



## **The Geelong Hotel** **214-216 Moorabool Street**

### **History**

The year 1853 provides the first record of a hotel on this site. According to information supplied in a conversation with the Geelong historian Ian Wynd 9 March 1995, the original hotel was known as the Oddfellows, which subsequently changed its name to the Farmer's Arms, was then called Oldies, before becoming known as the Geelong and Melbourne Hotel. The hotel was totally rebuilt in 1944 and appears in the rate books as a brick building of fourteen rooms. The rate books list Golda Solomon as the owner of the new building and Edward Marshall as the hotel keeper. In later years the property has had a number of owners.

### **Description**

The Geelong Hotel is a reasonably intact Inter-War building sited on a prominent corner. The asymmetrical rendered brick facade features typical Art Deco details. The main design feature of the building is the vertical corner element which contrasts to the overall horizontal form of the building and focuses attention on the main entrance. The roof is concealed by a parapet and a variety of windows, both timber and aluminium framed with horizontal glazing bars, are positioned on the facade. On the north there are circular windows with lead light glazing and these, combined with the vertical corner element, give a nautical feel to the building. On the ground floor windows have recently been replaced. A narrow verandah element wraps around the exterior reinforcing the horizontal lines of the building. Signage decorates the parapet.

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**Significance**

The Geelong Hotel has architectural and historic significance at a local level. It is a representative example of Inter War architecture and is sited on a prominent corner. The building is reasonably intact and retains characteristic siting, form, and design elements typical of Art Deco commercial architecture, including the vertical corner element, parapet roof and variety of windows and other details. The building is of historic importance as, since the construction in 1944, it has continuously operated as a hotel, replacing an earlier hotel on the same site since 1853. The Geelong Hotel is recognised as a landmark in Geelong and is an important streetscape element.