

CITY OF GREAT BUILDINGS ADELAIDE

HISTORICAL WALKING TRAIL

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THIS WALK IS APPROXIMATELY 1.6 KM IN TOTAL. PLEASE ALLOW 1 HOUR TO COMPLETE.



KEY Walking Trail - - - - Sites ● Park Lands ■

EXPLORE THE BUILDINGS VOTED BY THE PEOPLE OF ADELAIDE AS THEIR FAVOURITES!

1. EPWORTH BUILDING, 33 PIRIE STREET

In 1900 the three separate branches of the Methodist Church united. After a period of consolidation, this gothic style building was constructed in 1926 as administration offices. The architects were English and Soward.

It was named Epworth Building to commemorate John Wesley's birthplace in the county of Lincolnshire, England. Wesley is credited with the foundation of the evangelical movement known as Methodism.

Head north down Exchange Place.

2. STOCK EXCHANGE, 53-57 EXCHANGE PLACE

The former Stock Exchange was crucial to the State's financial affairs. The building

is indeed handsome, being one of the few federation Edwardian style buildings in the City of Adelaide. Jointly designed by architects HE Fuller and HA Dunn, it was constructed in 1901 to commemorate the Australian Federation.

Although damaged by fire in 1938 and again in 1982 the building was empathetically restored. The original Morris and Co. stained-glass window in the main stairwell somehow survived.

Head north towards Grenfell Street and cross at the pedestrian crossing with care.

3. EXECUTOR TRUSTEE BUILDING, 22 GRENFELL STREET

This building is associated with the Executor Trustee and Agency Company of South Australia. It was formed in 1879, one year after the first was founded in Melbourne. They

occupied a series of offices before constructing their own in 1922. WH Bagot and Laybourne Smith were joint architects with CEW Parsons.

4. ALLIANCE ASSURANCE BUILDING, 20 GRENFELL STREET

As the head office of the Alliance Assurance Company (first recorded in 1856) this building illustrates the development of the insurance industry. This reinforced concrete, stone and brick building was completed in 1927 and jointly designed by architects JA Kethel of Sydney, and Rutt and Lawson of Adelaide.

5. TATTERSALLS BUILDING, 14 GRENFELL STREET

The history of this building is very much that of the South Australian Tattersalls Club (SATC), for which it was built. For a time it was a registered



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racing club, and for a long period the arbiter in betting disputes. Designed by Garlick and Jackman, this heavily detailed building is a result of two stages of construction, the western part in 1916–1917, and the eastern part in 1927–1928.

Cross at the traffic lights and continue south along the eastern side of King William Street.

6. T & G BUILDING, 82–88 KING WILLIAM STREET

The site was purchased by the Temperance & General Mutual Life Assurance Society in 1912 to house the new offices of the South Australian branch. The architect was KA Henderson.

The eleven-storey building was constructed in 1925 to a height of 132 feet, the then maximum height allowed in the City of Adelaide, making it a landmark in King William Street.

7. BANKSA, 97 KING WILLIAM STREET

The Savings Bank of South Australia's old headquarters on Currie Street became inadequate and in the 1930s this site was purchased for a new head office building. Architects McMichael and Harris drew up plans for the new structure and construction began in 1939. The outbreak of the war caused labour shortages and major delays with materials; the offices opened in 1943 much later than originally estimated. The building with its basement and nine floors rose to the maximum height allowed at the time by the building regulations.

8. ADELAIDE TOWN HALL, 128 KING WILLIAM STREET

The Corporation of the City of Adelaide was created in 1840 and was the first in Australia. Fourteen years later the Adelaide Town Hall was built, becoming the premier venue for concerts, civic receptions and public gatherings in the City and the State.

When built it was the most significant structure in King William Street, the tallest, grandest and most expensive. Specific conditions regarding style and materials were stipulated by architect Edmund Wright for all other buildings to be constructed on the corporation acre.

Continue south along King William Street. The next two sites are on the western side.

9. ELECTRA HOUSE, 131–133 KING WILLIAM STREET

Built in 1901 for the Mutual Life and Citizen's Assurance Company (MLC) the building was also associated with the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company which was responsible for providing telegraphic communication from Europe to connect with South Australia's overland telegraph.

