

Club Hotel (closed)

1 Fitzroy St, corner The Esplanade, St Kilda
MEL: 57 K9

Originally, three houses grouped sufficiently close to one another to enable the amalgamation via their verandahs, (the third of which possibly belonged to James Ross Lawrence, Captain of the schooner *Lady of St Kilda*, for which the area is named).

The Club Hotel was destroyed by fire at the end of 1859 under unusual circumstances. Aba Manaski, a Russian friend of licensee Albert Edelman, was suspected of setting the fire to avenge a threat Edelman made regarding Manaski's conduct towards the publican's wife. After a coroner's jury found that the hotel was deliberately and wilfully lit, the community's concern led the St Kilda Council to pass a resolution to have a fire engine located in the district. In 2003, it is the site of the restaurant Number One Fitzroy Street.