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"Dooen" Hotel
Wimmera Highway, Dooen

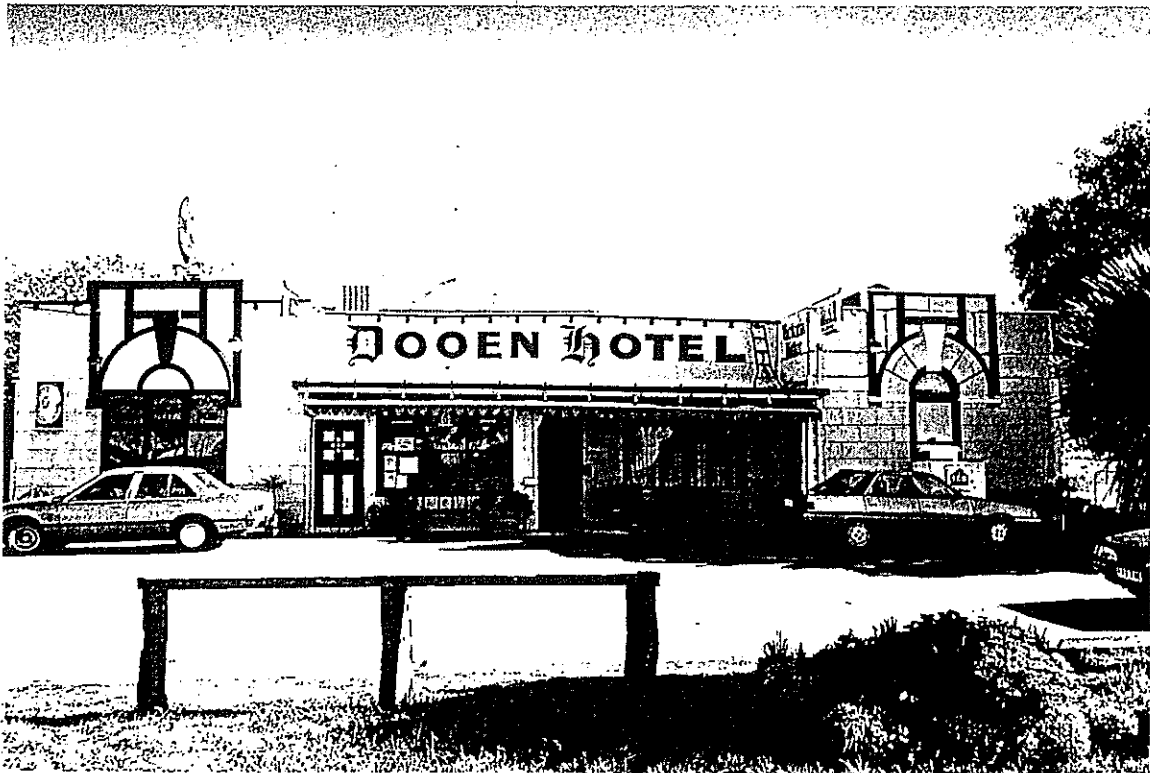


Photo: 1997

Existing Registrations:

Victorian Heritage Register: nil
National Estate Register: nil
National Trust Register: nil

History: A license was granted to Robert Grant, first licensee of the "Dooen" hotel on 15.6.1876. The location for the hotel is given initially as part lot 65 and then as part lot 61A, the present site. Grant remained the licensee until 1885 when William George took over. Grant was back in charge again in 1887, handing over to James Thornett in 1889. The Richmond Brewing Co. purchased the building c.1937 and c.3/1962 it was acquired by the Carlton and United Breweries as a part of their takeover of the Richmond Brewing Co. Proposals for closure followed in 1970 and in response to local protests the licensees, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wunan purchased the building and kept the hotel open for business. The license was transferred to P.J. Wickes in 1973. The principal interior room is understood to have served as the Longerenong "College Hall" for many years.

Description: A mid Victorian timber framed hotel having been added to at various periods and being U-shaped on plan with the courtyard now built in and surrounded by

Mr + Mrs W.T. NUNAN OR NOONAN "SNOW" WAS HIS "NORMIE"

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attached gable and hip roofed buildings. The façade is symmetrical and consists of two pavilions either side of a recessed verandah now half built in. The northern pavilion is formed by a gable roofed room(s?) presumably built separately and the entire façade has been much altered, now consisting of ashlar boarding, pressed metal parapet and strapwork to the arched pavilion windows, the southern window incorporating lead light work reading "Dooen Pub 1876 Dooen Pub". The central verandah appears to date from interwar(?) renovations. The lounge and bar windows are recent.

Inside the public rooms, pressed metal linings are early elements whilst timber skirtings and dados include recent sympathetic work. The accommodation wings are substantially intact with timber lined ceilings and dados and pressed metal fills.

Integrity: Fair **Condition:** Fair

Comparative examples: Remote licensed early timber hotels, once commonplace, are now rare in Victoria. Examples include the "Avoca Forest" hotel, Logan, of 1910.

Significance: The "Dooen" hotel is important as the principal surviving building and long standing social centre of the Dooen township, now significantly diminished following the removal of the school and railway station building (Criteria A and G). Together with the nearby shops it constitutes the most complete surviving nineteenth century rural township centre in the municipality. As a surviving licensed nineteenth century timber hotel, it is now rare at the State level (Criterion B).

References: Horsham and District Historical Society records.

Data sheet prepared by Andrew Ward 2/98

Dooen Hotel Built + OPENED July 1952.