GAWLER HERITAGE SURVEY STAGE 2

REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT

Date: 3/10/83	Heritage Branch Reference Number: 6628-12126
Item Name: OLD SPOT HOTEL	
Item Address: Murray Street, Gawler. (Allotment 199)	Gawler Heritage Survey Stage 1 Item No. : 1

SUMMARY

This report has been prepared under Stage 2 of the Gawler Heritage Survey.

Historically, the site upon which this structure is built is significant, here the first house in Gawler was erected. A public house, it grew in its first decade from a single room to a spacious and comfortable inn. Demolished in 1855 it was replaced by a single storey 13 roomed stone structure. The two storey hotel standing on this site was probably built in the 1880's.

Architecturally, the building is a good example of hotel architecture. The facade is pleasantly proportioned with attractive iron work and columns.

Environmentally, the building makes a significant contribution to the local character and relates well to the general environment of the Murray Street precinct.

The integrity of the building is not complete due to continuous additions and alterations some of which are not in character. (

HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH RECOMMENDATION: ....Brian G. Rowney..........
                                                          Manager

It is recommended that this item be included/~~not included~~(delete that phrase not applicable) on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorised (recommended S.A. Heritage Committee categorisation, if applicable). B2. A2. A3

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ....
                                                          Chairman

Assessed: Recommended.

The Committee added the following riders:

1.

2

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6628-12126

	Item OLD SPOT HOTEL 77 Murray Street, Gawler.	Status

Age	Subject	Style
1880	Trade and Commerce	Colonial

Qualitative Data — Grading

History

	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
1. Context The first building to be erected in the township of Gawler was the hotel built on this site in 1840.	X				
2. Person/Group Other functions of this hotel in the 1840's and early 1850's were post office, courthouse, meeting place for Oddfellows and Freemasons.		X			
3. Event No particular event.			X		X

Architecture

	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
4. Architect/Builder Not known.			X		X
5. Design Attractive facade, the building reflects a long history of additions and alterations both internal and external. Ground floor currently used for bar and dining areas, first floor for accommodation. An attractive stain glass door and window surround to balcony on first floor.		X			
6. Construction Generally of brickwork with areas of rubble stone and timber frame painted out to match. Evidence of deterioration of the structure under paint through cracking and deterioration of woodwork and spoiling of stone & brick			X		
7. Interior Generally a composition of spaces created by alterations and additions over an extended period of time. There are no substantial features or fittings.			X		
8. Representation Does not represent a building which has architectural or engineering significance. Front facade is pleasantly proportioned with attractive iron work and columns. Adjoining dry cleaners shop is closely related to the Old Spot Hotel.		X			

Environment

	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
9. Continuity The item relates well to the general environment of Murray Street in terms of scale, massing, siting, age and grouping.		X			
10. Local Character The item makes a significant contribution to the local character of the Murray Street precinct.		X			
11. Landmark Important landmark in Murray Street precinct. Special visual and sentimental value that transcends its function. Facade is the focal point of this subject.		X			

Integrity

	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
12. Alterations Original buildings of timber & pine. Rebuilt on part of original site as single storey stone structure of 13 rooms plus stable in 1855. Converted to 2-storey after 1886. Building extended and renovated in 1879/80.		X			
13. Condition Generally building is in reasonable condition but close inspection indicates poor condition of specific parts. These conditions relate in particular to the multitude of changes and alterations made over time.			X	X	
14. Compatibility The item is appropriate to its original use as a hotel and is compatible with its locality.		X			

Supplementary Information

Adaptation: It is unlikely that the building would be changed to a new use.

Interpretation: The item occupies an important site in Gawler. (first house).

CURRENT OWNER: J. M. JOHNSTON

History and Sources

On this site the first house in Gawler was erected in 1840 by Mr. David Scheibener. A public house, it was erected at the suggestion of and possibly with financial assistance from, Mr. John Reid, as a stopover for travellers and settlers passing through to the north and to the Murray lands. The allotment (no.199) was originally owned by Mr. John Sutton as part of his share of town land divided among the proprietors of the Gawler Special Survey.

The hotel comprised "one room which served as bar, bedroom etc and one tent". Around 1847 pine huts were added at the back. From 1840-42 it was known as the "Golden Fleece". Between 1842-47, under licensees Sarah Calton and Henry Calton, it was known as "Caltons". In 1848 it was renamed the "Old Spot".

