

## **HALL AND OFFICE - FMR SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS CHURCH**

116 Grote Street

The buildings on this site were constructed in 1914 as the church and offices of the Seventh Day Adventists Conference, following the demolition of the previous buildings on the site in March 1914. The building was acquired by the Liquor Trades Union in 1928.

The Seventh Day Adventist movement was established in the 1840s in America. It sprung from the Adventist movement, those who believed the coming of Christ was imminent. In 1844, one group began to observe the Seventh day as the Sabbath. The name, the Seventh Day Adventists was not adopted until 1861. The group is staunchly Protestant, believing that the Scriptures provide the rule of faith and practice. They still believe the coming of Christ is imminent. The religion practices baptism by total immersion and its members refrain from alcohol or tobacco, and some abstain from tea, coffee and meat.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church established a congregation in Adelaide in 1886 following the arrival in the colony of John Corliss, an American evangelist and his assistant, William Hamilton. Corliss was an ordained pastor in the Church. He had been an administrator in the Church in America, and came to Australia as a missionary. He preached his first sermon in Adelaide in September in 1886 in a building on Norwood Parade. By the end of the year, the church had 33 members, most of whom were women. It was many years before Adelaide had the services of an ordained pastor, but periodic visits by pastors from Melbourne helped to swell the Church's numbers. The Seventh Day Adventists often preached from tents in the nineteenth century, and rented various buildings in the City, North Adelaide and in Parkside and Norwood as the numbers of members continued to grow. By 1899, the Church had 190 members and it continued to grow, albeit slowly for the next 10 years.

In October 1912, the congregation voted to interview an agent in relation to a parcel of land in Grote Street. However it was not until November 1913 that they acquired the land and commenced plans for building. The designer of the building is not clear. Apparently, the congregation employed an architect to design a single storeyed building, but in the end, the two storeyed building was constructed with a rear single storeyed hall attached and the architect was dismissed. The contractor for the building was Henry Mann. The first service in the church was held on 21 November 1914. Although the building was frequently used, problems were experienced in relation with its size and financial drain it had placed on the church. By 1919 it was decided that the building should be sold, but it was not until 1928 that a buyer was found. The Liquor Trades Union bought the building for £3600.

In 1928, the hall was purchased by the Liquor Trades Union, and is significant as a site associated with the union movement. The Union, established in 1890, held its first meeting in the hall on 26 September 1928. It was first mentioned in the minutes for the United Trades and Labor Council (UTLC) on 24 October 1890 when the "brewery employees of Adelaide had decided to form a Union". Rowe maintains that throughout the history of the Union, it has accepted the role of conciliation and arbitration, obtaining for its members the best

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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possible wages and working conditions in an atmosphere of industrial harmony. It has also stood steadfastly loyal to the Labour Party since its affiliation to the UTLC.

The Union made early gains for its members. One such achievement was in February 1891, when the Lion Brewing and Malting Company Limited agreed to “fall in with the eight hours system after 2 March 1891.” Unfortunately, as a result of the depression in the 1890s, the Union, along with many others, were unable to pay subscriptions and were struck off the list of affiliates of the United Trades and Labor Council. Attempts were made by the UTLC to resuscitate the Union, but it was not until February 1907 that its activities recommenced. By 1909, shop stewards were appointed to 11 breweries and wineries and the Union needed to employ a full time organiser for its administration. By December 1911, 76 members belonged to the Union. By 1919 that number had grown to about 1000.

The building is an unusual and eclectic incorporation of elements from Gothic Revival architecture and devices which give the building a Moorish feeling. The building consists of a two storey office block facing Grote Street linked to a large, single storey, brick hall at the rear of office section. The building is butted up against the surrounding buildings. The hall can be entered from either Grote Street, through the offices, or from Andrew Street at the rear.

The Grote Street facade is two storey and constructed or painted, load-bearing brickwork. Its facade features a substantial plinth and a central doorway over which is a pointed arch. The arch is defined by a raised label moulding. Two double hung windows are symmetrically placed about the doorway with pointed arched heads, label moulds and leadlight panels. A brick string course divides the ground and first floor. Three pointed arched windows with label mouldings punctuate the first floor. An unusual feature of the building is four rendered octagonal pilasters that commence at the midpoint of the ground floor facade wall. The pilasters continue ending as four small projects atop the parapet of the building. Within the parapet of the building are the words in relief, ‘South Australian Federated Liquor and Allied Trades Employees South Australian Headquarters’. The parapet disguises the roof over the two storey section. The rear hall has a hipped roof with a small ventilator gable.

The building is unusual for its period, i.e. 1914, a period when building in brick was the popular constructional medium. Most other examples of this architectural style are creative uses of Classically derived elements rather than Gothic. However the style is noted for its free and creative variations, i.e. consider the Adelaide Fruit and Produce Exchange, West’s Coffee Palace, the RAA building in Hindmarsh Square and Ruthven Mansions. The only features the buildings have in common is their use of red brick and render and their creative designs. This building is a Gothic derived example of Federation or Free Style Edwardian architecture in South Australia.

