

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

REGISTER ENTRY

Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

NAME: Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground **PLACE NO.:** 26490
ADDRESS: Karna Country
68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, 5034
CT 6083/257 A506 D86063 Hundred of Adelaide



Figure 1: Secretary's Office – view of northern elevation showing 1934 additions (second storey)

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Secretary's Office is closely associated with the activities of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia (Society) and their vital and ongoing contribution to the agricultural, pastoral and horticultural development of South Australia. The colony of South Australia was envisaged as an agrarian society with primary production as a mainstay. This was particularly the case between colonisation (1836) and post-war industrialisation (1940s), when farming formed the backbone of the South Australian economy.

Throughout this period and beyond, the Society has played a pivotal role in promoting and nurturing South Australia's agricultural industry. Formed in the earliest days of the colony, the Society has contributed to new agricultural and horticultural practices and providing public education about primary production for over 175 years. The Society built their Secretary's Office in 1925 to provide a central office from which to administer their work. The building was then enlarged in 1934 to accommodate the increasing membership and staff of the Society, and as a reflection of the growing popularity of the Show. The quality and scale of the new design by Adelaide architect E Caradoc Ashton illustrates the increased stature and prominence of the Society by this time. The building has been further extended and modified to serve the changing needs of the Society, and provides an enduring connection with the Society through its day-to-day use as its administrative centre. With its prominent location at the heart of the Showgrounds, the Secretary's Office also has significant associations with the annual Adelaide Show, South Australia's premier agricultural and horticultural event.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*)

Include only the criteria the place meets.

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

The Secretary's Office is closely associated with the activities of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia (Society) and their vital and ongoing contribution to the development of agriculture and horticulture in South Australia. The Colony of South Australia was envisaged as an agrarian society, and agricultural, horticultural and pastoral production was a mainstay of initially the Colony's and then the State's economy. Over the past 175 years the Society has promoted new agricultural and horticultural practices to keep farmers up-to-date, as well as educating city-based people about agriculture and horticulture in South Australia. The Society also contributes to and promotes the crucial contribution that primary production makes to South Australia's economy. One of the main methods used by

the Society to achieve their aims is the Spring Show held each September (occasionally in October in the past). The Society has held a Spring Show almost continuously since it was first formed in 1839, the main exceptions being during both world wars.

The secretary's Office was purpose-built then enlarged and refitted on a number of occasions to provide an administrative office for the Society's staff as well as a venue for members and their guests. The Secretary's Office lies at the centre of the Showgrounds, and has been used as the main administration building for the site since its construction in 1925. Each of the annual Adelaide Shows has been organised from there for the past 90 years, and during World War Two it served as the Headquarters for the armed forces based at the site. As well as day-to-day administration for the Society and Showgrounds, the Secretary's Office's is also a venue for members and their guests, providing them with access to a range of facilities. The dual functions and purposes of the Secretary's Office – administration and a venue for members – is evident in the physical fabric of the place and through a variety of documentary and oral history sources.

The Secretary's Office is the only purpose-built administrative office constructed for the Society, and is one of only a few buildings that readily illustrates the Society's activities and contribution to the history of South Australia's agricultural, horticultural, pastoral and economic development. The other structures that demonstrate the Society's activities and contribution in a similar manner to the Secretary's Office include some of the pavilions and grandstands at the Adelaide Showground. However, those buildings performed different sorts of functions, including as exhibition and competition pavilions, or solely for viewing activities. The Secretary's Office played and still plays a significant role in South Australian history as the administrative heart of the Society and the place most closely associated with running the Society and its organisation of the Adelaide Show.

(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance

Formed within three years of the establishment of the Colony, the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia (the Society) is one of South Australia's oldest and most enduring organisations. After a short period of struggle, the Society became firmly established as a leading agricultural and horticultural body in South Australia. For over 175 years the Society has contributed to the promotion and success of South Australia's farmers and horticulturists. The Society primarily achieves its aims through 'staging events' such as the annual Adelaide Show and by 'rewarding success'.¹ It promotes the ongoing improvement of crops, stock and

farming techniques by acknowledging the finest examples of crops and livestock grown or raised in South Australia.

Prior to the industrialisation of the State's economy in the decades following World War Two, the Colony's and then State's economy was reliant on primary industry including mining, agriculture and pastoral activities. Agricultural and horticultural production still remains a vital component of the State's economy. The Society has contributed to that success by promoting and supporting the agricultural and horticultural development of South Australia. In addition, the Society is a conduit between city and rural people, actively working towards educating the public and building understanding about the contribution of and difficulties faced by those working on the land.

