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# FORMER SCOTT BUTCHER SITE

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## Location

25 AND 27 AND 29 BRIDGE MALL, BALLARAT CENTRAL 3350

## Municipality

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0489

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 14, 2024

### What is significant?

The area is first mapped as allotments 4 and 5 of Section C as Detailed in the Revised Town Block Plan of Main Road (Blocks A. B. C. D.) The area comprised three stores, and all had a high turnover in tenancy throughout the 1850s and 1860s. throughout the 1870s two of the three allotments were occupied by A Scott, Butcher, and the Acott family, Mr. Olds greengrocer occupied allotment 4 for 25 years. In 1890 there was a major fire event resulting in the destruction of property. The site was likely rebuilding by Scott in 1891. The twentieth century occupation of the site requires additional research; however the 1926-1936 Ballarat Sewerage Authority Plans shows three cesspits across the properties.

### How is it significant?

The site is of local historical and archaeological significance.

### Why is it significant?

The site is of historical significance as the location of an early commerical and residential premissis during the years of the Victorian Gold Rush - one of the most significant rushes in world history. The site is of archaeological significance due to its potential to contain artefacts, deposits, features that elate to the establishment of commerical operation in the Ballarat goldfeild, and later nineteenth century occupations.

Interpretation of Site	Phase 1: Initial Gold Rush 1850s-1865 General commercial occupation Phase 2: Established Township 1870-1890 Scott Butcher and Mr Olds Green Grocer Directories and Rate books should be reviewed to determine any sequence. Phase 3: Golden City 1891-1923 Late nineteenth-century commercial occupation Directories and Rate books should be reviewed to determine any sequence. 2024 Hil historical elevation modeling for Allotment 26 showing 2m-3m of potential fill, likely to be sealing early deposits and archaeological features (see figure below).
Other Names	Other or former names: 25 & 27 & 29 Bridge Mall, Ballarat,
Hermes Number	212248
Property Number	

## History

The Bridge Street Mall was once part of Main Street, Ballarat East, one of the earliest commercial areas in the goldfields. This part of Main Street was the original thoroughfare between the official township in Ballarat West, and the diggings to the east. Main Street (also known as Main Road and Plank Road). The location of Bridge Street is between two of the first alluvial gold fields and truncated the original alignment of the Yarrowee creek to the west. This created environmental and social issues for store owners and residents. The landscape changes created by the rush in 1852 and mass alluvial mining in these areas led to multiple disastrous flood and fire events. The Yarrowee and other drainage pathways were choked with sludge causing frequent inundation and ultimately resulting in the realignment and channelling of the Yarrowee as early as 1855. There were several disastrous fire events throughout the 1850s which caused thousands of pounds in damages, which in addition to multiple inundation, resulted in the street level in this part of Main Road, being raised approximately six feet in the 1860s. Earlier forms of commercial premises are likely to have been canvas and timber, as shown below. It is unknown the exact proximity to the diggings, but from descriptions and the 1857 mapping we can see that they encroached on Main Street. Waste management was also an issue, with descriptions of thousands of bottles being dumped in sumps and shafts. The site was likely established in 1854 but there are limited records available to confirm this. The land was first sold in 1856. There are three allotment shown on the 1857 Revised Plan of Main Road. The 1874 Panorama from Ballarat Town Hall and a photograph of Bridge Street shows two single story structures across Allotment 4 and 4a. In 1890, Mr A Kaul advertised the site for auction. The advertisement notes that the site has been occupied by good tenants for the last 25 years (11 June 1890, The Ballarat Star: 3). The tenant was noted as 'Mr Olds Green Grocer'. On May 12 1890 the premises was impacted by fire (The Ballarat Star: 2). During the 1870s, the site is likely to have been occupied by A. Scott Butchers. There are advertisements through the 1870s for A Scott 'Butcher' on Bridge Street Ballarat (14 May 1874, the Ballarat Star: 3). In 1890 (12 May 1890 The Ballarat Star: 2. ) there was a fire in the upstairs of Mr Scotts establishment, which started in the upstairs of Mr Olds Green Grocer. The article notes that Mr Scott lived on the premises with 'several children' and he estimated to have lost 400 pounds in damages. The site next door is noted to be owned by Mr Kaul, Jeweller. In 1890 Mr Kaul auctioned the property and it was likely purchased by Mr Scott, whom advertised the lease of 'newly erected premises in Bridge street with Large Shop and goods dwelling (14 August 1891, the Ballarat Star: 3). It is unknown whom occupied the property and when Mr Scott vacated the premises. Figure 3: 1870 Bridge Street Source: SLNSW Figure 4: 1870, Panorama of Ballarat from Ballarat Town Hall. Source: SLNSW Figure 5: 1882, F. Kruger, Bridge Street, looking East, from Sturt-street, Ballarat. Source: SLV. Figure 6: c.1920-1954, Rose Stereograph Co., BRIDGE STREET, LOOKING EAST, BALLARAT, VIC. Source: SLV. The site became 25, 27 and 29 Bridge Street Ballarat. The Ballarat Sewerage plan shows adjoining cesspits at 27 and 19, and a cesspit to the north of 25.

*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/>