

Ghosts of the Port

walking tour

Researched and Written by Allen Tiller - Haunting Australia

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Produced by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield

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Established in 1836 as the state's primary maritime centre, there are many thousands of fascinating stories about the people who have lived, worked and died in the Port Adelaide area. These stories contribute to the rich fabric of our community and a selection are shared within this resource in a way that is designed to evoke the history and mystery of the Port. Whilst historical accuracy was adhered to by the author, the author concedes that all "alleged ghosts" and "ghost or spiritual activity" are stories told by members of the public told for entertainment purposes only, and in no way are intended as a reflection upon a person's life, memory or standing in the community. Whilst real people and their deaths are mentioned in the stories, the author concedes there is no proof that these people are now ghosts or spirits. They are printed with full respect paid to the subjects and their family members.

Ghosts of the Port

walking tour

Map





Visitor Information Centre

Port Adelaide Visitor Information Centre (Map no. 1)

Completed in 1860, the building that is now the Port Adelaide Visitor Information Centre was originally built as a Customs House, Courthouse and Police station.

It was designed by Edward A. Hamilton and built by *English and Brown Builders* at a cost of 7,500 pounds. The building's look has barely changed since it was built, with the only dramatic changes being the removal of the original cupola over the central section sometime before 1918 and the replacement of the original slate tiles on the roof.

A new customs house was built in 1879 closer to McLaren Wharf, and a new courthouse built next door in 1882. The building then became the Port Adelaide Police Station until the early 1990's when a new police station was built further along St Vincent Street at the corner of Lipson Street.

On November 9th 1997, the Port Adelaide Visitor Information Centre was opened by South Australian Governor, Sir Eric Neale. The iconic centre has been a hub for all things Port Adelaide ever since.

With the Visitor Information Centre once being used as a police station, and in its early days, a morgue, is it any surprise the building is haunted?

In its early days, upstairs was used by young cadets as a dorm room, to sleep after a long shift. One such cadet, Jacob Wilkes, was a hard working young man, looking forward to a career as a police officer. One day, after an exhausting shift, Jacob went to lay in his cot upstairs and fell asleep.

Dinner time came, and it was noticed Jacob wasn't present, but his absence was brushed aside as a young man needing his sleep. Come morning, Jacob didn't show up for breakfast, so the Police Sergeant asked another recruit to go upstairs and wake him up.

"Jacob ya lazy sod!" he yelled at the sleeping cadet, but Jacob did not move. So he went over and shook the boy, only to feel the coldness of death upon his skin. Jacob had passed away sometime during the night...

Many years later, a young male worker in the visitor information centre worked in the upstairs area. He enjoyed playing tricks on his fellow co-workers, blaming a ghost he dubbed "Jasper" for his shenanigans.

The tricks went on for quite some time until "Jasper" became decidedly real for the young male worker. He started to report cold spots and mysterious breezes upstairs in his office, and then came the sounds of footsteps which would ascend the outside staircase, and on occasion pass right through the upstairs office. The young worker soon stopped playing his tricks on his fellow co-workers and instead became quite serious as paranormal activity in the building became more frequent. Eventually, he left his position to escape the ghostly goings on.

Interestingly, the ghost he dubbed "Jasper", had a connection with Jacob Wilkes. In a funeral notice from Jacob's brother, he said "Miss you Jasp... your brother Isaac".

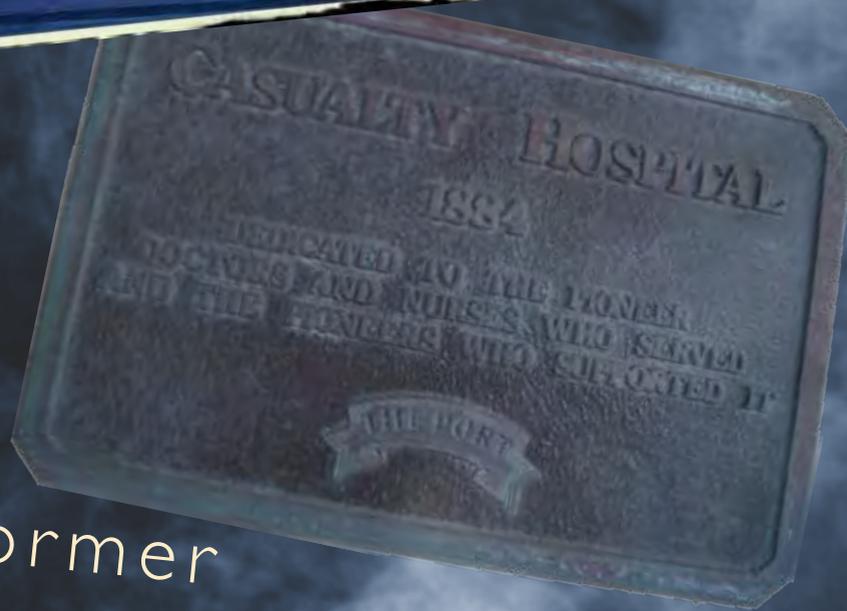
Had the worker sensed the ghost's real name?

