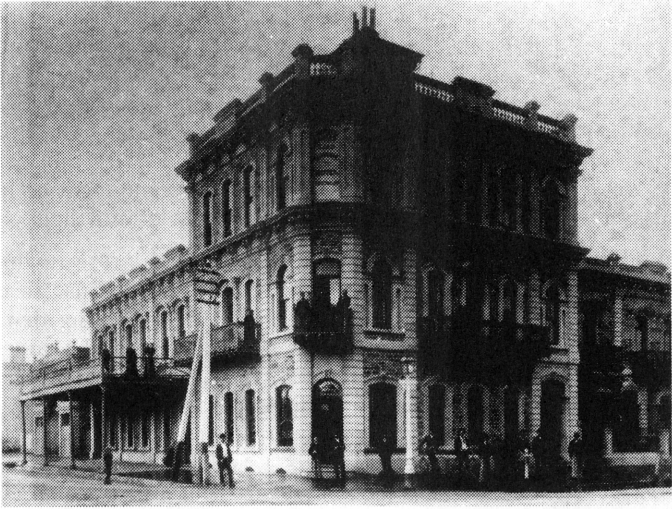


Hotel Records in the South Australian Archives

Robert Thornton

Hotels can be important historical landmarks. Increasingly, they seem to be coming under the scrutiny of historians and heritage authorities wanting to preserve and learn more about these often valuable, tangible links with the past. Professor J.M. Freeland, a noted architectural historian, considers the legendary Australian pub to be among our most historically significant social institutions -- one of the more architecturally interesting and colourful features of Australia's cultural heritage.¹ In many ways, the early hotels represented and reflected much of the fresh vitality, pioneering pragmatism and brash opulence that so characterised the forging of a new society in a rugged, incalculable physical environment. The hotels contributed markedly to the early socio-economic development of communities, while the distinctive, provincial nature of their styling -- from charmingly elegant to appallingly utilitarian -- provides us with a clear visual record of the prevailing architectural tastes and design philosophies of the times in which they were built.²

The South Australian Archives holds an extensive collection of private and official records relating to the history of the State's numerous hotels. These records show that by the end of the first year of settlement in South Australia 15 public houses had opened in the Province, mainly in the Rundle and Hindley Street areas of Adelaide, at Glenelg and along the route to the Port. By 1840, with a population of 6,651, Adelaide boasted 63 licensed inns and taverns, though many of these appear to have been little more than small wayside grog shops or porter houses which would often revert to domestic use when the bar trade fell off as happened during the economic downturn of the early 1840s. Even so, by 1851, according to official statistics, the number of hotels had risen to 86 within the city area alone, increasing to 128 by the turn of the century. By 1931 the number of hotels open in Adelaide had fallen to 92, while there were 521 licensed hotels scattered around the remainder of the State. In 1981 there were 609 licensed hotels in South Australia, of which 72 were situated within the square mile of the city of Adelaide.



Botanic Hotel, North Terrace, Adelaide, 1897. Built in 1883, the hotel is still standing, though a more expensive verandah has since been added.



Globe Hotel, Rundle Street, Adelaide, 1893. The hotel, first opened in 1845, stood until 1907. The site is now occupied by Myers.

Private Records

Our knowledge of the establishment and subsequent fortunes of many of the State's earliest hotels owes much to the pioneering work of John McLellan who was Archivist in South Australia from 1936 to 1959. His private papers (PRG 195) contain a vast collection of notes based on his research of a wide selection of published and archival material, including the early colonial newspapers, almanacs and directories, gazettes and official records (among which were the rate books of the Waterworks Department). McLellan used these sources to catalogue some 340 hotels, inns and taverns licensed in Adelaide between 1838 and 1936. For each of these premises he documented its name (together with any changes of name), when and for how long it was licensed, its site location and town acre number, and other general points of interest about them.

McLellan's notes clearly illustrate the extraordinary rate at which many of the city's early hotels flourished and faded in response to changing economic and demographic circumstances and competing demands on land use. One such example cited by McLellan is the Falcon Hotel in Wright Street which was first licensed in 1851, but which closed between 1852-53 'owing to migration to the diggings'. By contrast, the Globe Hotel, which was established in Rundle Street in 1845 and which was for many years one of Adelaide's foremost hotels, was demolished in 1907 to make way for the erection of a large new department store, which eventually became the Myer Emporium.

