

Fmr Factory

25 Eliza Street

This three storeyed building has housed many activities since its construction in 1884. It has been used as a laundry, a wickerwork factory, a lime factory, a newspaper printing premises and in recent times, a workshop. The building is significant in illustrating several themes in South Australian history including the working conditions of South Australians. It is also associated with a notable South Australian Labor politician.

The pastoralist, John Rounsevell bought this parcel of vacant land in 1883 and building plans for these premises were approved by Council on 10 December 1883. Immediately after construction the factory was leased to Dane and Meyers who used the building as the Standard Steam Laundry between the years of 1884 to 1900.

In 1894 severe grievances relating to the working conditions and payment of several women employees were brought before the United Trades and Labor Council by Mrs Zadow, the president of the Working Women's Trade Union. The case reached the newspapers and brought a letter of protest from the laundry's manager, Frank Dane.

Incidents such as this were not uncommon at this time. However it was 1904 before a parliamentary enquiry was established to investigate the practice of "sweating". By this time the Standard Steam Laundry had closed. Probably due to the severity of the economic depression in Australia.

From 1900 to C 1905 the building was used by the Gawler Lime Company. The wickerworkers, Wiese and Varco then leased the premises for eleven years.

The property was purchased in 1937 by the Labor politician Douglas Henry Bardolph, his wife and brother for use as a printing works. The *South Australian Worker* was printed on the premises from 1937 to 1953.

The brothers Douglas (1893-1951) and Kenneth Bardolph moved to Adelaide at the end of the First World War and became involved in politics and newspaper publishing. They published the *South Australian Worker*, a paper that had the official endorsement of the United Trades and Labor Council and the ALP, from 1924 until 1956 from these premises. The paper was published during some traumatic times in the ALP caused as a result of the Depression. The incident is famous in Australian political history and this building played an important role. The ALP with Scullin as its leader had won a landslide victory in the 1929 general election. The government however had difficulties in proposing solutions for the failing economy as a result of the Depression and not everybody agreed with the Prime Minister's proposal. The Premier of NSW, J.T. Lang developed and promoted the Lang Plan in opposition to Scullin's Premier's Plan. In 1931, Lyons and several members of the ALP voted a motion of no confidence in Scullin and announced the formation of a new party, the United Labor Party. Kenneth Bardolph supported the breakaway Lang faction. The NSW branch was expelled from the ALP in 1931 and Lang embarked on a national tour to promote his party. Kenneth Bardolph was involved in the factions and divisions that occurred during that time. However

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he had previously been expelled from the ALP in 1930. According to Moss in the *Sound of Trumpets*, “The *South Australian Worker* espoused the Lang cause and gave prominence to Roman Catholic politicians and had overtones of racism and anti-Semitism.” The paper apparently supported Lang and criticised Scullin. It comes as no surprise that in 1931 ALP support was withdrawn from this paper. The brothers also published from these premises, *The Labor Worker*, the official organ of the NSW Labor Council. Eventually, Lang combined with the Opposition to prompt a general election. The ALP was decimated in this election and was not to regain power for many years.

Douglas Bardolf was an Adelaide City Councillor from the years 1927 to 1929, State President of the Clerk’s Union and a parliamentarian from 1933 to 1944, and again in 1944, 1947 and 1950. He was expelled from the Australian Labor Party on two occasions, in 1930 and 1935. Despite this, he worked tirelessly ‘to clean up the dirty stable of the ALP’ and had an enviable reputation as an eloquent and hard-working parliamentarian.

His younger brother Kenneth, was the President of the United Trades and Labor Council of South Australia in 1929-30, a member of the interstate executive of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and vice-president of the South Australian Lang Labor Party in 1932-33. From 1941 until 1964 he was member of the Legislative Council and became the deputy leader of his party.

The workshop in Eliza Place is a narrow three storeyed building with a rendered principal elevation. On the ground floor, a double doorway is placed centrally with an arched headed fan light above the doorway and two arched headed windows on either side. A pair of large arched headed windows exist on the first and second floors of the facade of the building. The building has a small parapet with a pronounced cornice and a barrel vaulted, CGI clad roof. The building appears to have a cellar or basement level.

The building is significant architecturally as the City has few surviving industrial complexes of the late 1880s. Its stark facade and placement of doorways and windows clearly differentiate this building from others and reveal its history of industrial uses. The form of the building is unusual in that it is roofed by a seemingly self supporting barrel vaulted roof.

