

ROB ROY HOTEL

108-112 Halifax Street



(CD Ref 1343/63)

The Rob Roy Hotel is one of the oldest hotel structures still in existence in the city and ranks in importance with the Queens Head Hotel in Kermode Street and the former Beresford Arms in Gilles Street. The sketch shown of the Rob Roy Tavern before the 1860s indicates that the two storey western section is at least 130 years old. The hotel is therefore representative of the taverns of the earliest days of the colony, the Rob

Roy having an unbroken existence since first being licensed in 1840 by Robert Peter.

The first part of the building, probably a single storey section since replaced by the later two storey wing, was built for James Cronk. In 1838 he and John Bagg purchased Town Acre 523 on which the building is situated. When R. Peter bought the property in 1842 the built improvements would have been minimal, judging by the purchase price of £85. In 1853 Peter Smith purchased the property. He paid a substantial £1680, indicating improvements such as the surviving western wing. In 1872 the property was purchased by Thomas, Margaret and Barbara Smith. The eastern two storey section with the cantilevered balcony was erected in 1881 to a design by the architects English and Soward. The western and earliest part of the building remained largely original until 1926. It was refaced and rendered but retains its traditional disposition of openings. The interior of the hotel was upgraded during 1985-86 preserving evidence of the original disposition of rooms. Later in 1986 a new sympathetic dining room extension was added to the east.

The hotel, with its unusual design and external originality is now contextually isolated although it remains intrinsically significant. The contrast between the section dating from the 1840s and the portion erected in the Italianate idiom, dating from the boom period of the 1880s, is particularly rare in the city since many hotels were totally rebuilt in the boom period. Such evidence of piecemeal growth right through to the present day is now uncommon in the city.

ACA, Assessments, Smith Survey 1880: Hoad, J.L., *Hotels and publicans in South Australia, 1836-1984*, 1986, part 3, pp. 513-4; McLellan, J., *Adelaide's early inns and taverns*, 1941, p. 20; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 523).

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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The property described in this Information Sheet is included in the Register of State Heritage places. A heritage listing does not mean or imply right of access by the public to such properties.

The heritage related Principles of Development Control as well as the Precinct specific objectives and Principles of Development Control are contained in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan. These should be referred to in whole when contemplating any development.

Further information on the Heritage Incentives Scheme, an initiative of Council to sponsor timely and appropriate conservation action is available upon request of the Customer Service Centre.



CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	ROB ROY HOTEL	Building No	16/2311-1&2
Address	108-112 Halifax Street; 71 Queen Street; 2-10 Colby Place	CT	4012/704

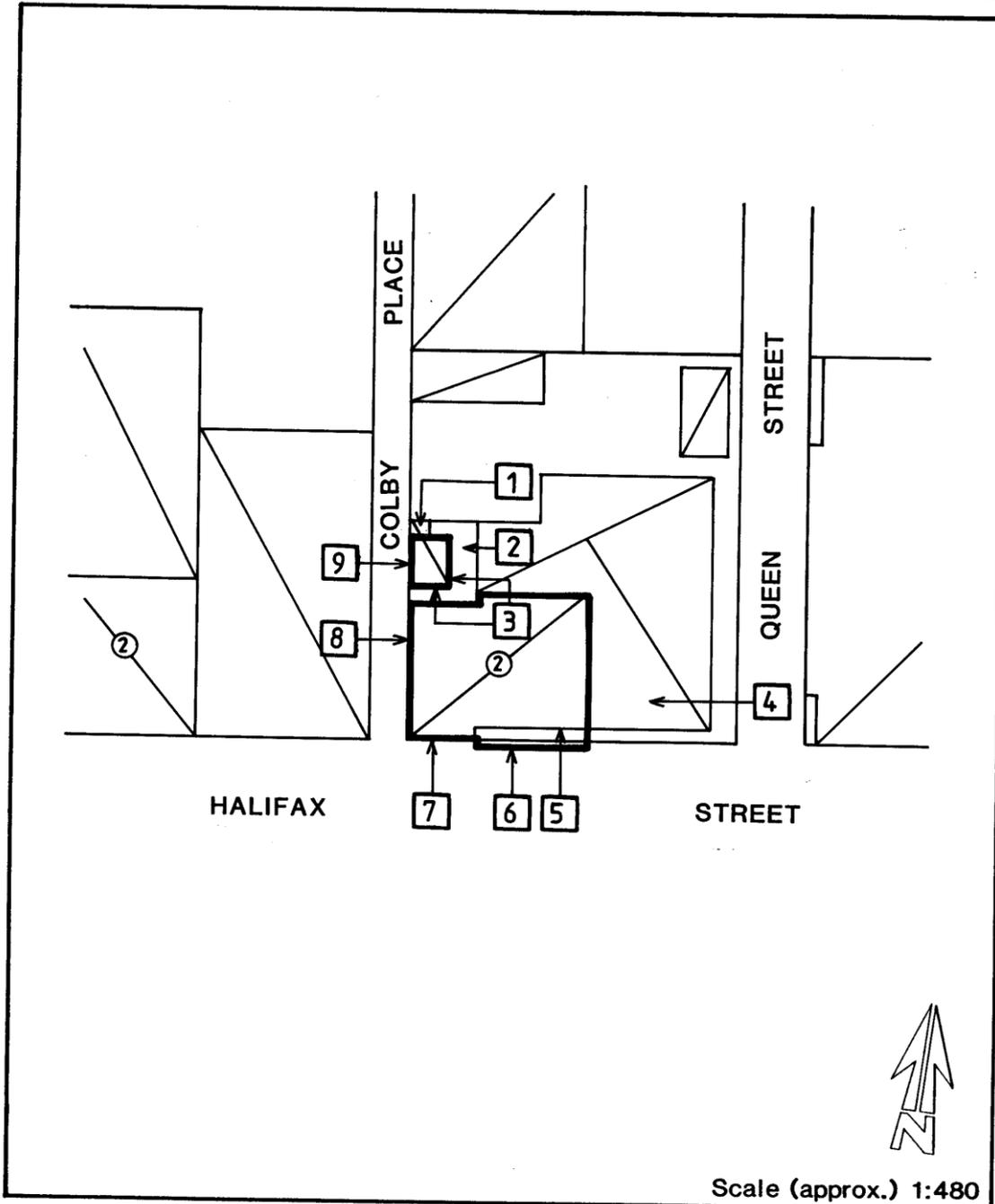


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NOTES:

1. Concrete block addition.
2. Verandah.
3. Rendered.
4. New addition.
5. Painted bluestone with stucco enrichment.
6. Note cast iron balustrades, spandrels, corbels/brackets.
7. Rendered facade.
8. Brick (English bond).
9. Brick.