HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: JUNCTION HOTEL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Brown and McNicol Streets BRANXHOLME

STUDY NUMBER: 212 **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: RAILWAY RESTAURANT

PRECINCT: Branxholme

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 9 **SECTION:** 34 **PARISH:** PARISH OF BRANXHOLME

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473J A-12; VicRoads 233 R3; located on the north-east corner of Brown and McNicoll Streets in the centre of the township of Branxholme

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

Junction Hotel, cnr. Brown & McNicol Streets, Braxholme. Brown Street Façade

Image Date: 26/03/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and all of the land but excluding the interiors of the building.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The single storey timber hotel is typical of vernacular pubs, with its corner position, angled front door (now square) and verandah on two sides. Its hipped and gable roofs suggest construction in two stages. The extensive use of hardwood floorboards measuring 6" x 1" without a tongue and groove suggest a very early date of construction. The floor in the bar area is later pine and appears to have been replaced when the cellar was created below. The external walls are weatherboard, the windows double hung sashes and the roofs are iron. The surviving windows of the principal elevation facing McNicol Street are 12-paned. Those along the side elevation are 2-paned. Bedrooms range along the Brown Street boundary, while the bar and lounges are on the McNicol Street boundary. The rear section may have been moved relocated. The interiors of the hotel have been altered many times, over many years, reflecting the different changes in ownership and usage. Plaster sheeting now covers lining boards which were original finished with hessian and wallpaper. The south-west corner, the original public bar, has been substantially altered. The most recent changes to the interior have been made to accommodate the town's postal facilities, following the closure of the Branxholme post office. No architect has been associated with its construction and an architect's professional contribution seems unlikely.

HISTORY:

The first hotel in Branxholme was "The Travellers' Rest, on the south-west corner of Lynch and Creek Streets [the Henty Highway], a timber building, was that opened by Abraham Ward in 1843 [and] from 1853-56, William Gough was the licensee, renting the hotel from Thomas Best" (Walter, 26). Best was a blacksmith from Portland. He was swindled by the infamous "confidence trickster", the so-called Doctor Kent, who purported to buy the hotel in 1848 but absconded with its contents and takings in 1849. Best did sell the hotel in 1856 and, on land two blocks north which he had purchased in 1854, Best built a new hotel in 1860 called the Branxholme Hotel. This he sold to William Gough in 1861. Gough remained the licensee from 1861-1882 and then his sons John and Edward had the licence until 1890. This second hotel was delicensed in 1918 and demolished in 1926. The Travellers' Rest was rebuilt in bluestone on the opposite corner in 1862, perhaps as a result of the competition from the new Branxholme Hotel. The second Travellers' Rest closed about 1871. The original Travellers' Rest had a revival when it reopened as the Commercial Hotel between 1884 and 1891 under a series of licensees.

The advent of the Portland-Hamilton railway in 1877 and the branch line to Casterton in 1884 shifted the pattern of development within the township, with new commercial buildings favouring the eastern side, adjacent to the station. William Gough, a butcher and the eldest son of William Gough who had been licensee of the first two hotels, built the Railway Restaurant in 1881 with his wife, Agnes. William Gough, Junior "was born at Portland in 1847, had land at Hotspur and was a [Heywood] Shire Councillor for 16 years" (ibid.). The opening of the Casterton railway confirmed the building's role and position, and it became known as the Junction Hotel. William Gough also operated a butcher's shop adjacent to the hotel in McNicol Street, later moving to Brown Street. In the late 1800s, Gough held an auctioneer's licence and sold stock.

Agnes Walter continues, "Members of the Gough family were licensees of the "Junction" until 1907, when Miss Jemima Grogan held it for several years, then in 1911, F J Gorman took over the hotel and was there until 1923. There have been many licensees in the hotel since, too many to name them all."

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

3. Developing local, regional and national economies
3.12.5 Retailing foods and beverages
3.22 Lodging people
3.23 Catering for tourists

4. Building settlements, towns and cities
4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

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8. Developing Australia's cultural life
8.4 Eating and drinking
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

Very low integrity, especially the interiors and the south-west corner (the former public bar area).

INTEGRITY:

Very low integrity, especially the interiors and the south-west corner, the original public bar.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?
The Junction Hotel, at the north-east corner of Brown and McNicol Streets, Branxholme is a typical example of a vernacular country pub dating from the late 19th century. Single storey, built of timber and with a simple timber verandah, it existed as the Railway Restaurant at least by 1881, gaining a licence when the Casterton Railway arrived in Branxholme. The building may well have been much older based on the evidence of materials and details. No architect has been associated with the design. Its establishment represented a shift by local businesses away from the creek and main Hamilton-Portland road to the new railway station. The first owners and licensees were William and Agnes Gough. The Gough family was connected with the other hotels in Branxholme at different times. The Junction is the only surviving hotel of four which operated in Branxholme.

How is it significant?
The Junction Hotel is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Branxholme and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?
The Junction Hotel is of historical significance as the only surviving hotel in Branxholme, and is an important remnant of an earlier, more prosperous period in the history of the town. Its position on a prominent corner near the railway reserve reflects the changes brought about by the arrival of the railway in the late 1870s.

The Junction Hotel is of architectural significance as a typical example of a small country pub, constructed in a vernacular style in the later 19th century.

COMPARISON:

307 Mac's Glenthompson Hotel, Station Street, Glenthompson
035 Black Horse Inn (Former), 66 Whyte Street, Coleraine
014 Coleraine Hotel, Whyte Street, Coleraine

ASSESSED BY: tfh   **ASSESSMENT DATE:**   12-Feb-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR ☐ Include in RNE ☑ Include in Local Planning Scheme ☑

No Recommendations for Inclusions ☐

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Agnes V. Walter	Branxholme 1843-1973	1973	11 & 15

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Alexander Sutherland, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol. 2A	1888	53, 64
Gwen Bennett	Watering Holes of the West, a study of hotels, inns and breweries etc	1996	10-14