

BUILDING TITLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF BALLARAT

NATIONAL ESTATE PROJECT No.  
DOCUMENTATION OF LISTED HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN VICTORIA

DESIGNATION H.B.P.C. REGISTER No. NATIONAL TRUST   FILE No.

BUILDING TYPE SHOPS & OFFICES  
BUILDING NAME CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
STATE VICTORIA  
LOCAL GOVT AREA CITY OF BALLARAT  
STREET STURT No. 42-46  
SUBURB/TOWN BALLARAT C.B.D  
CITY BALLARAT POSTCODE 3350  
RURAL  
NEAREST CENTRE Km.

TITLE REFERENCE Vol Fol  
DIRECTORY  
NEGATIVE FILE FILM 2 / FRAME 3

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION  
DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION JULY 1978



OWNERSHIP ORIGINAL BALLARAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
PRESENT RATHKEAL INVESTMENTS PTY. LTD.  
ADDRESS 436 STURT STREET.

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE  
BUILDER  
ARTISANS/TRADES

TENDERS REFERENCE  
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION  
ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE £2,000  
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS 1869 J.A. DOANE ARCHITECT.

#### BUILDING CITATION

This building was erected in 1859 by the Ballarat Chamber of Commerce at a cost of £2,000, and is shown in a contemporary lithograph. J.A. Doane undertook work on the building in 1869. It has twice been externally altered since then, once to convert the ground floor to shops entailing the removal of the arcuated ground floor facade before 1905 and again by 1919 with the construction of a third floor behind a mansard roof. Originally it was one of the most engaging public buildings in Ballarat. In spite of the subsequent intrusive alterations the surviving sections are of considerable interest, in particular the unusual parapet with balustrading of linked ellipses and the corner double pedestals which serve also as chimneys. The piano nobile comprises a charming, almost primitive, simplicity of alternating segmental and triangular pedimented aedicules with ionic pilasters and window guards of square balusters. These contain an early and pleasant design of casement windows. The building is important historically as one of the earliest surviving buildings in Ballarat and because of its associations with many architects who practised from it, most notably Leonard Terry. This building is an important example of Doane's work and the combination of elements unique to this state.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this building be added to the Historic Buildings Register, The Register of the National Estate, and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

DOCUMENTATION SOURCES

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- 01 GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 02 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 03 ARCHIVES/CATALOGUES
- 04 ARCHITECTS INDEX
- 05 ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS/ILLUSTRATIONS
- 06 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS
- 07 NATIONAL TRUST FILE/ HISTORIC BUILDINGS PRESERVATION COUNCIL FILE
- 08 PRIVATE RECORDS

- 02. BALLARAT CITY COUNCIL 1862 VALUATION BOOK
- 06 PHOTOGRAPH HELD BALLARAT CITY COUNCIL 1919.  
LATROBE LIBRARY MC4 DRI ENVS H6764, 1859

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1. MIDDLETON & MANNING'S BALLARAT & KIMMERA DISTRICT DIRECTORY  
1885-1886 P.4.
- 2. 1862 BALLARAT DIRECTORY.
- 3. BALLARAT STAR 7.8.1856
- 4. BUILDING TIMES 17.12.1869.

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ASSESSMENT OF LISTING

CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING SHOPFRONTS AND ROOF ALTERED  
SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING

LANDSCAPE/STREETSCAPE/ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE PART OF RECOMMENDED  
AREA A1.1

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 42-46 STURT STREET

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

The Ballarat Chamber of Commerce was established at a meeting held on 7 August 1856<sup>1</sup> and erected this building by 1859 for a cost of £2,000.<sup>2</sup> The building is shown in an illustration dated 1859.<sup>3</sup> The architect or builder of this building was not discovered, though many Ballarat architects had their offices in this building over the years. In 1868 Leonard Terry and F.C. Korn<sup>4</sup> were tenants, and in the 1880's Caselli and Figgis<sup>5</sup> had their office there. Some alterations would appear to have been undertaken in 1869 by J.A.Doane as he calls for tenders at this time<sup>6</sup>; whether he was the architect for the building originally is unknown.

The building has suffered extensive alterations over a long period. The shopfronts appear to have been added by 1905<sup>7</sup> and the raised mansarded roof by 1919<sup>8</sup>.

The extant building is the remains of what was, in its original form, one of the most engaging public buildings in Ballarat, as shown in the attached lithograph.

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1. *Star* 7 August 1856.
  2. 1862 *Ballarat Directory*.
  3. La Trobe Library MC4 DRI ENV5 H6784.
  4. 1862 *Ballarat Directory*.
  5. B.C.C. Valuation Book.
  6. *Building Times* 17.12.1869.
  7. Photo of Sturt Street looking West, c.1905, shows post supported verandah SLV H35588.
  8. Photo of Sturt Street looking East from Town Hall Tower 1919 held by B.C.C.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 42-46 STURT STREET (contd.)

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

In spite of the destruction of the ground floor and the intrusive raised roof, the building still exhibits the unusual parapet balustrade with panels of linked ellipses between pedestals with curved stele caps.

The balustrading returns on the two side elevations and is terminated at the four corners by unusual double pedestals which also served as chimneys, a device used at the Protestant Hall in Grenville Street.

The first floor is designed as a piano nobile of alternative triangular and segmental pedimented aedicules, with ionic pilasters and window guards of square balusters. These contain casement window sashes paned in pleasant proportions.

The building was designed to be free standing, but built out totally on the east side in the 1890's; on the west the intrusive infill of the State Bank extensions leaves a nasty gap of about one metre. Until this infill was constructed in 1977 this space had remained open to the enhancement of both these important buildings. (It is recommended under the description of the State Bank that this section of the building be removed.)

The side windows are of a much simpler character than the front, being surmounted by flat hoods in lieu of pediments.<sup>9</sup> Internally the stair balustrade survives.

This building is of major importance because of the historical association and uniqueness of design. It is among one of the oldest surviving buildings in Ballarat and was associated with many famous architects who had offices in it, most notably Leonard Terry.

The design is of particular interest, especially the corner chimneys disguised as pedestals, and the building facade is part of an important area and is in a group of significant buildings recommended for addition to the Historic Buildings Register.

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9. 1863 B.C.C. Valuations Book.