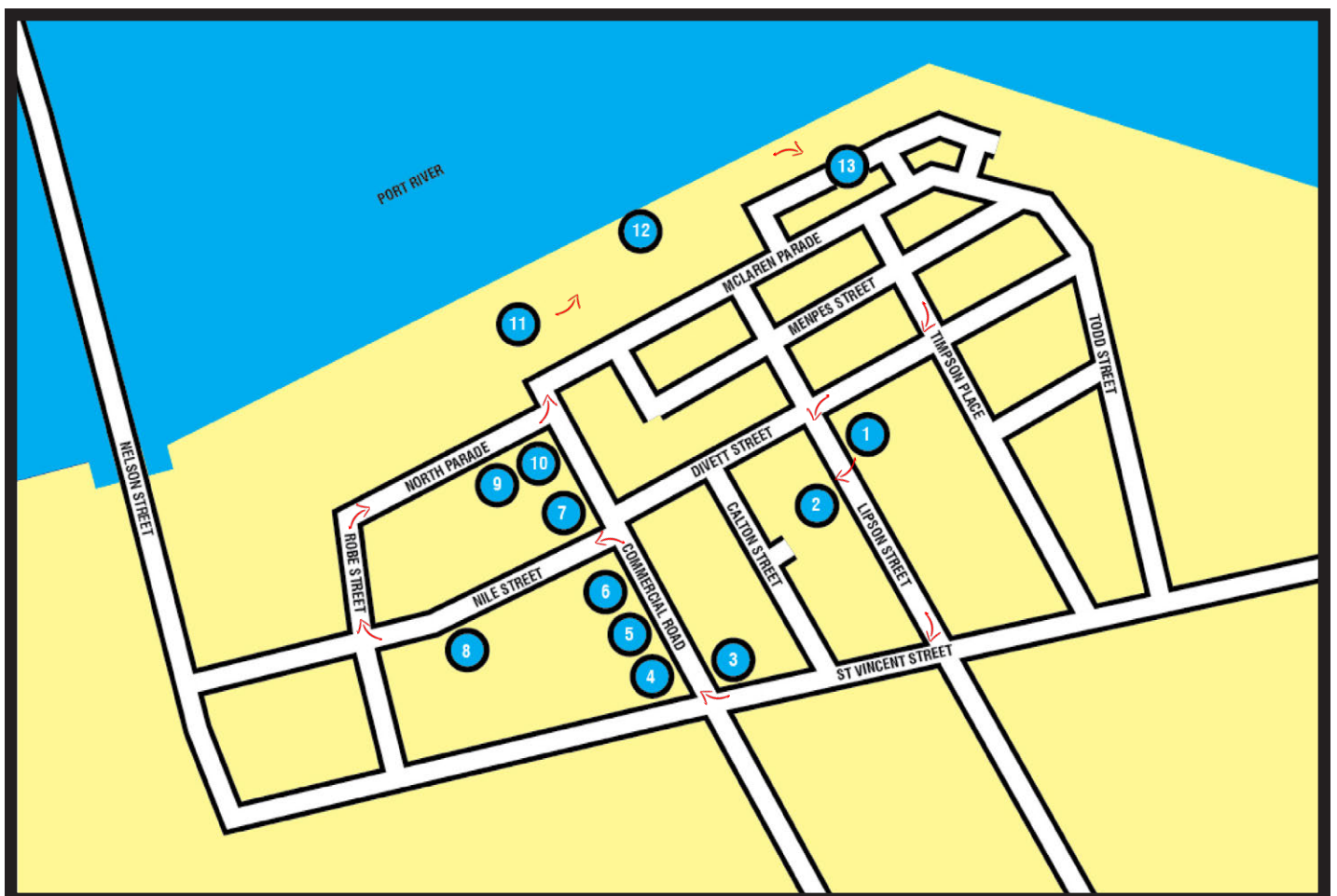# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MARITIME MUSEUM

HERITAGE TRAIL

Port Adelaide was officially established as a colony in 1840. Along with its rich Aboriginal history, the Port played a central role in the colonial development of South Australia.

By the 1870s, wharves had been built in Port Adelaide as well as buildings, homes and warehouses. Port Adelaide has hosted many sailing ships, steamships and in more recent times, cruise and containers ships.

Many of the original buildings are still standing in the Port Adelaide heritage area. This self-guided walking trail will help you to uncover some of the treasures of the past.

1   South Australian Maritime Museum

The Museum is housed in two stone warehouses (bonded and free) built by Elder and Company in the 1850s. Bonded warehouses allowed merchants to unload ships and store their goods until they were sold - deferring the payment of customs duties. Free stores held goods once duty was already paid. The goods stored were often luxury items like tobacco, sugar, coffee, beer and fine china. The government then bought the building and turned into the Maritime Museum in 1986.

