
COFFEE PALACE (FORMER)



23302 Coffee Palace Former
Branxholme 0566



23302 Coffee palace
Branxholme 0574

Location

McNicol Street, BRANXHOLME VIC 3302 - Property No 5470

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 24, 2002

What is significant?

The former Branxholme Coffee Palace was, despite its rather grand title, no more than a simple boarding house which distinguished itself, through its name, from the accommodation provided by local hotels. The establishment was opened by Mr. and Mrs. W Price in 1890. The term 'coffee palace' had become popular and respectable during the teetotaler political climate of Victoria in the 1880s. The Prices' daughter, Mrs. H Edwards carried on the boarding house after her marriage in 1912. It survives as a simple weatherboard cottage extended to the front and rear. By this time, most of its guests would have arrived by train with Branxholme acting as something of a railway junction. The building has been substantially altered internally, probably during the Interwar years. It is in good condition. The outbuildings are not significant and there are no significant plantings in the garden.

How is it significant?

The former Branxholme Coffee Palace is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and to the

township of Branxholme.

Why is it significant?

The former Branxholme Coffee Palace is of historical significance as a demonstration of the simple boarding house accommodation provided to travellers such as itinerant workers, trade representatives and other genteel visitors in small country towns and as a comparison with the accommodation provided by hotels.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates | 1890, |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place, |
| Hermes Number | 23302 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Conditions

The building is in good condition.

Physical Description 1

The former Coffee Palace is a single storey, slightly asymmetrical timber building with a timber verandah positioned on the street boundary. The date of construction is not known, but the building's construction methods and detailing suggests a date in the 1860s. There is evidence externally and internally that, although very early, the front two rooms were added to an even earlier structure. The front door has been replaced, but the original twelve-paned double hung sash windows survive. The roof is hipped and covered with corrugated iron. The plan is simple with rooms opening off a central passage. Some late nineteenth century detailing, such as four panelled doors and at least one timber mantelpiece survive. The second room on the south side is larger than the rest and is now used as a kitchen. There have been some minor additions at the rear.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.22 Lodging people

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

Usage/Former Usage

Mr. and Mrs. William Price, first owners
Mrs. H Edwards, nee Price, second owner

Integrity

High degree of integrity externally and fair degree of integrity internally.

Physical Description 2

Mr. and Mrs. W Price, first owners and operators

Mrs. H Edwards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W Price, second owner and operator

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>