Jasper the ghost isn't the only spirit haunting the old building, another notable spirit likes to make himself known in an entirely different way. In 1928, during the Water Workers Strike, Officer Sutherland arrested a man known as 'Dallora' for stabbing a Mr Harrison.

Dallora was put in cell 5, the most notorious cell in the jail, known for its putrid conditions due to its constant flooding and rodent infestations.

To pass the time, and some say to annoy the police officers in the station, Dallora would sing opera at the top of his lungs, and by all accounts he was an excellent singer!

Many years later, a visiting police officer noticed a man singing opera from the back of the police station, coming from the direction of the cells. He went to see who the man was with such an amazing operatic voice, only to find all the cells empty, and no source for the sound. He reported the odd occurrence to the constable on duty, only to find that the phantom of the opera singing was a regular spooky occurrence... Had Dallora returned from the grave his taunt his captors one last time?



Former Casualty Hospital

Former Casualty Hospital (Map no. 2)

In the 1850's, Port Adelaide was a very busy working man's destination filled with warehouses, smelters, factories and mills. Pubs were also plentiful and prosperous, but what the burgeoning city lacked was proper amenities and medical services.

Most of Port Adelaide's houses and buildings sat below the water line. The people who lived in these houses suffered from all types of diseases caused by flooding, mould, rodents and the lack of a proper sewerage system.

At the same time, the Adelaide Hospital - which in those days before the railways were built in 1856 seemed so far away, was overcrowded and unable to cope with the demands placed upon it.

The townsfolk of Port Adelaide needed somewhere close by where they could take their sick, injured and dying, but the Colonial Surgeon at the time declared there just weren't enough sick, injured or dying people in Port Adelaide to justify the building of a hospital.

It wasn't until 1859 that plans were drawn up to build a single ward Casualty Hospital, but the State Government failed to back the plan, and it wasn't until 1861 that a small stone building was erected on Nile Street to service the ever growing population of Port Adelaide.

The hospital's doctor, Handasyde Duncan, had restrictions placed upon his service at the hospital, which included only being able to admit trauma cases. All other injuries, illness, sickness and infected patients were to be transported to Adelaide by train (which today would raise quarantine restrictions). Other restrictions included not admitting any female patients other than corpses.

Soon the Casualty Hospital would become a makeshift morgue after an incident at a hotel in Port Adelaide, where a body was being displayed for an inquest and been left in full public view. In those days, it was State Law (Licensed Victuallers Act of 1837) that hotels had to store the bodies of victims that had suffered trauma, drowning or other causes of death that may indicate a crime.

This incident led to dead bodies being stored at the Casualty Hospital, which in turn led to another famous grotesque piece of Port Adelaide history when Magistrate GW Hawker was visiting the hospital, and found a decomposing female corpse laying on the floor, right next to the bed of a sick patient!

The Magistrate was furious, and insisted all corpses be stored next door in the police cells, which is now the Port Adelaide Visitor Information Centre.

Prisoners shared their space with the dead for a few months, until a dead house, or a morgue as we know them today, was built alongside the Casualty Hospital.

In 1884, the single room hospital was finally upgraded to a four roomed building, this included two wards, which included a male and female ward, a matrons room and an interior kitchen. This is the building we see today, which hasn't changed much since that period, with a single addition in 1907 which added a nurse's room, toilets and a veranda.

From 1959 until 1986 the old building acted as a venereal disease hospital, and most recently it was used as the Anglicare Sobering Up Unit.

In its day this building and the space alongside it where the Dead House once stood, has housed hundreds of dead bodies, been witness to 15 amputations, and seen six men die within its walls.

It has long been rumoured that the old Casualty Hospital is haunted. Previous occupants and visitors to the building have reported spooky goings on, including the sounds of long gone patients groaning and moaning in pain, disembodied footsteps and low murmuring chatting.

There are even reports of a former matron and former doctor sighted inside the building...could Dr Handasyde Duncan still be treating sick patients inside?



Former
Globe Hotel



Town Hall

Former Globe Hotel (Map no. 3)

This hotel opened originally in 1850 as *The Carpenters Arms Tavern* and burnt to the ground in 1865, being rebuilt and reopened as the Globe Hotel that same year. In 1981 the hotel was renamed the Golden Port Tavern but closed some time ago.

Among its notorious clientele was Sarah Francisco, a notorious criminal who amassed 295 convictions against her name for crimes such as prostitution, being a rogue and vagabond, idle and disorderly, plus assaulting police. Sarah was once found guilty of stealing from the Globe hotel after taking an apron full of cakes and escaping on somebody else's horse.

