

ADELAIDE ARCADE AND GAYS ARCADE

112-120 Grenfell Street,
111-117 Rundle Mall,
15-23 Twin Street

Adelaide and Gays arcades are fine late examples of the 1880s boom period. They are a testimony to the period during which Rundle Street was transformed into a retail area of great renown. Other significant nineteenth century shopping establishments have been lost or altered: John Martins (rebuilt), Charles Birks (replaced by David Jones) and Myers (much altered over time and recently demolished for redevelopment). The arcades rank with the Strand Arcade in Sydney and the Block Arcade in Melbourne as examples of the most urbane approach to retailing devised up to their time.

The foundation stone of Adelaide Arcade was laid on 6 May 1885 by the mayor (W. Bunday) who stated that it ' . . . afforded him very much pleasure to lay the stone of the first Arcade erected in Adelaide'. The design by Withall and Wells is the most important of their work to have survived. Their schemes which included Charles Birks, the Jubilee Exhibition Building and the Adelaide Racing Club Grandstand show the use being made of cast-iron for both structural and decorative reasons. The extensive use made of cast-iron, plate glass and electric light suggests that the architectural firm was extremely progressive and able to respond to design requirements with new construction materials and techniques.



(CD Ref 3974/19)

Adelaide Arcade was opened on 12 December 1885 by the governor. The *Observer* reported the proceedings and included a full description of the building. Shareholders of the Adelaide Arcade Co. Ltd. were Saul Solomon, J.M. and H.C.K. Wendt, P. Gay, Berens, Castle and Cohen.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

The site was 2 acres deep, extending from Rundle Street to Grenfell Street. The main promenade in the arcade between the shops was 24 feet wide with a floor composed of Carrara marble and black and white encaustic tiles formed in elegant designs. The elevations to both Rundle and Grenfell streets were carried out 'in the Italian style of architecture'. On the first floor the 'Corinthian order' was adopted. 'An octagonal tower and dome, with the Australian Coat of



(CD Ref 3971/64)

Arms in front, form a very appropriate and imposing feature in each elevation'. There were fifty shops. 'The quantity of glass in the place is enormous; the superficial area covered is certainly larger than that covered by the glass required for the whole of Rundle Street'. Much of this was polished plate glass, specially made in London because of the 'extraordinary' size of the plates. Elsewhere, colonial materials were used as far as possible.

The walls were constructed of the Metropolitan Company's bricks, with Portland cement dressings. The slabs at the entrances were of Kapunda marble, the largest size that the company could supply. 'The rapidity with which the building has been erected eclipses anything previously heard of in Adelaide . . . The illuminating power throughout is provided by electricity'. In the arcade there were three fountains and a chamber underground fitted for a tea-room. 'The new Arcade is undoubtedly a handsome structure'.

Due to the depressed state of the economy by late 1885 it is perhaps not surprising that people were somewhat reluctant to lease shops, and an inducement of one year's lease rent free was offered to attract tenants.

However, the depression did not stop Patrick Gay from erecting Gays Arcade on the site of his burnt-out furniture showroom. On 14 August 1885 the *South Australian Register* reported that construction was about to begin. The completion of this building brought the arcade complex to its present basic form. Gays Arcade has frontage to Twin Street, joining Adelaide Arcade at right angles. J. Cumming was the architect and N.W. Trudgen the contractor.



(CD Ref 3974/21)



(CD Ref 3974/23)

Both arcades have suffered from 'modernisation' of the interior ground floors in the 1950s and 1960s. The first floors remain largely original, however, and evoke something of the lost splendour of the buildings.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

ACA, *Digest of Proceedings*, 16 July 1900, 7 April 1913; MLSA, Historical photographs, (Gall collection); Morgan, E.J.R., & Gilbert, S.H., *Early Adelaide architecture*, 1969, p. 32; *Observer*, 9 May 1885, 19 December 1885; *South Australian Register*, 7 May 1885, 14 August 1885, 14 December 1885, 11 February 1886.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **Heritage of the City of Adelaide: An Illustrated Guide**, (1996). 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.



CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	ADELAIDE ARCADE GAY'S ARCADE	Building No 3/2301 & 3/2302 NUA 0084/1
Address	111-117 Rundle Mall; 114-120 Grenfell Street; 15-23 Twin Street	part CT 4026/604 part CT 4050/726 GM10 Book 541 CTs 4227/847-849

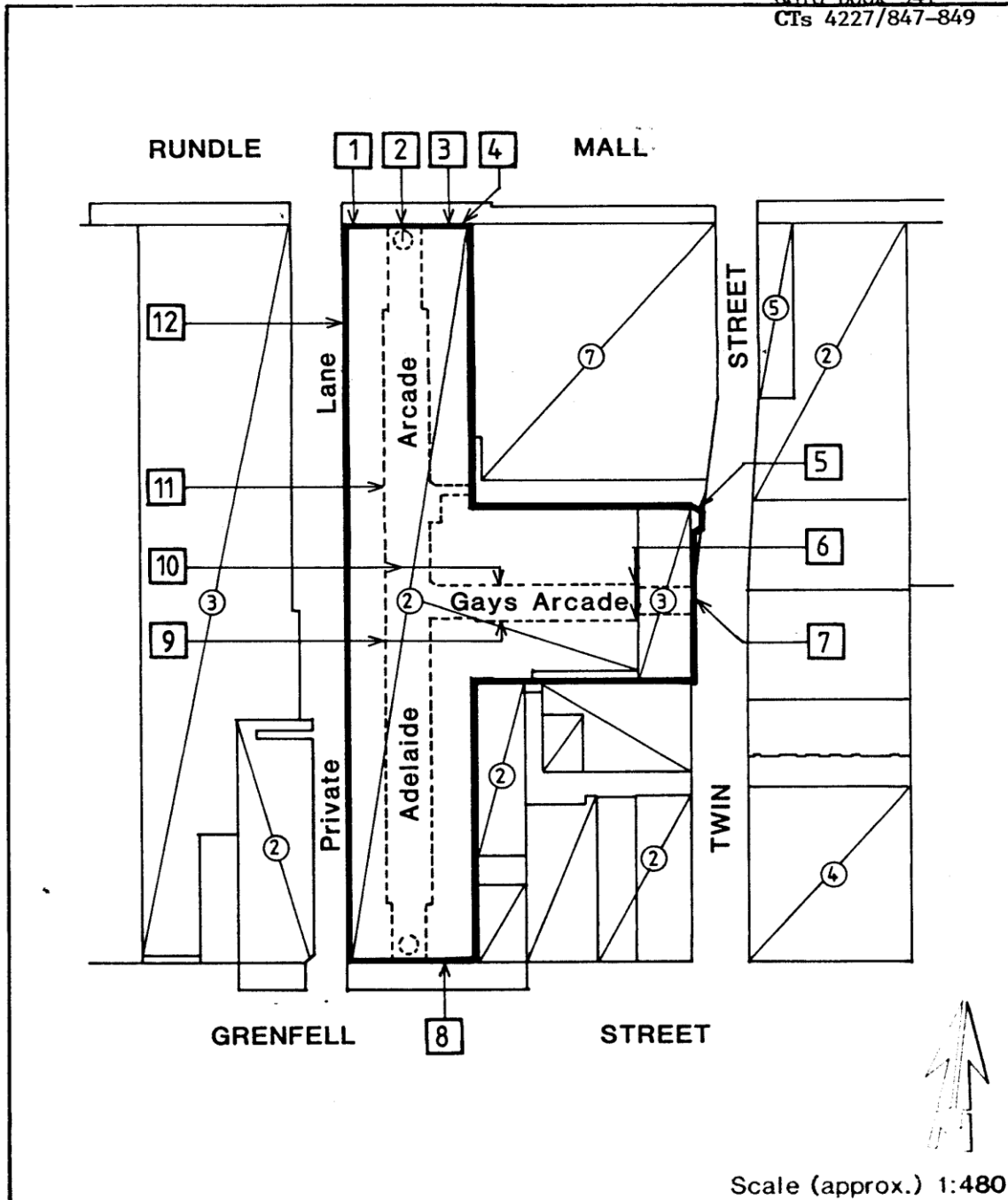


Image scanned - not to stated scale.

This Curtilage Map has been prepared as a guide only and no warranty or assurance is given about the accuracy of the content as it may contain obsolete information. The Corporation excludes all liability [including for negligence] in relation to your use of these documents.



CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	ADELAIDE ARCADE GAY'S ARCADE	Building No 3/2301 & 3/2302 NUA 0084/1
Address	111-117 Rundle Mall; 114-120 Grenfell Street; 15-23 Twin Street	part CT 4026/604 part CT 4050/726 GM10 Book 541 CTs 4227/847-849

NOTES:

1. Shop fronts altered at ground floor level.
2. Large dome with metal roofing.
3. Rendered facade with extensive stucco enrichment.
4. Note Corinthian pilasters, pediments balustraded parapet and Coat of Arms.
5. Bay window to original shop front.
6. Pilasters.
7. Brick construction (English bond) with stucco enrichment and rendered at ground floor level.
8. Similar to Rundle Mall facade.
9. Note Original shop fronts at first floor level.
10. Note Skylights.
11. Line indicates shop fronts.
12. Brick.