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## Former Royal Hotel



B5386 Royal Hotel

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### Location

85 Nelson Place,, WILLIAMSTOWN VIC 3016 - Property No B5386

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

State

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1770

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 20, 2007

The former Royal Hotel, built in 1889-90 to the design of T. Anthoness, is of state architectural significance as a highly mannered and early example of the English "Queen Anne" Revival style in Victoria. This move towards the red brick idiom in response to developments in England represents a move away from the rendered Italianate expression favoured in Victoria for hotel design and a change in the characteristic corner location. The former Royal Hotel is one of the most richly ornamented and highly mannered examples of red brick hotels in Victoria. Noteworthy features include the elaborate and picturesque treatment of its parapeted gables; twin-arched doors flanking a wide arched bar window with coloured glass; stylised columns; carved scrolls, garlands and pilaster capitals with cherub faces; and elaborate, iron balconettes with Art Nouveau-inspired sunflower motifs. Much of

the original internal fabric remains, although hotel elements such as bars have been removed. The original billiard room retains its patterned lantern roof and round, porthole-like windows which pivot open. Other original elements include architraves and the central stair, although the last flight has been altered.

The former Royal Hotel is of state significance for its associations with the slum abolition movement of the 1930s. It was cited in the First Progress Report of the Housing Investigation and Slum Abolition Board in 1937 as one of the most notorious and squalid examples of a de-licensed hotel used for boarding-house accommodation. Built as superior hotel accommodation and described in the contemporary press as a splendid hotel and an ornament to the town, the building symbolises the rise and decline of a once grand hotel and demonstrates the fate of many de-licensed hotels.

Classified: 13/06/1985

Revised: 03/05/1999

Other Names      Old Royal Guest House,

Hermes Number   65923

Property Number

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*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/>*