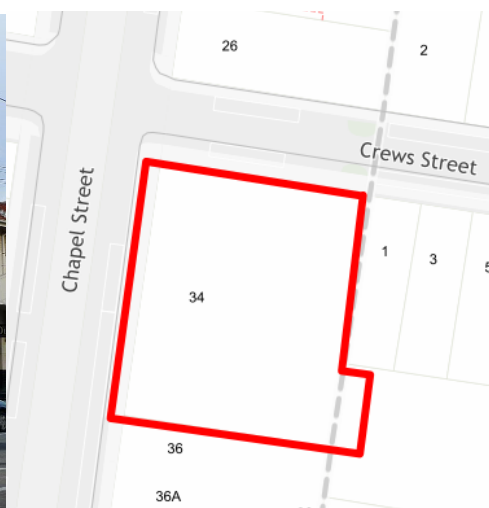


## Dick Whittington Tavern Statement of Significance

<b>Address:</b> 34 Chapel Street, St Kilda	<b>Name:</b> Dick Whittington Tavern
<b>Place type:</b> Commercial: Hotel	<b>Grading:</b> Significant
<b>PS ref no:</b> HO553	<b>Constructed:</b> 1924
<b>Heritage precinct:</b> Not applicable	<b>Citation No:</b> 2447



### What is significant?

The Dick Whittington Tavern (former Alma Hotel) at 34 Chapel Street, St Kilda, constructed in 1924 and designed by Joseph Plottel is significant.

Features that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- Two-storey scale.
- Hip roof clad in terracotta tiles with a wide, timber-lined soffit. Also six red brick chimneys with moulded, rendered caps.
- Brick walls in stretcher bond (mostly over-painted).
- Symmetrical façade with a recessed balcony featuring paired columns.
- Paired windows flanking the balcony with geometric patterns in leadlight and stained glass to the upper sashes. Also paired windows to the north elevation and windows with exposed concrete lintels to the south recess and rear/east elevation.
- Entry area at the south end of the ground floor including a basalt threshold and original cream and black tiling.

Alterations and additions are not significant, including alterations to the ground floor and late 20<sup>th</sup> century single-storey additions to the north and east sides. The current paint colour scheme is not significant.

### How is it significant?

The Dick Whittington Tavern is of local historical, aesthetic, and social significance to the City of Port Phillip.

### **Why is it significant?**

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The Dick Whittington Tavern is historically significant as a hotel constructed during the Interwar period as a replacement for an earlier smaller hotel on the site which had been in continuous hotel use since 1860. It is representative of the common decision to modernise Victorian-era hotels during the Interwar period, whereby earlier buildings were typically remodelled, upgraded, expanded or, as occurred less frequently, fully replaced. The Chapel Street address is reflective of the traditional practice of prominently locating hotels along major thoroughfares. (Criterion A)

The Dick Whittington Tavern is of aesthetic significance as a partly intact (that is, intact to the upper floor and roof), early Interwar period hotel in the Georgian Revival style. The Georgian Revival style is not common in the municipality, especially among the group of remaining Interwar period hotels. Indicative of the style the design incorporates restrained classicising detailing, symmetrical façade and recessed balcony with paired columns. The noted architect, Joseph Plottel, undertook many commissions in the St Kilda area but this is the only hotel he is known to have designed in the municipality. (Criterion E)

The Dick Whittington Tavern is of social significance for its longstanding association (for a century in the current building and over 150 years at the site) with members of the local community, who mostly reside in St Kilda/St Kilda East/Balaclava. The current community values the Dick Whittington Tavern as a local landmark and welcoming atmospheric meeting place that is important to the character and social fabric of the local area. (Criterion G)

### **Primary source**

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RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants, *Review of Heritage Precinct HO7 – Elwood, St Kilda, Balaclava, Ripponlea - Stage 2 Report* (2022)