

**Heritage Item #**

MI Reference: 39 HCWA No: 1863	Place Name: The Riverside Hotel	Other Name/s: Avon Bridge Hotel, Wildings Hotel, Railway Hotel
		Date of Review: September 2021



Address: 322 Fitzgerald Street East (cnr Gairdner Street), Northam	Lot No: Property Key: Plan Diagram: P57692 Vol Folio: 0011734767269 Assess No: A11030
Locality: Northam	GPS:
Current Use: Hotel	Original Use(s): Hotel
<b>HERITAGE LISTINGS</b>	
Listings: Statewide Hotel Survey (1997) Classified National Trust (1980)	
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>	
Date of Construction: 1860 (Stone Building), 1897 (Corner Brick Building)	
Architect / Builder: Tom Wilding	
Architectural Style: Victorian Georgian, Federation Filigree	
<b>PHYSICAL EVIDENCE</b>	
<p>Description:</p> <p>The Riverside Hotel, located at 322 Fitzgerald Street East, is a two-storey face brick building with a corrugated steel hip and gable roof displaying characteristics of the Federation Filigree style of architecture.</p> <p>The building is located on the corner of Fitzgerald Street East and Gairdner Street with the corner splayed and a zero-setback addressing the street. The roof has two gables along the eastern façade and a gable above the splayed corner. There are two face brick chimneys with rendered corbelling and an entry tower structure along the southern façade. The tower has a gable that projects from the southern façade with half-timbered detailing and trefoil arches with louvred ventilation below.</p> <p>The southern façade is recessed with a two-storey corrugated steel bull nose verandah extending the length of the main brick building. The verandah is supported by timber posts that are square at the ground floor and circular to the first floor. The first floor has a decorative turned timber balustrading and the ground floor is enclosed by contemporary steel fencing.</p>	

<p>The walls are face brick, painted to window head height at ground level, with rendered string coursing to the ground and first floor. The ground floor windows are predominantly fixed glazing with detailed corncicing and enclosed arched highlights. The first-floor windows are timber framed double hung with angled rendered sills. The main entry tower has a large set of timber double doors with decorative corncicing and an arched highlight and side lights. The door to the splayed corner has been enclosed with a secondary timber glazed door along the eastern façade. A date plaque is positioned on the splayed corner which reads 'ESTABD 1858'. Secondary signage that reads 'THE RIVERSIDE HOTEL' flanks the corner and extends along the verandah.</p> <p>Attached to the southern corner of the main brick building is an earlier stone building with a corrugated steel hip roof. The building has a symmetrical form with a zero-setback addressing Fitzgerald Street East. There is a corbelled rendered chimney to the roof. The building has rendered quoins to its corners and additional quoining surrounding all openings. The front door is timber with a highlight and the windows are timber double hung with arched window labels. There is evidence of alterations to the front elevation with bricked in doorways and removal of a timber verandah.</p>
Condition: Good
<b>HISTORICAL</b>
<p>Notes:</p> <p>The Avon Bridge Hotel was established in c.1858 and rebuilt in 1868 and 1906.</p> <p>The original hotel was built by Tom Wilding, an influential character in Northam's history. The hotel, built near the new bridge over the Avon constructed in 1858-59, became a focus for Northam people. Wilding was active in organising sporting events which usually culminated at his hotel. The hotel has survived floods, the Temperance movement and lack of patronage over the years, and is still a prominent landmark in the town.</p> <p>When Charles Taylor announced that he was applying for a publican's licence for the premises in June 1886, the hotel was described as including "four sitting rooms and six bedrooms, exclusive of those required by my family".</p> <p>Few references to the place have been identified from that time until May 1906 when tenders were called for the reconstruction of the hotel:</p> <p><i>TENDERS are invited until noon, 22nd inst., for PULLING DOWN and REBUILDING the "Avon Bridge Hotel, Northam, for A. E. Lockyer, Esq. Plans, etc., may be seen at the Avon Bridge Hotel after Tuesday next. The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted. ERNEST E. GILES, Architect.</i></p> <p>In October 1906 the hotel was advertised as follows:</p> <p><i>AVON BRIDGE HOTEL. J. RODGERS. Newly Erected. FITZGERALD-ST., NORTHAM (near Station). 30 Rooms, Newly Furnished. Splendid Balconies. Private Sitting Rooms. Excellent Accommodation, Baths, Stabling, etc</i></p>
Theme: Hospitality Industry and Tourism
Associations:
Heritage Assessment or Conservation Plan: Heritage Assessment of 23-325 & 16-334 Fitzgerald Street and 1-15 & 12-18 Peel Terrace, Northam. Prepared by Greenward Consulting, June 2015.
Public Access: Yes
<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>
Level of Integrity: Medium
Level of Authenticity: Medium

Statement of Significance:
<p>The Riverside Hotel is of cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The place is a fine representative example of a regional town hotel built in the Federation Filigree style. Typical of the period of construction, the hotel is located on a prominent corner site</li> <li>• The 1860 stone building is a fine example of a Victorian Georgian architectural styled building</li> <li>• The place is highly valued by the local community for its social associations.</li> </ul>
Level of Significance: Exceptional
Heritage Category: 1

Additional Photographs	
	
<p>South-East Corner Source: Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2012</p>	<p>South Facade Source: Stephen Carrick Architects September 2021</p>
	
<p>Roof dormer Source: Stephen Carrick Architects September 2021</p>	<p>1860 original stone building Source: Stephen Carrick Architects September 2021</p>



Ground Floor entryway  
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects  
September 2021



Verandah to south facade  
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects  
September 2021



East Façade  
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects  
September 2021



Date plaque at splayed corner  
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects  
September 2021