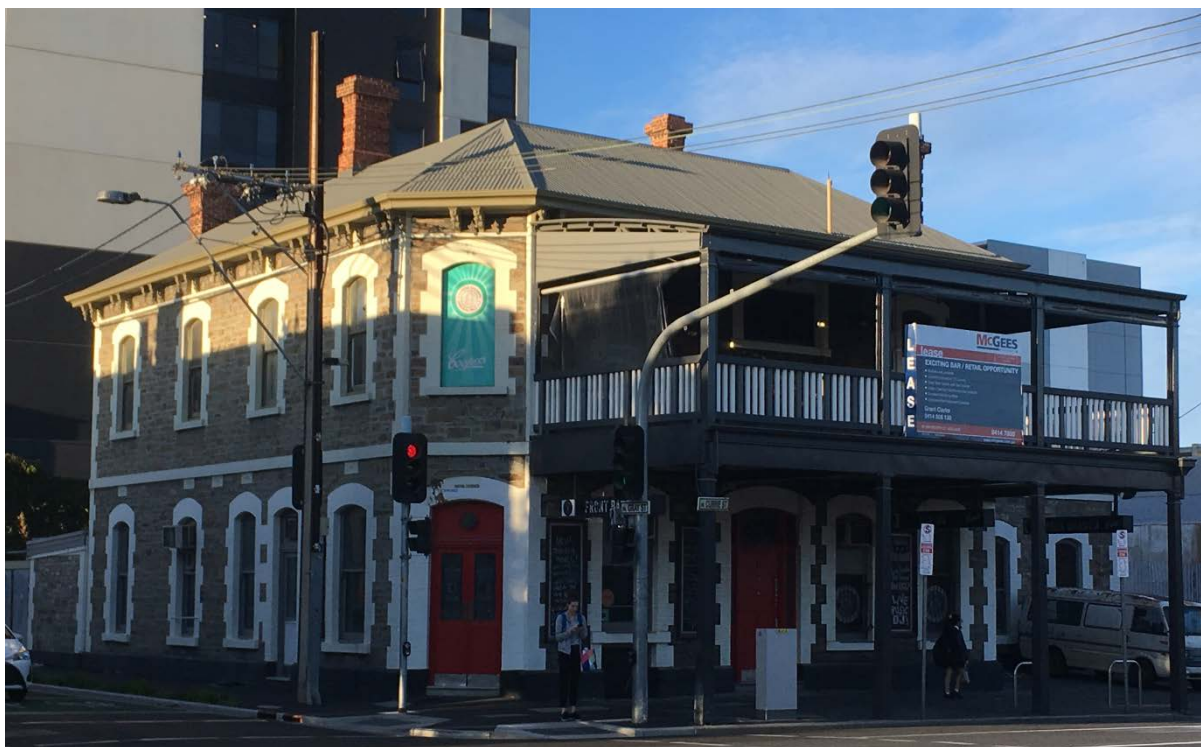


HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NAME: Edinburgh Castle Hotel

PLACE: 26500

ADDRESS: 233 Currie Street, ADELAIDE



Edinburgh Castle Hotel viewed from the south-west corner of Currie Street showing the front (northern) and eastern elevations

Source: DEW Files 17 March 2020

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Heritage Significance:

As this place is not considered to meet the State Heritage criteria, a Statement of Heritage Significance has not been prepared.

Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

7 Developing Social and Cultural Life

7.5 Participating in sport, leisure and recreation

7.9 Creating and celebrating the arts

Comparability / Rarity / Representation:

The Edinburgh Castle Hotel is associated with a number of themes, namely hotels, taverns, inns and public houses; breweries, brewing and the South Australian Brewing Company (SABCo); and, Victorian Regency and/or Adelaide hotel architecture. It is also associated with nineteenth century architect, Rowland Rees. Each are considered in turn below.

Hotels, Taverns, Inns & Public Houses

There are 183 hotels entered in the South Australian Heritage Register as State Heritage Places and approximately 223 hotels that are listed as Local Heritage Places, including the Edinburgh Castle hotel (subject of this assessment). Of the hotels that are listed as a State Heritage Place, 119 were built in the nineteenth century. A representative sample of State Heritage listed hotels constructed at a similar time to the Edinburgh Castle namely, 1870s-1880s and as a result of the building boom that occurred at that time include:

- P J O'Briens (former East End Market Hotel), 10-12 East Terrace, Adelaide, 1870s, (SHP 13922).
- Royal Hotel, 2 North Terrace, Kent Town, 1877, (SHP 13116).
- Governor Hindmarsh Hotel, 59 Port Road, Hindmarsh, 1879, (SHP 11820).
- Jeffcott Chambers (former Supreme Court Hotel), 7 Gouger Street, Adelaide, 1881, (SHP 13600).
- The Rising Sun Hotel, 36-40 High Street, Kensington, (William McMinn, architect), 1882, (SHP 14131).
- British Hotel, 58-60 Finniss Street, North Adelaide, (Rowland Rees, architect), 1882-1883, (SHP 13556).
- Wellington Hotel, 34-38 Wellington Square, North Adelaide, 1885, (SHP 13506).



