

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 21/05/19



RISING SUN HOTEL (FORMER)



52348 Rising Sun Inn Hotspur 406

Location

1510 LYONS-HOTSPUR ROAD, HOTSPUR, GLENELG SHIRE

Municipality

GLENELG SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Glennelg Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The former Rising Sun Hotel is located on the north east corner of the two principal historic roads through Hotspur, McDonald Street and MacKenzie Street, overlooking the Crawford River and the road bridge. The former hotel has been converted into a private residence, but still retains the form and stylistic details of an early restrained Victorian period commercial building. The former hotel is single storey, built of handmade bricks, locally dug and burnt on the nearby Crawford River. The decorative use of dichromatic brickwork alternating courses of dark bricks with red bricks, while traditional in Britain and France is very unusual in Victoria before the mid 1860s . Also unusual is that only the east facade of the building has this treatment. The other faces of the

building are traditionally laid red bricks. Originally two storey, the lower storey remains after the upper storey was dismantled in about 1950. The hotel was constructed in 1857 for Publican and former Constable John McConachy and his wife Jane, who held the licence of the nearby Crawford Inn from 1854 until they took up the Rising Sun. The property suffers from rising damp, and an unsympathetic 'pop up' in the roof (dating from about 1950) detracts from its significance slightly. The integrity of the complex is fair, although the first storey of the hotel has been lost.

How is it significant?

The former Rising Sun Hotel is of historical and architectural significance to the Glenelg Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Rising Sun Hotel is of historical significance as one of the two first hotels in the township of Hotspur and the surrounding area. The siting of the hotel is also historically significant as the oldest surviving hotel in Hotspur, located on a key historic intersection overlooking the traditional river crossing and later road bridge. It is of further significance as it provides us with an understanding of the hotel's clientele, and status in the township. This is evident by the building's prominent location and imposing facade which would have dominated both the major route from Portland to Casterton, as well as the route to many of the major pastoral properties surrounding Hotspur. Of architectural interest is the use of dichromatic bricks in this building.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Glenelg - Glenelg Shire Heritage Study Part One, Carlotta Kellaway, David Rhodes Mandy Jean, 2002; Glenelg - Glenelg Heritage Study Stage Two (a), Heritage Matters, 2006;
Construction dates	1856,
Hermes Number	52348
Property Number	

Usage/Former Usage

Private residence

Physical Description 1

The former Rising Sun Hotel is a simple single storey brick building, generally rectangular in plan. It is located on what would have been the most prominent location in the town, on the corner of McDonald and MacKenzie Streets, the traditional intersection, where the traffic moving from Portland to Casterton and Adelaide met the traffic coming from the outlying Stations. The Hotel was originally a two storey building, constructed between 1856 and 1857. It is said to have been constructed using hand made bricks of local Crawford River clays. The decorative use of dichromatic brickwork alternating courses of dark bricks with red bricks, while traditional in Britain and France is very unusual in Victoria before the mid 1860s. Also unusual is that only the east facade of the building has this treatment. The other faces of the building are traditionally laid red bricks. Early photographs show the dichromatic brickwork extended to the second storey on the eastern facade, facing MacKenzie Street, suggesting that this was the most important street.

The former hotel has a traditional corner entrance, with the original 1850s fanlight set above a pair of traditional four paned French doors. An early photograph of the hotel shows that a blank window was located above this on the second storey. This same photograph shows the simple roof form, clad with either shingles, which were replaced in 1913 (Bennett, G., 2006, Personal Communication). The eastern facade has a typical arrangement of two windows, a timber door (perhaps to the original residence) and a third window beyond that. All remaining windows are four paned timber sash windows which appear to date from the 1870s. The second storey had openings arranged in the same locations above, but all were windows. Photographs indicate that the windows were originally twelve pane double hung timber sash windows, typical of the late 1850s. The facade facing McDonald Street to the north had three windows on the second storey and two windows on the lower level. All of the brickwork on the lower level shows evidence of rising damp, perhaps associated with the annual flood cycle

of the earliest days of the hotel.

The second storey was removed in 1945-1946 by Wally Heinrich (the owner at the time). The reason given for the removal of the upper storey has been recorded as due to a leaking roof, the upper storey was derelict and it was considered cheaper to demolish the roof and upper storey than repair it (Ibid.). The existing roof (on the now single storey building) follows a similar simple plan to the earlier roof of the two storey building, but a later 'pop up' has been included in the eastern portion of the roof.

Physical Conditions

Good

Historical Australian Themes

3. Developing local, regional and national economies

3.12.5 Retailing foods and beverages

3.22 Lodging people

3.23 Catering for tourists

4. Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

8. Developing Australia's cultural life

8.4 Eating and drinking

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

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 data owner.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>