GAWLER HERITAGE SURVEY STAGE 2

REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT

Date: 3/10/83
Item Name: OLD SPOT HOTEL
Item Address: Murray Street, Gawler. (Allotment 199)

Heritage Branch
Reference Number: 6628-12126
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: ........................................

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). #2, A2, A3

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ........................................

Assessed: Recommended.
The Committee added the following riders:
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2. 
3.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82</th>
<th>Register of State Heritage Items</th>
<th>ITEM EVALUATION SHEET</th>
<th>Buildings and Structures</th>
<th>Ref. No.</th>
<th>6628-12126</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>OLD SPOT HOTEL</td>
<td>77 Murray Street, Gawler.</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Trade and Commerce</td>
<td>Style</td>
<td>Colonial</td>
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<td>Qualitative Data</td>
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<td>Grading</td>
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**History**

1. **Context**
   The first building to be erected in the township of Gawler was the hotel built on this site in 1840.

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.

3. **Event**
   No particular event.

**Architecture**

4. **Architect/Builder**
   Not known.

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 stair glass door and window surround to balcony on first floor.

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 spalling of stone & brick.

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.

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.

9. **Continuity**
   The item relates well to the general environment of Murray Street in terms of scale, massing, siting, age and grouping.

10. **Local Character**
    The item makes a significant contribution to the local character of the Murray Street precinct.

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.

12. **Integrity**

13. **Alterations**
    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.

14. **Compatibility**
    The item is appropriate to its original use as a hotel and is compatible with its locality.
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".
History and Sources

Sources

General and Commercial Directory for Gawler and Surrounding Districts (Gawler, 1861)
Lands Department Notes, SAA 1324/34
E. S. Mahoney, "Reminiscences", Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (S.A. Branch)
GAWLER HERITAGE STUDY: STAGE 1
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

ITEM NAME
Current: OLD SPOT HOTEL
Historical: "GOLDEN FLEECE" and "CALTON'S HOTEL"

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:
"Golden Fleece" was first hotel and apparently first building of any significance erected in Gawler in late 1839 by licensee David Schellnaker, 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 agricultural 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

Archival Photographs: SAA.B.10586

RECOMMENDATION:

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No:
Negative No:
Direction of view:

ITEM NUMBER
1

DATE

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

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: