



Corio Hotel **67-69 Yarra Street**

History

In 1853 the Geelong Hotel occupied this site. According to a conversation 9 March 1995 with the Geelong historian Ian Wynd, the hotel was later called Southey's after its first publican, then went by the name of the Melbourne Club Hotel. By 1925 the rate books list Philip Cullen as hotel keeper and the Volum Brewing Company, an established Geelong brewer, as the owner. In 1929 the Volum Brewing Company rebuilt the hotel according to a design drawn up by the important local architects Laird and Buchan. The design for the new hotel was published in the *Geelong Advertiser* 2 February 1929. The listed hotel keeper for the new building was Florence Adelaide Heyward. In recent years the property has had a number of owners.

Description

The Corio Hotel is a substantially intact double storey Art Deco building with a Spanish Mission influence. The symmetrical rendered facade is divided into three main bays by a stepped parapet with an addition at the south end. Each bay is divided by engaged piers and at the top of the parapet between the piers are sections of tile capping. Behind the parapet is a large terracotta tiled gable roof hipped over the middle bay that continues at the rear down to first floor level. Typical double hung timber sash windows remain intact on the first floor, although on the ground floor aluminium framed tinted glass windows have replaced the originals. The spandrel panels between floors are moulded and painted and enforce the vertical movement of the piers. The middle bay has an arched opening for the entrance and on the first floor level leads onto a semicircular balcony that cantilevers over the street. The existing colour scheme enhances the architectural features of this building.

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Significance

The Corio Hotel has architectural and historic significance at a local level. It is an unusual and substantially intact Art Deco building with a Spanish Mission influence. The building retains its characteristic siting and form with a number of notable Art Deco details, including the gabled roof, spandrel panels, vertical piers, and semi-circular cantilevered balcony. It has historical associations with the Volum Brewing Company and the well known Geelong Architects Laird and Buchan.