McLellan's work also included a detailed *Index to Hotels 1839-1875* (Accession 1195) which lists the names of more than 700 South Australian hotels together with their respective licensees over the years (thus we learn, for instance, that the licence of the Miners' Arms Hotel at Kapunda changed hands no less than 21 times between 1848 and 1875). Unfortunately, the index was not continued beyond 1875, meaning researchers must refer either to the *South Australian Government Gazette* or the records of the Licensing Court (see below) in order to trace the names of subsequent licensees.

Among McLellan's papers, there is also the original manuscript of his memorable 1941 address to the Pioneers' Association of South Australia on 'Adelaide's Early Inns and Taverns', which was later published as a pamphlet by that organisation (Accession 1384/2). This contains a number of fascinating thumbnail sketches of the city's more prominent public houses, providing information about their establishment, successive changes of name and structure, and sometimes their demise. McLellan embellishes his descriptions by reference to notable features of some of the hotels or by recounting colourful anecdotal incidents in their past (to quote one example, in the 1850s a major attraction at the Star Hotel in Hindley Street was its congenial concert room where, we are told, nightly performances 'of a strictly moral character' reputedly enjoyed great popularity with the city's inhabitants).³

Apart from McLellan's work, references to South Australia's hotels in the private records are scarce and scattered. The papers of G.H. Pitt, who was McLellan's predecessor at the Archives, contain some notes on 'Buildings of Old Adelaide', which include a few random jottings describing some of the harsher realities of hotel life in early Adelaide — the noisy wooden floors, the cramped rooms with paper thin walls, the rowdy drinking parties, the fights in the bar (PRG 171). The odd reference to specific hotels also appears in collections of family papers — for example, the Walsh papers, which throw some light on a stillborn project in 1926 to erect a lavish four-storied Hotel Adelaide on North Terrace to take over from the resplendent — and much-lamented — Grand Central (converted into Foy and Gibson's department store in 1909) as the city's most exclusive residential hotel (PRG 336/2).⁴ And there is at least one collection of business records which relates to the hotel industry — that of Pierce Matthews Ltd., the last operators of the Exchange Hotel in Hindley Street (BRG 29).⁵

As well as collections of private papers, the South Australian Archives also holds some separate, individually accessioned record items which relate to particular hotels (these are indexed in the old subject catalogue under the name of the hotel). The recollections of Caroline Emily Clark of the York Hotel in 1850 is one example of this type of record; she recalled that the small two-storey stone building situated at the corner of Rundle and Pulteney Streets, with its small brick-floored, sparsely furnished rooms had a certain 'poverty stricken look' about it, even though it was kept 'scrupulously clean' and was 'very comfortably managed' by the proprietor. (Accession 1045). A further example is an historical account of the old Plough and Harrow Hotel, opened in Rundle Street in 1839, which was prepared by the licensee of the hotel in 1928 to commemorate its demolition and the erection in its place of the handsome Hotel Richmond (Accession A881). The new hotel was claimed to be one of the most palatial in Adelaide, with its imposing reinforced concrete structure, its facade of Ionic columns and wide balconies, its plush, polished Manchurian oak staircases, and its marvellous modern elevator complete with Florentine metal lattice panels.

A further non-official source of information about some of the more familiar historic hotels is the Archives' research collection. One such item, which deals with the first Adelaide hotels to celebrate their hundredth anniversary (Accession RN 143), indicates that the oldest hotel still standing is the Royal Admiral in Hindley Street which was opened in March 1838, followed by the Queen's Head Hotel, opened in Kermodie Street North Adelaide in August of that same year (though it is doubtful that much, if any, of the original building has survived). Research material also exists on the erection of Adelaide's majestic Botanic and South Australian Hotels (Accession RN 582) and the history of the Rising Sun Inn at Kensington, the premises of which at various times since its establishment

in 1848 has served as a hotel, private residence, greengrocer's shop, factory warehouse and fashionable restaurant (Accession D6268T). There is also a series of historical notes on the background of some of the oldest hotels still standing in the south east of South Australia (Accession I364/45).

It should also be mentioned that our knowledge of what is contained in the private record collections has been enhanced recently by the work of Mr G.H. Manning, a local historian, who has researched these collections with a view of producing a subject index to them. To date, he has cited references to more than 60 city and country hotels which appear in the various collections of private papers, personal letters and diaries, and miscellaneous manuscripts.

Official records

In addition to the private records, there is deposited in the South Australian Archives a vast collection of government records relating to the early hotels. These records are chiefly concerned with the administration of publicans' licences; they go back to February 1839 when the first Licensing Act was proclaimed. Intended to regulate the sale, supply and consumption of intoxicating liquors and to promote good order in public houses, the Act stipulated that no person in the Province would be permitted to sell liquor without first obtaining a licence which was to be granted and renewed annually upon payment of a fee to the Colonial Treasury. Among the earliest records of hotels held by the Archives are three volumes of registers of fees paid to the Treasury between 1839 and 1872 for licenses under the Act. These enable us to identify who were the respective licensees of the first hotels, the particular class of licence they held — general publicans' (£25), restricted publicans' (£12) or storekeepers' (£5) — and the street or section number location of the premises (although the list for 1839 does not name the hotels).

The first licensing regulations were administered by the Colonial Secretary's Office, and those colonists wishing to procure a licence had to submit to the Colonial Secretary a certificate 'signed by at least three respectable householders or persons being each respectively purchasers of at least eighty acres of land ... and countersigned by a Justice of the Peace'.⁶ Unfortunately no trace of these original certificates can be found among the records of the Chief Secretary's Office. Yet the records of this important arm of the colonial administration are not entirely without interest. In particular, they show that the early licensing regulations were widely resented by publicans and that violations of the legislation were indeed common. The effect of the economic difficulties of the early 1840s on the hotel trade in the Province is clearly shown by the number of petitions lodged with the Colonial Secretary by groups of disgruntled publicans protesting at the high cost of the licence, which they claimed was causing them serious hardship (GRG 24/6).

It can be seen from the early Adelaide Court records that the regulations restricting hotel trading hours in the Province were often openly flouted by the first publicans (GRG 65/1). According to contemporary police reports, the doors of many city premises were open all hours of the day and night, including most Sundays, despite forceful attempts by the authorities to enforce the 10 o'clock closing laws. The same reports on the conditions of hotels in Adelaide in 1853-54 (GRG 5/15) also reveal the innately crude, sordid, unruly side of some city hotels; long after the close of legal trading hours these premises — the Temple Tavern, the Golden Fleece, the Black Horse, to name but a few — were reported by the constables to be still 'full of notorious characters and prostitutes' with all forms of disorderly and drunken behaviour going on inside. These reports — of widespread and excessive drinking, gambling and brawling in the early hotels — suggest that for a small but significant section of colonial society, the front bars of the nearest pubs served as the sole centre of their social and recreational life.⁷

In 1869 new licensing legislation was introduced which provided for the division of the colony into a number of Licensing Districts, in each of which special Licensing Benches were appointed consisting of between three and nine Justices of the Peace. The Benches were placed under the control of the Attorney-General, and they were empowered to deal with all applications for new licences and other matters relating to the granting, renewing or revoking of licences, as well as imposing fines on publicans who breached the legislation. The Benches continued until 1917 when they were replaced by a Licensing Court consisting of three members who had jurisdiction over the whole State.⁸ In 1927 the regulations were again changed and new provisions — embodied in a new Licensing Act in 1932 — saw the establishment of separate Courts in each of the eight Licensing Districts, with each Court being presided over by a Special Magistrate. These provisions remained in force until 1967 when, following the report of a Royal Commission on the State's Licensing laws, new legislation altered the composition of the Licensing Courts to include a Chairman or Judge assisted by a panel of six Licensing Magistrates.⁹

The bulk of the Archives' historical collection of official hotel records were transferred in 1968-71 by the Licensing Branch of the Attorney-General's Department. Among these records are the registers of licensees and licensed premises in the Adelaide and country Licensing Districts, 1894-1938 (GRG 67/20-21, 39), thus enabling us to determine the identity of the different hotels, showing their respective names, site locations and licensees accompanied, in the case of the later registers, by cryptic notes commenting on the integrity and suitability of licence holders.

The collection also comprises the minutes recorded at meetings of the various Licensing Benches and District Courts, 1869-1965 (GRG 67 9-19, 38), and associated files relating to the granting, renewal, transfer,

forfeiture and removal of publican's licences and the closure of premises (GRG 67/1, 60-64, 77). The files include the applications for new licences for both previously unlicensed premises and for new bar licences within existing premises. They also include copies of licences issued by the Courts (see document A). Until 1967 the granting of all new licences in South Australia was conditional upon the outcome of so-called 'local option polls'. This meant in effect that resident electors could demand a poll be conducted to decide whether a new premises should be licensed in their neighbourhood. It also meant that at the hearing of an application a memorial could be presented to the Court by electors either in support or against the licensing of new premises. The Court was also obliged to consider any objections to the granting of a licence on the grounds that the new premises would 'cause inconvenience or annoyance' to a nearby hospital, school, or place of worship.¹⁰ The operation of the local option polls can be gauged from the minutes of hearings in the District Licensing Courts of applications for licences and renewals, 1916-35 (GRG 67/22, 59, 76). It was not until 1967 that the poll system was abolished in South Australia.¹¹

In determining whether an application should be granted, the licensing authorities were prone to take into consideration the character and previous trading record of the applicant. To facilitate this, the South Australian Police Department was prevailed upon to furnish the Licensing Courts with reports on the respective applicants. The Archives holds these reports for the years 1915-65 (GRG 67/24); they consist of brief notes prepared by members of the police force on the suitability and propriety of applicants for publicans' licences, accompanied in some cases by notes on the situation and condition of their premises. Under section 57 of the Licensing Act of 1917 a publican's licence could be refused if, in the opinion of the Court, an applicant was judged to be of bad repute, interested in keeping a brothel or house of ill-fame, of drunken or dissolute habits, or in some other way considered to be 'not a fit and proper person to hold a licence'.¹²

One of the most important series of hotel records in the Archives are the reports of Inspectors of Licensing Premises, 1917-58 (GRG 67/40). Under the provisions of the legislation, officers of the Police Department were appointed as Inspectors in each of the Licensing Court Districts. It was the duty of each Inspector to periodically enter and search all or any of the licensed premises in the District in order 'to ascertain by personal inspection the mode in which the premises are conducted and managed'.¹³ If necessary, the Inspectors were empowered to 'break open the doors' to gain entry to the premises, and any publican who refused to co-operate or hindered the inspection was liable to a fine of up to £100 or imprisonment for six months with hard labour. The routine annual reports contain detailed information about the overall condition of hotels, such as the state of public accommodation offered, the tariffs charged, the number of

THE LICENSING ACT, 1932.



No 294

PUBLICAN'S LICENCE.

I, ROY MORFETH, Clerk of the Licensing Court, in the State of South Australia, do hereby certify that on the fifth day of March, 1935 a Publican's Licence was granted by the said Licensing Court then assembled, at their meeting held at

Adelaide to Edward Baker

of Adelaide

and that the said Edward Baker

is hereby licensed to sell liquor in any quantity in the house called or known as John Bull Hotel Adelaide

situated at in the said State, and the appurtenances to the said house belonging, but not elsewhere. This Licence shall commence upon the day of the issue hereof by the Treasurer, and continue in force until the nineteenth day of March in the year now next ensuing, inclusive, provided it be not forfeited in the meantime.

Given under my hand, at Adelaide, this fifth day of March, 1935

Roy Morfeth

Clerk of the Licensing Court.

12158

Issued the

3rd

DAY OF
ADELDAIDE

April 1935

FEE PAID—£ 17:12:6 .

A J G Kappeler
Pro Treasurer.

Licensee Name, Government Printer, Adelaide.

licensed bars, the extent of structural renovations, and so on (see document B). The Inspectors were also authorised to order the licensee to brush up on general maintenance of the premises and to make necessary changes and improvements to facilities (hot water systems and lighting seem to have been among the most common). Thus in March 1939, for example, complaints from guests at the Southern Cross Hotel, in King William Street, prompted an inspection by the Licensing Court which resulted in the licensee being ordered to repair all the walls and ceilings in the rooms set aside for accommodation 'and every part thereof thoroughly cleaned and disinfected'.¹⁴ Inspectors could (and often did) apply to the Court to forfeit any licence on the grounds that the management of a premises was unsatisfactory or that an order had not been complied with.