This old hotel, like many old hotels in historic Port Adelaide, has its ghosts, but can any of the other hotels claim to have a Guardian Angel? The former Globe Hotel can!

Many years ago, Beulah Hayter, then just 8 years old, lived with her mother on the first floor of the hotel. Their room opened up to the balcony and on many a warm night, Beulah would sleep outside on the balcony.

One night Beulah was woken by a lady dressed in a white flowing gown standing at the door. At first she thought it may have been her mother, but when she spoke to the woman and there was no answer, she got scared and turned away from the woman, only to turn back and see no-one there.

Beulah ran into her mother's room terrified and spent the night in her mother's bed.

That night a violent storm lashed Port Adelaide and tore the balcony from the hotel. The wind was so ferocious that it threw a dolls basinet Beulah kept near where she slept on the balcony, right across to the other side of the road. If it hadn't of been for the ghostly lady in white making herself known to Beulah, she would probably have been killed in the collapse of the balcony!

Town Hall (Map no. 4)

The Town Hall, was designed by architects Woods and Wright to comfortably fit 1,000 people inside. It features a clock tower and belfry. The clock was imported from London in 1867. The foundation stone was laid by Sir James H. Fisher in 1865, with an official opening day happening on the 19th of August 1866.

Extensions to the Town Hall were added in 1884, including a new Council Chambers, Mayors room and offices. The entire complex of the Council Chambers and Town Hall were renovated in 1997, bringing the Town Hall into the modern age, and preserving both for our future generations.

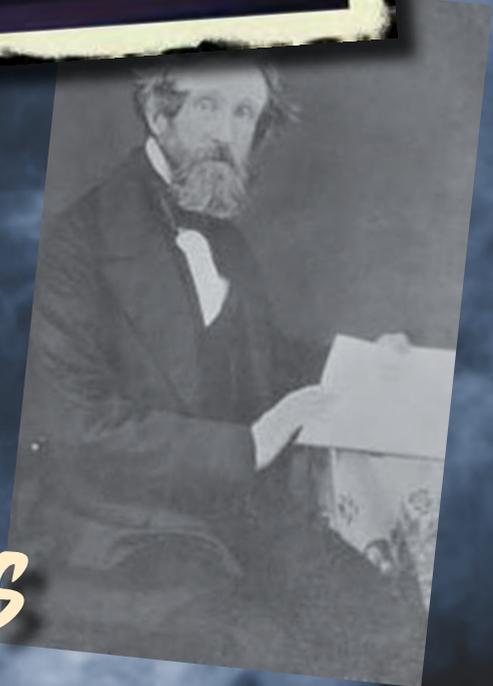
Believe it or not, the Port Adelaide Town Hall has also been used for coronial inquests in the past. The body of a deceased person would be inspected by a group of law and government officials, doctors and police, along with evidence regarding the person's death. Theories were then presented as to what is believed to have happened to the deceased person. These theories are then debated upon, to try and find a reasonable and logical explanation for what was the cause of death.

In 1925, an inquest happened on the body of John Frances Kean, right here in this building. Mr Kean had been found the night before, very drunk, passed out on Dale Street, and died the following morning in mysterious circumstances.

There have long been rumours that the Port Adelaide Town Hall is home to a resident spook! This particular ghost is reported as "friendly" and is said to walk the building.

The identity of the spirit who roams the town hall is still a mystery, but he has been felt and sighted on occasion in the building by staff and visitors!

Some people also say, when looking up to the clock tower at night, you can see the shadow of a man peering through the shutters... is this the Town Hall's mysterious spectre, watching what goes on around historic Port Adelaide?



the Doctors Residence

The Doctors Residence (Map no. 5)

Unexplained occurrences are the norm for this former doctor's residence on 171 St Vincent Street. Reports of shadow people and disembodied voices are commonplace, but the most common occurrence is the appearance of one of Port Adelaide's most notable people, Dr Handasyde Duncan whose spirit has been seen in this building and the former Causality Hospital he once staffed right behind this building.

Dr Duncan was a very intelligent man and of a loving and caring demeanour. His spirit is reported as being much the same as he was in life. His ghost, when sighted, does not give off the feelings of dread or foreboding that a lot of eyewitness accounts usually report with hauntings. Instead, Dr Duncan's ghosts is said to be helpful and giving, with a feeling of peace and hope emanating from him...the other spirits in this building however are a different story.

One spirit is mischievous and likes to hide personal belongings of staff who have worked in this building. No-one knows exactly who the other spirits are, but there is the possibility that one may be a former wife of Dr Duncan having two of his former wives pass away inside this building.

