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# PROMONTORY GATE HOTEL



Promontory Gate Hotel



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## Location

2 FOSTER ROAD, FISH CREEK, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 23, 2022

### What is significant?

The Promontory Gate Hotel, now more commonly known as the Fish Creek Hotel, at 2 Foster Road, Fish Creek, built in 1939, is significant. The two-storey rendered Art Deco building has projecting elements to the North West and South sides, a rendered brick parapet and horizontal recessed bands on the first floor and parapet levels. Other contributory features include:

- Horizontal recessed bands on the first floor and parapet levels
- Stepped brick opening to main entry doors (painted)
- Projecting hoods above the ground floor South windows
- Square steel framed windows, some with horizontal glazed bars
- Typical Art Deco cornices in most rooms
- Stairs have the characteristic metal balustrade

Non-original alterations and additions are not of heritage significance.

**How is it significant?**

The Fish Creek Hotel is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

**Why is it significant?**

Historically, the Promontory Gate Hotel was one of the first developments within the South Gippsland Shire that recognised and acted upon the economic potential of the region. The hotel's growth, and the acknowledgement of Fish Creek as a 'gateway' to Wilson's Promontory, reflected the influence of the emerging tourism industry within the Shire. The size and stature of the Fish Creek Hotel demonstrates the optimism the community had for the future growth of Fish Creek and South Gippsland as a tourism destination with increased motor vehicle access (Criterion A).

Aesthetically, the Fish Creek Hotel is a locally rare example of a large commercial Art Deco Streamline Moderne-style building. This style of building is unique in a small rural town setting, such as Fish Creek, and the style and scale of the building stands out aesthetically within the town. These factors also demonstrate the optimism for the growth of Fish Creek that came with the development of tourism within the South Gippsland Shire, based predominantly on Wilson's Promontory (Criterion E).

Socially, the Fish Creek Hotel is a well-known landmark within the South Gippsland Shire, and in particular the South-Central region, as it has been a gathering point for both tourists and locals on the way to Wilsons Promontory since the Interwar period. It also significantly contributes to the identity of Fish Creek and the surrounding region as a meeting place (Criterion G).

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1939, 1939, 1939,
Architect/Designer	Pretty, Arthur,
Other Names	The Fishy Pub, Fish Creek Hotel, Fish Creek Hotel,
Hermes Number	30580
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The Promontory Gate Hotel is a parapeted two storey rendered brick building in streamline Moderne style. The design of the building relies on simple massing of the major bulk articulated by projecting elements at the north west and south sides. The articulation is emphasised by horizontal recessed bands at first floor and parapet levels. The re-entry at the south west corner is curved and filled by a curved projecting balcony with a narrow curved cantilever hood, below which the bottle shop has been constructed. Projecting hoods also are placed above the ground floor south windows and encircle the projecting bottle shop.

The massive wall surfaces are punctured by small almost square steel frame windows with horizontal glazing bars. Typically these are also located at the corners of the projecting bay. There is a stepped brick opening portal to the main entry doors (now painted). Internally, typical art deco cornices remain in most rooms and the stair has a characteristic metal balustrade.

The bottle shop at the front right is a later (c.1980) addition in matching style and detail. It is possible that this structure replaced or was built into a former vehicular entry canopy. (this may be confirmed by early photos). There is a single storey c.1970 motel at the rear.

*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/>*