P J O'Briens (former East End Market Hotel),
10-12 East Terrace, Adelaide, c.1870s (SHP
13922)



Governor Hindmarsh Hotel, 59 Port Road,
Hindmarsh, 1879 (SHP 11820)



The Rising Sun Hotel, 36-40 High Street, Kensington, 1882 (SHP 14131)



Wellington Hotel, Wellington Square, North Adelaide, 1885 (SHP 13506)

Brewing, Breweries & SABCo

There are 18 State Heritage Places, excluding hotels that are associated with brewing and breweries. A representative sample includes:

- Office (former Malt House of Old Lion Brewery), 179-181 (rear) Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, (SHP 13558).
- Part of Oakbank Weavers (former Pike's Dorset Brewery) including Post Office, Brewery and Brewing Tower, 9 Elizabeth Street, Oakbank, (SHP 12886).
- Former Adelaide Brewery, 54-60 Wyatt Street, Adelaide, (SHP 11635).
- Former Unicorn Brewery Cellars & Wall, Bridge Terrace, Burra, (SHP 10005).
- Knappstein Winery (former Clare Brewery & Chimney), 2 Pioneer Avenue, Clare, (SHP 10105).
- Former Romilly House, 1 North Terrace Hackney, (SHP 14260).
- Dwelling ('Keating Cottage'), 3 Brewery Street Melrose, (SHP 10156).
- Former Jacka's Brewery & Yard Walls (former Marshall's Flour Mill), Mount Street, Melrose, (SHP 10178).
- The Lion Hotel (former Old Lion Brewery, Chimney & Hotel), 161-175 Melbourne Street, and 19 Jerningham Street, North Adelaide, (SHP 13559).
- Former Oakbank Brewery, 18 Oakwood Road, Oakbank, (SHP 12889).

Three State Heritage Places are directly associated with the South Australian Brewing Company, namely:

- Office (former SA Brewing Company Offices), 222-228 Hindley Street, Adelaide, (SHP 13354).
- Hawker House (former Dwelling), St Mark's College, 55 Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide, (former home of Alfred Simms co-founder of SABCo but also State Heritage listed for its associations with Arthur Waterhouse and Evan Kyffin Thomas), (SHP 13545).
- Former Kent Town Brewery & Malthouse, Rundle Street Kent Town, (SHP 10268).

Victorian Regency and Adelaide Hotel architectural styles

Following the styles defined by Apperly, Irving & Reynolds in *Identifying Australian Architecture*, the Edinburgh Castle hotel is an example of the Victorian Regency architectural style (c.1840-1890). A continuation of the Colonial Regency style, the Victorian Regency style exhibits 'simplicity, subtlety and restraint' with 'clearly defined rectangular masses arranged symmetrically'¹. The broad characteristics of the style are 'elegant plainness, simple forms, and sparse classical details'.² In South Australia, George Strickland Kingston is a noted practitioner of the style.

Other key features of the Victorian Regency style often include:

- simple parapet walls that conceal the roof,
- facades characterised by gentle projections, recessions and division into panels,
- stucco, fine brickwork or stone masonry
- brick quoined corners,
- projecting mouldings of simple classical designs,
- eave brackets,
- cantilevered balcony,
- windows and doors surmounted by external entablatures and architraves.³

A selection of State Heritage Places that are outstanding examples of the Victorian Regency style include:

- Government House, North Terrace, Adelaide, (SHP 10873), c.1840.
- Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue, Novar Gardens, c.1842-1854, (SHP 10552).
- Ayers House, 287-300 North Terrace, Adelaide, 1846-1876, (SHP 1337).
- 378 South Terrace, Adelaide, c.1857, (SHP 10948).

However, McDougall and Vines argue that from the 1870s, the design of South Australian hotels evolved to become identified as a distinctly Adelaide or South Australian style with verandahs and balconies added as a feature from the 1890s.⁴ Pubs or hotels built during the 1870s and 1880s tend to be constructed from load-bearing bluestone walls with brick quoins and feature a prominent horizontal brick string course and plain ornamentation that was often limited to eave brackets and/or window and door surrounds. Typically situated on a corner site, the hotels also feature a corner entrance and single- or two-storey timber verandahs and/or projecting balconies.

Many hotels constructed during the 1870s and 1880s are represented on Local Heritage registers, although some examples from that time are also represented on the South Australian Heritage Register. A sample of local and State heritage listed hotels that are typical of the Adelaide-hotel-architectural style includes:

- Gilbert Street Hotel, 88-90 Gilbert Street, Adelaide, c.1872, (LHP).

- Whitmore Hotel (formerly Gothic Hotel), 317-319 Morphett Street, Adelaide, c.1880, (LHP).
- British Hotel, 58-60 Finniss Street, North Adelaide, (Rowland Rees, architect), 1882-1883, (SHP 13556).
- Earl of Leicester Hotel, 85 Leicester Street, Parkside, (English & Soward, architects), c.1885, (LHP).



Gilbert Street Hotel, 88-90 Gilbert Street, Adelaide, c.1872, (LHP)



Whitmore Hotel (formerly Gothic Hotel), 317-319 Morphett Street, Adelaide, c.1880, (LHP)



British Hotel, 58-60 Finniss Street, North Adelaide, (Rowland Rees, architect), 1882-1883, (SHP 13556)



Earl of Leicester Hotel, 85 Leicester Street, Parkside, (English & Soward, architects), c.1885, (LHP)

Rowland Rees (1840-1904)

Architect Rowland Rees was a prominent architect and politician in Adelaide during the mid to late 19th century. Rees trained as a civil engineer and architect with English architect HE Kendall, a founding member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. After arriving in South Australia in 1869, Rees entered into partnership with Thomas English, an arrangement that lasted for three years.⁵ He then worked as a sole practitioner with the exception of two short-lived partnerships between 1878 and 1882.⁶

Rees had a diverse architectural practice designing many different types of buildings including residences, churches, office buildings, shops, a foundry, hotels, St Peters Town Hall, and the Lobethal Woollen Mills. He was known for his 'ebullient Italianate facades' and 'his careful attention to detail'. His work is identified by 'the bold structure of his chimneys, pronounced hood-moulds, decorative pilasters and capitals, use of parapets with baroque pediments and expert siting of buildings'.⁷ His best surviving work is found in the many hotels and residences he designed.