Dr Handasyde Duncan earned the two story residence on St Vincent Street in 1855 after he became the Immigration Officer for Port Adelaide, a job that would eventually lead to his death from overworking.

Dr Duncan had three wives in his lifetime, the first, Catherine Bowie, he married in Bath, England. The happy couple arrived in Australia in 1839 aboard the 'Katherine Stewart Forbes' and took up a farm, but within a couple of years, Dr Duncan was working back in medicine at the new Adelaide Hospital.

In 1844, Dr Duncan was appointed to the first Medical Board of South Australia (his name is third on the honour roll) as an unpaid member.

Eventually Dr Duncan moved to Port Adelaide to start his own practice, in 1849, when he earned the position of Assistant Colonial Surgeon and Health Officer. Just as it seemed the couple's life was on track, tragedy struck when Catherine died after falling from a horse.

One year before moving to the grand house on St Vincent Street, in 1854, and only four years since Catherine's death, Dr Duncan (now 43) married 19-year-old Anne Williams, and had three children, before herself dying from postpartum infections after the birth of their third child.

In 1867, Dr Duncan married for the third time, this time to Emily Servente, but she unfortunately died during child birth in 1867, thus ending Dr Duncan's married life. His 16-year-old daughter, Annie from his second marriage, then took on all household duties for her father.

Dr Duncan was instrumental in developing South Australia's quarantine procedures and maintaining sanitation in the Port Adelaide district. It was his procedure of having a crew of men inspect incoming ships before they reached the Port that potentially saved South Australia from a number of communicable disease plagues.

Does his spirit continue to haunt the hallways of his former home?

Port Admiral Hotel (Map no. 6)

*"Why haunt me thus, foul phantom, why
Accompany me by day and night;
Hast thou decreed that I must die?
Avaunt thee from my sight!"*

So read the opening lines of a poem attached to the suicide note, left on the washstand in an upstairs bedroom of the Port Admiral Hotel in 1868. The note, which was addressed to the then hotel owner, was left by the former School Master of Auburn, Mr Richard Henry Taylor.

Taylor had been in financial turmoil and had been seen to look dejected. He went to bed, locked his door, wrote a very short suicide note, then drank from a bottle marked "Laudanum", a poison. Taylor then lay on his bed and awaited death.

He was found the next day by the hotel owner, John Yeo and Police-Sergeant Brown, lying dead upon his bed. Death had taken Mr Taylor, but perhaps his ghost never left the hotel?

Taylor wasn't the only death in the Port Admiral Hotel, a German Seaman named John Peters also passed away upstairs from a heart attack, related to an infection upon his lungs. Another onsite death was in 1898, when the then publican, James Williams, died after a long and painful illness.

Any of these men, and a multitude of other people who have died on site, could be one of the spectres seen drifting silently through the upstairs rooms, the main bar, or the maze of old cellars underneath the Port Admiral Hotel late at night.

Robert Sanders built the original hotel on the corner of St Vincent and Commercial Road in 1849, naming it the "Railway Hotel" upon the assumption that a horse-drawn railway line was going to span Port Road from Adelaide, down Commercial Road to the ports, ending outside his hotel.