The former Seventh Day Adventist Church and hall is significant because of its scale and architectural style and siting on the pavement alignment. It is an important element in the streetscape. It complements and reinforces the dominant architectural character, i.e. Federation architecture, reinforces the other buildings constructed in this architectural style and makes a positive contribution to Grote Street.

Row, M. *A History of the Liquor Trades Union Commemorating its Centenary (1890-1990) in South Australia*, 1990, unpublished manuscript; South Australian Conference of Seventh Day Adventists, *Pioneers and Progress, Seventh Day Adventists in South Australia*, Adelaide

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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1986; *Encyclopaedia Americana*, Grolier Inc., USA, 1989, Vol. 24, p. 620; Cross, F.L. (ed), *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, Oxford University Press, England 1983, p. 1266.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **City of Adelaide Heritage Study**, October 1990, Volume One, part of a review of the City of Adelaide Plan 1986-1991. The photographs contained in this Information Sheet are a selection of those held by Heritage Services, in digital format.

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*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.*

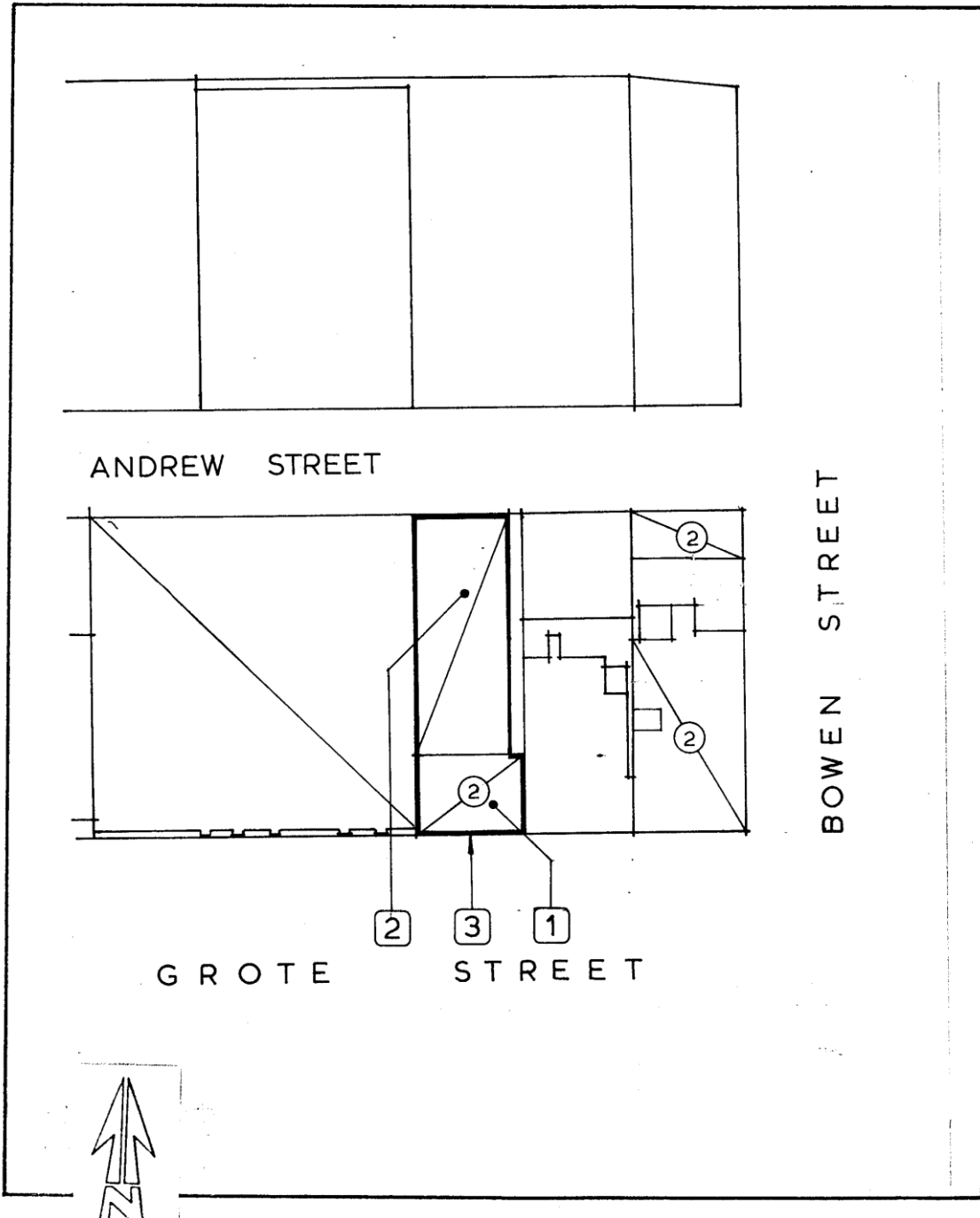


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	OFFICE AND HALL	Building No	10/0205
Address	116 GROTE STREET		CT 981/187



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