Rees was also the member for Burra between 1873-1881 and for Onkaparinga from 1882-1890. He was known for his eloquence in the House of Assembly where he attempted to advance the cause of many liberal ideas, including advocacy of free education, gambling regulation and equal rights for women in the divorce extension bill of 1883. Rees also presented the ill-fated 'Architect's registration bill' to Parliament in 1889.⁸ Following a decline in his practice and heavy debts, Rees relocated to Western Australia but returned to Adelaide in 1903. He died at the Parkside Mental Hospital in October 1904.⁹

A representative sample of State Heritage Places that illustrate the diversity of Rees' architectural commissions (both in partnership and sole practice) includes:

- 263-264 North Terrace, Adelaide, (residence for Dr. John Fisher), c.1872, (SHP 13377).
- 58 Strangways Terrace, North Adelaide (residence for G. H. Catchlove), c.1875, (SHP 13491).
- 'Admaston,' or 'Strelida,' 219 Stanley Street, North Adelaide (residence), 1878, (SHP 10629).
- Archer Hotel (former Huntsmans Hotel), 56-60 O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, 1882, (SHP 13527).
- 53-56 Strangways Terrace, North Adelaide, (residence), c.1883, (SHP 13489).
- Lobethal Woollen Mills, Lot 201, Lobethal Road, Lobethal, c.1883 (SHP 26414).
- British Hotel, 58-60 Finniss Street, North Adelaide, 1883, (SHP 13556).
- Oxford Hotel, 101-109 O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, 1884, (SHP 13499).
- St Peters Town Hall, 101 Payneham Road, St Peters, c.1885, (SHP 12727).



Archer Hotel (former Huntsman Hotel),
O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, 1882,
(SHP 13527)



Oxford Hotel, O'Connell Street, North
Adelaide, 1884, (SHP 13499)



'Admaston,' or 'Strela,' 219 Stanley Street,
North Adelaide, 1878,
(SHP 10629)



Residence and Surgery for Dr. John Fisher,
North Terrace, Adelaide, c.1872,
(SHP 13377)

**Assessment against Criteria under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.
All Criteria have been assessed using the 2020 Guidelines.**

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases which have played a significant part in South Australian history. Ideally it should demonstrate those associations in its fabric.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if they are of a class of things that are commonplace, or frequently replicated across the State, places associated with events of interest only to a small number of people, places associated with developments of little significance, or places only reputed to have been the scene of an event which has left no trace or which lacks substantial evidence.

The Edinburgh Castle Hotel has been associated with the history of South Australia's public houses or hotels since 1839, when Andrew Harriott was granted a publican's license in March of that year. However, while it has been widely believed that the Edinburgh Castle is the first licensed public house in South Australia, it was instead Guthries Hotel, located adjacent to the Edinburgh Castle, and licensed almost two years prior in May 1837 that was the first.

The Edinburgh Castle hotel has also been considered to be the oldest continuously licensed premises in South Australia. However, there has been at least one break in its licensing when the government refused to renew the license in the late 1840s until considerable improvements were made to the then dilapidated pise and stone and/or brick structures.

Like many hotels, the Edinburgh Castle was totally redesigned and rebuilt during a period of heightened building activity in the city that occurred in the late 1870s and early 1880s. At that time many early pise and stone and/or brick structures that had become dilapidated, over time, were replaced with new premises. Later the hotel became one of over a hundred premises run by the South Australian Brewing

Company (SABCo). However, as a later acquisition by the company, there are a number of places that better represent SABCo's business activities and contribution to developing South Australia's economic and cultural life, see representation, comparability and rarity.

One of the more notable events to be associated with the Edinburgh Castle hotel is the 'almost a riot' that occurred on Currie Street in 1914 due to emerging anti-German sentiment at the beginning of the First World War. While the initial taunts that lead to the riot began in the hotel, the patrons were quickly moved outside where the verbal attacks continued, were reciprocated and devolved into a physical melee resulting in the hospitalisation of a few of the bystanders. Unfortunately, the Edinburgh Castle hotel was one of many locations in South Australia where similar anti-German taunts were inflicted upon South Australians with German ancestry during the First World War.

As a west end hotel, the Edinburgh castle has been an important 'watering hole' and meeting place for the people who lived and/or worked in Adelaide's west end. However, it is one of many hotels in the area that have played a part in the west end's history, an important local role that is evidenced by its local heritage listing in 2013. Similarly, while the hotel was popular with the LGBTQI+ community for a short time during the 1990s it is one of a number of places in South Australia that have similar associations.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (a).

(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should demonstrate a way of life, social custom, industrial process or land use which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest. This encompasses both places which were always rare, and places which have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if their rarity is merely local, or if they appear rare only because research has not been done elsewhere, or if their distinguishing characteristics have been degraded or compromised, or if they are at present common and simply believed to be in danger of becoming rare in the future.