The "Old Spot" was popular with both travellers and townspeople and during the 1840's mail carts from the north and south stopped there, Henry Calton acting as post master. The Oddfellows held meetings at the "Old Spot" between 1846-1852; likewise Freemasons between 1849-53. The local court was held there in 1850-51. The building was then described thus:

> "its long low straggling buildings, with gable ends presenting themselves
>   in every direction, its spacious verandahs, built of pine, pise and shingle,
>   put one much in mind of a wayside in at home."

In 1855 the licensee G. C. Wylde demolished the "Old Spot", replacing it with a single storey stone structure of 13 rooms with stables, described in the Gawler Directory of 1861 as a "very unsightly edifice".

Under licensee, R. James, the hotel was extended and redecorated in 1879/80. The decorator was Mr. C. Cox, and the additions were erected by Messrs. Taylor and Forgie, with plastering by Mr. Peek. The hotel then had a bar-room, dining room, eight bedrooms, a commercial room, and sample room for the use of commercial travellers, and a billiard saloon. It is possible that the second storey was added at this time for three of the bedrooms were outside and "reached by steps leading to a balcony".

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6628-12126
	Item OLD SPOT HOTEL	Prepared By:

History and Sources

Sources

E. H. Coombe, History of Gawler 1837-1908 (Adelaide, 1910)pp.11-13

General and Commercial Directory for Gawler and Surrounding Districts (Gawler, 1861)

Gawler Heritage Study, Stage 1 (Adelaide, 1981) p. 49.

Lands Department Notes, SAA 1324/34

George E. Loyau, The Gawler Handbook (Adelaide, 1880)

E. S. Mahoney, "Reminiscences", Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (S.A. Branch) Proceedings, 28 (1926-27) pp.71-2,77.

E. M. Yelland, Colonists, Copper and Corn (Melbourne, 1970)pp. 11-113.

6628-12126

ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

ITEM NAME
Current: .   OLD SPOT HOTEL

Historical: "GOLDEN FLEECE" and "CALTON'S HOTEL"

ITEM NUMBER	
	1

DATE

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

"Golden Fleece" was first hotel and apparently first build-
ing of any significance erected in Gawler in late 1839 by
licensee David Scheibener, allegedly with the financial
assistance of the first pioneer of the Gawler Special
Survey, John Reid. As "Calton's Hotel" under licensee Sarah
Calton from 1842 became a major halting place for carters
and others travelling to and from copper mines and agri-
cultural areas of the lower north. Licence transferred to
Henry Calton in 1846 and hotel known as "Old Spot" from
1848.

Original buildings of a variety of materials including
timber and pise. Rebuilt on part of original site, as a
single storey stone structure of 13 rooms plus stables in
1855. Date of conversion to present two-storey building
uncertain (after 1886) but building extended and renovated
in 1879/80.

Proprietor Henry Calton acted as unofficial postmaster
c.1843-1849 and mail-carts brought the Gawler mail to the
Old Spot from Adelaide and the north.

Meetings of local branch of Oddfellows held in the hotel
1846-52 and of Freemasons 1849-53.

Features segmental and flat arches, cast iron posts, wrought
iron balustrade, lattice work and parapet wall.

REFERENCES:
Written: Loyau 9-10, 32-34; Mahony 77; Coombe 11, 13;
          Pierce's 1886 plan; Register 25 March 1896;
          Lands Department notes SAA.1324/34; Bunyip 17
Vocal: January 1973 p.3.

Archival Photographs: SAA.B.10586

LOCATION
Street No: 77
Allotment: 199
Section:
Hundred:.
Street: Murray
Town:
LGA:
Postcode:
State Hist.Pres.
   Region:

HISTORICAL THEME
Theme: Industry and
                commerce
Subtheme: Hotels

HISTORICAL PERIOD
State:
Study Area: 1839-1848

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural Feature	☐
Historical Site	☐
Garden	☐
BUILDING Individual	☑
Group	☐
STRUCTURE Complete	☐
Relic	☐

RECOMMENDATION:

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No: Negative No:
Direction of view:

STATUS
Register of State
Heritage Items
   On Register   ☐
   Interim List   ☐
   Nominated   ☐

National Estate
National Trust
R.A.I.A.
Civic Trust
N.P. & W.L.S.

Council
Australian Heritage
   Engin. Record
Other

MAP
Scale:
Source:

PREPARED BY: