

QUEEN'S HEAD HOTEL

117-119 Kermode Street

As population spread from south of the Torrens northwards through North Adelaide, the earliest concentration of residents and buildings in North Adelaide occurred in this vicinity. This pattern of development was apparent by the time of the 1841 census, with both Kermode and Melbourne streets showing a concentration of population. Both ran parallel to the River Torrens and were near that major water supply. Before O'Connell Street was connected via Poole Street to King William Road, local and through traffic to the north followed a route from Adelaide along Kermode and Melbourne streets, and it was in these two streets that trade and businesses began.

One of the earliest and most significant of these was the Queen's Head Hotel. Henry G. Hewett and Giles Abbott announced the commencement of the tavern in the *Southern Australian*, 30 August 1838, although a licence does not appear to have been granted until 1839. This and the other early North Adelaide hotels provided a focal point for the development of the surrounding community and fulfilled a vital role as public meeting places for a variety of emerging local associations, residents' groups and congregations.

A public meeting was held at the tavern in 1840 to oppose erection of a public slaughterhouse in Kermode Street, 'the most populous part' of North Adelaide. Abbott, who for a period owned most of Town Acre 711, took a personal interest in the development of religious services, donating land to the Wesleyans for a church in Kermode Street and making available a room at the hotel for religious gatherings. (The assessment of 1854 describes the premises as public house, stockyard, stable and detached offices and club room).

The hotel played a significant role in the history of the Church of Christ in South Australia. Church members were known originally as Scotch Baptists who were led from 1841 by Captain Scott. Some members became dissatisfied with Scott's rigid Calvinistic teaching, and when the controversy reached an acute stage in 1848, the pastor (Scott) and about half the church members left the Franklin Street chapel. From 1848 to 1851 they used the lodge room of 'Abbott's public house' (the Queen's Head) for their services. During those years their members included two well-known figures in early Church of Christ history - Philip Messent and WH. Burford. Most of the 'pilgrims' returned to the original church in 1855 which was by that time reorganised as the Church of Christ. Undoubtedly the separation of the Scotch Baptists, described by another church member as 'self-righteous' and 'obdurate people', assisted in the reformation of the original church during those years.

By 1854 the tavern was also the meeting place of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (Albert Lodge). Given the working-class character of much of the surrounding area, the hotel was also very popular simply as a 'watering spot' and a source of cheap entertainment. Indeed it was described even in 1839 as 'the principal attraction in North Adelaide'.

The original hotel building is shown in an 1845 view of Kermode Street by S.T. Gill and was portrayed in roughly original form in the Smith Survey of 1880. In 1881 the architect

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R.B. Lucas was responsible for the design of the present Italianate frontage. At this time the building reached its present physical form. The section at the rear with its steeply pitched roof possibly dates from the earliest years of operation

of the tavern, in which case the hotel would contain one of the oldest hotel structures still extant in South Australia. The building aptly displays the piecemeal growth of an hostelry which stands in contrast to the majority of city hotels which were entirely rebuilt during the boom period of the 1870s and 1880s.

ACA, Assessments 1854, Smith Survey 1880; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 711), Florence 'de Julian' D6506 (L), RN Note 143; Nagel, P., *North Adelaide 1837-1901*, 1971, pp. 16-17, 18, 32; *South Australian Register*, 23 January 1847; *Southern Australian*, 30 August 1838; Taylor, H.R., *The story of a century. A record of the Churches of Christ*, 1946, pp. 15, 17-18, 23-4, 26.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **Heritage of the City of Adelaide: An Illustrated Guide**, (1996). The photographs contained in this Information Sheet are a selection of those held by Heritage Services, in digital format.