The Edinburgh Castle Hotel is associated with the development of public houses, taverns, inns and hotels in South Australia, and has played a part in the social development of Adelaide's west end as a place to eat, drink and socialise since the earliest years of the colony. However, many such places were and continue to be built across South Australia and provide places where South Australians can eat, drink and socialise. Consequently, the Edinburgh Castle Hotel cannot be considered to be rare or uncommon, nor are the social customs and way of life it is associated with endangered.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (b).

(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The information should be inherent in the fabric of the place. The place may be a standing structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological site.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion simply because they are believed to contain archaeological or palaeontological deposits. There must be good reasons to suppose the site is of value for research, and that useful information will emerge. A place that will yield the same information as many other places, or information that could be obtained as readily from documentary sources, may not be eligible.

The Edinburgh Castle hotel was originally comprised from a number of pise and stone and/or brick structures that were constructed in the very first years of the colony. However, by the late 1840s the buildings were already in such a dilapidated state that the Government refused to relicense the hotel until improvements had been made. While sufficient repairs were undertaken between June and September 1849 to allow the hotel to re-open the buildings were eventually demolished to make way for a completely new building completed in 1879. The late 1870s hotel was a substantial two-storey bluestone structure to a design by architect Rowland Rees.

The new building entirely covered the footprint of the previous structures. While it is possible that some physical evidence remains at the site that cannot currently be seen, it is very unlikely to have sufficient integrity to yield significant information about the history of South Australia. In particular, it would be highly unlikely to yield any information about early hotels and building techniques that are not already known through other primary and secondary sources, including maps, documents and newspaper reports.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (c).

(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be capable of providing understanding of the category of places which it represents. It should be typical of a wider range of such places, and in a good state of integrity, that is, still faithfully presenting its historical message.

Places will not be considered simply because they are members of a class, they must be both notable examples and well-preserved. Places will be excluded if their characteristics do not clearly typify the class, or if they were very like many other places, or if their representative qualities had been degraded or lost. However, places will not be excluded from the Register merely because other similar places are included.

The Edinburgh Castle hotel is a member of a class of places known as nineteenth century hotels (including pubs, inns and taverns). Such places are of cultural significance to South Australia as they provided venues where people could seek shelter, eat and/or drink, socialise, conduct business, or host important community events. Hotels also illustrate the development of the city, townships and suburbs, and many are local heritage places for this reason. Often associated with transport routes, hotels are also associated with the expansion of South Australia and its social and economic development.

When the Edinburgh Castle hotel was first licensed in 1839 it was one of a number of hotels that opened in Adelaide's quickly developing west end. Like many of the hotels built at that time in Adelaide, its premises were totally rebuilt during the building boom that occurred in the late 1870s to early 1880s. At that time, the original structures were considered dilapidated and replaced with grander and larger ones.

Although the Edinburgh Castle hotel does exhibit some of the principal characteristics that makes nineteenth century hotels a class of place of cultural significance in South Australia, namely being a place to eat, drink and socialise, it is one of many such places in South Australia with the same associations.

It is recommended that the nominated place fulfils/**does not fulfil** criterion (d).

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its times. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.

Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement, while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.

The Edinburgh Castle hotel is an example of Victorian Regency architecture that evolved in Adelaide in the late nineteenth century to become a distinctly Adelaide or South Australian style of hotel or pub architecture. The hotel is a good example of the style and possesses a number of the elements typical of it, such as rectangular massing, fine stonework, brick quoins and simple decorative detailing of which the most notable is the eave brackets. However, the design of the hotel and subsequent modifications to it means that it does not include a number of the distinguishing features that would make it an outstanding example such as: a parapet, division of the façade into panels, and the use of an entablature over the windows and doors.

In addition, important features such as the cantilevered balcony have been subsequently removed and replaced.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (e).

(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual association for the community or a group within it.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be one which the community or a significant cultural group have held in high regard for an extended period. This must be much stronger than people's normal attachment to their surroundings. The association may in some instances be in folklore rather than in reality.

Places will not be considered if their associations are commonplace by nature, or of recent origin, or recognised by a small number of people, or not held very strongly, or held by a group not widely recognised, or cannot be demonstrated satisfactorily to others.

The Edinburgh Castle hotel has been associated with the residents of Adelaide's west end for over 150 years, and for a short period of time during the 1990s and early 2000s with the LGBTQI+ community.

The hotel has played an important role in the lives of some of the people living and/or working in Adelaide's west end from 1839 until it closed in 2018. However, while the hotel has been a popular 'watering hole' for many people over an extended period of time, it is one of many hotels in Adelaide and South Australia that can claim a similar association with its local community. Further, it is also one of a number of hotels in Adelaide's west end that has exactly the same association for the people who live and work in that area of the city. Consequently, while the hotel is important to some members of its local community, a fact that is indicated by the place's local heritage listing, it cannot be said to have been held in high regard by its whole community or that the west end community has a much stronger attachment to this one hotel over all of the others.

In the late twentieth century, the Edinburgh Castle hotel became known as 'the mainstay of Adelaide's Gay and Lesbian community' and was a popular meeting place for some members of the LGBTQI+ community. However, that association was only evident for a short period of time, namely the 1990s. By the 2000s the hotel came to be associated less with the LGBTQI+ community and was better known as a live music venue. Further, while the hotel was important to some members of the LGBTQI+ community during the 1990s, there is no evidence to suggest the place has been held in any special regard by the wider LGBTQI+ community. Consequently, the hotel cannot be said to have been held in high regard by the LGBTQI+ community for an extended period of time.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (f).

(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place must have a close association with a person or group which played a significant part in past events, and that association should be demonstrated in the fabric of the place. The product of a creative person, or the workplace of a person whose contribution was in industry, would be more closely associated with the person's work than would his or her home. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why one place is more significant than others.

Places will not generally be considered under this criterion if they have only brief, incidental or distant association, or if they are associated with persons or groups of little significance, or if they are associated with an event which has left no trace, or if a similar association could be claimed for many places, or if the association cannot be demonstrated. Generally the home or the grave of a notable person will not be entered in the Register unless it has some distinctive attribute, or there is no other physical evidence of the person's life or career in existence.

The Edinburgh Castle Hotel has been associated with many publicans since it opened in 1839, including its first proprietors Andrew and Margaret Harriott and then longer-term licensees Ann and Robert Venn (1861-1881), Ellen Supple (1910-1920), the McDonnell family (1920-1957), and the Reynolds family (1957-1976). The hotel is also associated with the South Australian Brewing Co (SABCo) and is an example of the work of architect Rowland Rees.

While each of the proprietors of the hotel have played an important role in the social and cultural life of Adelaide's west end through their operation of the hotel, none have, more broadly, played a significant role in the past events or history of South Australia. Rather, they are like many people in South Australia who have found gainful employment by running their own small business and who have contributed to their local community.

SABCo (and predecessor company) is an important organisation that has contributed to the economic and social development of South Australia for over a century. SABCo was established in 1893 after the wine and spirit business components of the South Australian Brewing, Malting & Wine & Spirit Co. Ltd. were dispensed with. At that time, SABCo owned 44 hotels and leased another 65, and owned the West End brewing complex and Kent Town brewery, which was used for malting. In 1895, SABCo acquired the Edinburgh Castle Hotel.

The places most closely associated with the business of SABCo, namely its offices in Hindley Street (SHP 13354) and the former Kent Town Brewery and Malthouse (SHP 10268) are both State Heritage Places. SABCo was also associated with well over a hundred hotels, including the Edinburgh Castle, however, there is no evidence to suggest that the Edinburgh Castle hotel in particular, has a connection to SABCo that is stronger than any of the company's other hotels. Nor is there any evidence to suggest that the Edinburgh Castle has as strong an association as the company's offices and brewery.

The Edinburgh Castle Hotel is also associated with Rowland Rees who was responsible for designing the new hotel building in 1878. The hotel is one of many commissions and in particular, one of many hotel commissions undertaken by Rees during his career in South Australia. Rees is noted for his 'ebullient Italianate facades' and 'careful attention to detail', which can be clearly seen in a number of the residences and hotels he designed.

A number of the hotels designed by Rees are listed as State Heritage Places, and it is hotels such as the Archer (SHP 13527) and Oxford (SHP 13499) that more closely represent the architectural detailing that Rees is noted for. In comparison, the Edinburgh Castle is a very much plainer example of his work, and while a fine building, is not as outstanding a representative of the work Rees is known for.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (g).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Edinburgh Castle Hotel is a two-storey, bluestone building, with a hipped corrugated-iron-clad roof and painted-brick quoins, string course and lightly-arched door and window surrounds. The building features a chamfered-corner to Currie and Grey Streets with a painted timber-framed and timber and leadlight door. The main entrance to Currie Street features a painted timber-framed and timber door with leadlight fanlight and sidelights. The windows to the eastern and northern elevations are timber-framed, sash-windows. The timber verandah to the first storey, replaced the original cantilever balcony in 1926 and extends along the Currie Street façade. The hotel also features timber baton eave soffits and decorative eave brackets.

Elements of Significance:

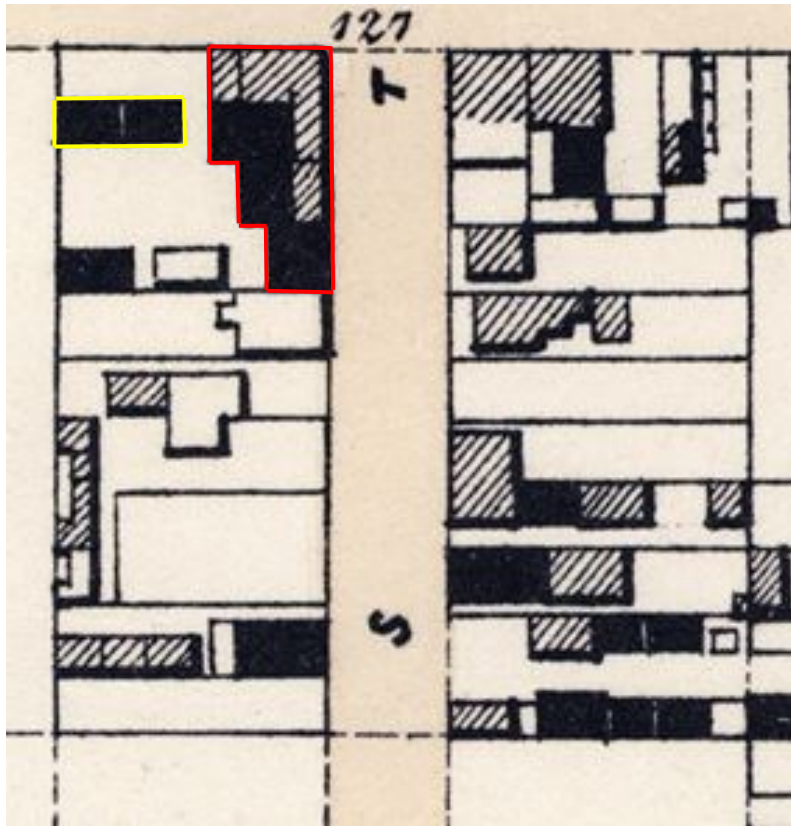
This place is not considered to meet any of the criteria for State Heritage listing, and therefore is not considered to have elements of State heritage significance.

