

MEMORIAL TO G.F. AND J.H. ANGAS

Angas Garden, King William Road

The memorial to the two members of the Angas family was originally located on North Terrace. The Angas Memorial is now located beside the Angas Gardens in King William Road. The statue was executed by the sculptor, William R. Colton, ARA, in England. It was presented by Mrs L.G. Angas, in memory of the family's father and grandfather and completed in 1915.



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The movement to erect a memorial to G.F. and J.H. Angas was initiated by the Angas family in 1909. Initially, it was proposed that the memorial be placed in the north western corner of Victoria Square. Council granted the request but then discovered that the site had two years previously been granted to the Captain Sturt Statue Fund, who intended to place a statue of Sturt on that spot. After some protests from members of the Sturt fund, Council asked the Angas family to relinquish the site. The family agreed. A site on North Terrace, in the Prince Henry Gardens, in front of Government House grounds was selected and prepared in January 1914 and in 1915 the statue was placed there.

The inspiration for the design of the memorial is said to be Italian and the memorial is in fact a fine example of Classical architectural components. The memorial is covered by a marble canopy supported on marble Ionic columns. The canopy and column structure is located on several steps of white marble. In the centre of the canopy is a column of green Italian marble on the summit of which is an Elizabethan ship of gilt. The four sides of the central column are occupied by bas-reliefs of the portraits of the two South Australian settlers. One face of the column depicts German immigrants departing from the homeland. On the steps at the base stands a draped and winged figure representing Fame, bearing a palm branch and pointing to the bas-relief of G.F. Angas.

The memorial commemorates the contribution made by G.F. Angas to the foundation and settlement of the State and to the foundations of the pastoral industry in South Australia, laid by J.F. Angas.

The statue was executed in London and the canopy made in Italy. In 1912 a plaster cast of the memorial was sent from England by the sculptor to the family for approval. The design of the memorial is said to be taken from "one of Rodin's masterpieces in the Tuileries Gardens in

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Paris.” The memorial was described as “a wonderful piece of artistic handicraft that was a quite new design for Australia but not uncommon in Europe.”

The sculptor for the work, William Robert Colton was born in Paris in 1867 and died in England in 1921. He studied at the English Lambeth School of Art, the Royal College of Art and the Royal Academy Schools. He exhibited in Paris and won a silver medal for his work at the Exposition Universelle in 1900. Colton taught sculpture at the Royal Academy schools and at the Royal College of Art. His traditional neo-classical work was evidently very fashionable at the turn of the century and ranged from public monuments to portrait busts and statuettes. He exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy and was the President of the Royal Society of British Sculptors at the time of his death. His most well known works include the Wavelet and the Springtide of Life.

In 1929, along with many statues on North Terrace the Angas Memorial was moved to a new location. Its new location was to be the Angas Gardens. However, when the foundation for the statue had been prepared the Council changed its mind and selected a new site.

City of Adelaide, *City of Adelaide Reference Book*, Corporation of the City of Adelaide, Adelaide, 1983, p 118; Weston, K.H. *The Statuary of Adelaide, 1920-1*, Held in the MLSA; Mackay, James *The Dictionary of Western Sculptors in Bronze*, Antique Collectors' Club, England, 1977, p 76; ACC Annual Report, 1909, p 58; ACC Annual Report, 1929, p 10; Town Clerk's Docket 108/1921 available from Adelaide City Council Archives; *The Register*, 7 April 1915; *The Advertiser*, 30 January 1914.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **City of Adelaide Heritage Study**, October 1990, Volume Two, 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.

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.