

Stan D'Altera and Eric Pooley note in their *Hotels of Yarraville* that, when the Stony Creek Hotel closed in 1919, many thirsty bottle factory workers migrated to this hotel. In the same era one Michael McGuire was the licensee for a brief period and reputedly his three daughters formed the singing group (McGuire sisters) on his return to America.¹

Description

A two-storied coursed random basalt hotel of the traditional splay-cornered and hipped roof form, refinements in its stone crafting include the fine-axed string mould and the drafted margin applied to the plinth. Timber eaves bracket pairs and opening joinery is the other external material. A single-storey wing to the south is complemented by a brick hip-roof addition to the west, apparently added around 1910 and using similar detailing.

External Integrity

Stone has been painted, the roof 'tiled' with simulated terra-cotta and the glazing replaced with simulated 'bottle' glass. Recent brick additions have been made to the north and west, both intrusive.

Streetscape

Archetypical 19th century corner form, related in part to Edwardian shop row opposite and a Victorian period house row to the north (both altered).

Significance

Architecturally, typical of early hotels in form and siting and in this case the wall materials express clearly both the commonly available materials in this area (compared to east of the Maribyrnong River) and the tastes of the quarrymen who established the industry. Historically, evocative of Footscray's formative industry and a long-lived family in the area.

Royal Hotel 154-162 Barkly Street

History

Early photographs of the Royal Hotel show signs of at least two construction stages until its total reconstruction 1940-1 for one Jean Smith. Its earlier basalt masonry carcass (built by Droop in 1872) had been later augmented with cement ornament by architects, Smith & Ogg, also for Jean Smith.² Then it was 'Footscray's Premier Hostelry' with 'good stabling,' a 'first-class billiard room' and a 'commodious club room.' Known for a long time as Footscray's most substantial commercial building, photographs show it put to good use as a challenging vehicle for fire brigade reel and ladder practice.³

Its new streamlined form takes a similar shape to the contemporary Hardiman's Hotel, Macaulay Road, Kensington, designed by Frederick Morsby.⁴ It also accommodated the Royal Hall (successor to the club room ? since demolished⁵) and shops. Raymond Parker was the licensee in this period.⁶

Description

A two-level streamlined Moderne style hotel, constructed much in the mould of Kensington's Hardiman's Hotel. It is parapeted with a simple cornice and string moulds around its girth, with its main attributes being the bold rounded corner at Droop Street and the associated raised parapet device which curves back over into the main building. Steel windows at these curving points (timber framed windows are used elsewhere) and glass bricks provide further style hallmarks, with the Gill Sans letter face spelling at the hotel's name in slim iron letters, and terra-cotta faience tiling, which covers the lower walls. Combined with a tradition of tiled hotel walls common since the Edwardian period, these tiles enhance the streamlined horizontality of the building's Moderne image.

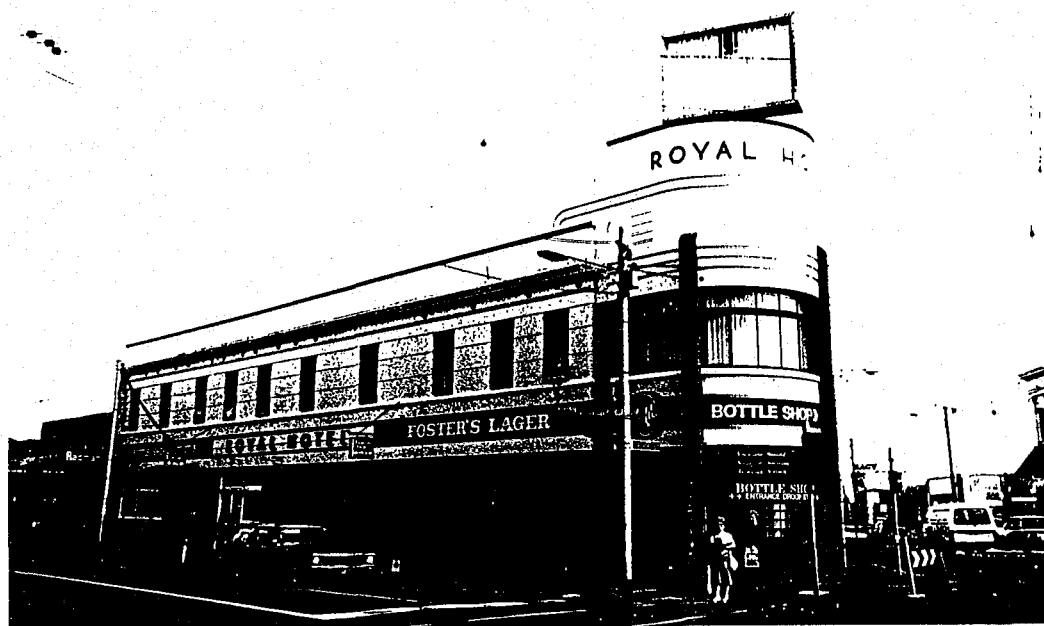
External Integrity

Tiles have been painted, new entry floor tiling, air units added.

Streetscape

Because of its bold rounded corner siting, the hotel needs little visual support but nevertheless receives it from the generally stuccoed and parapeted form of the

1 Altera & Pooley, n.p.
2 *The Williamstown Chronicle* 30/11/72 MMBW CF39757; FFFY p.152
3 FFOY
4 Butler, *Flemington and Kensington Conservation Study*
5 Lack
6 D1945-50



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earlier commercial streetscape, plus an altered contemporary on the opposite corner (154).

Significance

Architecturally, a bold and simple (if not fully orchestrated) example of the streamlined Moderne (cf. United Kingdom Hotel, Clifton Hill). Historically, a long-term hotel site in Footscray and presumably the centre for informal and formal social gatherings.

Union Bank, former 184 Barkly Street

History

Commencing during 1928 in a rented Nicholson Street shop (151 Nicholson Street) the Footscray branch of the Union Bank of Australia (like other contemporary banks) felt the need to expand their operations in the

post-Depression recovery period of the mid-1930s.¹ The architect, Walter Butler, had designed most of the company's 20th century buildings and this was no exception. His Collins Street Union Bank design was another contemporary example in the use of prevailing stylistic sources in contrast with the traditionally conservative revival styles of other banks.

In the same year (1937) architects A. & K. Henderson produced a Bank of Australasia branch design, also in Barkly Street (demolished), adopting their usual Georgian Revival bank style and an illustration of the typical styles used by banks. Five years after the merger of the two banking companies, in 1951 (forming the Australian and New Zealand Bank Ltd.) the Union Bank branch closed in deference to its former rival.² A long-term occupier after this date was Alf Greenwood's real estate company.³

1 FFOY p.113, D1935

2 *ibid.*

3 D1955, R Cocks