

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 26 Somerville Street Sorell 7172		UPI: 2902878	PID: 5934611
Name: BLUEBELL INN			
Feature Type: Hotel	Structure Type	Dating:	1830 - 1890 1863
	Site Feature Type	Access Restrictions:	Restricted
		Inspection Date:	October 96 P Davies
		Style:	Colonial Georgian
	Grid ref:	5426 545700 5262300	
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme:	Retail/Commercial Social
Material:	Stone Corrugated iron	Listings:	National Trust SMC Schedule 3
Condition:	Good		
Integrity:	Altered, extended sympathetically		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 B4 C2 D2 E1	Photograph Index:	1:24-25,27
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☐
			Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A substantial stone Georgian former hotel of two levels that occupied a prominent location in what was the main street. It is on the corner with a splayed entry to the corner, but the roof is square over it. The building has high quality stonework with very fine stone detailing around the ground floor windows with stone hoods supported on carved brackets and beautifully carved architraves. The stone facing is dressed finish. The building has a steep pitched roof and a basement which is accessed by a cellar door from the street for loading. The interior layout of the building is generally retained.

HISTORY:

The original hotel was a single storey timber structure built for William Currie in 1829. This hotel was an important meeting place in Sorell with a number of public meetings taking place there up until its destruction by fire in 1863. William Gard built the existing two storey stone building after the fire. The last licence was held by John Dore in 1907. Subsequently the property's ballroom was used as a drill hall during World War I, an influenza hospital in 1919 and a maternity hospital operated by Nurse O'Brien from 1936 to 1945. Currently the building is used for tourist accommodation.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the title boundary of the property within the wider, Walker Street, conservation precinct boundary.

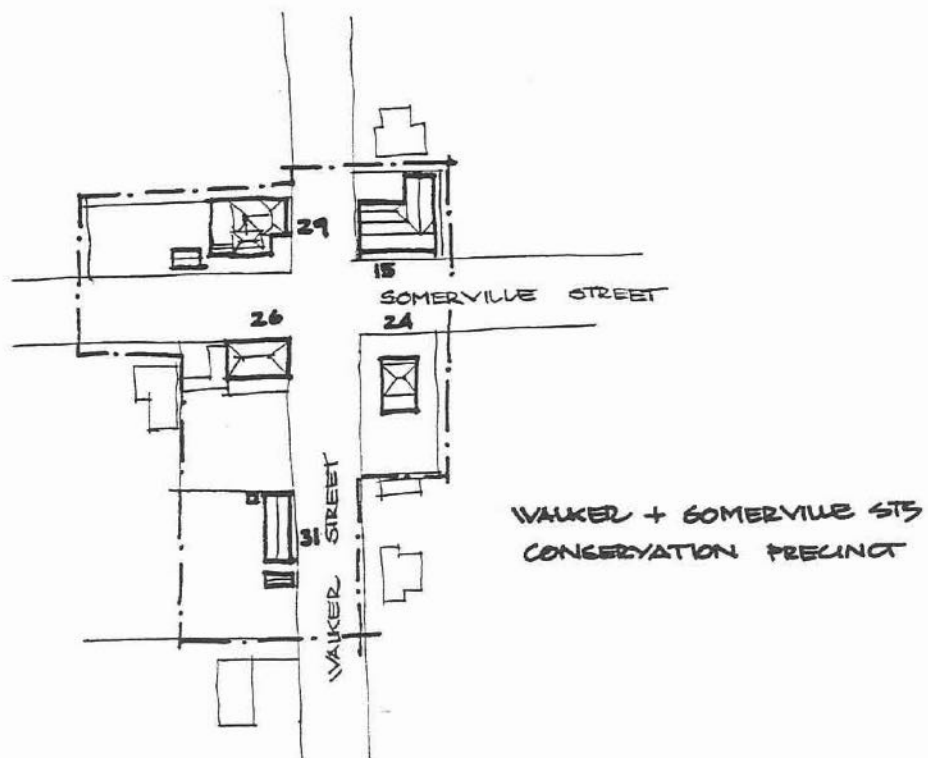
COMMENTS:

The building has significance for its fine quality detailing and workmanship, its strong streetscape value as part of an historic group, its various uses over its history related to the development of the town including hospital, hotel, drill hall and accommodation and its location at the centre of the major civic centre of the early town

It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2 and E1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate.
It should continue to be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

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