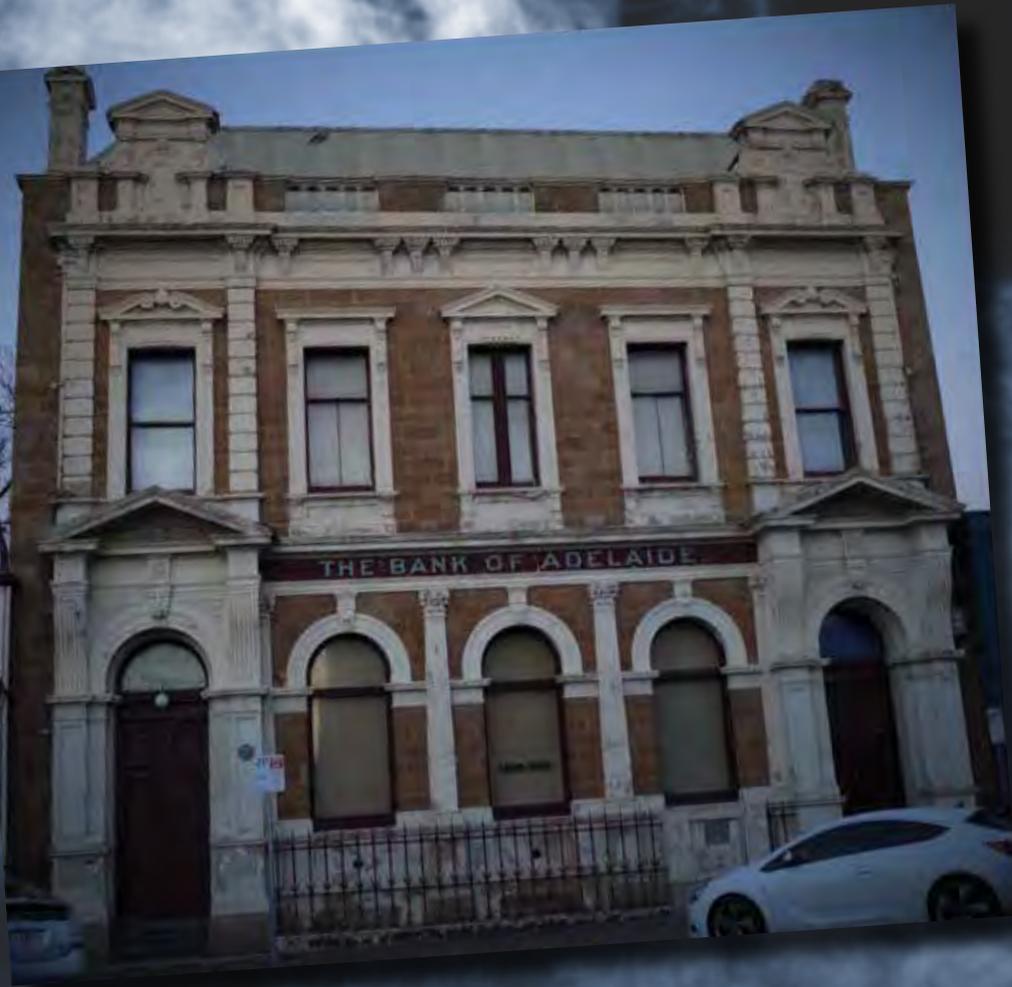
The project never got off the ground because the workforce in South Australia headed to the Victorian gold fields in 1851. Sanders eventually sold the hotel and a new publican took over the licence, Charles Calton. Calton renamed the pub the "Port Admiral Family Hotel".

The Port Admiral Hotel is the oldest original building in Port Adelaide today. It has been altered numerous times with the addition of new windows and veranda's.

In 2016, the hotel underwent another revival. The lovingly restored hotel will once again take pride of place on the busiest intersection in Port Adelaide, standing as a monument to the history of the Port.



the
Port Admiral
hotel



Lipson House

Lipson House (Map no. 7)

Lipson Street could be considered one of the most haunted streets in all of Port Adelaide!

The street was the financial hub of Port Adelaide in the early days of the colony with four banks on this street. The Bank of Australasia was located on the corner of Lipson and Divett Street, and the former Commercial Bank was located at No. 119.

Within Lipson street sat the Former Bank of Adelaide, which became the Lipson House Restaurant, then a private residence. Across the street, the former Union Bank, which became the ANZ Bank, and now an Art Gallery (also considered haunted!).

Lipson House, the focus of our ghost story, was constructed in 1885 by Kestel and Burge. After it became the Lipson House Restaurant, it was known as the La Banca Restaurant, until becoming a private residence today.

The Lipson Street branch of the Bank of Adelaide, was the second opened in South Australia with the first being in Kapunda, then followed by Gawler and Goolwa branches. The company expanded further by taking over multiple premises owned by the Commercial Bank of South Australia, which had closed.

Not only is the former ANZ bank rumoured to be haunted, but the former Adelaide Bank, known locally as Lipson House, and now a private residence, is said to be home to a resident spectre.

This particular ghost, who is believed to be a man, was first brought to the public's attention in the early 1980's by the then owner of the Lipson House Restaurant, Mr Richard Starke.

Mr Starke claimed that he often felt a strong male presence in the building, particularly in the basement, but also on the stairs.

The spirit once scared a waiter who went in to the basement to find a bottle of port. When he returned to the dining room, he had turned a sickly shade of white, with large eyes and was trembling all over.

He said to Mr Starke in an anxious and fearful tone, "I have to go. There's that man down in the cellar and I can't stand him!" then promptly left the restaurant never to return again!

Mr Starke also reported that the ghost was aggressive and he often felt as though it wanted to push him down the stairs. The ghost's presence was always indicated by the overpowering stench of old, burning Turkish tobacco.

It is not known who the tobacco smoking ghost is, or if he makes himself known to the current owners, but his legend has made the haunting of Lipson House an iconic ghost story of historic Port Adelaide!

Today the building, a grand old iconic edifice on Lipson street, remains a private residence and a monument to the money that flowed through Lipson street in the 1800's.



the Port Dock hotel

Port Dock Brewery Hotel (Map no. 8)

On June 19th 1855, the newly built Dock Hotel opened its doors for Port Adelaide's beer and rum loving sailors and public. In the same month, 15 other new hotels were also declared as licensed in the colony as well – even early South Australian's loved a cold one after work!

