

## FORMER WHITE CONDUIT HOUSE HOTEL

30-34 North Street

The existence of this old hotel in an obscure location on a minor street reflects the earliest era of concentrated settlement in Adelaide. Colonel Light designed broad east-west streets intersected by only a few north-south streets, so that very quickly purchasers of town acres created a series of private, narrow north-south streets to provide access to newly, subdivided house lots. North Street, as well as Gray, Rosina, Bank and Leigh streets in the west end were all created by the early 1840s, although not declared public roads until after 1850.

These side streets soon housed a considerable population who, in turn, patronised the many local hotels. The location of this particular hotel on an insignificant private street reflects that concentration of residences and a complete dependence on local patrons. The White Conduit House Hotel was first licensed in 1839, continuing under that name until 1912 when it became the Globe Hotel. The original tavern was replaced in 1857, and the new hotel was extended in 1871 and 1882.

In 1889 the hotel was involved in a fraud case between the new licensee Mrs Maria Willis and the hotel's owners the brewers Syme and Sison. According to the *Chronicle*, 24 August 1889, Mrs Willis had wanted a business while her husband was in Broken Hill and W.P. Wicksteed of Syme and Sison had recommended the White Conduit House Hotel, knowing it ' . . . had been a dummy for some time past' and that ' . . . beer had been given away to encourage trade'. Mrs Willis accused the brewery owners of fraud and took them to court. The outcome of the case is not clear but instead she took up the licence of the Orient Hotel in Wakefield Street. She was a highly experienced hotelier who in later years ran such establishments as the Cockburn Hotel near Broken Hill, the Bijou in Rundle Street, the East End Market Hotel, the Aldgate Pump, and the Wharf Hotel at Port Augusta West.

Maria Willis' departure from the White Conduit was eminently sensible, for business continued to decline. The 1890s depression was followed by drastic measures influenced by the temperance movement. Sunday trading stopped in 1891, barmaids banned from 1908, the minimum drinking age raised to twenty-one in 1915, and then the final blow, six o'clock closing in 1916. At the same time the local population was drifting away to the suburbs.



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The loss of business finally closed the White Conduit, which was delicensed in 1921.

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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In heritage terms, the hotel's location is quite unusual. The only other surviving hotel on a minor street is the former Wheelwright Arms in Roper Street.

This location on a minor street has produced a departure from the traditional corner form of Adelaide's hotels. It has a distinctly residential appearance. The facade is simple and attractively informal, the product of gradual growth. It features asymmetrically placed doors and windows, roughly dimensioned bluestone and console-supported parapet. The form of the facade with unshaded first floor is now relatively unusual in Adelaide. The external integrity of the building appears to be high.

The hotel has undergone periodic expansion, but this is consistent with the use of the building and indeed contributes to its significance. Because of its scale and street alignment, the former hotel is an important remnant feature of North Street.

ACA, Assessments, Smith Survey 1880, *Chronicle*, 24 August 1889; Delisser 1861; Hoad, J.L., *Hotels and publicans in South Australia 1836-1984*, 1986, part 3, p. 237; Jensen, E., & R., *Colonial architecture in South Australia*, 1980, pp. 3, 467 and passim for E.M. Willis; Kingston map 1842; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 183), Hotels index 1839-1875; Mudie, G., & D., *Development of the street system in Adelaide*, 1954.

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.*

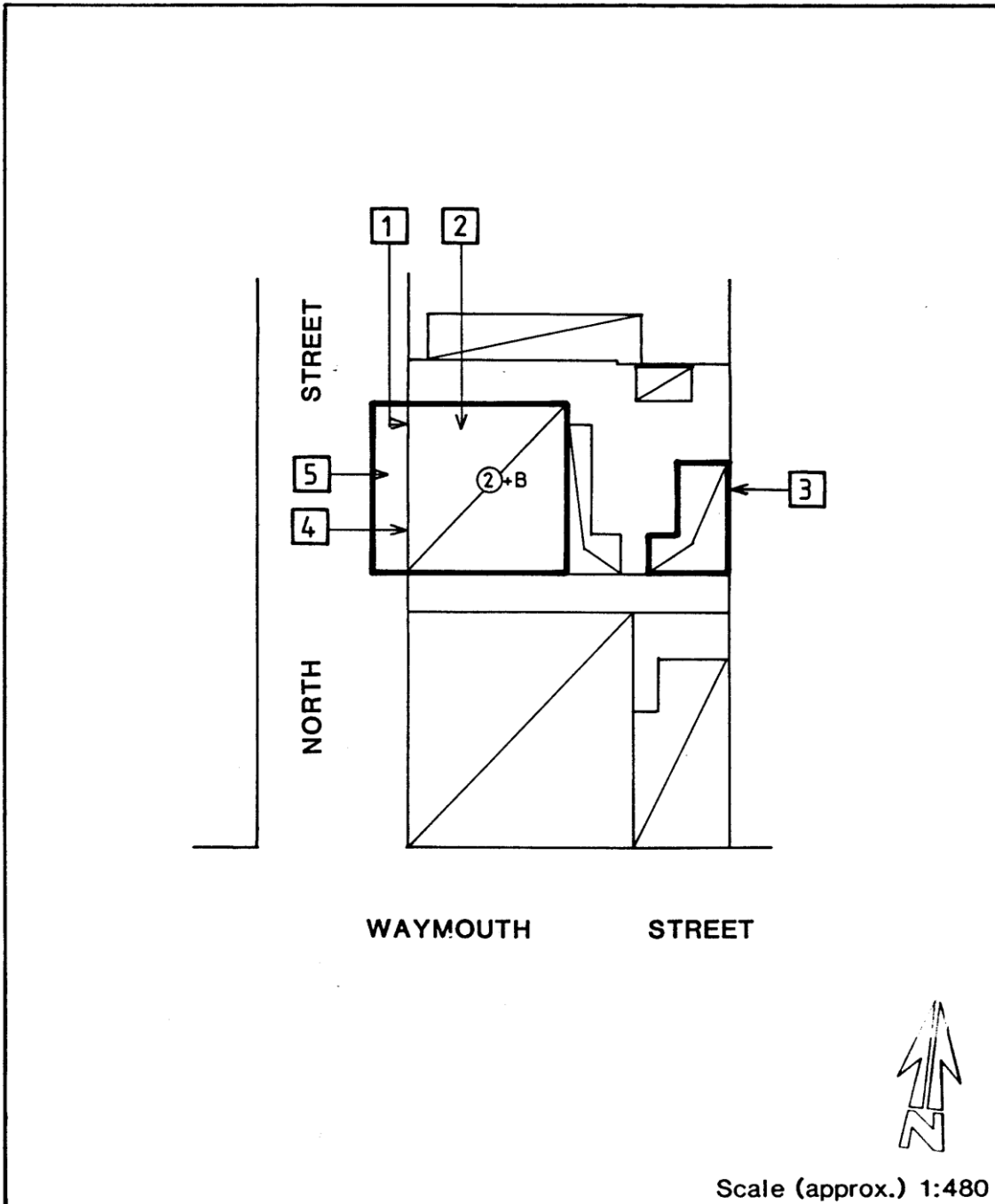


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register - Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	FORMER WHITE CONDUIT HOTEL	Building No 5/0421.1 & 2
Address	30-34 North Street	CT 1289/114



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### NOTES:

1. Note Eaves brackets.
2. Main body of building.
3. Significant outbuilding.
4. Bluestone rubble with brick quoins.
5. Verandah ground floor only.