

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

## TERMINUS HOTEL



### Location:

96 MERCER STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

### Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Registered

**Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H1162**

**Listing Authority: VHR**

**Heritage Overlay Number: HO1047**

### Statement of Significance:

The Terminus Hotel was built in 1853-54 to a design by the architectural firm Snell & Kawerau. The building is a wedge-shaped, three storey stuccoed brick structure with a rounded corner.

The Terminus Hotel is of architectural, historical and social significance to Victoria.

The Terminus Hotel has architectural importance as an unusually sophisticated architectural style for a hotel of this period. The building, believed to be the first of Geelong's distinctive round-cornered hotels and demonstrating an early use of decorative brickwork, represents the more substantial hotels of the gold rush. The severity of the smoothly stuccoed surface is relieved by subtle detailing, including a decorative brick parapet wall, heavy bracketed cornice and the dentillated cornice moulding around the main entrance.

The Terminus Hotel has an important historical association with the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company, established in 1850 to build a railway line from Geelong to Melbourne. The hotel, a large three storey building originally comprising 46 bedrooms and a ballroom, is symbolic of the importance of the railway in Victorian history. Its construction coincided with the commencement of the construction of the railway line and Edward Snell, engineer and architect for the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company, was involved with both projects.

The first two hotel owners, Alfred Napoleon Gilbert and Edwin Hooper, were also shareholders of the company. The hotel's name, its prominent siting and its impressive scale and design are all hallmarks of the railway era.

The building is also historically significant for its association with the gold rush era when Geelong, an important port for the gold fields, witnessed a boom in its population and its commercial activity. The substantial building demonstrates the emergence of a more ambitious and sophisticated architectural design characteristic of the gold rush period.

Heritage Study / Consultant	
Construction Date Range	1853 - 1854
Architect / Designer	Snell & Kawerau
Municipality	GREATER GEELONG CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	4827
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*