|			
Name	Little Sebastian Hotel	**Reference in 1998 Marong Study**	S1
Address	102 Main Street, Sebastian	**Map reference**	VicRoads 44 3D
Building type	Hotel	**Survey date**	June and August 2010
Date of construction	1879-80	**Recommendation**	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
Significance	The Little Sebastian Hotel is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.		
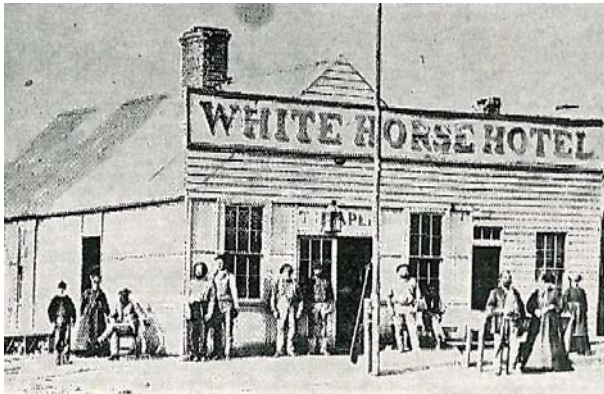
Left: White Horse Hotel, c. 1860s, before the fire of the 1870s (Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 295). Right: Little Sebastian Hotel south elevation.

Left: Rear view of the Little Sebastian, as seen from Vogeles Road. Right: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo).
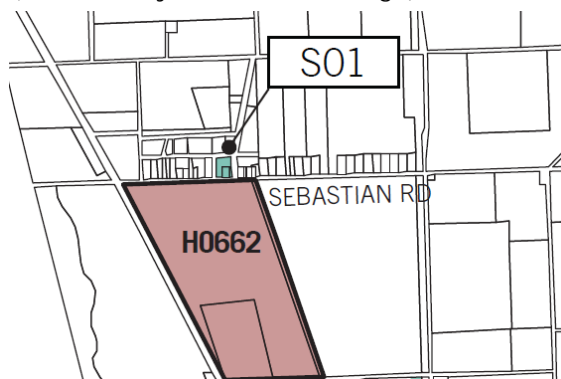
Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site shown as S01. Note HO662 is the Frederick the Great Mine and Cyanide Works.

Intactness   ✓ Good   Fair   Poor

History

Sebastian Schmidt discovered gold in the area south of Raywood in 1863. The town that bears Schmidt's name was established shortly afterwards. Its fortunes rose and fell with the Frederick the Great Mine, around which Sebastian was built. Gold extraction began in 1864, when landholder Hugh Glass granted Messrs Charlton and Co, comprising Robert Charlton, Francis Harritable, Hart and Price, the right to erect a 12-head crushing plant at the Frederick the Great Mine.[1] The mine finally closed some 70 years later, by which time it had yielded over 170,000 ounces of gold.[2] During the boom years of the late nineteenth century, the mine employed over 400 men. By 1879, the year construction of the Little Sebastian Hotel began, Main Street, to the north of the mine, boasted a Mechanic's Institute, State school, timber church (Primitive Methodists) and portable police building.[3] There were also numerous hotels and wine shanties, including the White Horse Hotel, established by 1865 and run by Misses Vogele: the All Nations, Commercial, Criterion, Garbarinas, Nerring, Sebastian and Traveller's Rest.[4] The present Little Sebastian Hotel was built in 1879-80, following a fire to the earlier Vogele's White Horse Hotel.

The Little Sebastian Hotel was built by Francis Harritable (1820-1916), a Spanish seaman who arrived in Melbourne in 1858,[5] on the site of the fire-razed White Horse.[6] Harritable followed the diggings, travelling to McIvor (Heathcote)[7] before arriving at Sebastian by 1864. He was a member of the 'Messrs Charlton and Co' consortium (see above) and later became a director of the Frederick the Great Mine. In 1873, Harritable acquired 14ha (35 acres) south of the Frederick the Great Mine, on the present Rothackers Road. There he built a dwelling for his growing family and a complex of outbuildings of log construction, some of which survive. He subsequently purchased the adjacent 55ha (136 acre) block and land in nearby Campbell's Forest.

By the early 1890s, there were four pubs (hotel) operating in Sebastian.[8] Today, the Little Sebastian Hotel stands alone as a commercial building on Sebastian's former main street, a relic of the town's gold rush heyday. The Bryden family were prominent and long-standing licensees of the hotel during the twentieth century.[9] The property still operates as a hotel.

