PLACE NAME: ARGYLE HOTEL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF GEELONG WEST

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Victorian Eclecticism

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: John Young, architect, Geelong.
Reference:
Geelong Advertiser, 11th January, 1855.

BUILDER:
Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES
Reference:

TENDER NOTICE: Geelong Advertiser, 11th January, 1855.
Reference: 12th March, 1855.

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION
Reference:

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS
Alexander Davidson & Co., architects, called tenders in
1880 for kitchen, offices, lavatories etc, extensions.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S) William Rae

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS
1857, Rae moved to Ararat
1869, S.H. Sleator, proprietor

OTHER NOTES 5th August 1857 a meeting was held at
this hotel which led to the formation of the Borough
of Newtown and Chilwell.
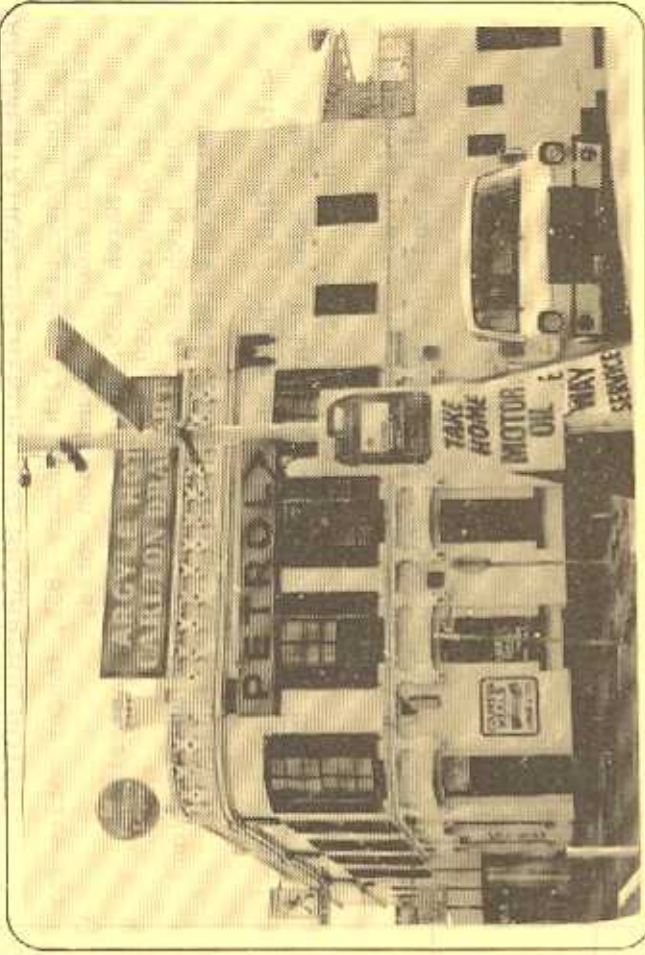
NEGATIVE FILE:

| | Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate | | Historic Buildings Preservation Council Register No. .... File No. .... |
| | National Trust of Aust. (Vic) Classified/Recorded File No. .... | [X] | Geelong Regional Commission Register No. ...24... |

IDENTIFICATION DATA
PLACE NAME Argyle Hotel,
ADDRESS 30 Aberdeen Street,
Geelong West, 3218.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Geelong West
TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE Hotel
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE Lindtoul Pty. Ltd.,
ADDRESS 8 Little Ryrie Street, **TELEPHONE**
Geelong, 3220. (052)

PLACE NAME   ARGYLE HOTEL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA   CITY OF GEELONG WEST

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Geelong Advertiser, 11th January 1855, tender notice for
Willingham Index   foundation works.
12th March 1855, tender notice for plastering
5th January 1859, for sale notice
20th March 1869, for sale notice with description
19th April 1880, tender notice for extensions

Seaton, Gladys, The Ashby Story - A History of Geelong
West, Adams Printers, for Geelong West City
Council, 1978. pp. 51, 65, 95, 232.

