
Former Prince of Wales Hotel (?)



27222 Former Prince of Wales Hotel (?)

Location

125 Thompson Street HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SIGNIFICANCE: Formerly one of the main Hamilton hotels and for some time the RSL Hall.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Former Prince of Wales Hotel
125 Gray Street

Built on land originally sold by the Crown at auction in 1851 to W Smith, possibly the William Smith (c1838-1909) who was a leading businessman and who became Town Clerk in 1874 to 1887, the building appears to date from the early 1860s. (i) The Prince of Wales Hotel was opened in July 1873 (ii) and for years was operated by Henry Cooke (c1819-1882). It belonged to the second boom in hotel construction in Hamilton. It enjoyed an excellent position being close to the Cobb & Co coaching station a few doors up the hill in Thompson Street. The hotel went into decline, perhaps because train travel superceded coaches, and by 1920 it had been bought and

converted to a Returned Soldiers League hall. (iii)

Much of the original stone carcass of the hotel and its brick outbuildings survive as do the shopfronts installed in the 1920s conversion. Wooden structures at 127 Thompson Street may also relate to the stone building. The facade has been covered over by cladding recently but appears to survive behind. (iv) The building is in only fair condition. Nonetheless, it makes a considerable contribution to the streetscape, if only for its scale, form and setback on the property boundary.

FOOTNOTES

i Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 83. This is almost certainly the former hotel but a definitive rate book search has not been done to corroborate the physical evidence.

ii *Hamilton Spectator*, 3 July 1873.

iii Garden, p 196.

iv Its condition is not known but is reputed to be restorable.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1863, 1920, 1980,
Hermes Number	27222
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: corrugated iron

Walls: bluestone or brick

Dressings: cement render & tiles

Plinth: bluestone

Windows: 12 pane dhs

Paving: encaustic tiles

Other:

NOTABLE FEATURES: late Edwardian shopfronts

LEVEL OF STREETSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE: 1 || 2 || 3 |X|

STYLE: unknown, probably Conservative Classical

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Commercial Hotel, 139 Thompson Street

Argyle Arms Hotel, 235 Gray Street

Criterion or Grand Central Hotel, 141 Gray St

Integrity

Integrity: F

Physical Conditions

Conditions: F

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/>