FORMER SHEARERS ARMS HOTEL



FORMER SHEARERS ARMS HOTEL SOHE 2008



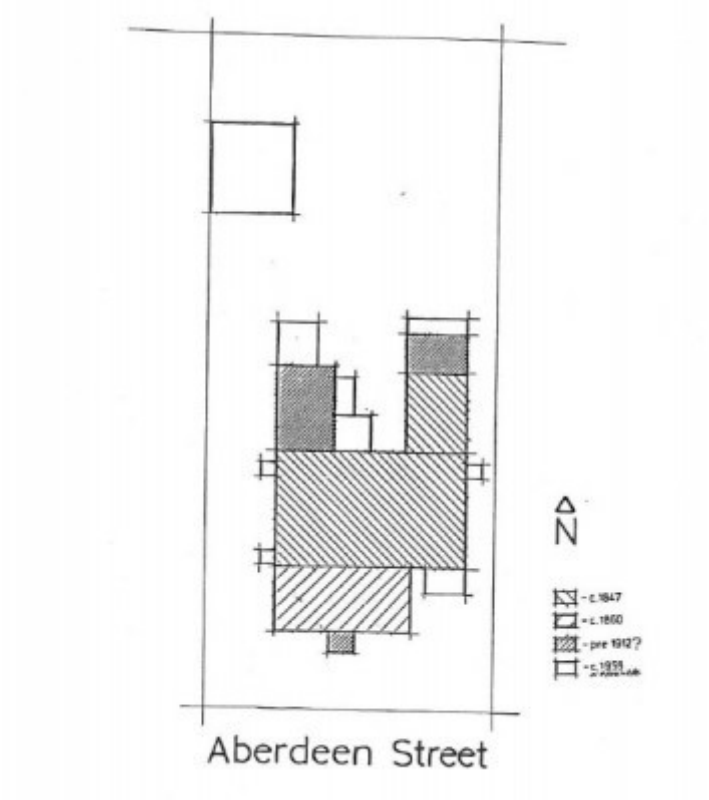
former shearers arms hotel aberdeen street geelong front elevation publication



h00661 former shearers arms hotel aberdeen street geelong side view she project 2003



former shearers arms hotel aberdeen street geelong street front entrance



H0661 H0661 map

Location

202 ABERDEEN STREET GEELONG WEST, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0661

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO609

VHR Registration

November 11, 1987

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 24, 1999

The Former Shearers Arms Hotel stands on Part of Crown Allotment 1 Section 8 in the Parish of Moorpanyal for which Captain Edward Brown Addis RN of Launceston purchased the crown grant in July 1839. Addis moved to Geelong in 1841 where he held the position of commissioner of crown lands. Early in 1847 he sold part of the land to John Day who was soon after granted a publican's general licence. Day opened his hotel in July 1847 but the first mention of any aspect of the building occurred in 1849 when the then licensee Joseph Lewis was required to provide an additional bedroom. The licence changed hands several times in the early years. In 1852 William Harrison was listed as proprietor followed by Herbert Swindells in 1854, James Grant in 1855 and George Leaford in 1856.

The association with Herbert Swindells is of interest. An educated man, Swindells was a teacher at the Free Presbyterian School in 1848. He wrote poetry, some of which was published and in 1852 led an exploration party which discovered the Wardy and Yallock (Spring Dollars) goldfields. George Leaford, a former sea captain, was an active promoter of the inn, organising many social and sporting events but died in 1858 aged 38.

A common thread through this early period is the ownership of the land by Elizabeth Harrison. She purchased the hotel in 1852 shortly after the death of her husband William and c.1856 married George Leaford. Some time prior to 1882 she married Herbert Swindells as it was in this year that the couple sold the land to Thomas Battern.

The building was described in 1850 as a seven roomed brick public house with stables and a garden and there is no reason to believe that substantial portions of the present building do not date from this period or earlier. The simple form of the rear section is consistent with a building of this early date and also relates closely to the plan shown on Taylor's 1854 map.

The Shearer’s Arms is a stucco and brick building with a hipped roof. Of domestic character, it is illustrative of the form of an early rural inn which has become enveloped in the growth of Geelong. The building has been altered and extended several times. Two main rooms and a central passage have been added at the front possibly in the 1850s. The front porch appears to be an early 20th century addition.

Despite its altered form the Shearer’s Arms is of state historical importance as a rare surviving example of a pre-gold rush hotel. It is one of the oldest buildings in Victoria and probably predates the Harp Inn of c.1848 in Geelong West.

[Source: Report to the Minister]

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don’t harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act*

1987 and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions here.

Construction dates	1847,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	545
Property Number	

Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
Historic Buildings No. 661.
Former Shearers Arms Hotel, 202 Aberdeen Street, Geelong, to the extent of the land and buildings shown on the plan dated 2 June 1987 and endorsed by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G44 11 November 1987 p. 3031]

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/