Brownhill, W.R. The History of Geelong and Corio Bay,
Wilke and Co., Melbourne, 1955, p. 376.

CITATION

The Argyle Hotel was erected in 1855 for William Rae at the
height of the post gold rush hotel building boom in Geelong.
Architect John Young, noted for his earlier designs for the
'Golden Age' and 'Bay View' hotels in Geelong, designed the
Argyle hotel in a similar classically derived style which
was dominated by modelled brick parapets, architraves and
mouldings in distinctive patterns. In August 1857 a
meeting held in the Argyle Hotel led to the formation of the
Borough of Newtown and Chilwell. The Argyle Hotel is one
of the first establishments of the 1850's in Geelong.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

☒ Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
☐ Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised,
  in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
☒ Its strong association with an important figure, development, or cultural phase.
☐ Its townscape and/or landscape value.
☐ Its scarcity value.

SIGNIFICANCE

☐ LOCAL ☒ REGIONAL ☐ STATE ☐ NATIONAL ☐ WORLD

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☒ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ DETERIORATED ☐ RUINS

INTEGRITY

☒ HIGH ☐ LOW ☐ ALTERED ☐ DAMAGED

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register.

DOCUMENTATION —   Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St.,
                  North Fitzroy, 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

SIGNATURE.................................

DATE.................

CITY OF GEELONG WEST
URBAN CONSERVATION STUDY: BUILDING IDENTIFICATION FORM.

BUILDING ADDRESS	30 Aberdeen Street		Type Hotel	Original Use Hotel
PRESENT BUILDING TITLE	Argyle Hotel			

EXISTING DESIGNATION	HBR.	GBR	NER	GRPS	NATIONAL TRUST	
					Classified	Recorded
Reg No.	—	—	—	94	—	—

CONSERVATION AREA No.   Name   Ashby

Survey Date   7·3·86

Neg. File   001 - 020

PERIOD	
pre 1860	⊠
1860 – 1879	☐
1680 – 1899	☐
1900 – 1919	☐
1920 – 1939	☐
post 1940	☐
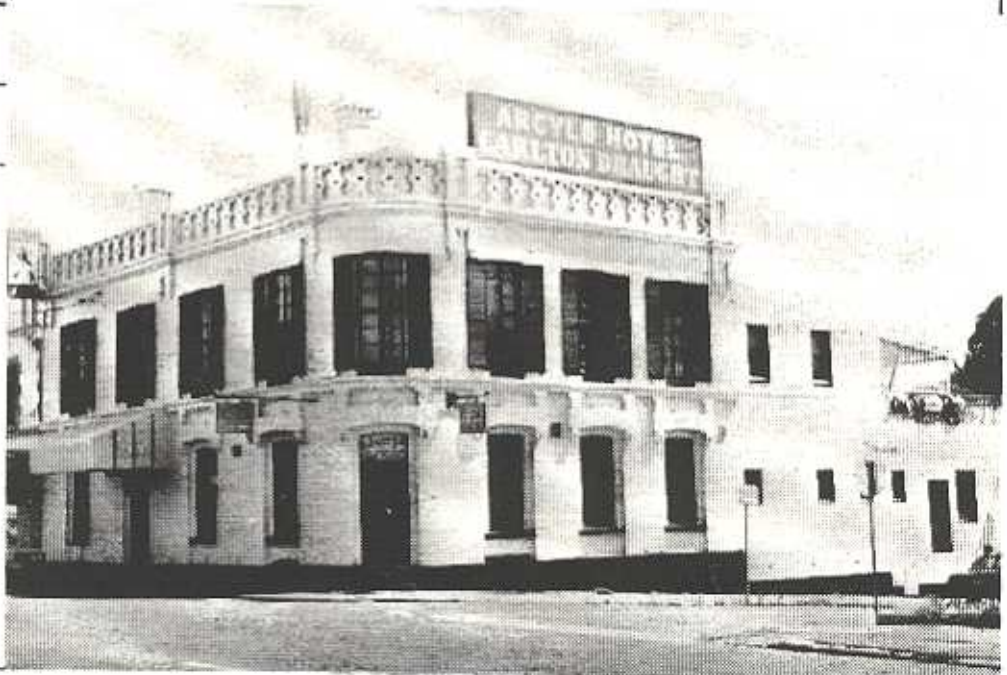
MATERIALS   walls   brick   roof   not clear

