

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Port Adelaide State Heritage Area Hotels

State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

Port Adelaide is often described as having a 'pub on every corner'. Although this is not completely accurate, a stroll through the State Heritage Area's commercial precinct does encounter many hotels on many corners! The explanation of course, lies in the town's history as a bustling port for local and overseas shipping. Not only did the hotels cater to the thirsty sailors, wharfies and other port workers, they also provided temporary accommodation for immigrants and an 'office' for many ships' captains. Workers from the various Port Adelaide factories and local residents also patronised the Port's pubs.

Three of the hotels within the State Heritage Area are State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

Railway Hotel

247 St Vincent Street, Port Adelaide

SAHR 10932 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 24 July 1980

The Railway Hotel is so named because it faces what was originally Port Adelaide's main railway station, and therefore the terminus for travellers from Adelaide. (The Adelaide to Port Adelaide line, opened in 1856, was the Colony's [first steam railway](#).)

The hotel was established in 1856, although the present structure is most probably the result of a number of building stages. At least two construction stages are evident – the random stone work to the ground level, with brick construction above. A remarkable feature is the largely intact stable in the basement, which is a reminder of Port Adelaide's early development, when street levels were progressively raised between the 1850s and 1880s.



Railway Hotel, 2005



Former Britannia Hotel, 2005

Dockside Tavern (former Britannia Hotel)

130 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide

SAHR 10926 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 24 July 1980

The Britannia Hotel licence was granted to R. Trott in 1850, for what appears to be an earlier two-storey building on this site. (An 1886 map shows this early building with balconies.)

The current building was opened c1890s and is one of the few late Victorian buildings in Port Adelaide.

Port Dock Brewery Hotel

10 Todd Street, Port Adelaide

SAHR 13289 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 20 November 1986

The Port Dock Brewery Hotel, built c1882, was the second Dock Hotel on this site, replacing the original Dock Hotel, first licensed in 1855. This earlier hotel was well situated between the wharves and the railway station (corner Lipson and St Vincent Streets), and benefited from its position opposite the South Australian Company's Basin (now filled in).

The Dock Hotel was so well patronised that tenders for the construction of a new hotel on the site were called in the *SA Register* of 6 November 1882. The proposed plans, by architects English and Soward, included a two-storey hotel with 15 rooms and balcony, as well as a large bar, a bar parlour, a dining room, a central passage from Todd Street, and a side entrance to the main bar from Gliddon Street (now Stevedore Place). A large cellar was also provided. A tender from contractors Burge and Kestel was accepted and the building, of Dry Creek stone with cement dressing, was completed soon after.



Port Dock Brewery Hotel, 2005



Port Dock Hotel, 1985

In 1909 the Dock Hotel was delicensed as a result of the Temperance Movement, when local preacher Reverend J. Kirby launched a vehement attack against the number of hotels in the Port Adelaide area. Voting papers appeared in the local papers and the people of the Port were asked to recommend which 15 (of 45) local pubs should lose their licences. Despite some strong support from patrons, the Port Dock became one of the pubs nominated to close.

Between 1909 and the late 1980s, the former hotel was used for a variety of purposes, including a boarding house, a stevedores' office and a bordello. In 1986 the hotel was given a new licence and a new name, and by 1988 the

interior of the building was substantially renovated. The external form was retained and restored. A new rear section was added and a brewery tower and restaurant were constructed adjacent to the old hotel. [The Port Dock Brewery Hotel](#) is now recognised as one of Port Adelaide's most popular dining and entertainment venues.



Port Dock Hotel, Restaurant & Brewery, 2005



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Heritage