Exit the Adelaide Central Markets on to Grote Street and head west.

1. MARKET FAÇADE, GROTE STREET

At about 3.15am on 23 January 1869 a small noisy procession of market gardeners wound their way from the East End to this site in an attempt ‘to break’ from the East End Market. By 6am customers had bought out the entire stock of goods for sale.

Two large sheds were constructed and the City Market was officially opened on 22 January 1870. Vegetables, fruit, hay, fish and game were sold on Saturday mornings, and later also on Tuesday mornings.

In 1889 plans to rebuild the market were provided by the Corporation of Adelaide’s Chief Draughtsman R Sloan under the direction of City Engineer J Vicars. The new premises featured an elaborate brick façade and four-storey tower on Grote Street. Included in the plans was Federal Hall, an 80 feet x 32 feet assembly room on the first floor where weddings, dances and parties could be held.

The eastern portion of the façade was demolished in the 1960s.

2. HER MAJESTY’S THEATRE, 54-60 GROTE STREET

Known as the Princess Theatre when built in 1912–1913 for Edwin Daw, it was immediately leased by Harry Rickards, who renamed it the New Tivoli Theatre; opening on 5 September 1913.

The theatre became a place of much sensation shortly before the outbreak of WW1 when the tango was introduced to Adelaide by way of the risqué and immoral ‘Tango Teas’.

In 1962 the building was extensively altered and renamed Her Majesty’s Theatre.

3. VARDON PRINTING WORKS, 91-99 GROTE STREET

This red brick warehouse was built for Joseph Vardon in 1912. Vardon was a printer, politician and the director of the Adelaide Fruit and Produce Market in the East End. The buildings design suggests English & Soward were the architects involved.

Established as Webb, Vardon & Pritchard in 1871, Vardon & Sons grew to be one of Adelaide’s biggest printing and publishing companies; and was eventually absorbed by the Advertiser.

The company ceased printing from these premises around 1970.
4. FORMER CHURCH OF CHRIST, 96-100 GROTE STREET

In 1846, the Scotch Baptists (then known as the Church of Christ) opened their first stone chapel in Franklin Street. Thomas Magarey is credited with this.

Within ten years a larger chapel was needed for the growing Adelaide congregation; this was provided in Grote Street. The Sunday School at the rear was built in the mid-1880s but by the 1920s the chapel needed replacing again.

A member of the church, Howard Culley, drew up the plans in 1921 and the first official services to commemorate the new chapel were held on 24 and 25 April 1926.

5. FORMER ADVANCED SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 101-105 GROTE STREET

The first state secondary school opened in Franklin Street in 1879 and provided education for girls beyond primary level. As enrolments grew the Superintendent of Public Buildings, C.E. Owen Smyth, designed this purpose-built school building. Constructed in 1891, it contained five classrooms and a dining room. A music room was added in 1902.

6. HAMPSHIRE HOTEL, 110-112 GROTE STREET

This small hotel was briefly known as the Coach-House Tavern when it was built in 1856 but from 1869 it was known as the Hampshire Hotel. The original building was replaced by this equally small hotel in 1911, designed by prominent Adelaide architect F Kenneth Milne, for FJ Blades and W Chambers, formerly of the Green Dragon Brewery on South Terrace. The hotel is a rare example of the Federation style in Adelaide and features curved, decorative joinery to the eaves and balcony of the brick building.

7. FORMER TEACHERS TRAINING SCHOOL, 109-119 GROTE STREET

This was originally constructed as a single storey Gothic style building in 1875-1876 to the design of E.J. Woods. It was South Australia’s first teacher training school and addressed the need for consistent and quality teaching methods for the colony.

In 1908, the Continuation School for Boys was established in this building and a year later the school was cleverly transformed into a two storeyed Tudor style building by C.E. Owen Smyth.

8. FORMER MODEL SCHOOL, 121-139 GROTE STREET

In 1875 the passing of the Education Act provided all primary school aged children with compulsory education. This building was constructed in 1873-1874 as a ‘model’ school – or a pattern for every public school in the colony. Designed by E.J. Woods the school was centrally divided with a room for girls and a room for boys and a playground.

In 1908 it combined with the other two former school buildings to form Adelaide High School (now located on West Terrace).

Turn left on to Morphett Street. Cross over the lights at the Gouger Street intersection. Head east along the southern side of Gouger Street.

9. OSBORNE HALL, 120-128 GOUGER STREET

This brick building was constructed for confectioner and baker Edwin Ellis in 1914. On the ground floor was a large bakery fitted with ‘the latest appliances for turning out a great variety of goods’. The company acquired the sole rights in South Australia from Peters American Delicacy Company to make their famous ‘ice cream de-luxe’. Ellis also had an ice-making plant capable of producing a ton per day. The first floor comprised a large banqueting chamber, known as Osborne Hall. The space was later used as a dance hall for more than 50 years.

Continue east along Gouger Street. Turn right on to Compton Street.

10. FORMER TEA ROOMS, 8 COMPTON STREET

Established between 1910-1914 by one of the city’s most colourful citizens, Bert Edwards, this building contained very popular tea rooms. The rooms were used by the youth of the city, in particular young footballers of the West Adelaide Football Club.

Bert was publican of several city hotels, a city councillor in 1914-1931 and again in 1948-1963 and was also a State Labor MP for the seat of Adelaide in 1917-1931.

Born in the back streets of the west end of the city, he was titled ‘the king of the west end’ because of his philanthropy and assisting any citizen down on their luck.

Return to Gouger Street and continue east towards Victoria Square.

11. FORMER SUPREME COURT HOTEL, 5-9 GOUGER STREET

Originally located to the east of the present building, the Rainbow Tavern was first licensed in 1853. Renamed the Supreme Court Hotel in 1874, the present building was constructed in 1880-1881. It surrendered its licence in 1970 after trading for 117 years. The building lay derelict after a fire and demolition was considered. However, in the 1980s-1990s it was carefully restored and is now known as Jeffcott Chambers in memory of South Australia’s first Chief Justice.

12. SUPREME COURT, 261-279 VICTORIA SQUARE

The present building was designed as a Local and Insolvency Court by R.G. Thomas. During construction in 1866-1869 the building excited high praise for its imposing façade, classically derived in the Palladian manner.

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

This grand structure forms part of the state’s most important group of law related buildings.

Head towards the Victoria Square Market entrance.

13. SIR SAMUEL WAY BUILDING, 241-259 VICTORIA SQUARE

Charles Moore, inspired by a visit to the Paris exhibition in 1878, took a gamble that paid off in 1916 when he demolished his shop, an open-air cinema and several dwellings to build a large reinforced concrete department store that was far away from Adelaide’s established retail centre of Rundle and Hindley Streets.

In 1948, one of Adelaide’s biggest building fires in history completely gutted Moore’s in just 3½ hours. Only the concrete shell and the marble staircase survived. After hasty renovations, the store reopened six months later. It finally closed in 1979.

The building reopened in 1983 as the Sir Samuel Way Building – a court building, in honour of South Australia’s longest serving Chief Justice.

14. ADELAIDE CENTRAL MARKET STALLS

A number of long term stallholders are still associated with the Central Markets such as Blackeby’s Old Lolly Shop (1908), McMahons (1920s), Cappo Bros (1920s), Charlesworth (1934), Lucia’s Pizza and Spaghetti Bar (1957) and Con’s Fine Foods (1959).