

Napier Hotel, 210 Napier St, Fitzroy, VIC, Australia

Photographs:



List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Historic

Legal Status: [Registered](#) (30/06/1992)

Place ID: 15406

Place File No: 2/11/020/0079

Statement of Significance:

The Napier Hotel, built in 1916, reflects many of the characteristics of a fine hotel built in Federation Free Style architecture (Criterion D.2). Located on a corner block and having a prominent corner tower and curvilinear gables to the street facades, the building is a focal point in the local streetscape (Criterion E.1).

Official Values: Not Available

Description:

The present Napier Hotel at the Corner of Napier and Moor streets Fitzroy was erected in 1916 for the Carlton and United Brewing Company. It replaced an earlier public house of the same name dating from 1866. The architects are understood to have been Sydney Smith and Ogg, and the contractor was W B Cooper. The Napier is constructed of brick with render trim (the painting of the building has now hidden the contrasting brick and render work). Identical and symmetrical, the two facades of the hotel each have two groups of four windows on either side of a highly decorated Dutch style gabled section. The brickwork over each facade entry forms an enclosing arch for a decorative plaster design of an initialled shield and foliage. The most distinctive feature of the hotel is its corner tower which is to a degree unusual in being square in shape, rather than circular. The timber roof brackets are curved and the square, tiled roof is topped with a finial. The square tower continues the flat plane of the door up to the face of the tower, providing space for a striking plaster decoration - a stylised rose bush based on Glasgow Art Nouveau designs. Three elaborate wrought iron lamp brackets are still intact and curve gracefully out over each doorway. The two central upper windows have elegant curved iron window guards. The pressed metal linings decorating the interior rooms are patterned in the graceful curving floral designs of the Art Nouveau style. Original features in the rear pool room include a fiddleback blackwood fireplace, and a gold pelmeted leadlight window. Other ground floor windows still have most of the original leadlights. The upper corner room is a pleasant and intact Art Nouveau dining room, with metal dadoes and simple blackwood mantlepiece. The glazed tile external dado is a muted moss green tone with a narrow inset band of brown and white checks.

History: Not Available

Condition and Integrity:

Apart from having been painted and apart from various signs on the exterior, the Hotel is understood to be intact and in good condition. (October 1985; photographs April 1991)

Location:

210 Napier Street, corner Moor Street, Fitzroy.

Bibliography:

APPERLY, RICHARD, ET AL, "A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTURE", SYDNEY 1989.