HISTORY

In *Hotels and Publicans in South Australia*, Bob Hoad asserts that the Edinburgh Castle Hotel was the first licensed premises in South Australia and therefore also the longest continuously licensed hotel in the State.¹⁰ Hoad's claim is based on the presumption that the site of the Edinburgh Castle Hotel was the same site as that of George Guthrie's Hotel also located on a portion of Town Acre 127 at the corner of Currie and Gray Streets.

While Guthrie's license is the earliest publican license in South Australia and was granted by the Colonial Secretary on 31 May 1837,¹¹ extensive research undertaken by Craig Hill and published online in March 2019¹² has identified historical evidence that disputes Hoad's claim. Hill has identified two separate but adjacent buildings on Part Town Acre 127 that were individually licensed and operating between 1839 and 1841 as 'Guthrie's Hotel' and the 'Edinburgh Castle'. The hotels were located respectively on Lots 1 & 2 and Lots 3 & 4, with lot numbering commencing at the

western boundary of the acre. Both buildings are clearly evident as two separate structures on Kingston's map of the City of Adelaide prepared in 1842.¹³



Kingston's 1842 map, showing town acre 127. Guthrie's hotel and the Edinburgh Castle hotel are located in the top left portion of the acre, Guthrie's hotel (outlined in yellow) is the simple rectangular building fronting Currie Street, while the Edinburgh Castle hotel (outlined in red) is comprised of a number of structures on the corner of Currie and Grey Streets. Source: SLSA, C1165

Hill asserts that 'Guthrie's Hotel' is the building located on Lots 1 & 2, as the footprint matches the description of it provided in the *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* in 1839, namely it was a 'substantial dwelling house...of 39 feet frontage by 15 feet wide, with a good cellar and other conveniences. The ground comprises 52 feet frontage in Currie street by 50 feet, fenced with stringy bark'.¹⁴ While the building on Lots 3 & 4 had a more sophisticated footprint comprised of three joined rectangular pise structures with a brick and/or stone L-shaped addition that fronted both Currie and Grey streets.¹⁵

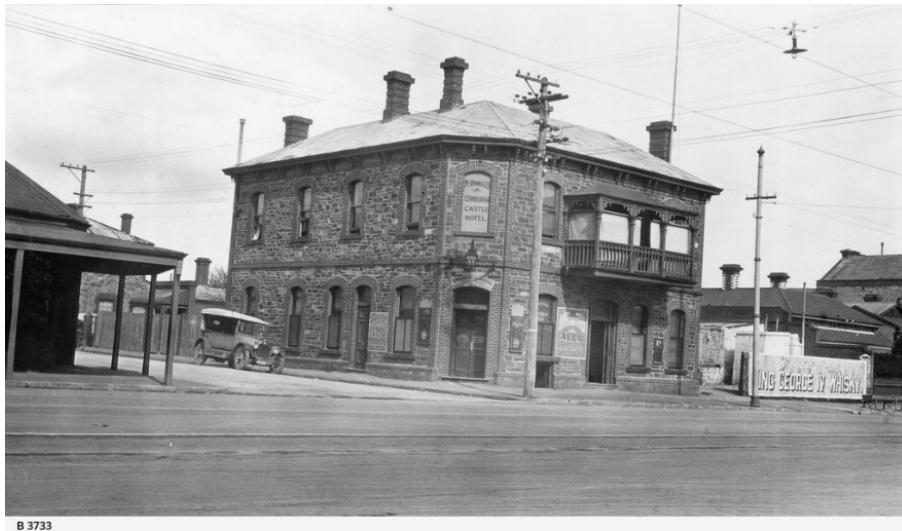
The Edinburgh Castle Hotel located on Lots 3 & 4 of Part Town Acre 127 on Currie Street was first identified as a licensed public house on the 25 March 1839, when its owner Andrew Harriott was granted a publican's license.¹⁶ Andrew Harriott and his wife Margaret Halliday emigrated from Scotland to New South Wales some time between 1832 and 1835 and arrived in South Australia in 1838 after previously managing the Burns Head public house on George Street in Sydney.¹⁷ The 1838 edition of the *General Directory for Adelaide and Port Adelaide*, identified Harriott as a storekeeper on Currie Street¹⁸ after he purchased Lots 3 & 4 of Part Town Acre 127 from Captain Whiteman Freeman on October 12 1838.¹⁹ Harriott later purchased Lots 1 & 2 from Freeman and Guthrie in February 1841 for £80 and also acquired the adjoining property on Lot 9 to the south. The five allotments were eventually consolidated into one land title.²⁰

The Harriotts managed the property until 1846 but probably owned the building until at least 1852. It was rented to Nicholas Browning between 1846 and 1849 and then James Douglas from 1849 until 1852. Douglas' license application in June 1849 described the building as 'old' and the license was refused on the grounds that the building was not in a 'fit state of repair'.²¹ Douglas evidently undertook the necessary repairs between June and September when a subsequent license application was granted in September 1849.²²