In each District the Inspectors were responsible to a Chief Inspector who, in turn, reported directly to the Superintendent of Licensed Premises. The Archives holds the annual reports of Chief Inspectors for the years 1918-47 (GRG 67/47) which contain useful summaries of such developments as the number of licences granted and forfeited, the number and nature of offences against the Licensing Act, and the amount spent on additions and alterations to hotel facilities in the District. Some reports also provide detailed descriptions of premises: for example, the Chief Inspector for the Midlands District reported in 1921 that the Napoleon Hotel, in King William Street, Adelaide

has been rebuilt and is now a three storey building of brick with eleven bedrooms, two sitting rooms, three bar rooms, a dining room, kitchen and cellar ... the whole of the premises being well ventilated and well-lighted ... electric light (having) been installed all through the premises.¹⁵

It is clear from the Chief Inspectors' reports that abuses of the licensing laws continued to be widespread despite the Courts' efforts to suppress them. Following the curtailment of hotel trading hours in 1915, it was reported that, 'a great amount of sly grog selling has been carried on'; by 1920, we are told, illicit trading had become so bad in the metropolitan area that 'special constables have been stationed outside the hotels to try and prevent it'. At the same time, many hotelkeepers were said to be 'taking every advantage to obtain trade' through allowing betting and gambling to take place on their premises, one of the worst offenders being the Crown Inn in Currie Street, where 'convicted bookmakers are on the premises every race day'.¹⁶

Under the terms of the legislation, the Licensing Courts were given the power to prosecute publicans who broke the licensing laws. In general, a publican who was convicted of a first offence against the regulations was fined by the Court; a second conviction within two years could, at the discretion of the Court, lead to a publican being deprived of his licence, while a third conviction within three years resulted in a mandatory forfeiture of the licence for a period of two years. A record of returns of

LICENSING ACT, 1932-1935.

INSPECTION REPORT.

Date. 26. 11. 1937
 NAME OF HOTEL Red Lion Situated Russell Street
 LICENSEE Edward M. Cannon
 OWNER W. H. Flanagan Address Salisbury
 EXPIRATION OF LEASE 1942 TARIFF 8/6 per day.
42/ per week.

(10) NUMBER OF PUBLIC ROOMS—Bedrooms 6 Beds 6 Single 6
 Double 1
 Sitting Rooms and Lounges 1 Commercial and Writing Rooms 1
 Parlors 1 Dining Rooms 1 Billiards Nil Bathrooms, &c. 1
 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES—Number and location 3 2 in basement
 System RT If considered adequate and suitable
Yes
 BAR ROOMS LICENSED—Number 2
 Is running water connected thereto? Yes
 HOT WATER—Is system installed? No If so, where?
 WATER SUPPLY Main
 LIGHTING—What system Elec and if throughout Yes
 WIRE SCREENS—Where provided RT
 GABAGES Nil
 ANY PREVIOUS ORDER? No If so, how carried out.

NEW ORDER Nil

To be completed by

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS—General condition Very fair
 Furniture Satisfactory
 Cleanliness Satisfactory
 STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS (since previous inspection) Nil
 EXPENDITURE (since previous report)—Additions Nil
 Alterations Nil Repairs and Renovations Nil
 Furniture, &c. Nil New Installations Nil
 Total £.

PLAN—Signed by Licensee 7. 6. 37 Checked 7. 6. 37

Inspector H. H. Smealey

Very little accommodation provided. 16 Cookman's Terrace

convictions in the Licensing Districts is held by the Archives for the period 1927-55 (GRG 67/57/70); this shows the names of the licensees who were convicted, the date, place and nature of the offence, and the penalty imposed by the Court. A copy of the summons issued by the Court is often attached to the record. Most of the publicans convicted by the Court were charged by the Plain Clothes Branch of the Police Department with unlawfully supplying liquor during prohibited hours. It was not until 1967 that hotel trading hours were extended in South Australia to 10 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. which had been the closing time for all the State's hotels for the previous 51 years.¹⁷

