FORMER FOUNTAIN HEAD HOTEL SITE

Location

57-59 BRIDGE MALL BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0494

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 23, 2024

What is significant?
The site's first noted occupation is in 1854, as the first timber building constructed on Main Road. The area is first mapped as allotment 16 and 17 of Section D in detail in the 1857 *Revised Town Plan of Block A.B. C. D.* The site was likely occupied prior as part of the first phase of the Ballarat Main Street development, due to its proximity to Ballarat West and the Gravel Pit alluvial fields. The area was occupied by the Fountain Head Bakery and Hotel from c. 1856 until 1865. The premises likely went through two stages of development beginning as a timber structure and developing into a bricked 'fireproof structure in the 1860s. The later nineteenth century appears to be a general high turn-over commercial occupation, however, features are still present on the 1923 Ballarat Sewerage Plan showing smaller outbuildings and a cesspit to the south of the site.

How is it significant?
The site is of historical and archaeological significance.

Why is it significant?
The site is of historical significance as the location of an early residence and watchmaker store during the years of the Victorian gold rush – one of the most significant rushes in world history. The later nineteenth century shows the development and decline of Main Road and the movement of the commercial centre to Sturt Street. The site is of archaeological significance due to its potential to contain artefacts, deposits and features that relate to the establishment of commercial operations in the gold rush, and other later 19th-century activities.

Hermes Number   212261

Property Number