The original hotel was demolished in 1882 and the building we see today was built in its place. When the current buildings construction finished it contained fifteen rooms, a dining room, a cellar and a number of bars, each with their own separate entry to the Port Adelaide streets outside.

The building was constructed from local stone as well as from ships ballast left behind from ships travelling to South Australia before they filled back up with local commodities.

The hotel's location was chosen due to its proximity to the South Australian Company Wharf properties and the railway station, which provided a steady stream of customers.

In 1902, there was an incident within the hotel that saw the publican, Mr Joseph Haines, almost end up the victim of a shooting. Haines moved on from the Port Dock Hotel not too long after the incident with a new publican taking over in 1904.

In 1909, the momentum of Reverend Kirby and the Temperance Movement installed Nocks Act into parliament, forever changing the face of drinking laws in South Australia, with a 6pm shut out.

The new laws saw hotels across the state lose their liquor license and a number shut down entirely. Some though, like the Port Dock Hotel, found a new way to survive, by becoming an illegal brothel and gambling house.

Amongst the many ghosts that are alleged to haunt this iconic Port Adelaide building is a "Madame" who it is thought may have run an illegal brothel in the building during the early 1900's.

The Madame - who is referred to by staff as "Emily" - has been seen in what is now the pokies room but mainly she is sighted on the staircase that leads to the basement, wearing a Victorian era dress and heavy make-up.

What is interesting about the Madams clothing is it does not fit the time period that the hotel ran as a brothel, so perhaps Emily is a former publican's wife from a period earlier in the hotels history and not a Madame at all!

The Madame isn't the only basement ghost though, another spirit often heard, and sometimes seen, is thought to be the spirit of a young boy who appears from time to time to the many tourists exploring the hotel searching for paranormal activity.

A former Sea Captain is another alleged spirit haunting the hotel. The Sea Captain may be linked to allegations of crimping associated with the hotel, that saw drunk men given a "Mickey Finn" and then secretly taken out to sea on a ship, only to awaken and be told; "become crew, or swim back to shore!"

The Sea Captain is usually seen or felt in the basement, but has been seen in other areas of the hotel. Upstairs, in what was once an office, lurks a shadowy spirit who gives off a sense of unease and fear to anyone who encounters it. No-one knows who this spirit is and why it lurks near a former dumbwaiter, but this particular spirit has been known to spook staff on many occasions.

Former staff of the Port Dock Hotel have told stories of light bulbs exploding when mentioning certain cuss words, of cold spots, and feelings of being watched while closing the hotel at night.

In its time, The Port Dock Hotel was used for a number of different things, including a Stevedores Office. It wasn't until 1986 that it reopened as a licensed hotel under the name The Port Dock Brewery Hotel and has run as a much beloved Port Adelaide icon ever since!

The Port Dock Hotel is full of spirits...and not just of the alcoholic kind!



the Australian Institute of
*Marine & Power
Engineers*

Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers (Map no. 8)

"Non sibi sed omnibus" – "Not for one's self but for all," reads the Latin motto above the door of 22 Divett Street, the former home of the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers.

The building was constructed in 1879 for the newly formed union of marine engineers, who would later form the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers. The members of which were port workers on tugboats, ferries, dredges, cargo vessels and other shipping related craft around Port Adelaide.

Lights turn on and off by themselves, strange noises emanate from the building so loudly that neighbours go to investigate, only to find no-one inside. Strange disembodied footsteps are heard echoing through its halls when no one living is present.

Such is the haunting of the former Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers on Divett Street.

A witness to the haunting once reported doors opening and closing of their own accord, right in front of his eyes, as if a living person had just entered the room, but perhaps the spookiest sighting was the sighting of a lady, dressed in an early 19th century dress.

The ghostly woman walked right towards a former staff member who was leaving the building after a hard day in the office. As he took the sight of the well-dressed lady in, he noticed he could see right through her!

Who the spirit is that walks the halls of the former Institute is unknown, and for what reason she lingers in this particular building remains a mystery, but to this day, she walks the halls of the former Institute, out on to Divett Street and vanished into the night.

The building was given a facelift in 1935. Currently the building hosts a number of different business and is divided into office suites.



Lipson Street

Ghost Boy of Lipson Street (Map no. 10)

Of all the streets in Port Adelaide, perhaps the most scenic is Lipson Street between St Vincent Street and McClaren Parade. The street abounds with character with old warehouses, banks and shops.

Lipson Street is home to plenty of historic old buildings, as well as the South Australian Maritime Museum which itself is packed with items significant to the history of both Port Adelaide and South Australia.

With all of this history in one small area, is it any wonder that there are rumours of Lipson Street being haunted?

Late at night, an eerie demeanour sets over the street, and sometimes, in the early hours of the morning you may see a young boy, in clothes from a by-gone era, wandering the street...

