

Identification and location

Name of place:

Other Name

Address

Place Identifier

Heritage Significance:

Creation date(s):

Map (Melway)

Boundary description

Local Government Area:

Ownership Type:

Description

Site Type

Physical Description

This is a single storey axe-cut bluestone masonry building with cream brick voussoirs and a rendered parapet which was probably added late last century. Corniced cemented chimneys were probably added in the same period. The hotel reputedly had at one stage a shingled roof with a shingled timber verandah { Vines, 1999}. This was apparently lost in remodelling in the later 19th century. The stone was over painted in the mid twentieth century, the masonry has recently been stripped back to bare stone. Major unrelated additions have been made to the hotel side and rear but external openings generally survive.

Condition

Integrity

Context

Threats:

History

Although an 1851 map of the area gives no indication of a track along the route of the present day Ballarat Road, an 1852 map includes a road crossing Lynch's Punt (now Lynch's bridge) and forking to the north-west (as Ballarat Road does now) as well as south-westerly towards Geelong. It has been said that Ballarat Road was not initially used very much as a route to the rich goldfields of central Victoria, which were discovered in 1851. However, enough traffic was passing by 1854 for the Braybrook Hotel to open. Land was reserved by the Government for a 'road or highway' from the Saltwater River to Ballarat via Exford in 1857. By the next year hopeful subdividers were calling it the 'main road to the diggings' on their plans of allotments for sale in Maidstone and Upper Footscray.

Although the most popular route to the diggings was said to be via Moonee Ponds and Keilor, it appears that some travellers used Raleigh's Punt at Maribyrnong to cross the river and follow Raleigh Road and what is now Hampstead Road to meet up with Ballarat Road at Braybrook. Some sources suggest that teamsters carrying supplies to the goldfields on bullock drays favoured a 'grove of trees' on Hampstead Road as a camping place { Barnard, 2000}.

The first Braybrook Hotel is thought to have been erected around 1854, possibly in response to the demand from travellers to the gold fields. However, the earliest rate record found for this building was in 1863-4 when Charles Niven Young was the licensee and John Lang was the owner { RB1863-4, 94}. Thomas Burge Derham was the next owner in c1864, buying the property from William Lang. Derham, a butcher from Somerset in England, was both the owner and licensee by 1867 and continued there until this century. He had a wife, Matilda Bryant, and 11 children (Sutherland).

Other publicans early this century were Arthur Baldwin and Mrs Ritchie but the next long term licensee was William Gunn who was there from c1920 well into the 1930s.

In 1908 Thomas Derham wrote of a strange occurrence during the Lang ownership period. Apparently when the hotel had been built for Lang it was on the wrong lot, being the adjoining land owned by one Bottomly. Lang had already paid £300 deposit for the site. Thus he had to purchase the adjoining land from Bottomly before the sale of the hotel to Derham in c1864. Derham estimated in 1908 that the stone and brick hotel had been built for Lang at or just before 1859 { RGO SN36109}.

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme: Lodging people

PAHT Subtheme: Lodging people

Local Theme(s): Establishing lines and networks of communication and transportation of goods and people (including early hotels)

Cultural Significance

The Braybrook Hotel is significant to the Western Region because:

- it is among the oldest structures in the City and the region (criterion B2) ;
- it has been a gathering place for travellers and local people over a long period and has thus gained considerable public exposure (criterion G1);
- it is linked with the old village of Braybrook and the gold era as a way side stop en-route to the gold fields (criterion A4);
- it shows architectural sophistication which suggests it was architect designed (criterion F1) ;
- it is built from face stonework which is rare for a commercial or public building in the City and the region and is closely linked to the western suburbs as the major source of basalt in this era (criterion B2); and
- it is surprisingly externally intact for a commercial building of that era (criterion C2).

Comparative Examples:

There are no other face-stone masonry hotels in this part of the City (Braybrook, Maribyrnong), only one other face-stone masonry hotel in the City at Yarraville, and only one other hotel in the City of a comparative age being the Junction Hotel, Whitehall St. Many stone rubble hotels have been stuccoed over. Williamstown has one face-stonework former hotel.

Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register:

Register of the National Estate:

National Trust Register:

Other Heritage Listings:

Planning Scheme Protection:

External Paint Controls Apply?:

Internal Alteration Controls Apply?:

Tree Controls Apply?:

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act:

Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?:

Prohibited Uses may be Permitted?:

Recommendations:

Conserve and enhance the identified significant fabric in the hotel from the 19th century where enhancement includes the reinstatement of original elements and finishes.
Conserve the public view of the conserved fabric, particularly from Ballarat Road.
Promote the continuing original use of the place and its amenity.

Historic Places - Non-industrial places in former City of Sunshine (Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Braybrook and Tottenham)

Continue historical research into the place, in particular the designer, and provide public access to the findings.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

A4 Importance for their association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, state, region or community.

it is linked with the gold era as a way side stop en-route to the gold fields

B2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

it is among the oldest structures in the City and the region

it is built from stone which is rare for a public building and closely linked to the western suburbs as the major source of basalt in this era

C2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

it is surprisingly externally intact for a commercial building of that era

F1 Importance for their technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

it shows architectural sophistication which suggests it was an architect design

G1 Importance as places highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations.

it has been a gathering place for travellers and local people over a long period and has thus gained considerable public exposure

historical significance architectural significance social significance scientific significance

Documentation

References

Vines 1999, pers. com.;
Registrar General's Office (RGO): Search Note 36109;
Victorian Public Records Office (VPRO)- Municipal Rate Books (RB) VPRS 1696/P;
State Library of Victoria picture collection John Collins view 1982;
Barnard, 2000 Project 1 Vol 2 Environmental History;
Sutherland, A (ed). 1888 `Victoria & Its Metropolis'.

Data recording

Assessed By:

Assessed Date:

Historic Places - Non-industrial places in former City of Sunshine (Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Braybrook and Tottenham)