One further type of official record which is relevant to the study of hotels in South Australia relates to the assessment of licensed premises. The Archives holds hotel assessment files, but only for the period 1933-47 (GRG 67/56). By the terms of Section 31 of the Licensing Act of 1917 publicans' licence fees were fixed according to the annual rated value of their premises as assessed by the local municipality. A fee of £15 per annum was charged for a premises valued at £100, whereas a fee of £40 was levied on a premises assessed to have an annual value of £400 or more. The files, which were originally lodged with the Licensing Court by the municipal authorities, show the particulars of assessment of all public houses, that is the name of the premises and its occupier, and its annual assessed value. Similarly, the Archives holds the assessment books of many Municipal Corporations and District councils which, beside the name of occupier, description of the property and its assessed value, also indicate its situation, the number of its section or allotment, and its overall measurement or area.

Other records relating to hotels

(i) *Cartographic records*

The Archives' map collection can be used to identify the locations of many of the early hotels in South Australia. There are several maps of Adelaide which show the sites of hotels, for example, the maps produced by A. and E.A. Delisser in 1861 showing the sites of hotels in the city and at North Adelaide (Accession c.183), or the City Survey (Cadastral Plan) prepared by the Commissioner of Public Works Office in 1880 (GRG 23/146). McLellan's papers (PRG 195) also include a series of small maps roughly indicating the locations of hotels in the city of Adelaide from 1838 to 1936. In the majority of cases it seems the sites of the early inns, most of which were fairly small, crudely constructed buildings, became the places where the more substantial, solid hotels were later erected.

Maps of the principal country centres often feature the site locations of the most prominent public buildings, of which hotels invariably occupied the best central and corner sites (see, for instance, the maps which accompany the notes on South Australia country towns compiled by the Chief Draftsman's Office of the Lands Department (GRG 35/584).

(ii) Architectural records

From 1863 all applications for new publicans' licences had to be accompanied by plans of the proposed premises. Later, publicans seeking renewal of their licences could also be directed by the Licensing Court to submit plans of their premises. Section 57 of the Licensing Act of 1917 proclaimed that such premises were required to have at least

two moderate sized sitting rooms and two sleeping rooms, properly ventilated and furnished, constantly ready and fit for the accommodation of members of the public.

In addition, licensees were required to submit plans for the approval of the Court of any proposed structural remodelling of their premises.

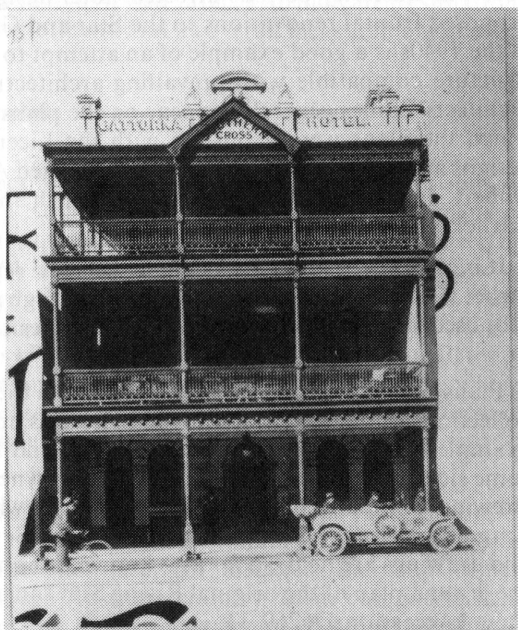
The records of the Licensing Court comprise a large collection of hotel plans which date from 1917 to about 1970 (GRG 67/34).¹⁸ The plans are arranged alphabetically by the name of the hotel. They seem to consist almost exclusively of floor plans (about 1500 items) with only a handful of elevations, with the overwhelming majority being measured drawings of proposed alterations or additions to existing premises, rather than complete plans of original buildings (thus there is, for example, a series of plans which show all the major interior structural changes made to the Terminus Hotel on North Terrace between 1920 and 1950).¹⁹ Some of the plans show clearly how changing architectural styles of the *art-deco* and post war austerity periods affected hotel design in Adelaide (a plan of proposed frontal renovations to the Star and Garter Hotel in Sturt Street in the 1940s is a good example of an attempt to make an existing colonial structure compatible with prevailing architectural tastes). Licensee and architects' names generally appear on the plans together with the date on which the plans were deposited with the Licensing Court. Many of the designs appear to be the work of such respected Adelaide architects as S.H. Gilbert, James Hall, Kenneth Milne, English and Soward, E.B. Trigg and Garlick and Jackman.