2   Sail Makers Buildings

Built in the 1870s and 80s, these buildings were part of Henry Weman's sail-making business. The complex comprised of a sail loft, warehouse and two storey ship's chandlery. The shop (now Seawitch Images) is virtually unchanged. The corrugated iron sailmakers loft on the second floor has doors opening onto the street where bulky items such as sails and sail cloth were winched up using a hoist. It is now used by the Maritime Museum as a meeting room and for storage.

3   The Port Admiral Hotel

This is the oldest building still standing in Port Adelaide. Originally named the Railway Hotel, it was built in 1849 in response to a planned horse-drawn railway running down Port Road and Commercial Road. The plan never materialised, so the owner changed the hotel's name to the Admiral in 1851. Port Adelaide was once awash with 45 pubs but a powerful Temperance lobby succeeded in having 15 of them closed in 1909.

4   Workers Memorial

The Workers Memorial was built to honour the local heroes of the labour movement. The memorial was built in 1918 with the statue of the Lady of Justice added on top in 1921. It was originally inscribed with the names of 41 men and one woman. It now has 106 men and 10 women listed on its plinth.

5 Port Adelaide Visitor Centre

This building was constructed in 1860 as Port Adelaide's Courts, Police Station and Customs Building at a cost of £7000. Though the building now has different uses, it has changed very little since then. It was officially opened as the Port Adelaide Visitors Centre in 1997. The old police cells are still inside!

6 Courthouse

A new courthouse was opened in 1882 to address the problems of the original which included a lack of space, excessive noise and foul smells. Built on the site of the old Marine Board Offices, the Courthouse is a slice of classic Victorian architecture. It originally comprised only the central portion and northern wing.
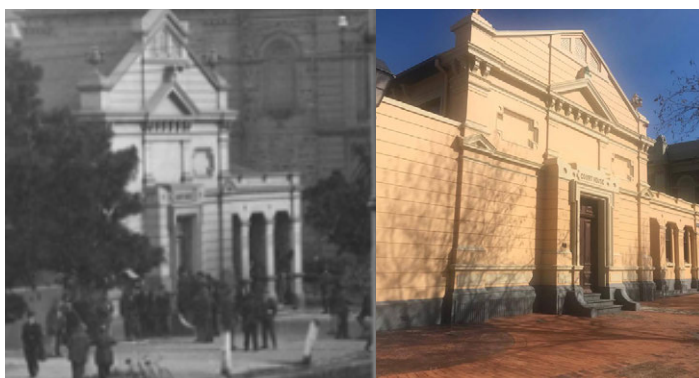
7 Walk Round Corners

Horse-drawn wagons were the main form of transport in the early 1900s. They'd often speed around corners and collide with pedestrians on the crowded streets. Lawmakers then enacted the 'Walk Round Corners' by-law, forcing drivers to slow their horses to avoid further accidents. This sign alerting the public to the new law is fixed to the wall of the old Customs House, built in 1878.

8 Town Hall and Council Offices

The Town Hall was completed in 1866 for £4,980 and the council offices next door in 1884. The bluestone cottage adjacent to them was the Port's casualty hospital for many decades. Prior to that, anyone injured in the Port had to travel by train to the Royal Adelaide Hospital in the city.

9 Telegraph Office

The first telephone exchange was once housed in this building. It was built in 1867 but wasn't used as an exchange until 1883. After that, it was used as the headquarters for the Lighthouse Service and eventually became part of the Customs Service complex.

10 The Black Diamond 'Silent Cop'

This 'silent cop' was installed in 1939 on Black Diamond Corner (the intersection of St Vincent Street and Commercial Road) to rein in traffic chaos. This £50 device was designed by local policeman 'Scan' Sutherland. It was replaced with traffic lights in 1968.

11 Port Adelaide Lighthouse

First lit in 1869, the lighthouse originally guarded the mouth of the Port River. Light keepers and their families were to live in the iron rooms at the base, but the heat of South Australian summers made that impossible. Living quarters were built between the decks of the timber staging but, after several further modifications the lighthouse was deemed unstable and dismantled. It was relocated to South Neptune Island in 1901 at the entrance to Spencer Gulf. It remained in operation there until it was decommissioned in 1985 and resurrected in Port Adelaide.

12 Queens & McLaren Wharf

McLaren wharf used to be one of the busiest parts of the Port, with the waterfront a forest of ships' masts. Today, there are two historic vessels to see: police launch *Archie Badenoch* (1942), Steam Tug *Yelta* (1949). You will also sometimes find the *One and All*, built in 1987 as a sail training ship and based on an historic ketch of the same name.

13 Seafarers Memorial

Over 800 shipwrecks line South Australia's coast. The older merchant navy memorial pays homage to merchant seafarers lost at sea. *The Navigator*, by local sculptor Karen Genoff, was unveiled in 1992. It specifically commemorates the *SS Admella* wrecked south-west of Mount Gambier on 6 August 1859. Survivors clung to the wreck for over a week with many taking days to die as they watched one rescue attempt after another fail. With the loss of 89 lives, mostly due to cold and exposure, it is one of the worst maritime disasters in Australian history.