The architect was John Quinton Bruce in association with William Cumming and Ernest Bayer.

The building became known as Electra House in 1940, named after the Greek legendary figure, Electra, 'the bright one'.

The figure brackets supporting the balconette are very distinctive and are rare in Adelaide.

10. GENERAL POST OFFICE, 141–159 KING WILLIAM STREET

The first post office began in a hut by the River Torrens soon after the site for Adelaide was decided upon. It was moved to successively larger buildings until 1865, when a design competition was held for a purpose built premises to house both the post office and the telegraph station. Four architects influenced the design; Edmund William Wright, Edward John Woods, Edward Angus Hamilton and Robert George Thomas. The building became the most expensive building constructed by the government at the time and workers on site included eighteen stone cutters, ten carpenters, four metal smiths and fifteen labourers.

Turn left onto Flinders Street.

11. TREASURY BUILDINGS, 142–60 KING WILLIAM STREET

These buildings were effectively the centre of South Australian government and administration from the late 1830s until the 1960s. All the important colonial officials and later, state cabinet and the premier were accommodated here and much other business conducted including the work of the Governor and Chief Secretary's Office, Treasury, Survey, Crown Lands, Public Works and Attorney General.

The original building was designed by George Strickland Kingston in 1839; however, most of this building was demolished to make way for the two and three storey buildings that were constructed between 1858–1907 to the designs of Edward Angus Hamilton and later Charles Edward Owen Smyth.

Despite the several construction periods, the building presents a unified appearance to Victoria Square.

Cross Flinders Street with care and continue south along Victoria Square.

12. RESERVE BANK, 182–188 VICTORIA SQUARE

There are few buildings in Adelaide of this design and construction quality.

Designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works in 1963, the former Reserve Bank of Australia building is well articulated and is divided into three sections: a base emphasised by the surrounding solar screen, a shaft faced with light coloured marble covering slender columns that rise the height of the building, and a capital, consisting of a white sculptured cap that seems to float above the roof of the building. Of note is the inward curved facade to the east and west.

13. TORRENS BUILDING, 190–220 VICTORIA SQUARE

The Torrens Building was designed to meet the requirements of the Public Works and Registrar-General's Department. As usual with public buildings, a design competition was held.

It was won by a Melbourne-based architect, Michael Egan.

The foundations and cellars were constructed by Robert Huckson and James Shaw built the superstructure. The building was completed by the end of 1881.

Continue south along Victoria Square. Turn right onto Angas Street and cross over to the western side of the Square.

14. SUPREME COURT, 261–279 VICTORIA SQUARE

The present building was designed as a Local and Insolvency Court. Sources suggest that Robert George Thomas was the architect; however, George Thomas Light may also have had some role in the design.

During construction in 1866–1869 the building excited high praise for its imposing facade to Victoria Square classically derived in the Palladian manner.

In 1873 it became the Supreme Court which Sir Samuel Way, perhaps the most accomplished and best known of South Australia's chief justices, presided over from 1876 until his death in 1916.

Head north along Victoria Square.

15. MLC BUILDING (BEACON HOUSE), 181–189 VICTORIA SQUARE

The MLC building was Adelaide's first post-war skyscraper and a 'benchmark' building embodying advances in construction techniques (such as curtain walling) which have since altered the face of the central business district. Constructed between 1955–1957, the architects were Bates, Smart and McCutcheon of Melbourne, assisted in Adelaide by Lawson, Cheesman, Doley and Partners.

A weather beacon was installed on the roof in 1958 consisting of red and white lights. A small pocket card was produced explaining the signals indicating the forecast weather.

Turn left onto Franklin Street.

16. DARLING BUILDING, 28–30 FRANKLIN STREET

This building was erected in 1916 for John Darling and Son, a wheat merchant and flour milling company, on the site of Hugh Fraser's former marble works. It was designed by architect EH McMichael.

Although both John Darling Senior and Junior died before its completion, the building reflects the success of the company and the importance of the family, as the founders of the largest firm of wheat merchants in Australasia at the time.



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