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:
- 4.5: Gold mining
- 5.6: Entertaining and socialising
- 5.8: Working

Description & Integrity

The Little Sebastian Hotel, built 1879-80, is a symmetrical single-storey hotel of bi-chrome brick construction located on Sebastian's main street, opposite the Frederick the Great Mine. The hotel occupies a large site, at the corner of Main Street and Vogele Road. There is a garden area to the east, as well as rear additions and outbuildings. The following description focuses on the main original building component to the south of the site; the east and north (rear) elevations are largely obscured in views from Main Street and Vogele Road.

The subject building is a richly detailed nineteenth century hotel. The front (south) elevation is distinguished by a tall, central gable in the hipped roof. The gable end has an oculus vent; a plaster panel in the form of a cartouche, reading 'Little Sebastian Hotel'; a finial; and intricately fretted barge boards in the Carpenters' Gothic tradition. The barge boards to the balance of the roof are comparatively plain. The hipped roof, over the front component of one (large) room depth, is clad with corrugated sheet steel. There is a timber posted verandah with timber frieze rail and cast iron lacework. Cream brick relieves the red face brick at the corners, resembling quoins, and to the window and door surrounds. The openings – two sets of double doors and four windows – to the front elevation are irregularly spaced. All appear to be original and are double hung sashes, with a single pane to each sash, and projecting sills. Another double-hung window, also with a cream brick surround, is located to the north end of the west elevation. The north elevation also has a painted 'HOTEL' sign. The paired timber doors are not original.

There are north-south running wings to the rear of the main original component, also of brick construction, with hipped roofs and chimneys. These appear to be of long standing, although apparently modified with elements such as skillion additions, awnings and timber pergolas added. Another wing/addition attached on an east-west alignment to the rear of the latter wings, appears to be later again.

The hotel is set back from the street behind a shallow brick paved area. There is a pre-cast concrete horse trough and pitched drain to the west of the entrance to the 'Front Bar'. The hotel appears to be in generally sound condition.

Comparative Analysis

In its essential form as a symmetrical, single-storey hotel of brick construction with hipped roof and front verandah, the Little Sebastian Hotel (1879-80) does not conform to the prevailing Bendigo goldfields convention of hotels of low, spreading proportions, with parapeted frontages and no verandahs (see, for instance, the former Royal Hotel on the Loddon Valley Highway, and the former Weighbridge Hotel in Kangaroo Flat). Rather, the Little Sebastian's pronounced central gable and the rich detailing to the gable barge boards and cast iron lacework gives it an air of Boom era ebullience. In its application of bichrome brick, the Little Sebastian Hotel also corresponds with a number of contemporaneous buildings in the area, including the former Nerring School no. 1531 at Woodvale, designed by H R Bastow, senior architect with the Department of Public Works, and completed in 1875; and the brick school building, c. 1870s, at the Marong School no. 400.

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

The Little Sebastian Hotel, built 1879-80, is of historical significance. It is a prominent commercial building located on Main Street, Sebastian, facing the long-running and highly productive Frederick the Great Mine. The hotel contributes to the surviving evidence of Sebastian's gold producing heyday in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. In the 1890s the Little Sebastian was one of four hotels in the township; today it is the only survivor, and one of few still operating hotels in the area with gold rush-era origins. It is also the last remaining commercial building in the original centre of Sebastian. The hotel additionally derives significance from its association with the earlier White Horse Hotel (c. 1860s, demolished 1870s), on which site it is located. The association with Francis Harritable is also of note; Harritable, a Spanish immigrant, constructed the hotel and was also a member of the consortium which established the Fredrick the Great mine in 1864. Harritable became a prominent member of the local community, and his sons farmed the family land on Rothackers Road well into the twentieth century.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

N/A

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

N/A

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects.

N/A

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics in the context of the municipality.

The Little Sebastian Hotel, built in 1879-80, is of aesthetic/architectural significance. The subject building, which is comparatively externally intact, has unusually rich detailing for a hotel on the

Bendigo goldfields. Details of note include the tall central gable to the hipped roof, the oculus vent, intricately fretted barge boards in the Carpenters' Gothic tradition, and finial to the gable end, the timber posted verandah with timber frieze rail and cast iron lacework, and the contrasting cream brick quoining to the building's corners and window and door surrounds. This somewhat exuberant design could be seen to reflect the confidence and prosperity of Sebastian at the height of the gold rush. The building is also unusual in that it does not conform to the prevailing Bendigo goldfields convention of hotels of low, spreading proportions, with parapeted frontages and no verandahs. Modifications and additions have generally been located to rear, with minimal impacts on the road-facing principal elevation.

