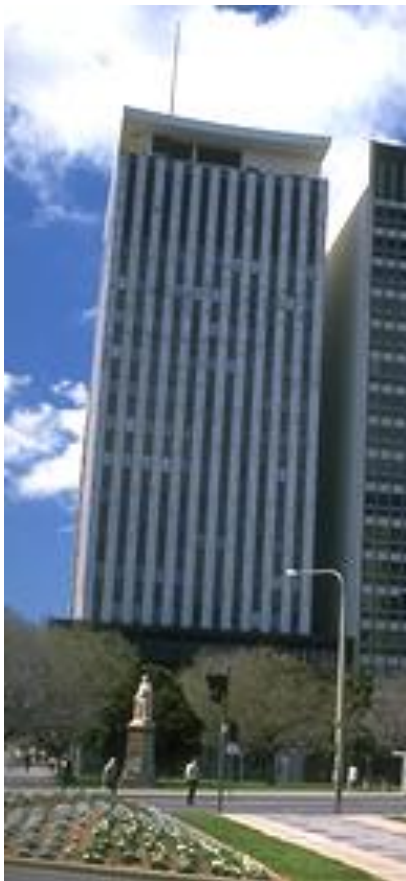


RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA

182 Victoria Square

The site for the construction of the Reserve Bank, on the corner of Flinders Street and Victoria Square was purchased by the Reserve Bank from the South Australian Government in 1959. Planning for the building commenced early in 1960 and the demolition of the premises previously on the site began in 1962. Construction of the new building started in October 1963.

The Reserve Bank was established in 1911 as the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and reconstituted under the Reserve Bank Act of 1959. Adelaide is one of its ten branches with the head office being located in Sydney. It acts as a banker, and is concerned with bank credit, foreign exchange and note issue.



(CD Ref 3964/10)

The Reserve Bank building is constructed from largely Australian materials including Western Australian granite used to face the spandrel panels. The white and grey marble used for the majority of the exterior cladding of the building comes from New South Wales. One striking feature of the design is the inward curving walls to the east and west facades that rise to an equivalent height of 17 storeys. Another noticeable feature of the building is the anodised aluminium solar screen used to protect the north, east and west faces of the mezzanine and first floor.

Australian timber is used internally for wall and column linings and furniture and Australian wool for internal fabric surfaces. The counters of the banking chamber are faced with South Australian granite. Vaults in the basement of the building serve as the central distribution point for notes and coin in South Australia.

The Commonwealth Department of Works was responsible for the design. A panel of architects came together to design this building with representatives from the head office of the Commonwealth Department of Works with advice provided by bank staff, a representative of the Department's Bank and Special Projects Section and Professor R.A. Jensen of the University of Adelaide was a design consultant. The main contractor was Dillingham Construction Pty Ltd.

The design and construction of the building used many new technological devices, such as the radiographic and ultrasonic testing of the welded steel that forms the frame of the building, the extensive use of anodised aluminium throughout the building, and all mechanical plant in the building being controlled from a central panel that indicates the running condition of the plant throughout the building. There was extensive fire protection and as one would expect in such

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

a building, particular attention was paid to the security of the vaults. The building featured a number of closed circuit television cameras and sensing equipment to detect drilling noise or the heat from cutting equipment. It was noted that the master control system used for the passenger lifts was the first of its kind in South Australia, a system that registered calls from every floor and allocated the lifts in a pre-determined pattern to give the speediest service. The lift incorporated transistorised touch button controls and an infra-red eye, to replace the previously used mechanical safety devices.

Evidently the bank itself was pleased with the finished building. On completion of the building, an article in *Building and Architecture* from 1966 stated that,

The Reserve Bank has expressed pleasure at standards of the design of the building and the construction achieved. The building was conceived as a prestige structure in keeping with its client's operations, and a very high standard of architectural finish and engineering services has been maintained throughout.

The Reserve Bank building is of exceptional merit in terms of its design and consequently its appearance. The building is well articulated, divided into three sections; a base emphasised by the surrounding solar screen, a shaft faced with light coloured marble covering slender columns that rise the height of the building and a capital, consisting of a white sculptured cap that seems to float above the roof of the building. The building is also significant as it is constructed of high quality and expensive materials. The bank clearly expresses its origins, as a Federal building with an important function designed to be placed in a prominent place in a capital City square. The architectural origins of the design in this case, lie with the Europeans, notably Le Corbusier (particularly in relation to the solar screen). The inward curving walls of the structure to the eastern and western elevation exemplify the careful design and fine quality of the building. The Reserve Bank belongs to a class of structures that began to dominate Australian architecture in the 1960s which demonstrate full confidence and conviction, reflecting the mood of post War Australia. There are few buildings in Adelaide of this design and constructional quality, which so adequately represent the optimistic mood of Australia.