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	QUEENS HEAD HOTEL	Building No
Address	117-119 Kermode Street, North Adelaide	35/2103
	21-39 Abbott Lane	CT 4293/905

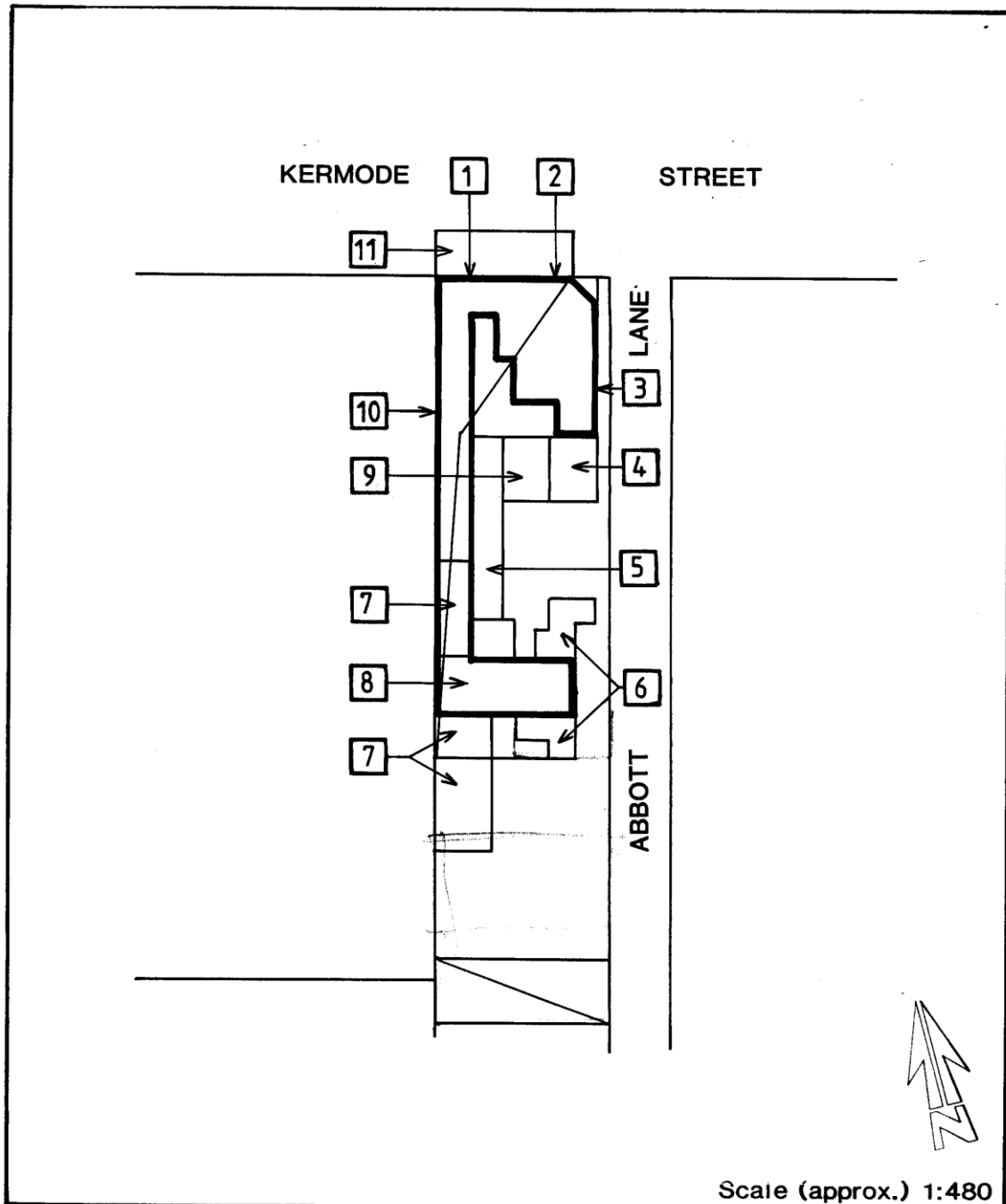


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NOTES:

1. Note Balustraded parapet and raised name plate.
2. Coursed random bluestone with stucco enrichment.
3. Brick (Colonial bond).
4. Brick addition.
5. Verandah.
6. Brick additions.
7. Lean-to.
8. Steeply pitched roof to early section of building.
9. Timber addition.
10. Limestone rubble.
11. Note Cast iron columns to verandah.