

Victorian Heritage Database Report
BAY VIEW HOTEL



Location:

2-4 MERCER STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H1159

Listing Authority: VHR

Heritage Overlay Number: HO110

Statement of Significance:

What is significant?

The Bay View Hotel, originally called the Western Hotel, was built in 1853-54 to a design by the prominent

Geelong architect John Young. The three storey structure has a Barrabool sandstone facade with framed windows, balustraded parapet and a curved corner accentuating the entrance. The original balustraded parapet has been replaced with a more ornamental balustrade and the exterior has been painted. The building was used for a short while as a private school in the late 1860s and as a boarding establishment in the 1880s. It reverted to its original use as a hotel in the 1880s.

How is it significant?

The Bay View Hotel is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Bay View is architecturally significant as an important example of stylised Renaissance Revival architecture in Victoria. It is a notable work of the architect John Young, the Tuscan details of the centre row of windows and the distinctive curved corner entrance being characteristic of his work.

The substantial hotel, situated to capture the passing coach traffic, is historically significant for its associations with the gold rush era when Geelong experienced a boom in population and commercial activity. The building demonstrates the emergence of a more ambitious and sophisticated architectural design characteristic of the gold rush period.

The building is also of historical interest for the way in which its changing patterns of occupancy in the 19th century reflect the changing circumstances of Geelong's economy from the gold rush boom to the decline which commenced in the 1860s.

Heritage Study / Consultant	
Construction Date Range	1853 -
Architect / Designer	Long, John
Municipality	GREATER GEELONG CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	3030
Property number	

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online