

# TERMINUS HOTEL



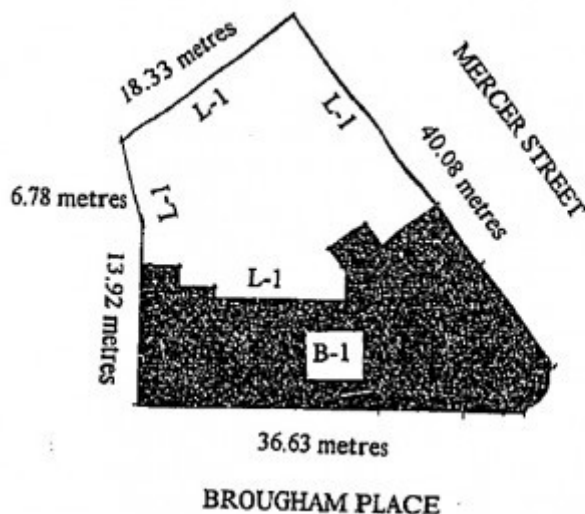
TERMINUS HOTEL SOHE  
2008



1 terminus hotel geelong front  
corner view apr1997



Terminus Hotel, c.1861, SLV,  
acc H13864.jpg



h01162 plan h1162

## Location

96 MERCER STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1162

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1047

## VHR Registration

April 18, 1996

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 6, 1999

The Terminus Hotel was built in 1853-54 to a design by the architectural firm Snell & Kawerau. The building is a wedge-shaped, three storey stuccoed brick structure with a rounded corner.

The Terminus Hotel is of architectural, historical and social significance to Victoria.

The Terminus Hotel has architectural importance as an unusually sophisticated architectural style for a hotel of this period. The building, believed to be the first of Geelong's distinctive round-cornered hotels and demonstrating an early use of decorative brickwork, represents the more substantial hotels of the gold rush. The severity of the smoothly stuccoed surface is relieved by subtle detailing, including a decorative brick parapet wall, heavy bracketed cornice and the dentillated cornice moulding around the main entrance.

The Terminus Hotel has an important historical association with the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company, established in 1850 to build a railway line from Geelong to Melbourne. The hotel, a large three storey building originally comprising 46 bedrooms and a ballroom, is symbolic of the importance of the railway in Victorian history. Its construction coincided with the commencement of the construction of the railway line and Edward Snell, engineer and architect for the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company, was involved with both projects.

The first two hotel owners, Alfred Napoleon Gilbert and Edwin Hooper, were also shareholders of the company. The hotel's name, its prominent siting and its impressive scale and design are all hallmarks of the railway era.

The building is also historically significant for its association with the gold rush era when Geelong, an important port for the gold fields, witnessed a boom in its population and its commercial activity. The substantial building demonstrates the emergence of a more ambitious and sophisticated architectural design characteristic of the gold rush period.

## 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](#).

Construction dates	1853,
Architect/Designer	Snell & Kawerau,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	4827
Property Number	

---

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 1162:

Terminus Hotel, 96 Mercer Street, Geelong, City of Greater Geelong.

Extent:

To the extent of:

1. All of the building known as the Terminus Hotel marked B-1 on Plan 605998 endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.
2. All of the land described in Memorial No. 264 Book 814 and Memorial No. 192 Book 897 marked L-1 on Plan 605998 endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G15 18 April 1996 p.964]

*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/>*