The building was managed by a number of licensees until Robert and Ann Venn became the first long-term tenants from 1861 until 1881. Ann Venn became the sole proprietor upon the death of her husband in 1871 and was responsible for commissioning architect C. E. Rowland Rees to rebuild the hotel in 1878 during the economic and building boom that began in Adelaide in the late 1870s and continued until 1882.²³

Rees advertised tenders for construction in late June 1878²⁴ and in November the Adelaide City Council granted permission for the builders to install window gratings and a balconette over Currie Street.²⁵ Construction was completed before March 1879 when an article in the *Evening Journal* noted the Edinburgh Castle hotel was one of a number of hotels that had been rebuilt in the past year.²⁶ It seems that the Edinburgh Castle hotel was one of many buildings reconstructed at that time, the Adelaide City Council's *Annual Report of 1877*, noting:

*...many of the original buildings in the city have disappeared, their old and dilapidated appearance was offensive to the senses, they are now being replaced by erecting beautiful in design, substantial in character and excellent specimens of street architecture.*²⁷



The Edinburgh Castle Hotel as it appeared c.1926 before the balcony was replaced by the Milne verandah. Note that the brick quoins, string course and door and window surrounds remain unpainted and that there is a house and small structures (right) where the single-storey extension was later built. The small house behind the hotel was demolished in the mid-twentieth century and the land subsequently became the beer garden.

Source: State Library of South Australia, B3733

A new timber balcony and verandah was added in late 1926 by architects F Kenneth Milne Evans & Russell and contractors W. Essery & Son of Norwood, replacing the cantilevered balcony to the Currie Street façade.²⁸ A single-storey addition was added to the western side of the building in the mid-1980s.

A South Australian Brewing Company (SABCo) Hotel

In 1895, the hotel was purchased by the South Australian Brewing Company. Prior to being established in 1893, the South Australian Brewing Company (SABCo) was an amalgamated enterprise known as The South Australian Brewing, Malting & Wine & Spirit Co. Ltd. When the wine and spirit business components were dispensed with, it became SABCo. At that time it retained the West End and Kent Town brewing complexes, although the Kent Town premises were only used for malting.²⁹

In 1893, SABCo owned 44 hotels and leased 65 premises under a 'tied house' system whereby licensees were required to dispense only the owner/leaseholder's products. This system remained in place until the federal *Trade Practices Act 1974*.³⁰ SABCo retained ownership of the Edinburgh Castle Hotel until 1986³¹ and notable long-term licensees during the twentieth century included Mrs Ellen Supple (1910-1920), the McDonnell family (1920-1957) and the Reynolds family (1957-1976).

1914 Quarrel with the Germans

In September 1914, the Edinburgh Castle Hotel was associated with a brawl that occurred on Currie Street due to anti-German sentiment that emerged during the First World War.³² The 1911 census data indicates that approximately 8.5 percent of South Australia's population could claim German ancestry and while there were 'decades

of peaceful interactions between South Australians of German and non-German origin',³³ all aspects of German culture were progressively banned during the War.

In 1914 and following a British Government order, the Federal government required the states to intern people of German or 'enemy' origin. An internment camp was established at Torrens Island and was home to about 400 German men during the War. A temporary internment camp was also established at Fort Largs.³⁴ German schools were closed and the German language newspaper *Süd Australische Zeitung* that had been in operation since 1850 was banned. The assent of the *Nomenclature Act 1917* prohibited the use of German names for places and in legal documents resulting in the change of 69 placenames, for example Hahndorf was renamed Ambleside.³⁵

On 7 September 1914, just a month after Australia had declared war on Germany, the Edinburgh Castle hotel was the site of an early outburst of racial tension in South Australia. On that day several naturalised Germans and some of the West End locals started an argument in the hotel that eventually degenerated into a brawl in Currie Street. The brawl was described by the popular press as 'almost a riot' before a crowd of more than 1,000 onlookers. The argument between the men had begun at the bar, after 'a considerable amount of chaffing was indulged in, which eventually got bitter, and aroused feelings of racial enmity'.³⁶ Later, the licensee of the hotel described the naturalised Germans as 'inoffensive if left alone but subjected to a lot of annoyance by certain frequenters of the hotel'.³⁷

The argument moved to Currie street where it was alleged that one of the Germans said that 'before very long the Kaiser would rule England'³⁸ and a general melee then ensued. It was claimed that several of the Germans sourced weapons from a nearby boarding-house, including knives, bottles and scissors. A large crowd quickly gathered and some of them retaliated against the Germans with 'fists and stones'.³⁹ Two 'bystanders' were later taken to the Adelaide Hospital with stab wounds and skull fractures, while it was reported that three 'Germans' were battered almost beyond recognition.⁴⁰ The police quickly arrived though no arrests were made due to the difficulty of ascertaining who was responsible for inflicting the wounds.