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

N/A

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of the place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

The Little Sebastian Hotel is of social significance in the local context as place of meeting and congregation for the Sebastian community since 1879. The building's social significance is enhanced by its rich architectural detailing and location opposite the Frederick the Great Mine on the heart of the township.

Criterion H: Special association with life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Greater Bendigo's history.

The association of the Little Sebastian Hotel and Francis Harritable, who oversaw its construction, is additionally of note. Harritable, a Spanish immigrant, constructed the hotel and was also a member of the consortium which established the Fredrick the Great mine in 1864. Harritable became a prominent member of the local community, and his sons farmed the family land on Rothackers Road well into the twentieth century.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Little Sebastian Hotel, built 1879-80, is a symmetrical single-storey hotel of bi-chrome brick construction located on Sebastian's main street, opposite the Frederick the Great Mine. The richly detailed south elevation is distinguished by a tall, central gable in the hipped roof. The gable end has an oculus vent; a plaster panel in the form of a cartouche, reading 'Little Sebastian Hotel'; a finial; and intricately fretted barge boards in the Carpenters' Gothic tradition.

Why is it significant?

The Little Sebastian Hotel, built 1879-80, is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

How is it significant?

The Little Sebastian Hotel is historically significant (Criterion A) as a prominent commercial building located on Main Street, Sebastian, facing the long-running and highly productive Frederick the Great Mine. The hotel contributes to the surviving evidence of Sebastian's gold producing heyday in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. In the 1890s the Little Sebastian was one of four hotels in the township; today it is the only survivor, and one of few still operating hotels in the area with gold rush-era origins. It is also the last remaining commercial building in the original centre of Sebastian. The hotel additionally derives significance from its association with the earlier White Horse Hotel (c. 1860s, demolished 1870s), on which site it is located. The Little Sebastian Hotel is of social significance (Criterion G) in the local context as place of meeting and congregation for the Sebastian community since 1879. The building's social significance is enhanced by its rich architectural detailing and location opposite the Frederick the Great Mine on the heart of the township. The association

(Criterion H) with Francis Harritable is additionally of note. Harritable, a Spanish immigrant, constructed the hotel and was also a member of the consortium which established the Fredrick the Great mine in 1864. Harritable became a prominent member of the local community, and his sons farmed the family land on Rothackers Road well into the twentieth century.

The Little Sebastian Hotel is also of aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E). The subject building, which has a high degree of intactness externally, has unusually rich detailing for a hotel on the Bendigo goldfields. Details of note include the tall central gable to the hipped roof; the oculus vent, intricately fretted barge boards in the Carpenters' Gothic tradition, and finial to the gable end; the timber posted verandah with timber frieze rail and cast iron lacework; and the contrasting cream brick quoining to the building's corners and window and door surrounds. This somewhat exuberant design could be seen to reflect the confidence and prosperity of Sebastian at the height of the gold rush. The building is also unusual in that it does not conform to the prevailing Bendigo goldfields convention of hotels of low, spreading proportions, with parapeted frontages and no verandahs.

Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The extent of the Overlay is indicated in the above map. The focus of significance is on the original hotel component, and the original or early wings, albeit the degree to which these could be considered contributory elements would require further investigation (to date the wings and assess their intactness). The bi-chrome brickwork should remain unpainted; the signage should also be retained.

External Paint Colours	No
Internal Alterations Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions	No
Victorian Heritage Register	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated plan	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

Identified By

Andrew Ward, 1998.

References

Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003.

Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984.

Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

Specific:
[1]   Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Crown Castleton, Bendigo, 2003, p. 283.
[2]   *Vision and Realisation*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, 1973, v. 2, p. 478.
[3]   Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 281; and F F Bailliere, in the *Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide*, 1879, p. 421.
[4]   Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Crown Castleton, Bendigo, 2003, p. 295.
[5]   Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Crown Castleton, Bendigo, 2003, p. 299.
[6]   Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984, p. 22.
[7]   Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984, p. 22.

8   Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Crown Castleton, Bendigo, 2003, p. 295.

9   John D Bryden, *Sebastian Back to and School Centenary*, Back To Committee, 1975.