

FORMER MAIL EXCHANGE

101-107 Grenfell Street

The business of Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. was founded in 1882 by Alfred Wilkinson who opened a small grocery store in Marlborough Chambers. The wholesale business expanded so quickly that Wilkinson built his own large premises in Grenfell Street in 1898. Continuing to expand, it became necessary in 1908 to extend with a four storey addition of 45,000 square feet facing Wyatt Street. The company became well known for its product Viceroy Tea. Several other teas were blended and packed on the premises such as Mandarin, Pansy, Bulldog and Gold Medal. The slogan of the company with regard to Viceroy Tea was 'British Right Through' as only teas grown in Ceylon and British India were used in their blends.

The machinery used in the early 1900s for tea blending, flour mixing, coffee roasting and grinding were of the latest design. As well as beverages the company packed general grocery lines under the brand name Arab. The warehouse was bought by the Post Master General in 1951 for use as a Mail Exchange.

Architecturally the building is significant because of the detailing evocative of the American Romanesque, which though more commonly found in the eastern states is rare in Adelaide. It was designed by the notable Adelaide architectural practice, English & Soward, and built by N. Trudgen. This is also one of the few warehouses of this scale to survive in the city centre.



(CD Ref 3971/97)



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Heritage of the City of Adelaide

The building maintains the continuity of the streetscape and helps to define this part of Grenfell Street.

Until recently the integrity of the building was high, the alterations for use as a mail exchange being largely cosmetic. However, in 1983, the majority of the Wyatt Street extension was demolished to make way for new office accommodation, leaving only the front bay of the original building on Grenfell Street.

Australia Post, Files SA 75/525, PC 8429/5; *Progress in Australia*, 1935, p. 54.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **Heritage of the City of Adelaide: An Illustrated Guide**, (1996). The photographs contained in this Information Sheet are a selection of those held by Heritage Services, in digital format.

The property described in this Information Sheet is included in the Register of State Heritage places. A heritage listing does not mean or imply right of access by the public to such properties.

The heritage related Principles of Development Control as well as the Precinct specific objectives and Principles of Development Control are contained in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan. These should be referred to in whole when contemplating any development.

Further information on the Heritage Incentives Scheme, an initiative of Council to sponsor timely and appropriate conservation action is available upon request of the Customer Service Centre.

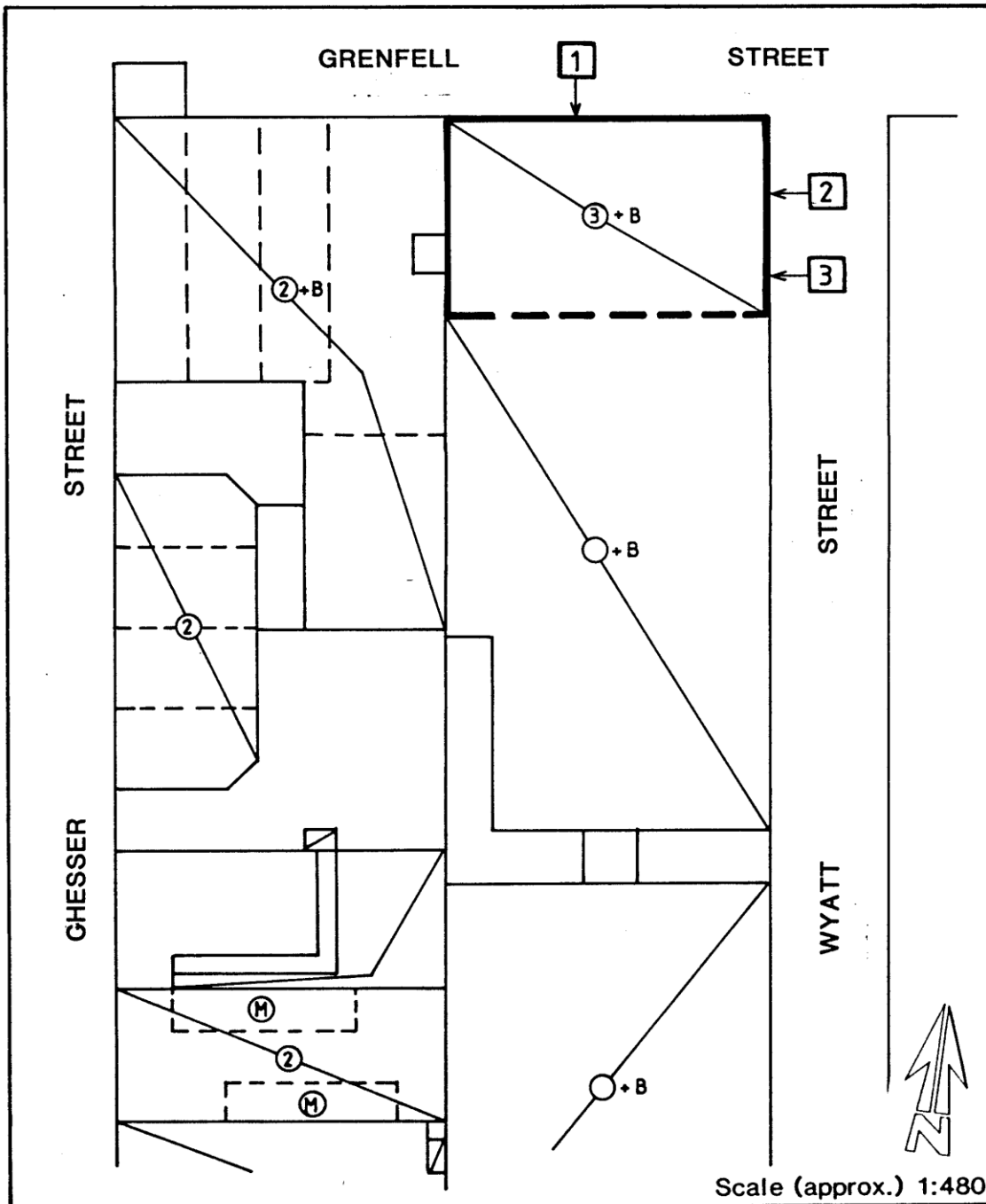


CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	Former MAIL EXCHANGE	Building No	7/0602-1
Address	101-107 Grenfell Street; 1-25 Wyatt Street	CT	2148/153*



Scale (approx.) 1:480

Image scanned - not to stated scale.

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		CT 2148/153 *

NOTES:

1. Brick facade with rock faced sandstone plinth and some sandstone detailing.
2. Brick (English bond).
3. Curtilage to one bay depth.

* (Conservation site comprises that part of the above CT to a depth of half Town Acre 146 from the Grenfell Street alignment.)