

## STATE BANK (Former Savings Bank of South Australia)

97-105 King William Street

Until recently, this building was the head office of the Savings Bank of South Australia, one of the state's major financial institutions. It was one of the few major buildings constructed during the Second World War. Its history of construction was a classic example of the problems caused by wartime shortages in manpower and materials.

The bank's old headquarters at 23 Currie Street became inadequate and in the 1930s property was bought in King William Street as the site for a new head office building ' . . . more in keeping with the needs and status of the Bank as South Australia's largest financial institution'. Waymouth Lane which bisected the site was closed and a new lane, Savings Bank Place, was created. The architects McMichael and Harris drew up plans for the new structure. To ensure that the latest improvements would be incorporated in the proposed building an official party of trustees, executive officers and E.H. McMichael visited Melbourne and Sydney to inspect their most modern buildings. Fricker Bros. were the successful tenderers for the building contract. Work began in May 1939.

With the outbreak of war four months later, delivery of heavy steel sections designed for the basement was delayed owing to national defence requirements. Other delays soon followed. Labour shortages also delayed progress at several vital stages and the premises were completed much later than had been originally estimated. The Governor Sir Malcolm Barclay-Harvey declared the building open in February 1943.

Situated in a prominent position in the heart of the city, the building has a frontage of 105 feet to King William Street on the east and faces the entire length of Savings Bank Place.



(CD Ref 3964/65)

The building, with its basement and nine floors, rose to the maximum height then allowed by the building regulations. The ground floor frontage to King William Street is finished in Murray Bridge granite. Above this the building is faced with stone from Waikerie on the River Murray, and is mainly of plain surfaces with a series of carved panels between the windows. Steel frame construction was used with reinforced concrete floors and brick infilling walls.

The banking hall has an area of 18 250 square feet. Its lofty ceiling is supported by twelve detached marble columns and sixteen pilasters.

The walls are finished in polished Bathurst marble, above which they are treated with polished scagliola to the level of the plaster cornice.

The 'Radio Cabinet', as it was affectionately known, is a major building in Adelaide and reflects changes in architectural style. It is a precursor to post-war high-rise buildings while exemplifying the abstraction of details from classical sources and using them creatively in the upper facade of the building. The structure's streamlined appearance and modulated elevations are of note.

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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Savings Bank of South Australia, *Our century*, 1948, pp. 54-60.

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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.*

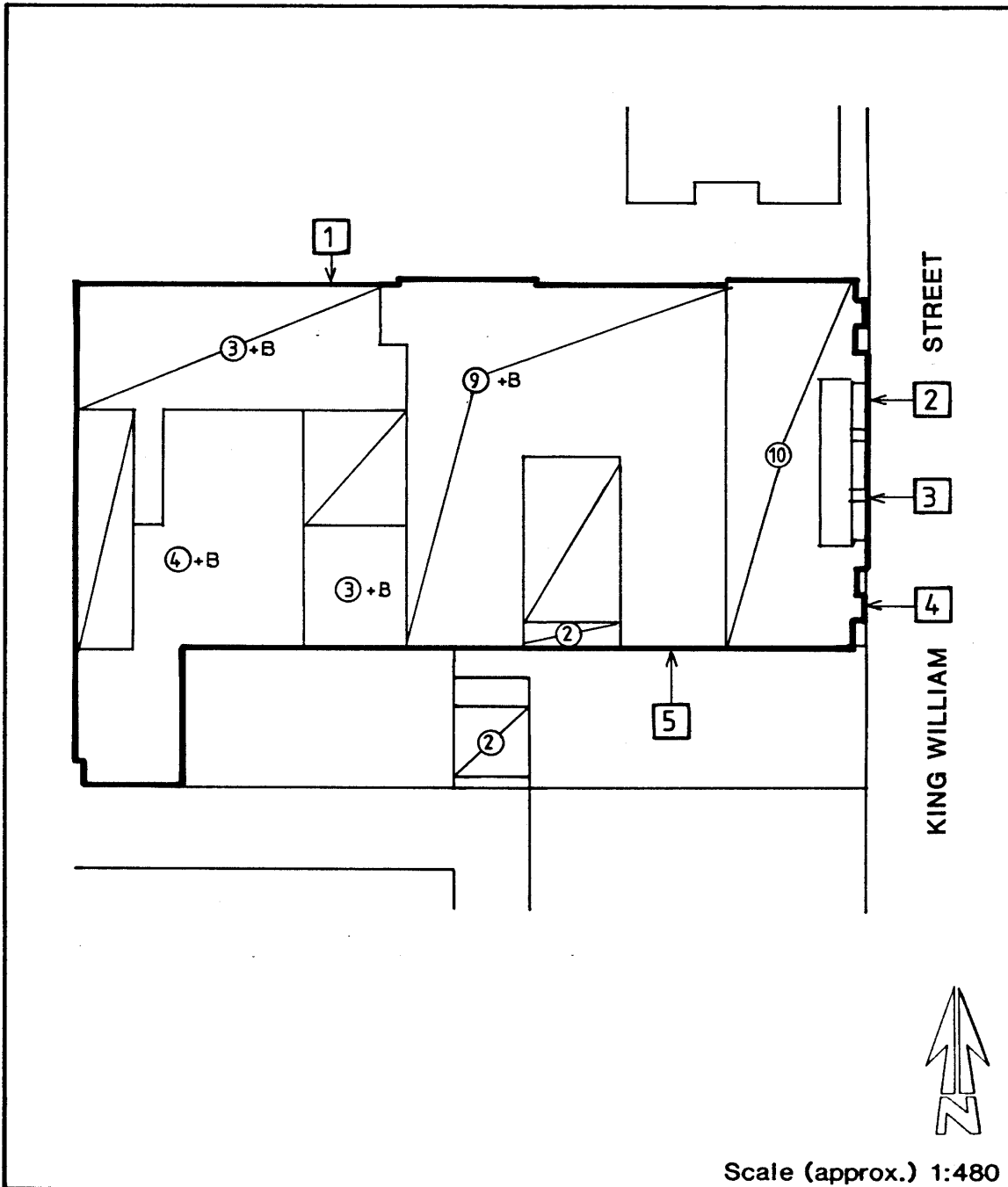


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register - Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	STATE BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Building N <sup>o</sup>	6/0408
Address	97-105 King William Street	CT	1950/184



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		CT 1950/184

### NOTES:

1. Austere finish.
2. Ashlar jointed limestone facing with horizontal rustication and polished granite facing at ground floor level.
3. Note Granite faced columns.
4. Note Art deco detailing.
5. Rendered masonry construction.