

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: CALEDONIAN HOTEL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 159 Graham Street WONTHAGGI

STUDY NUMBER: 525

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER: HO158

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Bass Coast Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Caledonian Hotel, 159 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

Image Date: July 2004

EXTENT OF LISTING:

Whole allotment.

CALEDONIAN HOTEL

Heritage Overlay No **HO158**

PropertyNo

File Number

Heritage Study No **525**

Heritage Grading

HPD Number 217

HI Number

VHR Number

Other Names/s

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

Location 159 Graham Street WONTHAGGI

PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

COUNTY OF MORNINGTON

WONTHAGGI (T)

Planning Authority

Ward Hovell

Access Description

Map Number

0

Map Scale 1:100000

Latitude

Longitude

UMG Zone

Easting

Northing

Location Validity

Spatial Accuracy

Percent of Listing

Whole allotment.

Published Extent of Listing

Significance Local

Statement of Significance

The Caledonian Hotel is of local social, historic and aesthetic significance. The hotel is of historic significance, dating from the early years of Wonthaggi's establishment. It is of social significance as it has remained one of the town's major hotels, and has served as a focal point of social activity for generations of townspeople. Its links with the Caledonian Club reflect the presence of significant numbers of settlers of Scottish origin to the region. The Hotel is of aesthetic significance as it possesses significant landmark qualities derived from its imposing height, form and decorative character and is one of the most substantial buildings in the commercial area.

Gazettal Details

Permit Exemptions

Exemptions Policy

Assessment Against Criteria

AHC A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

AHC C.2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

AHC E.1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

Date Assessed 13/08/2004 Assessed By F Woodhouse

Comparisons

Rare Assessment

Intact Assessment

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme No Recommendations for Inclusions

Recommended Management

Reinstate original window, door and gable detailing to the principal facade. Also reinstate original terracotta tiling to roof, and capping detail.

Remove added render on ground floor facade.

Heritage Act Categories

Heritage Item Groups

Heritage Item Categories

Heritage place

Commercial

Hotel

Title Details

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Physical Description

The Caledonian Hotel is a double fronted, two-storey, face red brick, Federation style building, with a partial attic level. The principal elevation onto Graham Street is symmetrical, and comprised of two double height gabled bays, with the main entry located in between. The facade has been rendered to approximately one metre in height. The original entry doors have been replaced, and a secondary entry doorway on the east side converted to a window. The windows have painted, rendered concrete sills and lintels, with most of the original joinery having been replaced. The timber gable screens have been removed. The terracotta tiling on the steeply pitched roof has been partially replaced with corrugated, galvanised steel sheeting, and the ridge ornamentation removed.

Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential

Usage Hotel

Associated People

Historical Notes

Wonthaggi was established as a mining town in 1909 to supply the Victorian Railways with black coal, and thus make Victoria independent of the privately owned New South Wales coalfields, the previous source of coal for the railways. The decision to proceed with mining coal from the Powlett Coalfield was prompted by the coal miners in New South Wales strike in 1909. When established, the coal was worked by the State Coal Mine from the Dudley and Kirrak Basins. The township of Wonthaggi is located on a ridge between the two basins. Initially the miners lived in a tent city; by 1910 the Government had laid out a model township. By 1921 Wonthaggi had a population of 5,000, making it one of the largest towns in Gippsland at the time. Wonthaggi's population peaked at around 12,000 in the mid-1920s when the mine was at its operational peak. The township was divided into commercial and residential areas. Its infrastructure provided for housing, water, churches, schools, and other social facilities. The township is now the largest in South West Gippsland.

The Caledonian Hotel first appears in Sands & McDougall Directories in 1917, with J W Webb the proprietor. However, in 1915, Webb was listed in association with the Caledonian Club, and it would appear there was a connection between the Club and the eventual establishment of the hotel. In the Powlett Express Souvenir edition, 'Wonthaggi and District: Past and Present', the fare at the Caledonian Hotel is described as 'the best the most skilled chef can produce' and notes that 'Only the best brands of Wines and Spirits kept in stock.' Additionally, Motor Car and Garage facilities were available. The Hotel has remained a focal point of the town since its establishment.

Historic Themes

Thematic Environmental History

13.1 Larger Centres: Wonthaggi, the site of the former State Coal Mine, was established to supply coal to the Victorian Railways and eventually other industries. Today it is a flourishing town and the largest shopping centre in South Gippsland. Wonthaggi's commercial area includes an extensive range of shops. As a tourist destination, the area supports hotels, motels, caravan parks and accommodation for holiday rentals. Nearby attractions include Cape Paterson and its fine surf beaches and the adjoining Bunurong Marine Park. The State Coal Mine and Mining Museum, now a tourist attraction, is managed by Parks Victoria.

Listings

References

Author	Title	Year	ShelfLocation
	Sands & McDougall Directories	1910	
		1920	
Bass Coast Shire	www.basscoast.vic.gov.au	2004	
Department of Land and Survey	Parish Plan of Township of Wonthaggi, Parish of Wonthaggi, County of Mornington		
John M Coghlan	The State Coal Mine and Wonthaggi 1909-1968	1979	
T.J. Gannon (ed.)	Wonthaggi and District, Past and Present	1934	

Conservation Plans

Owner Type

Section 32 Recommendation

Owners/Occupants/Managers

Other Notes

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Application Detail

Adviser Comments

Planning Scheme Amendments

Overlay Controls

Planning Scheme Schedule

External Paint Controls? No

Included in Vic Heritage Register? No

Internal Alteration Controls? No

Prohibited uses may be permitted? Yes

Tree Controls? No

Name of incorporated plan No

Buildings/fences not exempt? No

Aboriginal Heritage Place? No