BUILDING TITLE _MINING EXCHANGE, 6 LYDIARD ST. NTH_
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA _CITY OF BALLAARAT_

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

DESIGNATION     H.B.P.C. REGISTER No. _391_     NATIONAL TRUST (C) (X) FILE No.

BUILDING TYPE _FORMER MINING EXCHANGE_
BUILDING NAME _MINING EXCHANGE_
STATE _VICTORIA_
LOCAL GOVT AREA _CITY OF BALLAARAT_
STREET _LYDIARD (NORTH)_ No. _6_
SUBURB, TOWN _BALLARAT C.B.D._
CITY _BALLAARAT_ POSTCODE _3350_
RURAL
NEAREST CENTRE          Km.
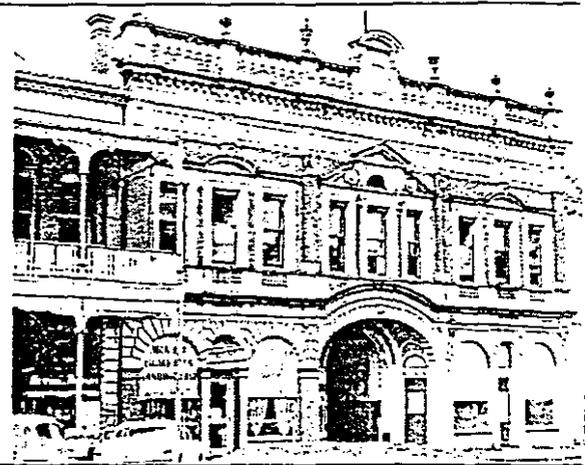
· TITLE REFERENCE     Vol     Fol
DIRECTORY            ;
NEGATIVE FILE _FILM 1 / FRAME 22_

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION
DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION _JULY 1978_

OWNERSHIP       ORIGINAL
                PRESENT _BALLAARAT CITY COUNCIL / OCCUPIER : BUS_
                ADDRESS _DEPOT & REGIONAL ART GALLERY_
                              _CONSERVATOR_

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE _C.D. FIGGIS_
BUILDER _W. ROBERTSON_
ARTISANS/TRADES

TENDERS                              REFERENCE
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION _1887- 1889.(FOUNDAT'N STONE LAID 21.6.1887,_
ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE _£4007 (NOT INCLUDING LIME)_     _OPENED 1889)_
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS _VERANDAH REMOVED 1964_

BUILDING CITATION
        This building was opened in 1889; the architect was C.D.Figgis and the builder
W.Robertson.  It has an elaborate front facade with an interesting arcade at ground
level with unusual cement render detailing, particularly the front domical entrance
reveal.  At first floor the three bays employ a Palladian 3 window motif.  The
facade is capped with a bracketted cornice with central pediment and a balustraded
parapet on either side carrying garlanded urns.  Internally the large central hall
of the former Exchange comprises arcaded brick booths along both sides and surmounted
by similarly arched clerestory windows at first floor level.  The most interesting
and unusual features of the building are the light tension rod roof trusses and the
bull nose profile roof which returns across the rear in a hipped form.
        This building is basically intact other than the street verandah and shop
fronts.  It is in generally sound condition in spite of the lack of maintenance.
This building is important historically and architecturally.  It has direct links
with the gold mining era when Ballarat was a city of world prominence and is one of
the few physical manifestations remaining of this activity.  The only other Exchange
remaining is in Charters Towers in Queensland.   It is also of major significance
architecturally.  The roof structure in particular, and the central hall have no
other precedents in this state.   ·
RECOMMENDATIONS
It is recommended that this building be retained on the Historic Buildings Register
.and the Register of the National Estate and remain specified under Clause 8 of the
Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

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  Ballaarat City Council submission to the Ministry for Tourism for
    funding re Mining Exchange.  1976.

05  Mathew Flinders Measured Drawing Competition 1977.   Measured
    drawing of Mining Exchange.  1977.

06  Photos held at Ballarat Regional Library,
        Mining Exchange  c.1900.
        Drawing of Mining Exchange  c.1895.
        Postcard of exterior  c.1910.
        Internal view  c.1890.
        Internal view before 1920 – c.1900?
        External view  c.1910.

07  HBPC File  B/4/22  –  Verandah removed 1964.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. *Ballarat Star* 19 December 1923 (Internal photograph).

2. *Ballarat and District in 1901* Melbourne 1901
   photo of Mining Exchange.

3. J.Feldheim *Victoria Old and New : A Pictorial Contrast* Melbourne 1912
   (photo of Post Office showing Mining Exchange in background).