The ghost boy of Lipson Street has been seen intermittently over the past century, and may be the ghost of a young boy named Alfred Johnson who lost his life on Lipson Street in 1901.

Alfred was a mere six and half years old, but he was already assisting his Grandfather James Foster, who was a local carter in the Port.

Alfred ran to see his grandfather at the dray stand on Commercial Street to alert him to a customer wanting a delivery of roots. Alfred mounted the dray (a type of low and heavy horse and cart without sides) and off they went.

The child took the horses reigns from his Grandfather, pulled very heavily to the left, causing the horse and dray to swerve sharply, this in turn caused young Alfred to fall off the dray and land on the rocky road below knocking him unconscious.

Within the next hour, Alfred's Grandfather had returned his unconscious body to the family home, and called the nearest doctor. Within minutes of Dr Jus arriving to evaluate him, young Alfred had passed away... but perhaps he never went far at all and now walks Lipson Street, a lonely lost little boy for all eternity...



the
Docksider
tavern

Docksider Tavern (Map no. 11)

The Docksider Hotel opened in 1850 as "The Britannia Hotel" with the original licence granted to Richard Trott.

A two storey building stood on the site before it became a hotel. The original building was demolished in 1898. The Building we see today is one of very few Victorian Era buildings still standing in historic Port Adelaide.

When Reverend Kirby's "Temperance Movement" policies began to be enforced, forcing hotels to close at 6pm, the patrons of the hotel used to grab the nearest bike as they rushed out the pub, whether it was there's or not, and make their way home. In 1976, when pubs started closing at 10pm, instead of 6pm this Port Adelaide oddity ended.

A pool playing spectre is just one of many spirits seen by staff and patrons of the Docksider Tavern on the corner of McLaren Parade and Lipson Street.

There are rumours of tunnels running underneath this hotel that were used for crimping and other nefarious purposes. This was a hotel of seedy men and shameless women, and was often in the newspapers for all the wrong reasons.

Today the hotel is much quieter, tucked away near the wharf, but its ghosts remain quite active.

A publican is rumoured to have witnessed the ghost of a man engaged in a game of eight ball on one of the hotels pool tables. He watched in total shock as the man lined up his shot, then disappeared before his eyes.

Patrons have reported witnessing men dressed in clothes from another period standing at the bar, and others have heard the sounds of men arguing in the pub, when the hotel has been nearly empty, and everyone in plain sight, obviously not arguing.

This hotel also has a female spirit, thought to possibly be a former prostitute who may have died upstairs. She is reported as enjoying touching people in a flirtatious way.

In 2002, The Britannia was renamed the Docksider Tavern. It retains much of its original charm and features. The Docksider is a popular food and music venue today, with an old heritage charm.



the
Lighthouse Wharf
hotel

Lighthouse Wharf Hotel (Map no. 12)

In its early days, the hotel saw continual support from dock workers and sailors coming ashore at Port Adelaide. As one of the first hotels they encountered when coming ashore it was popular drinking and social venue.

The hotel also became the base of political opponents of Captain John Hart, who would eventually be the Premier of South Australia 3 times.

The Lighthouse Wharf hotel has gone through a lot of name changes in its history, starting out in 1857 as the 'Exchange Hotel', its first name change happened in 1882 when the Hotel became known as the "New Exchange Hotel".

In 1935, Port Adelaide underwent a major facelift when the McLaren Wharf was widened, which led to the demolition of the original pub that had stood for just on 78 years.

A new "Art Deco" styled hotel was built in 1935 and is the building we see today. Recently it too has seen many name changes. In 1986 It was known as the "Lighthouse Inn" in 2004 as the "Ales & Sails" and 2009 as "The Lighthouse Hotel", the hotel again changed owners and name in 2015, is now known as "the Lighthouse Wharf Hotel".

The Lighthouse Wharf Hotel on Commercial Road has one of the best known hauntings in Port Adelaide, that of its resident ghost "Hamish", who likes to play tricks on unsuspecting visitors. No-one is quite sure who Hamish actually is, or why he haunts the hotel, but he isn't the only supernatural resident in the old pub.

A resident spirit is also believed to live in the upstairs lodgings and has been heard and seen by tenants and guests on many occasions. This spirit is thought to be that of an old man who died upstairs. He has been known to lock people out of rooms, and on occasion, has been seen wandering through the upstairs passageways.

Another resident ghost lives in the basement and is said to be a friendly small boy. This young boy may have worked in the original hotels basement helping with deliveries and other jobs, and has been witnessed by many staff.

On one occasion, the young boy was seen sitting on a modern wheelie bin in the basement by a male staff member who was changing the beer lines. The boy ghost smiled at the worker; waved then vanished into thin air. The boy ghost was described as being about 7 years old, pale complexion, and wearing the clothes of a young poor boy from about the late 1890's!

