

Turk's Head Hotel

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John Green decided to capitalise on the prime location of his land in Wodonga Place as traffic crossed the Border. In April 1868 he opened the Traveller's Rest Hotel, built by Daniel Driscoll, proprietor of the Bridge Hotel.

Green died "from natural causes, accelerated by constant drinking" in May 1872. The license for the Traveller's Rest passed to his wife Ann, the mother of Daniel Driscoll from a previous marriage. Ann died two years later and son William Green inherited.

New licensee Alfred Carpenter, in early 1874 advertised "first class accommodation" with "free paddocks and stabling."

The following year Carpenter lost his license after complaints that the hotel was "kept open late at night," was "frequented by women of bad repute," and "neighbours were disturbed ... by drunken men."

In July 1875 Charles Cass was granted the license and given the poor reputation of the hotel, Cass rebranded the hotel as the Turk's Head Hotel. The following year Luke Gulson became licensee. He was a local councillor and proprietor of Albury Pottery. Gulson advertised in 1878 that he offered "racing boats for hire for rowing men, a rifle saloon and skittle alley as well as quoits with fine green for practice."

William Green took the license of his hotel in 1881. In 1882 William Green's application for license renewal was objected to on the grounds of "insufficiency of accommodation."

In December 1885 Green gave up the licence and leased the Turk's Head to James Oddie who held the licence for 5½ years, while continuing his contract road and bridge building. In mid-1891 Oddie terminated his lease and Green took up the license again. However, not



The Union Bridge Hotel (Turk's Head) in the early Twentieth Century

long after, all of Green's land holdings in Albury were repossessed by the Australian Joint Stock Bank.

There were other licensees before licensee Edward Steel in 1900 rebranded the hotel the Union Bridge Hotel. Later that year the Australian Joint Stock Bank sold the property to James Robinson for £1,300. Robinson soon after took over the license.

The last publican was James Blair who took over from Maurice Flynn in 1921. Because Albury had too many licensed premises, the hotel was delicensed in late 1921.

James Robinson died in 1927. His son Roy inherited the Turk's Head and adjacent properties. After the property was acquired by the NSW government on behalf of Albury City, it was restored to become a museum from 1967 until 2006.