4. *Courier* 1 February 1975, August 1977.

5. James Smith (Ed) *The Cyclopedia of Victoria* Melbourne.  3 Vols.
   1901-1903.  Vol.2 p.231.
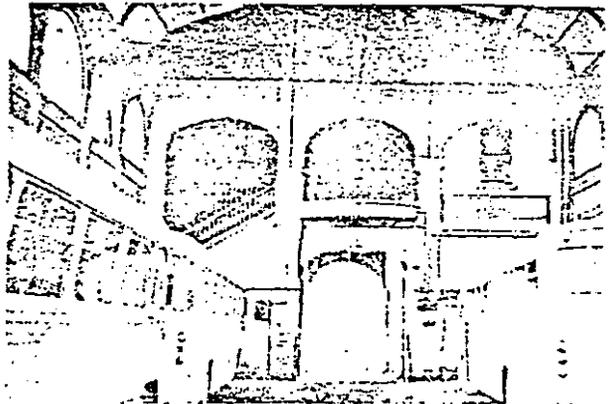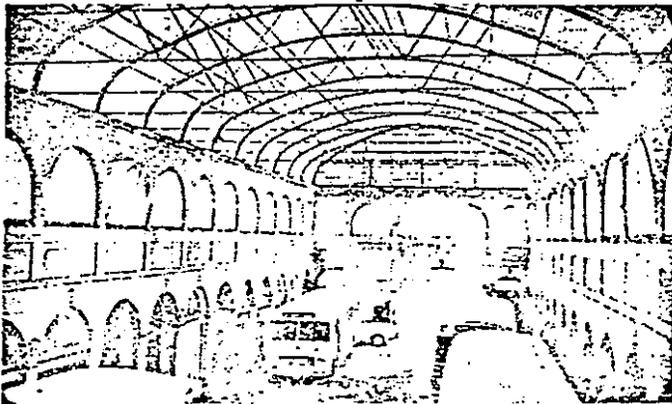
ASSESSMENT OF LISTING
CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING VERANDAH REMOVED
SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING
LANDSCAPE/STREETSCAPE/ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE PART OF RECOMMENDED
AREA A1.1

DOCUMENTATION JACOBS LEWIS VINES DATE SEPTEMBER 1978
ARCHITECTS

# MINING EXCHANGE - 6 LYDIARD STREET NORTH

## BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

This building was designed by C.D.Figgis, the builder was W.Robertson and the Foundation Stone was laid on the 21st June 1887.[1] It was opened in 1889 and the tender price was £4,700 excluding lime. It replaced the previous Mining Exchange in Sturt Street which gave its name to 'The Corner' where brokers gathered.[2] The chamber of this earlier Exchange remains as the library of the Mechanics Institute. Following is a description by Figgis of the building dated 1887 before its completion.[3]

> *The site has a frontage of 66 feet to Lydiard Street, by a depth of 180 feet towards Camp Street, and being irregular in plan will have a rear frontage of 99 feet. The building will be two storey in height to Lydiard Street for a depth of 35 feet, behind which portion the building is one storey, and consists of a main exchange hall surrounded by offices, branching off which is a large room for meetings of the Exchange. The Lydiard Street facade upon the ground floor has four shops or office fronts, and a broad central entrance under semicircular and elliptic arches. A plain Tuscan cornice divides the ground from the first floor which is pierced by nine windows in three compartments separated with plain brick pilasters. The architrave, cornice, and window moulds will be in stucco, and between the balustrading of the windows and the top of the pilasters black polished bricks will be used, tuckpointed with white joints. The style is adapted modern Italian, and the upper portion of the facade is simple in character and surmounted with a bold cornice and open balustrading. A paved vestibule leads from Lydiard Street to the Exchange, which measures 126 by 37½ feet. There will also be an entrance from Camp Street, and another from the Police Camp lane. The roof will be of iron, elliptical, and there will be semi-circular cleristory (sic.) lights on three sides. The floor will be of asphalt. Mr.W.Robertson is the contractor, and the tender for £4007 does not include lime and other things, whose cost will probably bring the total near £5000. Mr.Trembath is clerk of works.*

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1. *Courier* 21 June 1887 - laying of Foundation Stone.

