

SHOPS

Address: 53-55 O'Connell Street
Certificate of Title: 5441/202

Use: Commercial
Mainstreet (O'Connell)
Zone: MS1

Heritage Status: LHP
Other Assessments: LHP(T)
Conservation Reports: Nil



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

This pair of two storey shops was built in 1906, and replaced earlier shops on the site. The design for the shops was by architects Davies & Rutt, for owners GWC Rothe and W Stewart. The first tenant was William Compton Davies, a draper. This pair was built alongside five 1899 two storey shops between 45 and 51 O'Connell Street which were also built for Rothe and Stewart. Shortly after Davies bought the shops from Rothe in 1907, he had balconies installed by builder CH Martin. The balconies have been removed but the building retains its characteristic arch headed windows to the first floor and balustraded parapet.

The shops have been used for a variety of outlets such as Miss J Goldsmith's costume shop, Mrs Mary Fawcett's whitework manufacturer, LJ Mack grocers, the Adelaide Towel & Coat Supplies, the School of Kodokan judo instructors, Griffs (SA) Ltd furniture and the Academy of Ballroom Dancing.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE:

This shop building was designed by architects Davies & Rutt and built in 1906. It is representative of the development of commercial facilities and services during the Edwardian period in North Adelaide. It contributes to the historic streetscape of O'Connell Street / Melbourne Street and reflects the continued development of a local 'High Street' for this section of North Adelaide.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (under Section 23(4) of the *Development Act, 1993*):

- (a) This shop building displays historical and social themes that are of importance to North Adelaide as it reflects the development of a local North Adelaide economy.
- (c) This shop building has played an important part in the lives of local residents in the provision of goods and services to residents of the immediate area and the wider local community.
- (d) This shop building displays aesthetic merit and design characteristics of significance to North Adelaide as it is an excellent example of a two storey commercial building of the Edwardian period, designed by architects Davies and Rutt.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The external form, materials and details of this 1906 two storey shop, including walls, parapets and roof form associated with building style.

NOTE: The 'Description of Place and Elements of Heritage Value' listed in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan for this property is as follows:

[Shops](#)
[Frontage and side wall returns visible from the street](#)

[This is the legally recognised listing and should be used for the purposes of development application assessment](#)

REFERENCES

- ACC Building Surveyors Plan Books 31/8/1906, 24/9/1908.
- ACC Rate Assessments 1890-1908
- Smith Survey 1880
- LTO CTs 757/144, 3132/109, 5441/202
- GRO RPA Application by John Acraman, November 1906.
- *SA Directories* 1873-1970
- State Library of South Australia early photograph B 38113



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