1990s-Present

For a short time during the 1990s and until the early 2000s, the Edinburgh Castle hotel with its 'pub vibe' and regular Drag shows was known as 'the mainstay of Adelaide's Gay and Lesbian community and its most popular meeting place...'.⁴¹ On 27 March 2013, the Edinburgh Castle Hotel was listed as a Local Heritage Place. By the 2010s the Hotel had developed a reputation as a popular live music and exhibition venue, although gay bingo still featured on occasion.⁴² In 2018, the hotel closed due to access issues caused by the construction of an \$80 million, 772-bed, student-accommodation complex located adjacent to the hotel.⁴³

Chronology

Year	Event

Heritage South Australia, DEW
Edinburgh Castle Hotel, 26500

- 31 May 1837 The Colonial Secretary grants George Guthrie the first publican license in South Australia.
- 1838 Andrew and Margaret Harriott arrive in South Australia from NSW and purchase Lots 3 & 4 of Part Town Acre 127 (Currie Street) from Captain Whiteman Freeman on October 12 1838, where they establish themselves as storekeepers.
- 25 March 1839 Andrew Harriott is granted a publican's license and the Edinburgh Castle hotel begins serving the residents and workers in Adelaide's West End.**
- 1841 Harriott purchases Lots 1 & 2 from Freeman and Guthrie in February for £80 and also acquires the adjoining property on Lot 9 to the south. The five allotments were eventually consolidated into one land title.
- 1846 - 1849 The Edinburgh Castle hotel is rented to Nicholas Browning.
- 1849 -1852 The Edinburgh Castle hotel is rented to James Douglas.
- June 1849 Douglas' publican's license is refused due to the dilapidated condition of the Edinburgh Castle hotel. It is re-granted in September after considerable building improvements had taken place.**
- 1861 - 1881 Robert and Ann Venn became the first long-term publicans at the Edinburgh Castle hotel.
- 1871 Robert Venn dies leaving Ann as sole proprietor.
- 1878 Ann Venn commissions Adelaide architect Rowland Rees to design a new, larger hotel.**
- 1879 The new Edinburgh Castle hotel building is completed and the *Evening Journal* notes it is one of a number of hotels in Adelaide to rebuild in the past year.**
- 1893 The South Australian Brewing Company (SABCo) is formed when the amalgamated enterprise known as The South Australian Brewing, Malting & Wine & Spirit Co. Ltd, dispenses with the wine and spirit arms of its business. At that time SABCo own 44 hotels and lease another 65 premises under the 'tied house' system.
- 1895 The Edinburgh Castle hotel is purchased by SABCo.**
- 1910 - 1920 Ellen Supple is licensee of the Edinburgh Castle hotel.
- September 1914 The Edinburgh Castle hotel is associated with a melee in Currie Street that occurred due to anti-German sentiment during the First World War.**
- 1920 - 1957 The McDonnell family are the licensees of the Edinburgh castle hotel.
- 1926 The balcony is replaced with a verandah designed by architects F Kenneth Milne Evans & Russell and built by contractors W. Essery & Son of Norwood.**
- 1957 - 1976 The Reynolds family are licensees of the Edinburgh castle hotel.
- 1974 The federal *Trade Practices Act* reverses the tied house system.

- Mid-1980s Single story addition to western side of the hotel is built.
- 1990s The Edinburgh castle hotel becomes known as 'the mainstay of Adelaide's Gay and Lesbian community and its most popular meeting place'. Drag shows and gay bingo are popular regular events that take place at the hotel.
- 2010s The Edinburgh Castle hotel develops a reputation as a popular live music and exhibition venue, although gay bingo is still featured on occasion.
- 27 March 2013** **The Edinburgh Castle Hotel is listed as a Local Heritage Place.**
- 2018** **The Edinburgh Castle hotel closes due to access issues caused by the construction of an \$80 million, 772-bed, student-accommodation complex located adjacent to the hotel.**

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SITE RECORD

NAME:	Edinburgh Castle Hotel	PLACE NO.:	26500
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DESCRIPTION OF PLACE: Two storey, bluestone hotel, with chamfered corner, brick quoins and detailing around doors and windows, decorative eave brackets and timber verandah with balcony.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1879

REGISTER STATUS: Date of nomination 18 January 2019

LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS: Local Heritage Place

CURRENT USE: Vacant
2018-present

PREVIOUS USE(S): Pub/hotel
1879-2018

ARCHITECT: Rowland Rees 1878-1879, later addition of timber verandah and balcony Kenneth Milne Evans & Russell 1926.

BUILDER: Timber Verandah and balcony W. Essery & Son 1926

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: City of Adelaide

LOCATION:

Street No.:	233 Currie Street
Town/Suburb:	Adelaide
Post Code:	5000

LAND DESCRIPTION:

Title	CT 5389/438 A2 F137709
Reference:	
Hundred:	Adelaide

MAP REFERENCE MGA Zone 52 x 1377260.2122, y 6093002.8926

PHOTOS

NAME: Edinburgh Castle Hotel

PLACE NO.: 26500



Edinburgh castle Hotel, eastern elevation

Source: DEW Files 17 March 2020



Edinburgh Castle Hotel, view of the southern and eastern elevation

Source: DEW Files 17 March 2020

NAME: Edinburgh Castle Hotel

PLACE NO.: 26500



Main door to Currie Street showing the fan and slide lights

Source: DEW Files 17 March 2020



Door in chamfered corner showing the lead light

Source: DEW Files 17 March 2020



View of timber-baton, eave-soffit and decorative eave brackets

Source: DEW Files 17 march 2020

SITE PLAN

NAME: Edinburgh Castle Hotel

PLACE NO.: 26500



Edinburgh Castle Hotel, 233 Currie Street, Adelaide, 5000

(CT 5389/438 A2 F137709, Hundred of Adelaide)

N ↑

LEGEND

 Parcel boundaries

 Outline of the Edinburgh Castle Hotel, built 1879 and verandah, built 1926

As the recommendation to the South Australian Heritage Council is that the place does not fulfil any of the s16 criteria in the *Heritage Places Act 1993*, no elements of the place have been identified as significant at the State level.

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