

## COLONEL LIGHT HOTEL

41-49 Light Square

First licensed in 1849, the hotel has been known by several different names. As with many Adelaide hotels, the history of the site as a hotel predates the existing structure. A hotel has been on this site since 1849, although the existing building dates from 1898. However, a basement well may date from the earlier hotel.

The hotel is located in what has been known as the 'red light' district of Adelaide. The early practice of subdividing town acres into tiny sections, often no larger than 20 feet by 60 feet produced low land prices which attracted buyers and lessees of limited means. The low rents and rates also attracted the less desirable elements that made up the city's population. The area was described as ' . . . one infected with brothels and soliciting prostitutes'. Amid such notoriety, the hotel prospered, being well known as a place of entertainment from as early as 1852 when assessments for that year stated that the hotel (the Billy Barlow) was an 8 room 2 storey brick and stone house with cellar yard and pale stable and large pale building used as a circus'.

When known as the Shamrock between 1854-88, it was described as having 'one of the principal Music Halls of England and the Colonies', having been fitted as a theatre and concert hall for musical entertainments. The hotel was renamed the Colonel Light in 1888 and retained this name until 1923.

Many Adelaide hotels were rebuilt in the period 1870-85 but this hotel is somewhat unusual in that it was rebuilt much later and during the 1890s depression. Between 1887 and 1898, under conditions of a lease, owners Makinson, Fox and Heydon required lessees A.W. & T.L. Ware to:

*. . . erect according to elevations and specifications to be approved in manner therein described upon the land thereby demised at the lessee's own expense a good and substantial building for the purpose of an hotel with outbuilding and conveniences and for that purpose to pull down the existing building and to complete substituted buildings by the 1st day of December 1898 and to spend in such erection the sum of £1,500 at least.*

Although assessments of 1898 confirm that the hotel was rebuilt at this time, to date no architect has been found. The State Heritage Branch report for the hotel 6628-12862, 10 January 1985, states that ' . . . a comparison between two photographs at the hotel taken in 1911 and the late 1920s respectively shows that the veranda was a later addition, probably during the 1920s.

The hotel has been known as:

Sir Robert Peel 1849-50  
Billy Barlow 1850-52  
George and Dragon 1852-54  
Shamrock 1854-88

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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Colonel Light 1888-1923  
Hotel George 1923-36  
Hotel Gambier 1936-70  
Colonel Light Hotel 1970-

ACA, Assessments; Hoad, J.L., *Hotel and publicans in South Australia*, 1986, Part 3, pp. 116-117; Horan, S., 'More sinned against than sinning - prostitution in South Australia 1836-1914', BA Hons. thesis, Flinders University, 1978, p. 12.1 State Heritage Branch, 6628-12862, 10 January 1985 (Colonel Light Hotel).

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.*

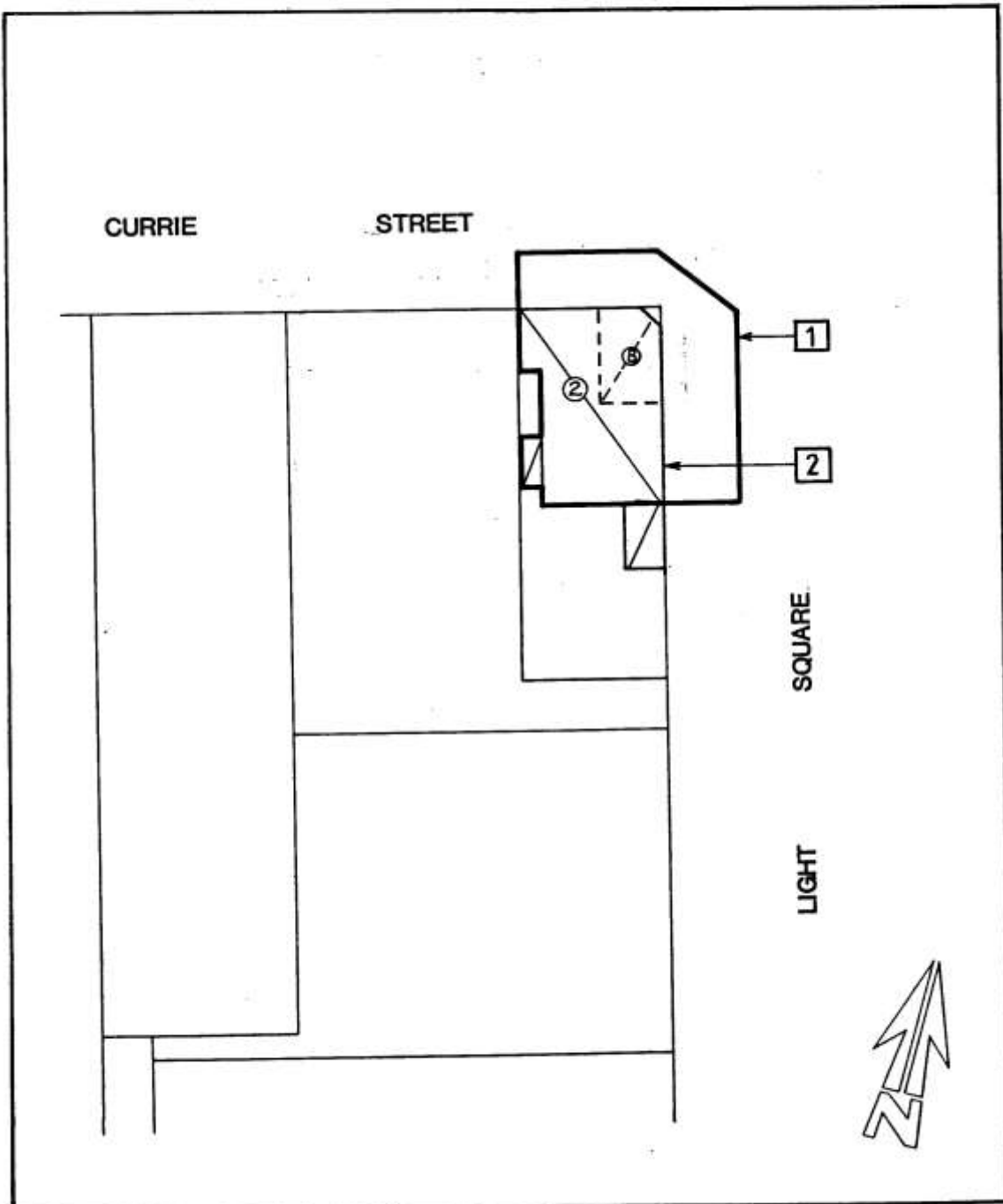


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	COLONEL LIGHT HOTEL	Building N <sup>o</sup>	0503-1
Address	41-49 Light Square, 141-145 Currie Street		
		CT	4289/96



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**NOTES:**

1. Line of verandah/balcony.
2. Main body of building.