

Queen's Arms Hotel 1854 - 1883

328 Dorcas Street, corner of Coote Street, South Melbourne
MEL: 2K A2



Former Queen's Arms Hotel, 2004

James O' Brien held the first license, in 1854, for the Queen's Arms Hotel, a two-storey brick building with eight rooms and bars. One of the earliest hotels in South Melbourne, it appears to have maintained all the original door and window joinery. Its use of attached cast-iron balconettes is an extremely early example of use of cast iron in architecture in Melbourne and is likely to have been imported. The proximity of the Emerald Hill Race Course to the Queen's Arms Hotel lent

itself to some perceptive marketing by its owner John O'Brien. O'Brien owned and occupied the property until 1877 when Patrick Mornane, who was later involved with the Shannon and Shamrock Hotel in Bank Street became the owner of both the hotel and its adjoining grocery shop, at that time occupied by grocer Bridget Burns. The hotel was closed in 1883 and is now a private house. The National Trust at State Level registered the former Queens Arms Hotel in December 1997. It is considered significant as both one of the first buildings erected in Emerald Hill and one of the smallest purpose-built for a hotel, in light of the more imposing and palatial efforts of the following years.