

RUNDLE MALL

ABOVE THE CANOPY

HISTORICAL WALKING TRAIL

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THIS WALK IS APPROXIMATELY 0.6KM IN TOTAL. PLEASE ALLOW 45 MINUTES - 1 HOUR TO COMPLETE



EXPLORE THE MANY SHOPS, EATERIES AND LANEWAYS ALONG THE WAY

1. BEEHIVE CORNER, 2-6 RUNDLE MALL (NORTH SIDE)

By 1850 the western entrance to Rundle Street was framed by two significant buildings.

Occupying one of the prime sites within the City of Adelaide, the previous Beehive Corner building was a two-storey simple structure with a chamfered corner. It housed the offices of architect Edmund Wright, the Adelaide Times newspaper and a drapery shop named the Beehive, which had a gilt beehive decorating the front door. The earlier building was replaced in 1895-1896 by this ornate three-storey neo-gothic revival style complex for then owner, Henry Martin. It was designed by English and Soward and incorporates a gold bee on the corner.

2. WATERHOUSE CHAMBERS, 1-5 RUNDLE MALL (SOUTH SIDE)

Occupying the other prime site is Waterhouse Chambers, a group of shops and offices built in 1847-1850 for Thomas Greaves Waterhouse.

Thomas, a financier, and his brother John operated a grocery business on Rundle Street before returns from the Burra Burra copper mine enabled Thomas to build these chambers. Thomas was the director of the South Australian Mining Association which occupied the building. Waterhouse Chambers remains one of the oldest office developments in Adelaide.

3. FORMER GRAND THEATRE, 21-23 RUNDLE MALL (SOUTH SIDE)

The Grand Picture Theatre opened on 30 November 1916 for the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries before it officially opened to the public the next day with 'The Fool's Revenge'. In the early 1930's, the auditorium was modified to an Art Deco style, and the name changed to the Mayfair Theatre.

In 1953, the auditorium was modernised and the theatre began screening long runs of major films, projected onto the 40 feet wide screen. It was re-named Sturt Theatre and was under the ownership of the Greater Union Theatres chain.

The theatre closed in 1976, and was remodelled into offices. The handsome five storey facade is all that remains of this theatre which was built for sole proprietor Alfred Drake to the design of architects RRG Assheton & AJC Assheton.

4. FORMER YOUNG'S SHOE STORE, 55 RUNDLE MALL (SOUTH SIDE)

When CJ Young's Shoe Co. was rebuilt in 1925-1926, it was described as an artistic addition to the architecture of Rundle Street.

Novel methods were used to rebuild the shoe store. In order to allow business to proceed, the architects Charles W Rutt and Lawson, had to arrange for the top storey to be built first. This was done by implanting a number of girders into the walls of the two neighbouring buildings, which had also recently been rebuilt.



The Georgian style facade is dominated by the large bow window giving the building a distinctive appearance. The glazed bricks were ultra-modern at the time and are still unusual in Adelaide today.

5. FORMER BIRKS PHARMACY, 57 RUNDLE MALL (SOUTH SIDE)

This building was constructed in 1925 for Birks' Chemists to the design of architects McMichael and Harris.

At 18 years of age, George Napier Birk obtained a position as a pharmaceutical apprentice with Mr F H Faulding in his chemist shop at 5 Rundle Street. After four years Birk moved to regional South Australia.

In 1875 George's brother, William Birk, took over a pharmacy business at 51 Rundle Street. The next year George returned to Adelaide and together they established a book and fancy goods business at 60 Rundle Street. The pharmacy then moved to this location.

Sadly, the partnership dissolved in 1894 and George set off to join 'New Australia', a Utopian community in Paraguay. William sold the business in 1906 to Mr Percy Rupert Robertson Magarey.

6. FORMER BALFOURS CAFÉ, 74 RUNDLE MALL (NORTH SIDE)

Within a year of his arrival James Calder had returned to his calling of baker and confectioner. His early years of business were a struggle, the manufacturing methods were laborious and tedious, and the machinery capable of only a limited production of goods. In 1877, Calder took on his nephew, John Balfour, as his business partner.

Calder & Balfours continued to expand and more properties were purchased until 1882 when Calder was forced to retire due to bad health. By 1894 Balfour declared himself insolvent and used property to pay back his debt.

A new firm began in 1901 under the name and guidance of Elizabeth Balfour (John's wife) and business was better than ever!

The new café was innovative because the building envelope is independent of the internal structure. The building has a large steel and glass curtain wall to the Rundle Mall frontage and is surrounded by abstracted classical details, in particular, the monumental pilasters.