It is also worth noting that the Inspectors' reports on hotels referred to earlier (GRG 67/40) occasionally include rough plans and specifications of proposed new additions and interior changes to premises.

Plans of some hotels can also be found in the Archives' private records collections, though they are nowhere near as numerous. One outstanding example is a colourful series of 26 block and floor plans, together with some side and frontal elevations, of hotels owned by the South Australian Brewing Company between 1880 and 1911, which includes the splendid Largs Pier Hotel (Accession D5462 Misc). Separate architectural plans and drawings are held, so far as is known, for only a couple of other hotels, the ground plan of the original Rising Sun Inn at Kensington being one of these (Accession D6269 T).



Grand Central Hotel, corner of Rundle and Pultney Streets, Adelaide, 1924. Built on the site of the old York Hotel in 1909 it was converted to Foy and Gibson's department store in 1926 and demolished in 1976 to make way for a multi-storied car park.



Southern Cross Hotel, King William Street, Adelaide, 1913. Erected on the site of the old Greyhound Hotel in 1879, the Southern Cross ceased trading in 1980.

(iii) *Pictorial records*

Pictorial records — in the form of sketches, paintings, engravings, lithographs or photographs — are held in the Archives' general views collection of many, if not most, of the city and older well-established suburban hotels (by contrast, views of the more recent modern suburban hotels are not generally held). For many years it was the policy of the Archives to systematically ensure that photographs were taken of all major building erections, structural alterations and demolitions, though this seems to have been confined mainly to the inner city area. Interior views are practically non-existent, with the exception of a series of old glass negative slides showing the magnificent interior of the South Australian Hotel around the turn of the century (Accession B40803-40806).

Views of Adelaide hotels can also appear in collections of private records. One prime example is Ian McBain's collection of pen sketches of some of the city's historic inns and taverns. This series, which was commissioned by the Nathan Brewing Company in 1936, also includes brief historical notes about each establishment along with a map showing its location (Accession B21181-21188). The J.S. Rees collection of views of old Adelaide buildings also includes a number of photographs of well-known city hotels (PRG 63/1).²⁰

Country hotels tend to be less well represented in the Archives' general pictorial collection, though views are held of many of the more substantial premises (such as the Renmark Hotel). In many country centres, it seems, the hotel was often one of the most visible, aesthetically interesting, ostentatious and enduring buildings in town, and therefore, one of the most commonly photographed. Several collections of private records are known to hold views of country hotels — the Port Broughton Hotel, c.1920, in the Laphorne papers (PRG 429), the Goolwa Hotel, 1908, in the Hargreaves papers (PRG 64/2), the Robe, Kingston and Mount Gambier hotels, 1936 (Accession D6722 Misc) are some examples of such views.

The pictorial records vividly depict the profuse variety and richness of architectural forms assumed by early hotel buildings in South Australia, many of which exhibit distinct Italianate and Gothic influences. From these records it can be seen that the street frontages of many premises have been drastically altered over the years. Sadly, modernisation has meant a complete loss of original identity and historic character for many once quite distinctive, stately Victorian structures, with their elegant verandahs and their delightfully ornamental balconies and balustrades. In a few specific cases the external appearance of the premises has been changed beyond all recognition from its original design. It is also evident that many fine buildings have been demolished.

This paper has attempted to survey the nature and extent of the hotel records held by the South Australian Archives. It should be apparent from

the foregoing discussion that the records of the Licensing Court far outweigh those contained in other official and private collections in terms of both their quantity and their practical value for researchers. It is also the case, however, that the records of the Licensing Court relate only to the period after 1870 and so cannot be relied upon to shed any light on the earlier period of hotel establishment. What is also clear is that the vast mass of archival material in the private, and, to a lesser extent, the official, collections relates specifically to hotels situated in or about the city of Adelaide (where the highest concentration of licensed premises has occurred); hotels situated in other areas of the State tend to be less well documented. Yet, notwithstanding this somewhat skewed focus, the historical importance of these records should not be undervalued. They can tell us much about the genesis of the prized Australian pub, about what is probably one of the more colourful and clearly conspicuous components of our cultural heritage.

