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**Name:** Neptune Grand Hotel  
**Status:** Permanently Registered  
**Tier:** State

**THR ID Number:** 10936  
**Municipality:** Central Coast Council  
**Date Listed:** 18/04/2007

**Location Addresses**

84 MAIN RD, PENGUIN 7316 TAS

**Title References**

247656/1

**Property Id**

6759392



Untitled

Untitled

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**Setting:** 84 Main Road Penguin is a substantial two storey brick hotel with a large paved forecourt and outdoor seating area adjacent the street. The combination of occupying the intersection of Main Road and Arnold Street, being 2-storey and one of the largest buildings within the commercial business district result in 84 Main Road being a prominent landmark within the township. The building is one of a cluster of five 2-storey commercial buildings from the early C20th that form the greatest concentration of built development within the township (82, 84, 86, 88, 93 Main Road).

**Description:** The main building is a fine example of a 2-storey Interwar hotel in what was also known as the 'streamline' style. General stylistic features demonstrated include the pronounced curve to the walls, windows and balconies at the street corner, parapet roof form and ornamentation such as the moulding and stucco, the overall building form and layout of doors and windows, and minimalist detailing such as the simple steel ballustrades.

The building exterior appears to be predominantly intact - consistent to its 1949 refurbishment. Notable changes include alterations to ground floor doors and windows, construction of an awning roof on the Main Road ground floor elevation and construction of a late C20th outdoor seating area for patrons, forecourt paving generally and the construction of a planter bed adjacent Main Road.

**History:** The land at this site was originally granted to Edwin Cummings, Joseph Raymond and Anderson Cummings as part of Lot 2215. The building known as The Neptune Grand Hotel (2007) was built in c1924, the second hotel of that name on this site. The first Neptune Grand Hotel, of 24 rooms, was built in 1887 for Capt James B Taylor, (1856-1889) well known Sea Captain in Tasmania. His father Edward (1815-1885) and three brothers were all well known Sea Captains, yachtsmen and businessmen of northern Tasmania with a fleet of ships. Four of the brothers decided to settle at Penguin (Pink: 1990, The Brothers Taylor, pp.40-57). He married Martha Matilda Reynolds (nee Alexander of Emu Bay) in 1885. James Taylor had 'temporarily' left the sea to build the Neptune Grand Hotel at Penguin. After only a year of ownership Taylor sold the building to Captain Anton in exchange for the ketch Eveline'. Captain Christian Theodore Anton was born in Denmark in 1841 and served his apprenticeship out of the Port of Copenhagen. He sailed world routes until arriving in Australia in 1870 joining his brother a Melbourne trader with Tasmania. He became a well known local civic member of the Penguin community holding positions of the Lodge peach in 1882, Royal Arch Chapter in 1886 and the Oddfellows in 1876. He was also a local Druid and was active in sporting activities such as the Mersey Regatta. He married Miss Gabbell and ha a family of six children. (Cyclopedia of Tasmania: 286) The original hotel was an early stop over for coach services and later for commercial travellers. Commercial travellers would display their wares for sale throughout the public rooms and the hotel was the meeting place for the local RSL for a number of years. This building was destroyed by fire in 1924 and rebuilt. A small single storey building consisting of one room was located at the front of the building but has since been removed. This small room was used as a dentists surgery and at one time a jewellery shop. The hotel was

occupied by Hugh Hiscutt in 1902, Anton sold to JM McAuliffe who is listed as owner and occupier from 1904-1909 and several times afterward. Jeremiah Joseph McAuliffe was born at Oatlands in 1858 and farmed until becoming interested in mining pursuits. He became a well known on the north and west coasts of Tasmania becoming one of the pioneers of the Zeehan field. He became the manager of the Nicol Silver Mine and Adelaide Mine, and owner of the Austral Valley Silver Mine. He retired from mining because of ill health and purchased the Neptune hotel where he resided mostly until his death. He was very involved in civic matters including sporting pursuits. He was founder and president of the Penguin Bowling Club donating land for the bowling green and tennis courts. He was patron of the Football Club and Surf Life Saving Club. He married Ellen Kennelly of Derby. He became church wards and trustee of St Marys Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Penguin. (Cyclopedia of Tasmania 1931).

Other occupiers over the years included J Kenelly in 1909, McAuliffe again 1910-1922, Ad Edwards 1922-1928, McAuliffe again 1928-1932, NC Morrisby 1932-1933, H Smith 1933-1934, Eric Lee from 1934-1935, J Reardon 1935-1938, Stephenson from 1938, and A Oliver from 1942-1960. The building was again the target of arson in 1949 and was rebuilt for Oliver in its present form by Lou Stubbs, well known north coast builder.

**Statement of** No Statement is provided for places listed prior to 2007

**Significance:**  
(non-statutory  
summary)

**Significance:**

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

**a) The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania's history.**

84 Main Road, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance as it is important in demonstrating the evolutionary pattern of the Central Coast Council district. As the second hotel on this site, the present building demonstrates 115 years of ongoing commercial demand for hotel services, despite the boom and bust cycles of other commercial activities around the township.

**b) The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.**

**c) The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.**

No Data Recorded

**d) The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.**

84 Main Road, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance because it is important as a representative in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of cultural places. Through its form, materials and detailing it has the ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a regional interwar style hotel. This style is not common in Tasmania, especially regional areas, and the Neptune Grand Hotel represents a fine example of the style. The combination of its height, comparatively rare style and location on a major intersection also make it one of the more notable built landmarks within the Penguin township, and it forms part of an intact historical grouping of five early C20th commercial buildings at the eastern end of the commercial district.

**e) The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.**

**f) The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.**

84 Main Road, Penguin is of local community value as a place of hostelry, entertainment and social interaction for 115 years. This building is identified in Buildings Past & Present, Exhibition and Book published by Penguin Historical Group and has featured in historical Walks within the community

**g) The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.**

84 Main Road, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance at a local community level for its associations with a number of sea captains who settled at Penguin when it had an active port, including Captain James Taylor and Captain Christian Anthon, and its associations with a number of notable early businessmen including Dr Hamilton, James McAuliffe and Albert Oliver.

**h) The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.**

**PLEASE NOTE** This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.