

# GUILDFORD HOTEL MUSIC HALL AND STABLES



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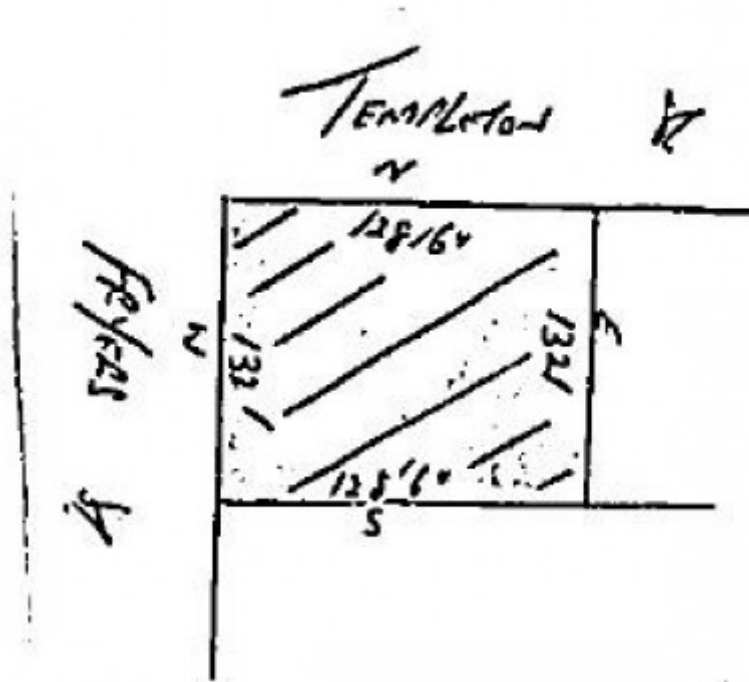
1 guildford hotel music hall & stables midland hwy guildford front view of hotel



guildford hotel music hall & stables midland hwy guildford rear view of hotel



guildford hotel music hall & stables midland hwy guildford side view of music hall



H0739 h0739 extent plan

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## Location

35 FRYERS STREET GUILDFORD, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0739

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO960

## VHR Registration

August 23, 1989

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 7, 2007

### What is significant?

The Guildford Hotel was built in 1855-6 for Joseph Sherer on a main corner site in the town. A combined music hall and stables building was added on the adjacent site by 1863, but possibly as early as 1856.

In 1856 Joseph Sherer acquired an acre of land on the corner of the Midland Highway and Fryers Street, Guildford. A substantial hotel building, known as Sherer's Hotel and containing eleven rooms with offices and detached kitchen, was described that year as newly built. The following year the hotel was offered for lease and at this time it was described as containing a large bar, parlours, dining rooms and bedrooms, together with a newly erected concert hall, and a stable capable of accommodating sixteen horses with large hay loft and harness room. This would appear to include the present music hall and stables building, built on the adjoining allotment in Fryers Street.

William Gaffney became the hotel licensee in 1861 and Gaffney's Hotel was reported to have stabling for fifty horses and a long room fitted up as a theatre in 1863. A grand music festival was advertised at the hotel that year and the complex was also used as a coach office for Cobb and Co and for numerous sales and auctions.

In 1865 Gaffney's Hotel was sold to Giles Church, a local hotelier, and the first and subsequent Guildford Borough Council meetings were reportedly held there in 1866. Improvements, including the addition of an ornamental verandah, were made to the building in 1885 by the new owner, Wearn Dunstan and further works were undertaken in 1893 to both the hotel, known as Dunstan's Family Hotel, and the adjoining building, known

at the time as the assembly rooms.

In the early 1920s Pasquale Delmenico acquired the Guildford Hotel and it remained in the ownership of this family until 1992. The Delmenico family had arrived in Guildford in 1855, as part of a large contingent of Swiss immigrants who settled in the area.

The Guildford Hotel complex comprises a two storey corner building of rendered brick, an adjoining single storey wing and a detached building. The main two storey parapeted building, with corner entrance, has a double hipped roof, verandah, and twelve-paned, double hung windows. All original window and door openings have been retained. The detached building has a steeply pitched gable roof, originally shingled, some evidence of which remains. The gable ends are parapeted and the stable end contains an unusual open brickwork section, used as a dovecote, which allowed light penetration and ventilation to the hayloft.

From 1989 to 1992 stabilisation work was carried out on the music hall and stables building. In 1993 a new verandah was added to the hotel and in 2002-3 restoration work was undertaken on the music hall and stables building.

### **How is it significant?**

The Guildford Hotel, Music Hall and Stables are of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

### **Why is it significant?**

The Guildford Hotel, Music Hall and Stables is of architectural significance as a rare example of a goldfield music hall and stables building. Other surviving examples are the Star Theatre, Chiltern, 1865 (VHR H0278) and the former Royal Hotel and Theatre, Maldon, 1857 and 1862 (VHR H1391). The retention of the form of the hotel building, and some original detailing, such as the windows, is of importance.

The Guildford Hotel, Music Hall and Stables is of historical significance due to its association with the gold rush period and the subsequent development of the colony. It is illustrative of the development that took place in the town as a result of the gold rush and is significant as the sole survivor of a large number of hotels built during Guildford's peak of development. The complex, in particular the music hall, played an important role in the life of the town as a community meeting place.

[Online Data Upgrade Project 2007]

## **Permit Exemptions**

<span class="c1">General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.</span> <span class="c1">General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.</span> <p class="c1">General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.</p> <span class="c1">General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.</span> <span class="c1">General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.</span> <span class="c1">Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.</span>

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Construction dates      | 1856,             |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place, |
| Hermes Number           | 562               |
| Property Number         |                   |

## History

The Guildford Hotel was built in 1855-6 for Joseph Sherer on a main corner site in the town. A combined music hall and stables building was added on the adjacent site by 1863, but possibly as early as 1856.

First land sales took place in Guildford in 1854 soon after the discovery of gold in the area. An acre of land on the corner of the Midland Highway and Fryers Street, upon which the Guildford Hotel was built, was granted to local land speculator, James Brown, in December 1855. The adjoining acre, upon which the music hall and stables building was constructed, was granted to William Spinks and Samuel Suffrin and they established the first industry in Guildford, a candle and soap factory, to the rear of this site that same year.

In 1856 Joseph Sherer acquired an acre of land on the corner of the Midland Highway and Fryers Street, Guildford. A substantial hotel building, known as Sherer's Hotel and containing eleven rooms with offices and detached kitchen, was described that year as newly built. The following year the hotel was offered for lease and at this time it was described as containing a large bar, parlours, dining rooms and bedrooms, together with a newly erected concert hall, and a stable capable of accommodating sixteen horses with large hay loft and harness room. This would appear to include the present music hall and stables building, built on the adjoining allotment in Fryers Street.

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In the early 1920s Pasquale Delmenico acquired the Guildford Hotel and it remained in the ownership of this family until 1992. The Delmenico family had arrived in Guildford in 1855, as part of a large contingent of Swiss immigrants who settled in the area.

**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2007. Sources were as follows:**  
W. Jacobs et al. *Shire of Mt Alexander: Heritage Study of the former Shire of Newstead*, 2000  
*Mt Alexander Mail*, various dates  
M. C, Rilen (ed). *Guildford: Some Early History*. 1970

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 739, Guildford Hotel, Music Hall and Stables, Midland Highway, Guildford, to the extent of the whole of the buildings and land in Memorial 982 Book 510.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G33 23 August 1989 p.2165]

*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/>*