



Caledonian Hotel

28 Little Ryrie Street

History

According to information supplied by Geelong historian Ian Wynd, 14 March 1995, this hotel was built in 1863. The first publican was William Ball and initially the hotel was called the 'Good Woman'. The Geelong Advertiser, 2 March 1864, reported the transfer of the hotel licence to Allan McDonald. By 1871 this establishment was known as the Caledonian Hotel and the licence was held by Thomas Campbell but the property was still owned by William Ball. In 1896 Isabella Ball was the registered owner and retained the property in her possession until at least 1930. The Volumn Brewing Company, a well known Geelong firm, was the registered owner in 1940. The 1863 rate books describe the hotel as a 12 room two storey brick building and in 1881 mention is made of stables on the site. The 1930 rate books describe the building as having 18 rooms indicating remodelling work had taken place. The property has in recent years passed through the hands of several different owners.

Description

The Caledonian Hotel is a reasonably intact double storey brick building that retains its original form, including hip roof, corner entrance and a side wall revealing original brick construction. The facade has been superficially altered with brick veneer cladding, signage and window shutters added. The double hung windows on the first floor appear to be original, however some unsympathetic window openings have replaced the ground floor windows. The use of mock Colonial window bars is also inappropriate. Cream render string courses wrap around the facade. The doors are a later replacement. The building is a local landmark occupying a prominent corner location.

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Significance

The Caledonian Hotel has architectural and historic significance at a local level. It is a typical double storey Early Victorian building retaining characteristic form and siting, and first floor openings typical of Victorian hotel architecture. The building occupies a prominent corner site. The Caledonian Hotel had historical associations with the Ball family for over sixty years from 1864, and also with the Volum Brewing Company, a well known Geelong firm, from 1940.