General Registry Office, Application Number 24323; Rate Assessment Books for the period 1882 to 1939; SA Directories; *Aldine History of SA*, biography of J. Rounsevell; Statton, J. *Biographical Index of South Australians*, entry for J. Rounsevell, vol. 3, p. 1392; *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, biography of Douglas and Kenneth Bardolf, vol. 7, pp. 171-2; Moss, J. *Sounds of Trumpets*, 1986, p. 313; *Advertiser*, obituary of K.E.J. Bardolf, 10 November 1964, p. 3; *Digest of Proceedings*, 10 December 1883; Hancock, J. “Working in Adelaide’s Standard Steam Laundry, 1893, in *Election 1893-1983, Come Out Historical Essays*, Constitutional Museum, 1983; *South Australian Register*, 6 and 8-9 January 1894.

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 a place of Local Heritage (City Significance). A heritage listing does not mean or imply right of access by the public to such properties.

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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	WORKSHOP	Building No	6/2209
Address	25 ELIZA STREET		CT3658/66

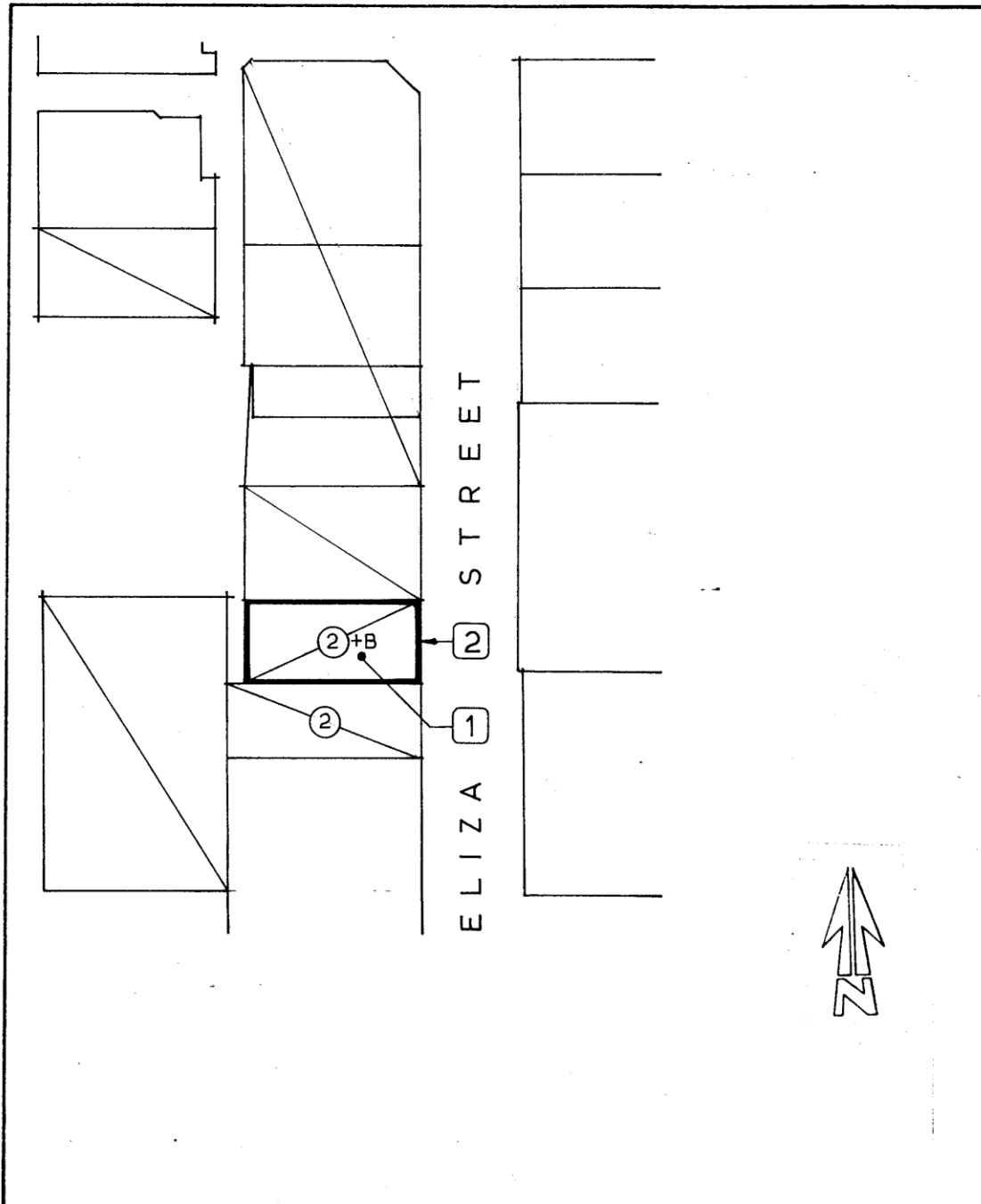


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