Another incident draws comparison to a similar incident in North Adelaide's British Hotel. Both hotels have spirits tamper with beer lines in the old cellars. Both incidents are unexplainable and have happened when no one was onsite, and not found until bar staff have gone to pour a beer, and find an ale instead of a lager!

Why a ghost would want to tamper with the beer lines is unknown, but in both cases tampering by staff has been ruled out.

In 2014 the Haunting Australia Team were conducting an investigation of the hotel via an invitation from local Port Adelaide paranormal investigation team Lyon Paranormal. Whilst conducting an on camera interview with the then publican, an eerie voice of child came through on the camera of a paranormal investigator:

The voice sounds like a young girl singing over the top of the interview. They were able to rule out any outside interference and believe they may have indeed captured the voice of a long dead young girl in The Lighthouse Wharf Hotel basement!



Port Adelaide Lighthouse

Port Adelaide Lighthouse (Map no. 13)

What could be more iconic than the Port Adelaide Lighthouse located at the wharf on the end of Commercial Road?

The original lighthouse was situated at the mouth of the Port River and was originally lit in 1869. It was built to replace a number of "light ships" that had sat in the river since 1840.

In 1901, the lighthouse was decommissioned and dismantled. It was decided that the old lighthouse would be broken down into parts and sent to other locations.

The lantern was installed on a screw pile light at Wonga Shoal, but lost a few years later in an accident when the three-masted steel ship, 'Dimsdale' collided with it in 1912. The ship was barely damaged but the lighthouse was destroyed entirely, falling into the sea and killing the two lighthouse keepers, Henry Franson and Charles McGowan.

The tower of the lighthouse and the keeper's accommodation were moved to South Neptune Island and when finished, stood 55 metres above sea level, and featured a dioptric light, which was reported to be visible on a clear day up to 61 kms away!

The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1985 and moved to Largs Bay, where it was restored, before being installed at its current location in 1986 as the most recognisable icon in Port Adelaide.

The South Australian Maritime Museum now manages the lighthouse, and best of all, it is open to the public to explore the inside and enjoy the view from the tower most days of the week (check with the SA Maritime Museum for opening times.)

There have long been rumours that the lighthouse is haunted, however, they remain unsubstantiated allegations. But let's not let the facts get in the way of a good ghost story!

One of the stories involves two children who went missing nearby in the 1980's. The two ghost children are said to play around the bottom of the old lighthouse, which was the original light keepers accommodation.

There is evidence that at least one of the lighthouse keepers had small children on South Neptune Island with him. Could the spirits be those of the children who went missing, or are they from a by-gone era when the lighthouse was situated on Neptune Island?

A report on page one of *The Mail* in 1934, in a story titled *Drama of the Lighthouse* talks of the lighthouse keeper's family frantically waving from the tower trying to get the attention of passing ships.

Eventually a ship's crew noticed them, "The Lady Lock", which came to the island and then transported the son of the lighthouse keeper to Adelaide for treatment. The poor boy had swallowed a stone, and later recovered.

Even back when the Lighthouse was still situated on South Neptune Island, the keepers reported feelings of unease and unrest. One reported log book incident is of a keeper feeling paranoid that someone was constantly standing behind him, looking over his shoulder... could it possibly have been a lighthouse keeper who died on the island?

The third keeper of the house, George Marmant, disappeared on Neptune Island after going fishing on rocks. Could his spirit still be attached to his old workplace and explain the visions of a male spirit often seen in the vicinity of the old lighthouse?



About Allen Tiller

Allen Tiller is Australia's most recognised paranormal investigator and the Australian star of Syfy's hit TV show, Haunting: Australia. Allen has been investigating the paranormal for over ten years right across Australia and is known for his unique approach to ghost hunting.

Allen is the founder of South Australia's "Eidolon Paranormal" and "South Australian Paranormal" investigation teams and the author of historical paranormal book "The Haunts of Adelaide: History, Mystery and the Paranormal".

Recently Allen has been employed in a world first "Paranormal Residency" by the Adelaide City Council researching the cities haunted buildings. This research and investigation project led Allen to be nominated for the History Council of South Australia's "Emerging Historian of the Year" award.

Allen is also the only paranormal investigator in Australia to have a blog and a website honoured with a place in the National Library of Australia's "Pandora" archive, which keeps digital copies of writings the library deems historically significant.

Allen is a regular contributor to a number of magazines and is often sought by newspapers for his historical knowledge on ghosts, hauntings and UFO's. He has appeared on television shows such as Haunting: Australia, Psychic TV, SA Life and Today Tonight and can often be heard on numerous radio programs around Australia.

To learn more about Allen Tiller, please visit his websites;

- www.allentiller.com.au
- www.eidolonparanormal.net

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