2. Illustration La Trobe Collection State Library Victoria Sturt Street c.1866. Shows brokers meeting at the Sturt Street Corner. (See photo page 319)

3. W.B.Withers *History of Ballarat* p.313.

The front facade of the building comprises, at ground floor level, an arcade of shop fronts which are paired on either side of the central wide eliptical entrance arch. The paired shop fronts are themselves separated by a narrow arched opening over doorways. The arcading has voussoirs ruled in cement render and is carried on tuscan piers. The shop windows and one door have been modernised but the main opening is intact with splayed sides tapering into a narrower arch with domical segments of ceiling joining the two arches. The cornice of this section rises over the central arch at which point it meets the transverse entrance vault of the verandah. This was removed in 1964.[4] At first floor level each bay contains a modification of the Palladian motif consisting, in the centre bay, of 3 rectangular windows with a lunette window above capped by a small pediment flanked by scrolls. Side bays have the same three windows capped only by a horizontal cornice mould rising into a segmental pediment above the central light. The facade is capped by a bracketted cornice above which is a central date plate panel with segmental pediment. The balustrade on either side carries garlanded urns and coronets flanking the central bay.

Internally, a bow fronted cast iron balcony projects above the entrance way. This is set within an open eliptical archway flanked by matching archways on either side, one blind the other enclosing the stairwell.

On the two longitudinal sides of the central wall there are brick arcaded brokers' booths surmounted by similarly arched clerestory windows at first floor level which return across the end wall.

The corrugated iron roof of an unusual bull nose profile is supported by unusual and sophisticated light trusses consisting principally of tension rods. The bull nose roof returns across the rear in a hipped form resulting in a most unusual appearance, both internally and externally.

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4. HBPC file B/4/22.

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION (contd.)

Leading off the main hall is a much smaller secondary hall, properly finished with plaster work and a skylight which contrasts with the basic finishes of the main hall.

The building is substantially intact if in rather neglected condition. However this provides information on original finishes. The roof, clerestory and secondary hall have been restored through grants from the Ministry for the Arts and the Historic Buildings Preservation Council. The shop fronts to many of the booths have been removed but there are several that have survived intact. The front facade is intact other than the shop fronts and front verandah. This was removed in 1964, but reconstruction drawings have been undertaken.[5] The original finishes to this building should be maintained intact.

This building is of particular importance and is unique on a state-wide basis. It is justly listed on the Historic Buildings Register. The principal interest lies in the central hall with its unusual roof design and structure. In addition there has been little basic structural change to the building since it operated as an Exchange, as witnessed by the brokers' booths. The street facade is important, particularly the irregular arcading at ground floor level and the domical reveal.

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5. Measured drawing by Richard Aitken and others prepared for Mathew Flinders Measured Drawing Competition 1977 SLV.
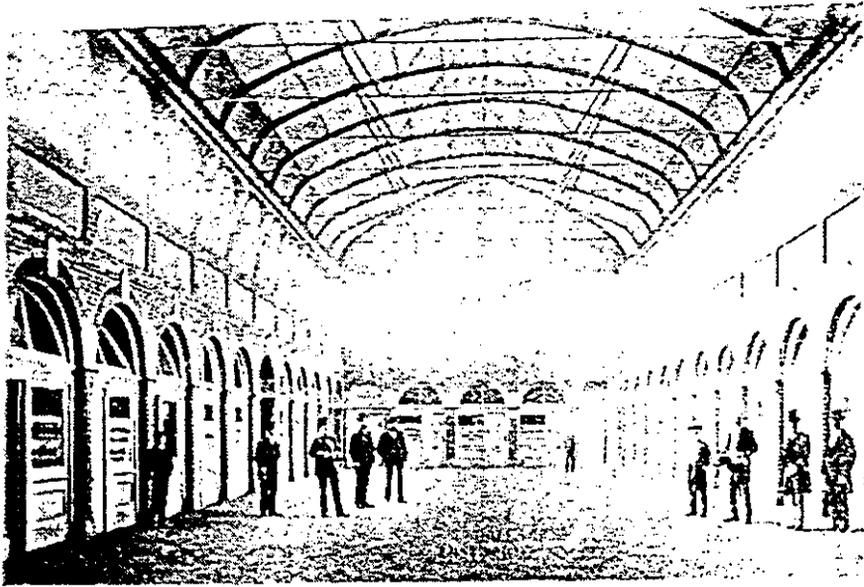
Mining Exchange interior shortly after opening (the date '1887' has been writte
on the original photo; obviously erroneous). This view clearly shows the layo
of the booths and their original joinery.



Lydiard Street elevation, c.1900. Apart from the clear view of the verandah,
the photo also shows the single storey verandah of the Old Colonist's Hall
to the north.

(photo: held at Ballarat City Library)