CONSTRUCTION DATE   c. 1855   source   Huddle

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

original materials ⊠	early paint colour scheme or original unpainted finish ☐	ornamental wall detailing ⊠
original doors, windows, hoods ⊠	intact verandah / porch structure ☐	original parapet ⊠
original roof form and finish ⊠	original chimneys ⊠	eaves, roof or gable decoration ☐
intact verandah decoration ☐	early fence ☐	early garden ☐
other prominent contributing elevations ⊠	☐	☐

INTEGRITY RATING   excellent ☐   good ⊠   fair ☐   poor ☐

LORRAINE HUDDLE   LOUISE HONMAN   RICHARD AITKEN
Architectural & Conservation Consultants

1986   page 1.

CITY OF GEELONG WEST

URBAN CONSERVATION STUDY: BUILDING IDENTIFICATION FORM.

BUILDING ADDRESS

30 ABERDEEN STREET.

HISTORY

The Argyle Hotel was built in 1855 for William Rae, and designed by noted Geelong architect John Young. Rae was formerly of the Separation Inn, Ballarat Road. The opening of the Argyle roughly coincided with the opening of the Fyansford bridge and there was a subsequent rise in traffic along Aberdeen Street. This hotel, like a number of others in Geelong West, was used for meetings which lead to the separation of Thomson ward of Geelong, as the Borough of Geelong West. It was also the scene of a meeting in 1857 which led to the formation of the Borough of Newtown and Chilwell. The Geelong football club regularly held meetings at the Argyle and from 1868 the club held football matches on the Argyle Ground. This ground, also known as the Argyle Green, was adjacent to the hotel and between Coronation Street and St. James Street. Although this land was owned by James Austin, it appears to have evolved for public use.

DESCRIPTION

The Argyle is a two storey red brick building (now painted), constructed in English garden wall bond. It has freestone window sills, plus shutters on the first floor. The ground floor windows are recessed with segmental arched window heads supported by brackets represented in brickwork. The tympanum is hollow and between these the use of a stringcourse with dentils below is evident. Young has carried the theme right through his design to the balustraded parapet supported by brackets, all these Renaissance elements being represented by stylised brick. While Young's use of brick is similar in both this hotel and the Golden Age Hotel (a better example), almost every detail is formed in a different way. The section at the northern end which has no surface decoration, is a later addition.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Argyle Hotel was an important meeting place in the nineteenth century for people to discuss such things as, the separation of Newtown and Chillwell and Thomson ward from Geelong, and meetings of the Geelong Football Club. The building was designed by the important Geelong based architect John Young and is one of two known examples by him in which brickwork has been used in this innovative way to stylise Italia High Renaissance elements. It is of State significance.

POLICY/RECOMMENDATIONS

Historic Buildings Council Register, National Estate Register, GRPS.

A more appropriate colour scheme, removal of the paint from the brickwork and removal of the canopy, would greatly enhance this building.

REFERENCES

L. Huddle, 'Architects in Geelong in the 1840's and 1850's',Department of
    Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1979. Vol. 1 p. 32-3, Vol. 3 p.105-6.
G. Seaton, The Ashby Story - A History of Geelong West, Geelong West City Council,
1978.   pp. 51-2, 121, 171.
I. Wynd, "Hotels of Geelong West', Investigator, Vol. 10, No. 1, p. 6.