

FORMER TATTERSALLS CLUB

12-14 Grenfell Street

The history of this building is very much that of the South Australian Tattersalls Club (SATC), for which it was built. A horseshoe motif worked into the balustrading suggests the building's purpose. It was founded essentially as a betting and gaming club after the style of the London Tattersalls. The SATC has been closely identified with the South Australian racing industry. For a time it was a registered racing club, and for a long period the arbiter in betting



(CD Ref 1828/5)

disputes. The history and vicissitudes of the SATC closely reflect those of the South Australian racing industry in general.

When the Duke of Edinburgh visited Adelaide in 1867 it is said he wanted to meet the sporting men over a glass of wine at the Tattersalls Club. Although there were Tattersalls clubs in Sydney, Adelaide did not have such a club. The Duke held his meeting at the Globe Hotel in Rundle Street and it was twelve years before the idea of a club in Adelaide took form.

In 1879, E.M. Bagot, C.J. Coales, J. Richardson and W.K. Simms MP met at the Globe Hotel to create a club as a centre:

. . . where the earliest sporting news may be obtained; where Racing, Hunting and Coursing men can meet in comfort and privacy; as a court of Arbitration to take cognisance of Turf frauds and prompt action in their suppression and for the settlement of disputes.

In its formative years Tattersalls was virtually a betting shop, gaming house and gambling den and the committee and members were inveterate gamblers. In the 1880s, after restrictive betting legislation was introduced, interest in racing declined, as did membership of the club, forcing it to close in 1887. Eighteen months later when a Totalizator Bill was passed in parliament, a new South Australian Tattersalls Club was formed in October 1888. The club met in Grenfell Chambers in Grenfell Street and later bought the premises, building clubrooms there in 1917. Later an adjoining building was bought and the eastern section was constructed in 1928. The architects were Garlick and Jackman. When Tattersalls purchased the land for the eastern section they paid £900 per foot which the *Builder* noted was 'easily a record in Grenfell Street', the total price being £27 000.

In the mid-1920s membership topped 1500 but the Depression years saw the membership decline dramatically. Membership numbers rose again after the Second World War but from this time onwards the costs of running the club forced it to reconsider the facilities and services it offered in order to survive. In the 1970s women members were admitted. In 1977 the building was sold with a lease-back arrangement in order to curtail continuing losses.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide



(CD Ref 3974/59)



(CD Ref 3974/58)

This heavily detailed building is unusual for its obvious duality as a result of two stage construction, the western part in 1916-17 and the eastern half in 1927-28. The integrity of the building is high. The 1928 extensions simply complemented the original building with identical bulk and detailing. The interior retains original spaces and details. The building is important for the vigorously proportioned and modulated facade and for the inclusion of a central light well which illuminates a central stained-glass lantern over the club dining-room.



(CD Ref 3971/84)

Heritage of the City of Adelaide



(CD Ref 3974/57)

Tattersalls Club building is a major streetscape element. With the New Zealand Bank building and the Executor Trustee building to the east, it forms part of a significant group.

ACA, BSO plan files, 1916, 1927; *Digest of Proceedings*, 7 October 1916, 30 May 1927; *Advertiser*, 25 December 1917; *Builder*, 19 August 1925; Cox, A.B., *History of S.A. Tattersalls Club*, 1980; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 108).

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	TATTERSALL'S OFFICE BUILDING	Building No 3/2020
Address	12-14 Grenfell Street	CT 4162/502

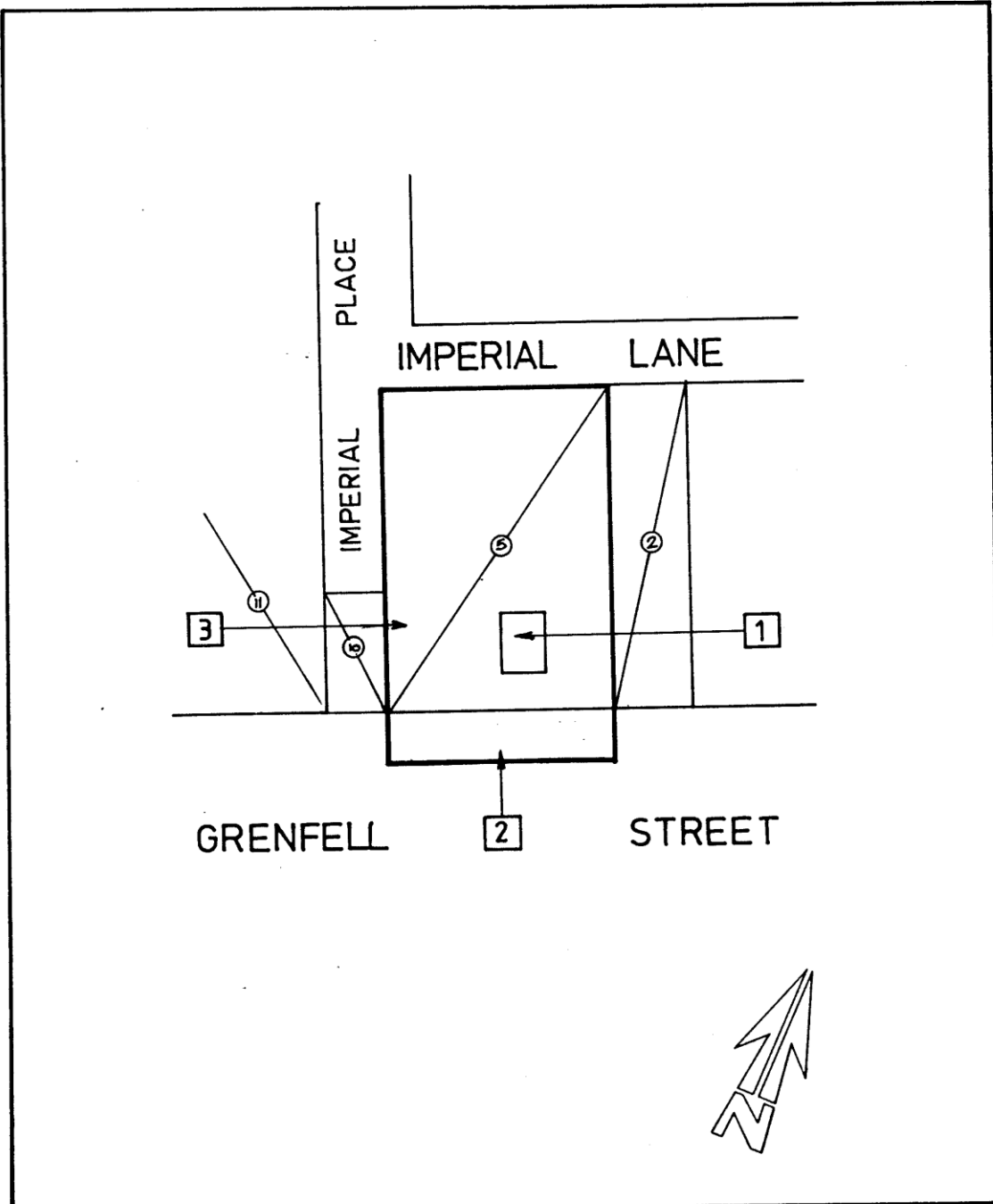


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NOTES:

1. Light-court and club below.
2. Balcony/verandah.
3. Former billiard room in West Wing.