   GBR [ ]   AHC [X]   NT [ ]   VAS [ ]

STREETSCAPE LEVEL   1 [ ]   2 [ ]   3 [X]
     SIGNIFICANT [ ] SIGNIFICANT [ ]
     STREET TREES   KERB & GUTTERS

GRADING   A [ ]   B [X]   C [ ]   D [ ]   E [ ]
     KEYNOTE BUILDING [ ]

RECOMMENDED FOR   HBR/GBR [ ]   AHC [ ]   URBAN CONSERVATION AREA [ ]
     VAS [ ]   PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION [ ]
     CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [ ] OTHER [ ]

SURVEY DATE   Nov. 91.
NEG FILE   56.32
Title
Vol.
Fol.

THEME

[X]   Early Settlement
[ ]   Mansions
[ ]   Victorian Garden
       Suburb
[ ]   Municipal dev.
[ ]   1870s growth
[ ]   Garden villas
[ ]   Working enclaves
[ ]   Commercial Centres
[ ]   Edwardian Prosperity
[ ]   Interwar Housing
[ ]   Flats and Offices

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
Date 1854 (later additions)
Architect
Builder
Elements

[ ] Contributing garden   [ ] Original or early hard landscape layout
[ ] Landmark tree   [ ] Original or early fence

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY   Good [ ]   CONDITION   Good [X]
            Fair [X]   Fair [ ]
            Poor [ ]   Poor [ ]

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION
Associated significant garden   [ ]

The site information given above has been determined from external street level inspection.

155 CHURCH STREET

FORMER BRIDGE HOTEL

History

The former "Bridge Hotel" was built in 1854 on the north-east corner of Church and Denham Streets for James Connell, an early settler.[1] It was one of the earliest hotels in Hawthorn. The first, the "Queen's Arms" was built for John Connell in 1851.[2] By the late 1850s, there were at least nine hotels within a mile of the river.[3] The hotel was well located adjoining the specified town centre and close to the bridge link to the City.

James Connell settled in the Upper Yarra in the early 1840s, farming on Calver's Farm. He owned the "Royal Highlander Hotel" between 1836 and 1840. He was connected with the "Bridge Hotel" from 1854 until 1856. Connell owned land in Kew and Hawthorn. He also had a sly grog shop and ran the "Highland Man". Connell sold the Bridge Hotel" to Samuel Boyle in 1856, who renamed it "Bowling Green Hotel". Connell died in 1857.[4]

The former "Bridge Hotel" was extended to accommodate a private house for Frank S. Dobson in 1863-64.[5]

Description

A two storey hotel of rendered masonry, parapetted to the principal elevation, with a hipped roof behind (possibly shingles under iron ?). The ground floor has been substantially altered and now has no windows. An entry porch here is of unknown date. Its simplified styling could relate to the 1860s conversion of the hotel into a residence, however it is unlikely to form part of the original building which probably incorporated a verandah, given the setback to the property boundary.

On the first floor the windows are unevenly spaced, destroying any implied Georgian effect. The sashes are multipaned as expected for the 1854 date. Buttresses to the side elevation appear to serve a structural, rather than a design purpose.

Two wide chimney stacks rise from the roof.

Assessment

The town centre of Hawthorn was planned for the St. James Park block to include the school, police station, town hall and village green. It was located close to the communication link with the City at the Burwood Road bridge. This was an obvious place for hotels to locate at, catching the passing trade to and from the City. The town centre quickly moved to the hill

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[1].   Gwen McWilliam, *Hawthorn Peppercorns*, p.44.

[2].   Ibid. p.40.

[3].   Ibid. p.41.

[4].   Ibid. p.44.

[5].   Ibid. p.44.

155 Church Street continued

on Burwood Road however, and rapid development in the 1850s and 1860s
throughout the Municipality coupled with the arrival of the railway
transferred the emphasis of the suburb away from the frontier type hotel, that
this building represents.

Few buildings from this early date survive in Hawthorn. This non-residential
example is particularly significant illustrating the importance of the
transport link to the City, in the development of Hawthorn.

Significance   Metropolitan

1.   Amongst the oldest surviving buildings in Hawthorn associated with the
      beginnings of the Village of Hawthorn. It is the only survivor of the
      nine hotels which were built by the late 1850s in this region

2.   The former "Bridge Hotel" has historical significance for its
      associations with James Connell, pioneer settler, farmer and publican.

3.   Illustrative of the importance of communication links with Melbourne
      City in the development of Hawthorn.