7. REGENT ARCADE, 101-109 RUNDLE MALL (SOUTH SIDE)

The most opulent theatre on Rundle Street was the Regent Theatre, built in 1927-1928 to the design of architects Cedric, Ballantyne & Associates of Melbourne and English, Soward & Jackson of Adelaide. The elaborate plasterwork was done by Hopkins Pty. Ltd.

Described as 'Australia's most luxurious theatre' and a 'palace of art' when it opened on 29 June 1928, the Regent's lavish interior featured seats for 2,298 patrons, marble stairs, portraits,

tapestries and a sculpture. There was provision for a stage and full orchestra. A large Wurlitzer organ, now in Memorial Hall at St Peters College, played at movie screenings. Suitably, a grand charity variety show filled the stage on the Regent's last night as a grand cinema in 1967 before the stalls and downstairs foyer were converted into an arcade and the stage space used as part of a second cinema. This smaller version cinema survived until 2004.

8. ADELAIDE ARCADE, 111-117 RUNDLE MALL (SOUTH SIDE)

Adelaide Arcade, the first arcade erected in Adelaide, opened in December 1885 and was funded by Saul Solomon, Lewis Henry Berens, Joachim Matthias Wendt, Robert Carr Castle, Hermann Koeppon Carl Wendt, Emanuel Cohen and Patrick Gay. The design by architects Withall and Wells is the most important of their work to have survived and the extensive use of high-quality materials, extravagant detailing and electric lights suggest that the firm was extremely progressive. During the depression, Adelaide Arcade offered one year's free lease to tenants.

Gays Arcade, with a frontage to Twin Street and connecting to Adelaide Arcade at right angles, was designed by James Cumming and opened the following year.

9. FORMER COLES BUILDING, 112-118 RUNDLE MALL (NORTH SIDE)

Harry Norris, a Melbourne-based architect, travelled overseas to study the latest in retail architecture for this new store for GJ Coles Pty Ltd.

This 1939 building is a standout in the Art Deco catalogue of Adelaide buildings and is often mistaken for a late 1950s modern style design. A commanding curved corner mounted with a vertical neon sign spelling out COLES was visible from well down Rundle Street - expressing the departure from the traditional rectilinear carved stone designs of the past. The entire façade is clad with orange tiles - a bold statement of colour!

10. FORMER VOSZ SHOP, 124-126 RUNDLE MALL (NORTH SIDE)

Located alongside the Richmond Hotel, this war-time 400 seat cinema, opened New Year's Day 1943 as the Liberty. It was also known as the Curzon Theatre over the years.

Described as 'the aristocrat of intimate cinema', it became Adelaide's first art house, showing foreign films which were referred to as 'sizzlers'. The large first floor display window was used to advertise its current attraction.

The building was originally constructed in 1901-1902 for H L Vosz Ltd (reputedly Australia's oldest glass, oil and colour business) to the design of architects English & Soward. This business developed into Clarksons Ltd.

11. HOTEL RICHMOND, 128-130 RUNDLE MALL (NORTH SIDE)

Licensed from New Year's Eve 1838 as the Cornwall Inn by William John Williams, the first publican, the hotel traded as the Plough and Harrow Hotel from 1844. After being rebuilt for the fourth time in 1927 to the design of Murray Richardson, it was renamed the Hotel Richmond after the birthplace of the then owner Charles Richmond John Glover. His parents, publican Charles Peter Glover and his wife Hannah (nee Shortland), were involved with the hotel since 1859 and gifted it to him in 1903. The Richmond is one of the ten oldest city hotels trading in its original location under its original licence.

12. FORMER KITHERS BUTCHERS, 135-139 RUNDLE MALL (SOUTH SIDE)

In 1857, William Kither Snr took over a butchery established on this site the previous year. William Jnr worked for his father, succeeding him after his death in 1869. By 1880, this Italian Renaissance style building, designed by Rees and Hornabrook, replaced the old shop. The premises captured popular attention when the South Australian Electric Company introduced the first commercial lighting in Adelaide here on a Saturday night in 1882. The first butcher's refrigerator in Adelaide occurred here in 1884. Kither was known as the 'knight of the cleaver'. He died in 1911; however, the shop continued to operate until 1930, when it became the workshops of the glass merchants, Clarksons Limited.

13. SHOP, 150-152 RUNDLE MALL (NORTH SIDE)

Its construction was made possible by a large inheritance which Samuel George Smith received from his father's estate in the early 1860s. Tenders for erection of three shops were called for by architects Daniel Garlick and Son in 1886. The flamboyantly styled building was described as being '... built in the German treatment of the Renaissance... much the same style as that at present in vogue in the Fatherland'. The glories of this building are in the facade of the upper two floors. The superb ornate plasterwork was done by Charles Vernon whose artisan touch can also be seen in his former home in Symonds Street, Adelaide.

