

# ROTHWELL INN RUINS

## Location

795 OLD MELBOURNE ROAD LITTLE RIVER, GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0326

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	Two distinctly separate structures are noticable - the bluestone chimney with associated multi roomed structural foundation and a brick chimney which in itself displays three phases of construction and a multi roomed structure. The bluestone chimney appears to be the older of the two buildings. Due to the site's position, the brick lined well is most likely contemporary with the second 1853 building.
Archaeological Significance	The site is disturbed. Building materials have been scavenged and there is little doubt that artefact collectors have often picked over the site. Nevertheless, there is good literature available for this site, substantial structural ruins still remain and it is likely that there are insitu deposits of cultural material dating to the earliest stages of the site's occupation. For these reasons the archaeological significance of this site is high.
Historical Significance	As with the archaeological significance, the historical significance of this site is high. The main reasons for this rating are the good quantity of material on the site, and the site's status as an early example of a hotel on the road from Melbourne to Geelong.
Hermes Number	12334
Property Number	

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## History

The Traveller's Rest Hotel was built in 1839 and until the late 1840s it was the only building that constituted the settlement of Little River. On 9 January 1852 the hotel was burned to the ground and William Perrin rebuilt the building in 1853, after which it appears to have been known as the Rothwell Inn. (Oct 1999, VC)

The Rothwell Inn, was originally called the Travellers Rest, and was constructed in 1839, on the road between Geelong and Melbourne, at one of two water crossings on the route. By 1840 it was described as a "commodious dwelling house of 10 rooms" (Port Phillip Gazette 1840). Up until the 1850s, the Travellers Rest was the township of Little River, except for the stations of North and Glass. In 1862, the township of Rothwell was proclaimed. With the announcement of the railway line between Geelong and Melbourne, interest grew in obtaining town lots. However, the line and station moved half a mile north, resulting in the shift in interest. During the 1860s land was sold for farming, but in the 1880s the population dropped from 1500 to 145. The township was never created, but the hotel continued, through to the 1950s when it was burnt out. It covered an acre. It had been burnt in 1852 and rebuilt in 1853. (31/10/01, FW)

*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/>*