

Albert Park Hotel 1883 -

83 Dundas Place, corner Montague Street, Albert Park

MEL: 2K B6



The original Albert Park Hotel, c.1884

Thomas and Margaret Walsh opened the Albert Park Hotel in 1883 after they had spent many years at the Wexford Arms in Park Street. According to advertisements of the era, the couple were confident that 'Private Families, or Single Gentlemen who may desire a residence near the City, will find the accommodation in every way satisfactory'.

The Albert Park is a nineteenth century Victorian building renovated during the 1930s in the current modernist style. The result is polite and felicitous, fitting into the streetscape well and holding a serene urbane elegance of its own. This three-storey version is especially powerful, beginning with its round porthole windows expressing some of the force of a great ocean liner.



Recent renovations have attempted to bring forth the features and atmosphere from the 1930s (recently covered in the 1980s) and to amplify them. The delicacy and inventiveness of the iron window grilles for example is so much more interesting to the pedestrian than the coarse abstract features of many current commercial buildings. Painted white, the building has strong sculptural presence.



Albert Park Hotel, 1981



The hotel has a strong history as a family hotel. In recent years, the primary function of the venue has been a reflection of its name, 'The Albert Park Hotel', serving the public as a bar. The renovations of this historic venue reflect a change in atmosphere and function of the space. The new title of 'The Albert Park' demonstrates a broader service to the public and local residents.