TERMINUS HOTEL SIGN

ADDRESS: in front of 79 High Street, Wodonga

STUDY NUMBER: HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

DATE: 1940s

CONDITION: Good

INTEGRITY: Good



RBA, June 2024

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

The *Terminus Hotel Sign* in front of 79 High Street, Wodonga, is significant. It was installed in the 1940s in a canny advertising move by the proprietor of the *Terminus Hotel*, Tex Bailey, as part of the formalisation of the footpath in front of the town's judicial complex. The sign was relocated to its current location, then in front of its namesake (destroyed by fire in 1998), in c. 1967.

How is it significant?

The *Terminus Hotel Sign* in front of 79 High Street, Wodonga is of local historical significance to the City of Wodonga.

Why is it significant?

The *Terminus Hotel Sign* is of local historical significance as an attractive and evocative example of late interwar/early postwar commercial signage. It is the only surviving tangible element associated with its namesake, a longstanding and prominent hotel in Wodonga. (Criterion A)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The curved sign for the former Terminus Hotel is about 1 metre long and 0.3m wide. It is framed within red brick paving of the surrounding footpath. A red brick planter box is located in front.

The lettering is black within a speckled orange granolithic or terrazzo. There is a small amount of chipping and hairline cracking of the terrazzo.

HISTORIC THEMES

8.5 Preserving traditions and commemorating

HISTORY

The Terminus Hotel was built by the Hatch family in 1873, taking its name from the terminus of the North East Railway, which was constructed as far as Wodonga by the same year. Mr Lamb took up the lease but appears to have rescinded before the hotel opened, as it is advertised for lease throughout 1873. The owner J F Hatch, put it up for auction in August (*Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, May 1873).

The original hotel grounds included stables and later garages. In 1888, when George Allen was a licensee, a new wing was added, designed by architects Gordon and Gordon. This wing was built by E Scanlan of Albury and was designed to be fireproof. It was on the southern side of the hotel, which, over the following years, was extensively altered and the facade modernised. The architects also drew up plans to add a billiard room, dining room and 18 other rooms. Included in the plans was the latest patent elevator, later known as a 'dumb waiter.'

In 1907, S Carkeek assumed possession for a second time and informed patrons that the hotel had been thoroughly renovated and modified.

During the early 1930s, at the height of the Great Depression, the Wodonga Shire Council provided relief work for local unemployed men on several civic projects, including sealing footpaths in central Wodonga.

In this context, the police department refused to fund the cement for its section of High Street north of the railway line, which included the police station and the courthouse. The then licensee of the Terminus Hotel offered to provide the cement for sealing the footpath in front of the courthouse and police station under the condition that tiles bearing the words Terminus Hotel be inserted into the footpath pointing towards the hotel. The police objected; however, the licensee Tex Bailey succeeded, and the hotel's tiled name was inserted into the footpath before the police station in the 1940s. Des Martin wrote to the council in 1967 asking that the sign be preserved, and it was relocated to the footpath before the Terminus Hotel (Wodonga Historical Society).



The Terminus Hotel, 1920s. Since destroyed by fire (NLA)

The Terminus Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1998, but the sign survived. Over time, the Wodonga Historical Society has requested that local police and Council continue to protect the sign from heavy equipment entering the destroyed building while clearing away debris (Wodonga Historical Society).

The site remained vacant for well over a decade before the extant single storey building was constructed. In 2017, the raised red brick planter box was introduced directly in front of the sign.

COMPARISON

No other examples of signage embedded within footpaths are known in Wodonga or have been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that the *Terminus Sign* in front of 79 High Street, Wodonga, is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

The extent of the heritage overlay should include half a metre of curtilage surrounding the sign.

PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

Planning Controls	Y/N
External Paint Controls Apply?	N
Internal Alteration Controls Apply?	N
Tree Controls Apply?	N
Solar Energy Systems Control?	N
Outbuildings or Fences Not Exempt Under Clause 43.01-4?	N
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register Under the Heritage Act 2017?	N
Prohibited Uses Permitted?	N
Aboriginal Heritage Place?	N

REFERENCES

Commonwealth of Australia (1938): Electoral Roll, Division of Indi, District of Benambra, Subdivision of Wodonga

Wodonga Historical Society website http://historywodonga.org.au/terminus-hotel/

Wodonga Historical Society (n.d.): Wodonga Street Walk - High Street

"SOUTH AUSTRALIA." *Ovens and Murray Advertiser (Beechworth, Vic. : 1855 - 1918)* 30 May 1873: 2. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article197045211

Rose Stereograph Co 1920, TERMINUS HOTEL, WODONGA, VIC https://trove.nla.gov.au/version/182175861