FOOTNOTES

1. J.M. Freeland, *The Australian Pub*, Melbourne University Press, 1966.
2. On this point see Gordon Young, 'The Adelaide Pub 1837-1900', Unpublished survey carried out by School of Architecture and Building, S.A. Institute of Technology, 1968.
3. McLellan's paper has remained an authoritative reference work on the subject of Adelaide's early hotels though more recently it has been complemented by W.H. Newnham and Jeannette McLeod's *Old Adelaide Hotels Sketchbook*, Rigby, Adelaide, 1971.
4. See also the papers of the Brown family (PRG 373) who were occupiers of the Thatched House which operated as a hotel at Brighton between 1850 and 1870.
5. With the exception of some financial ledgers of the South Australian Brewing Company (BRG 43), the South Australian Archives (SAA) does not hold the records of the many breweries which have existed in Adelaide and elsewhere around the State.
6. *South Australian Statutes*, no. 1 of 1839.
7. It has been suggested that environmental influences, such as the dry, hot and dusty climate, encouraged heavy drinking in public houses, and that the streak of puritanism at times so evident in the social life of South Australia was in part a response to the prevalence of drunkenness and the large number of pubs which facilitated it. See Douglas Pike, *Paradise of Dissent* (Longmans, Green and Co. Melbourne, 1957) p.311; and also A.E. Dingle, 'Drink and Drinking in Nineteenth Century Australia: A Statistical Commentary', *Monash Papers in Economic History*, no. 6, 1978, pp. 1-41.
8. For a useful insight to the early administrative context of hotel licensing in South Australia, see E.J. Thomas, 'History of South Australian Licensing Legislation', *Public Service Review*, Mar. 1930, pp. 23-31. See also S. Close, 'Social Attitudes to Liquor and Liquor Legislation in South Australia 1876-1917' B.A. thesis, University of Adelaide, 1961.
9. See *South Australian Yearbook* 1967, p.135.
10. *South Australian Statutes*, no. 2102 of 1932.
11. One effect of the local option system was to ensure that the number of licences remained much the same for many years with few new premises being licensed. See records of the Royal Commission into the law relating to the sale, supply and consumption of intoxicating liquors and other matters, 1966. GRG 96. SAA.

12. *South Australian Statutes*, no. 1322 of 1917.
13. There is also a record of inspections of licensed premises — which lists the date of inspections and any directions served to licensees — but this only exists for the years 1919-20. See GRG 67/72. SAA.
14. Inspectors' reports on hotels, 1917-58. GRG 67/40. SAA.
15. Chief Inspectors' annual reports, 1918-47. GRG 67/47. SAA.
16. *Ibid.*
17. Interestingly, a collection of press cuttings on hotels kept by the Adelaide Licensing Court, 1946-72 (GRG 67/30) shows that the introduction of late closing did little to stimulate trade at the city hotels. Unlike their more modern suburban counterparts, there was no appreciable increase in patronage at the city hotels, the *Adelaide Advertiser* lamenting in September 1967 that at 7.30 p.m. there were only six customers in the bar at the South Australian Hotel.
18. Unfortunately, the Archives does not hold the Court plans of hotels built before 1917, nor can any trace of them be found at what is now the Licensed Premises Division of the Department of Public and Consumer Affairs.
19. Walter Phillips has pointed out that the introduction of 6 o'clock closing in 1915 brought about many changes in the structure and internal arrangements of hotels to cope with the nightly rush. Many of the older hotels with smaller bars 'now had to be disembowelled to make room for the herds pressing for a place at the bar. Anything which interfered with the fast and efficient dispensing of drink was thrown out ...' See Walter Phillips, "Six O'Clock Swill": The Introduction of Early Closing of Hotel Bars in Australia', *Historical Studies of Australia and New Zealand*, Vol. 19, no. 75, Oct. 1980, p.250.
20. The odd photographic view also occasionally appears in the Inspectors' report on hotels. GRG 67/40. SAA.