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# FORMER CRITERION HOUSE SITE

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## Location

302-306 STURT STREET BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

## Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0553

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 25, 2024

### What is significant?

The site is first mapped as Allotment 1 of Section 3 on the 1852 Municipality of Ballarat Plan with the occupied being purchased by J. Austin. The ground is described as swampy in the 1850s. The 1861 Gold Fields Plan shows one large structure across the site, likely to be the timber structure built by Hillfling and Greig until 1859. The site contained the Criterion House Drapery Store (est. 1860). The site was redeveloped c. 1960. There is a 1m elevation change between 1858 and 2019. Excavations within the roadway have revealed a timber bridge structure at 0.75m in depth. The site currently contains late twentieth century structures.

### 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 commercial premises in Ballarat West during the years of the Victorian gold rush. The site is significant as the Criterion Drapery Store, which was one of the largest stores created in Austral in the 1860s. 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 as the Criterion Store later 19th-century activities.

Hermes Number 212276

Property Number

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*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/>*