



Victoria Park Tunnel

History of the Rob Roy Hotel

Fact Sheet August 2010

The Rob Roy pictured in context at the edge of Freemans Bay in the late 1800s.



- The Rob Roy building is recognised as being of cultural heritage value by Auckland City Council and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. It is one of several historic buildings in the area including the Victoria Park Market buildings, the former Auckland Gas Company buildings in Beaumont Street and the former Campbell Free Kindergarten.
- At the time the Rob Roy was built, Freemans Bay was a busy industrial area with ship builders, sawmills, a brass and iron foundry, glass works, asphalt works and many coal and lime dealers. While the name of the area has stuck, Freemans Bay itself was obliterated by reclamation by 1901.
- The Rob Roy Hotel was built for Samuel Jagger, who arrived in New Zealand from Halifax in 1858 at the age of 18 and established a wood, coal and firewood business in Auckland. He married into the Hancock family; and in 1885 bought the section on the Franklin Road corner to build the hotel.
- The Rob Roy Hotel was designed in an Italianate style by architects Edward Mahoney & Sons, who designed many of Auckland's early hotels as well as prominent Catholic buildings, including St Patricks Cathedral. It was built by contractors Cleghorn and Rosser.
- It was built of mainly brick and concrete and had three storeys, including the basement. The basement housed the kitchen, pantry, storerooms, beer and coal cellars and servants' dining rooms. On the ground floor was a bar (on the street corner), three sitting rooms and a serving room. A commodious staircase led to the first floor where there was a sitting room and nine bedrooms, a bathroom and linen closet.
- After Samuel Jagger's death, the Rob Roy was owned by the company Hancock & Co, formed to manage his business interests. In the early 1980s it was sold to Tony White, the owner of Tony's Restaurants, and John Banks, who later became mayor of Auckland. The name of the hotel was changed to the Birdcage Tavern.
- While there were a number of interior changes and additions to the building over the years, most of the original structure remains intact. The building's red brick facade and decorative plasterwork on the window and door surrounds are unchanged.
- In 2002, Transit New Zealand (now the NZ Transport Agency) bought the property as the site was needed for extension of the motorway.
- On 31 August, the Rob Roy Hotel will be moved 40 metres up Franklin Road so the southern portal of the Victoria Park Tunnel can be built. It will then be moved back to its original location, which will then be on the tunnel roof.

Our contact details

For general enquiries, or contact information about NZ Transport Agency please check our website www.nzta.govt.nz or email us at info@nzta.govt.nz

PROJECT OFFICE & INFORMATION CENTRE

100 Beaumont Street, Westhaven, Auckland
Telephone: 09 336 1087
Website: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/victoria-park-tunnel
info@vicparkalliance.co.nz
Email: info@vicparkalliance.co.nz
24-Hour Hotline: 0508 842 7275