The building contributes to a notable physical environment. It is located in the major City square of Adelaide, complemented by a number of Adelaide's most prestigious buildings from both centuries. Many of those buildings forming the perimeter of the Square, are associated with Government functions and the Reserve Bank contributes to and reinforces the civic character of the Square.

Building and Architecture, vol. 5, number 3, May 1966; The Reserve Bank of Australia, in-house pamphlet, c. 1965, pp. 1-5; The Reserve Bank, opening day pamphlet, 1965.

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.

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.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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	RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA	Building NO
Address	182 VICTORIA SQUARE	11/0101 CT3600/77

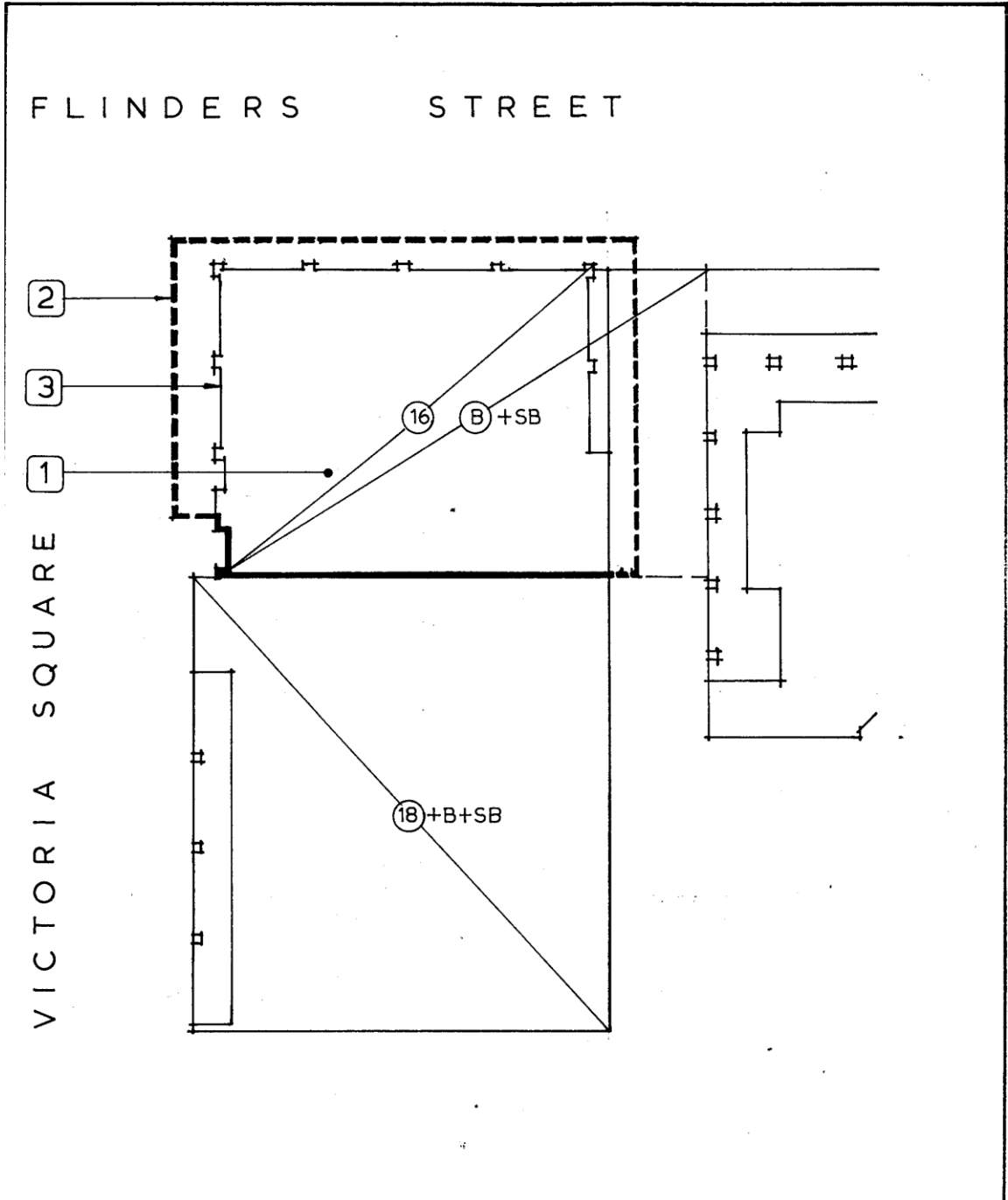


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CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

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Item	RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA	Building No
Address	182 VICTORIA SQUARE	11/0101 CT3600/77

1. Main body of building
2. Brisse-Soleil
3. Inwardly curving western elevation