



Film 1867 STATE BANK 126 ANKER STREET MOUNT BARKER 10016 18.11.93

**CRITERIA**Section 16, *Heritage Act 1993*

- (a) it demonstrates important aspects of the pattern of the history of South Australia.
- (g) it has a strong association with the work of an organisation of historical importance.



(formerly State Bank; formerly The Savings Bank of South Australia)  
12 Gawler Street (cnr Walker Street)  
Mount Barker 5251

Allotment 242 Portion of Section 4472  
Hundred of Macclesfield  
Certificate of Title Volume 5084 Folio 749

### **Background Information**

In 1912, the agencies for The Savings Bank of South Australia had to be removed from Post Offices when the savings bank department of the Commonwealth Bank was created. Although this was a substantial loss to the South Australian bank, it continued to rapidly expand its services and in the same year a branch was opened in Mount Barker, one of seventeen new branches in 1912.

The present building was constructed in 1940 on the site of the earlier bank. It was designed by Evans, Bruer & Hall in an austere classical (Inter-War Commercial Palazzo) style with clean, solid lines curving around its prominent corner location in the main street of the town.

Lionel Gregory Bruer and John Richard Schomburgk (Jack) Evans formed a partnership in 1933, which became Evans, Bruer & Hall when their draftsman James Hall was admitted as a partner. The firm was heavily involved in cinema projects around Adelaide, much of their work using Art Deco themes. Some design elements in the Mount Barker bank reflect this style.

The horizontal lines of the facade include the protruding cornice and heavy balustraded parapet, with courses of rusticated stone blocks giving a solidity to the base. Verticality is defined by narrow panels of stonework and tall, cement-rendered fluted pilasters with stylised capitals outlining the fenestrations. The original monumental entrance and window above were set in a chamfered corner between curved quarter columns. An automatic teller machine is now located in the doorway and access to the bank is through a more recent addition along Gawler Street. Other decorative elements include ornamental grills placed over windows and the name, 'The Savings Bank of S.A.', inset into the corner steps.

The local history collection of the Mount Barker Community Library provided a report on the opening of the new bank premises on Thursday 26 September 1940 by Mr A B Fry, Esquire, the Chairman of the District Council of Mount Barker, 'in the presence of Parliamentary representatives and Councillors for the district, an official Bank party and a large gathering of townspeople including the scholars of both Mount Barker schools'.



FILM 1867 STATE BANK  
12 GAWLER STREET MOUNT BARKER

10016  
18.11.93