

# GEORGE HOTEL



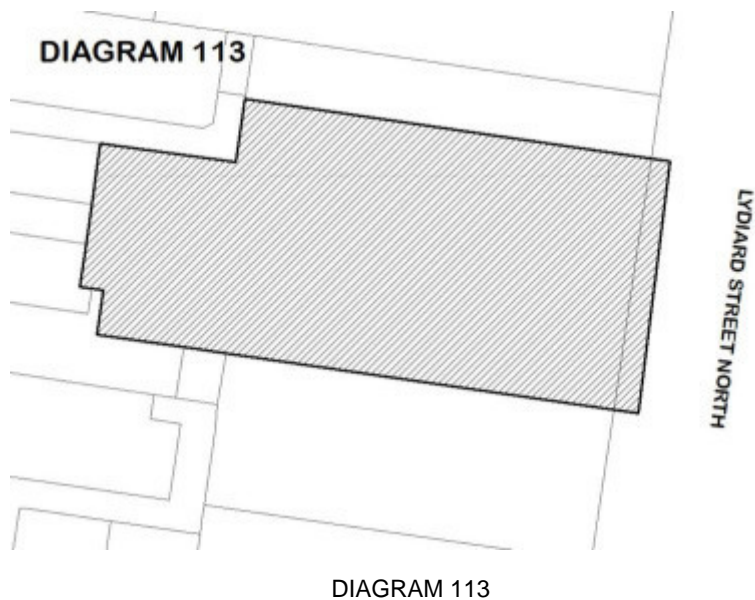
GEORGE HOTEL SOHE  
2008



1 george hotel ballarat front  
view



george hotel ballarat front  
detail



## Location

25 LYDIARD STREET NORTH BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

## Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0113

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO71

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Amendment to Registration

June 10, 2021

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 7, 2021

# What is significant?

The George Hotel, Ballarat is a three-storey brick building with three-storey cast iron verandah and balustraded parapet, built to the designs of Ballarat architects E & B Smith in 1902 with alterations in 1926 and 1938.

# How is it significant?

The George Hotel, Ballarat is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

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

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

# Why is it significant?

The George Hotel, Ballarat is historically significant for its association with Ballarat's early mining history. It is also important for its association with its predecessor on the same site, the George Inn, which played a role in the events that culminated in the Eureka Rebellion being the rendezvous point for the civil and military authorities. [Criterion A]

The George Hotel, Ballarat, is architecturally significant particularly for its imposing triple-storey, six bay wide cast iron verandah, which is uncommon in Victoria. Other detailing and ornamentation includes a balustraded parapet surmounted by a decorative semi-circular tympanum above the name plate. [Criterion D]

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

The following permit exemptions are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the George Hotel.

#### General

- Minor repairs and maintenance which replaces like with like. Repairs and maintenance must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any repairs and maintenance must not exacerbate the decay of fabric due to chemical incompatibility of new materials, obscure fabric or limit access to such fabric for future maintenance.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of existing external services such as plumbing, electrical cabling, surveillance systems, pipes or fire services which does not involve changes in location or scale.
- Repair to, or removal of items such as antennae; aerials; and air conditioners and associated pipe work, ducting and wiring.
- Works or activities, including emergency stabilisation, necessary to secure safety in an emergency where a structure or part of a structure has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.
- Painting of previously painted external and internal surfaces in the same colour, finish and product type provided that preparation or painting does not remove all evidence of earlier paint finishes or schemes. This exemption does not apply to areas where there are specialist paint techniques such as graining, marbling, stencilling, hand-painting, murals or signwriting, or to wallpapered surfaces, or to unpainted, oiled or varnished surfaces.
- Cleaning including the removal of surface deposits by the use of low-pressure water (to maximum of 300 psi at the surface being cleaned) and neutral detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing with plastic (not wire) brushes.

#### Permit exemptions for interiors

- Works to maintain or upgrade existing bathrooms, kitchens, and laundries, including installing new appliances, re-tiling and the like.

- Removal or replacement of window furnishings.
- Removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings. Replacement materials should also be carpet or flexible floor covering such as linoleum or vinyl.
- Installation, removal or replacement of existing electrical wiring. If wiring is currently exposed, it should remain exposed. If it is fully concealed it should remain fully concealed.
- Repair and maintenance of existing lifts and escalators including mechanisms and associated elements.
- Removal or replacement of existing hooks, brackets and the like for hanging wall mounted artworks.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of light fixtures, tracks and the like in existing locations.
- Removal or replacement of smoke and fire detectors, alarms and the like, of the same size and in existing locations.
- Repair, removal or replacement of existing ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the central plant is concealed, and that the work is done in a manner which does not alter building fabric.
- Installation of plant within the roof space, providing that it does not impact on the external appearance of the building or involve structural changes.
- Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.

### **Outdoor areas**

- Repair and maintenance of existing paving and footpaths where fabric, design, scale and form is repaired or replaced like for like.

### **35 Lydiard Street North (adjacent building to north)**

- All works within the internal envelope of the building other than structural changes to the southern party wall with the George Hotel.

Construction dates	1902,
Architect/Designer	Smith, E & B,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	73
Property Number	

## **History**

The first hotel on this site, the George Inn, was built in 1853, and was among the earliest hotels in Ballarat. It was an imposing two storey building located in a key position on Camp Hill, and was a landmark of early Ballarat. It was patronised by the fashionable members of the mining community and was witness to many of the events that shaped early Ballarat, particularly the Eureka uprising of 1854, when it was the rendezvous point for the civil and military authorities. In 1902 it was replaced by the present building, designed by the Ballarat architects E & B Smith and built by J McGregor. The tender price was £8397, and the total cost including furnishings was £17,000. Although built after the boom period, its flamboyant design is akin to the styles of the late nineteenth century. It had seventy five rooms of which thirty were bedrooms. There were four bars, behind which were four sitting rooms, a reading room, complete with grand piano, which opened into the dining room by means of wide folding doors, a commercial room, a billiard room with two tables, and a grand stair hall with an elaborate timber reception desk and a fine walnut staircase. An unusual feature was the carriage way to the right hand side of the building, now closed off, which separated a suite of offices, the George Chambers, on one side from the bars and lounge rooms on the other. The stables at the rear were designed to accommodate both horses and motor vehicles. There were alterations in 1926 by Clegg & Morrow, mainly involving kitchen and bathroom facilities. Alterations in 1938 by L H Vernon involved the upgrade of bar facilities and their redecoration in the Art Deco style, the blocking off of the carriageway, and alterations to the facade. The interior, particularly the stair hall, was damaged by fire in 1988, but has since been restored.

**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2003. Sources were as follows:**

Andrew C Ward & Associates, 'The George Hotel, Ballarat. Conservation and Restoration Guide', 1989.

## **Extent of Registration**

Heritage Act 2017 NOTICE OF REGISTRATION As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act 2017, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register: Number: H0113 Category: Registered Place Place: George Hotel Location: 25 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat Municipality: Ballarat City All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 113 encompassing all of Plan of Consolidation 37400 and part of the road reserve of Lydiard Street North to the extent of the land forming the footprint of the permanent verandahs. 10 June 2021 STEVEN AVERY Executive Director

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*