

NAME: Semaphore Institute Building and Soldiers Memorial Hall

ADDRESS: Semaphore Road, Semaphore



CONSTRUCTION DATE: Institute: 1884; Soldiers Memorial Hall: 1919

ARCHITECT: Institute: Wright & Reade; Soldiers Memorial Hall: Chris A. Smith ?

BUILDER:

PRESENT OWNER: Port Adelaide Council

FIRST OWNER: Semaphore Institute
Returned Soldiers League

PRESENT USE/OCCUPIER:

Institute: unused
Soldiers Memorial Hall: RSL Club Rooms

FIRST USE/OCCUPIER: Institute
Memorial Hall

BUILDING MATERIALS: Rendered masonry for both buildings

TITLE LISTINGS:

SIGNIFICANCE: State

HERITAGE LISTINGS: Institute: State Heritage Register. Soldiers Memorial Hall: Nil

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

The two buildings are an integral part of the Semaphore Pier Historic Precinct. Recommendations for this precinct should be referred to earlier in this report. It is important for these buildings that a full conservation plan be undertaken to ensure that any future redevelopment respects the heritage character of this pair of buildings.

BUILDING HISTORY AND ANALYSIS:

The Semaphore Institute building was opened in 1884 then sold to the Semaphore Corporation to be used as a Town Hall. When the district of Semaphore was amalgamated with Port Adelaide Council in 1900 the former Institute building was used spasmodically for public entertainment such as live theatre, silent films and concerts, particularly those associated with the Semaphore beach carnivals.

1911 the newly founded Ozone Amusements Ltd. with the Director, Hugh Waterman, began screening films in the Semaphore Town Hall. In 1929 the Ozone Amusements Company agreed to spend up to £10,000 on converting the Town Hall to a cinema which they would rent from the Port Adelaide Council for 10 years. Christopher A. Smith was the Architect for the conversion and the new theatre seated about 1,100 people. The new theatre was opened on December 9th 1929. With the decline in popularity of suburban theatres the cinema closed in May 1960. The building is currently unused.

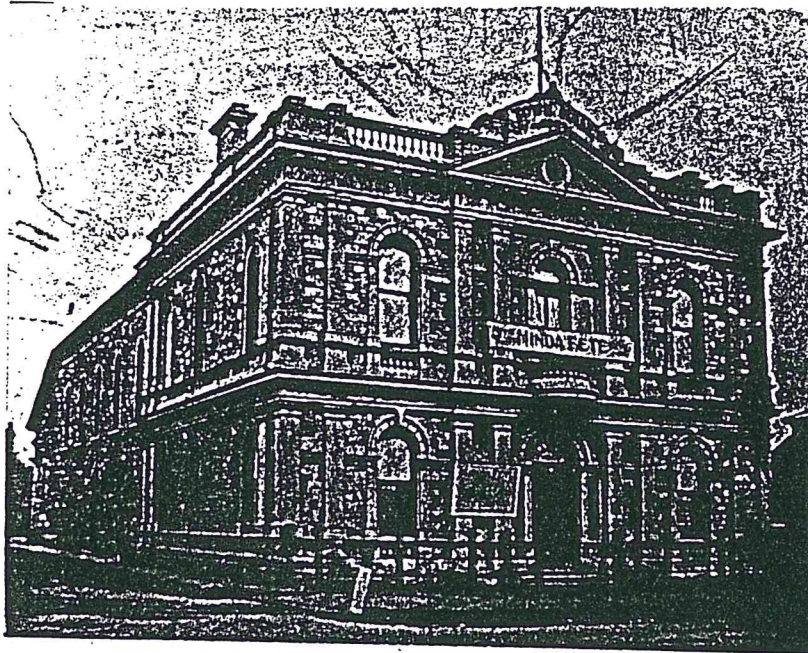
The Semaphore RSL Branch was formed in 1923 and the Soldiers Memorial Hall was opened in 1929, possibly also to the design of Christopher A. Smith. This building has been in continuous use as RSL Clubrooms since that date. Semaphore photos PH15, PH16, PH17, PH18 and PH93 show these buildings. The Back to Semaphore booklet of 1930 contains photos and sketches of the newly converted theatre and the RSL Memorial Hall which included the Semaphore Institute and Library.

SOURCES:

State Heritage Branch Register Assessment, 1983.

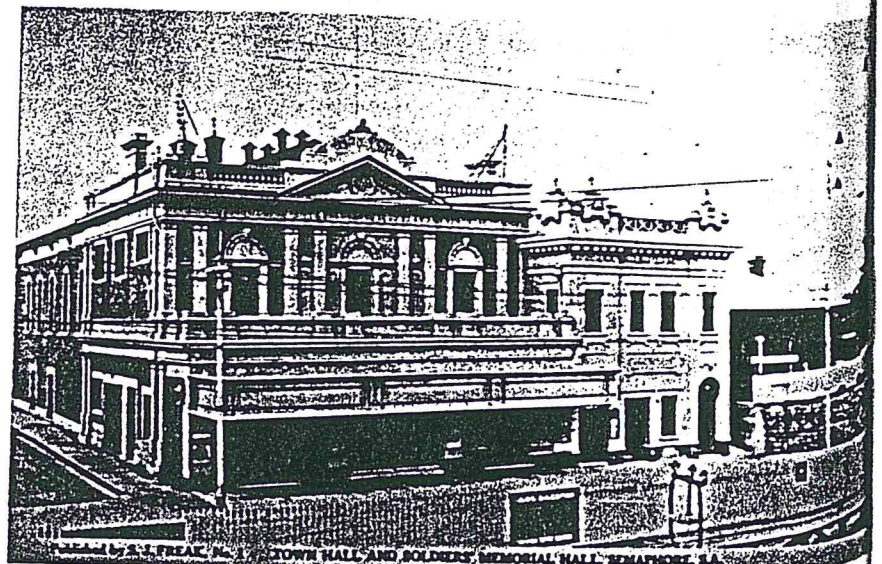
Portonian, Vol. 1, No. 3, September 1973.

J.E. Trotman, Back to Semaphore, 1930, pp.38-39.



SEMAPHORE PH15

n.d. (c1885)



SEMAPHORE PH18

1937