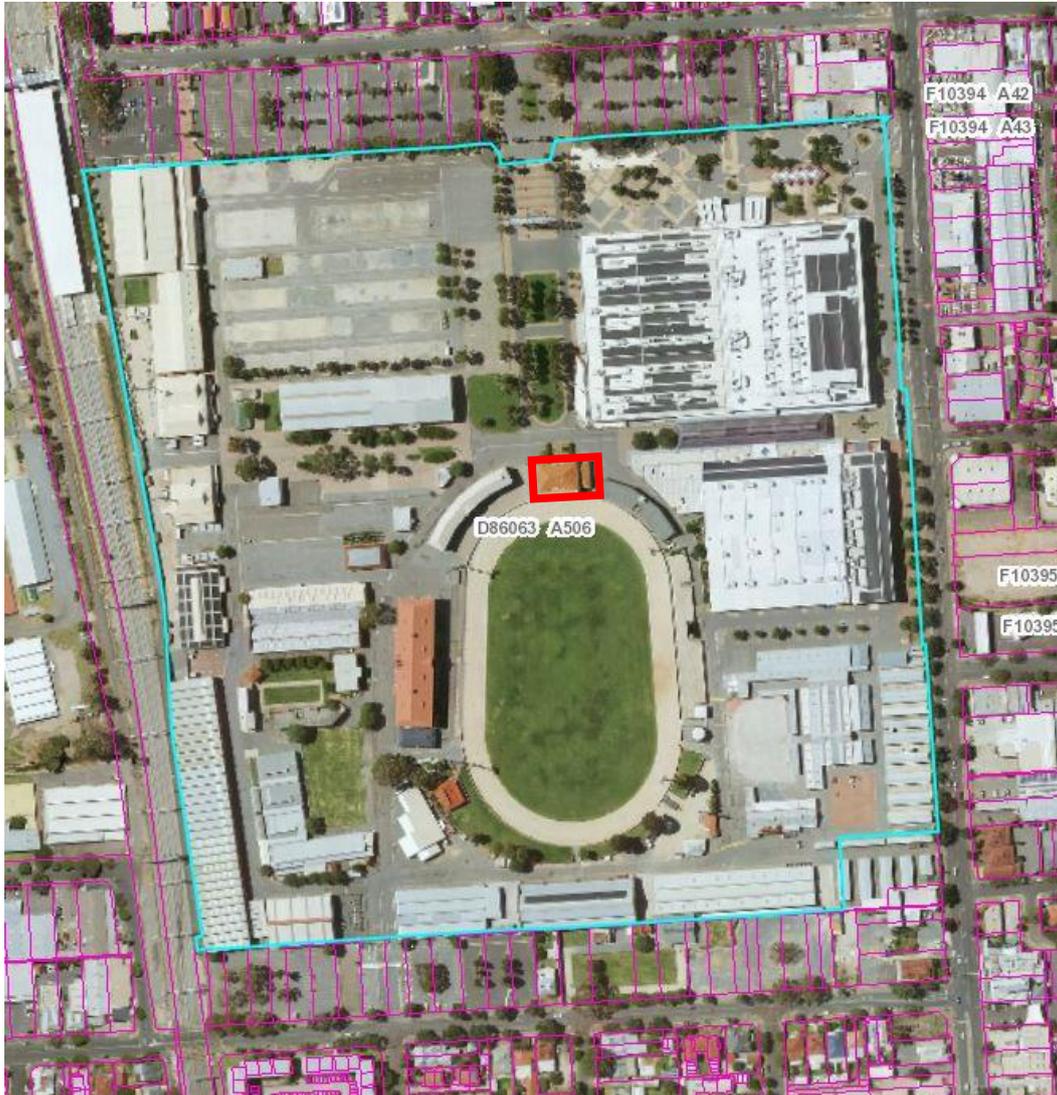
The Secretary's Office has an enduring association with the Society through its day-to-day use as the administrative centre of the Society, as well as during the annual Adelaide Show when members and their guests use the building. The central location for the Office was established by the prize-winning 1914 master plan for the Showground, and the building was constructed in 1925 in time for the first Show held at the new Wayville site. The building was extensively enlarged in 1934 to better accommodate the ongoing administrative and entertainment requirements of the Society, and remains as both its physical and administrative heart. The integration of the Commonwealth Bank branch in the 1950s, the enclosure of the verandah in 1969, and the small single-storey addition in 1990 have added to the building's administrative functions and amenity.

While there are other buildings at the Adelaide Showground that were built by the Society, those buildings were specifically constructed as venues for temporary or intermittent use such as agricultural and horticultural competition and exhibition. For example, the Stud Sheep Pavilion that is used during the September show for the competition and display of prime sheep and wool. Consequently, these buildings are only used for short periods each year both during the Show and for other events that occur throughout the year. In contrast, the Secretary's Office is used all year round, and has the closest and most enduring associations with the work of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia.

SITE PLAN

Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
Karna Country
68 Wayville Road, Goodwood, SA, 5034

PLACE NO: 26490



Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground, 68 Goodwood Road, Wayville,
SA, 5034

Legend

-  Adelaide Showground, CT 6083/257 A506 D86063
-  Secretary's Office

N ↑

DETAIL SITE PLAN

Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
Karna Country
68 Wayville Road, Goodwood, SA, 5034

PLACE NO: 26490



Secretary's Office, Adelaide Showground, 68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, SA, 5034

Legend

N ↑



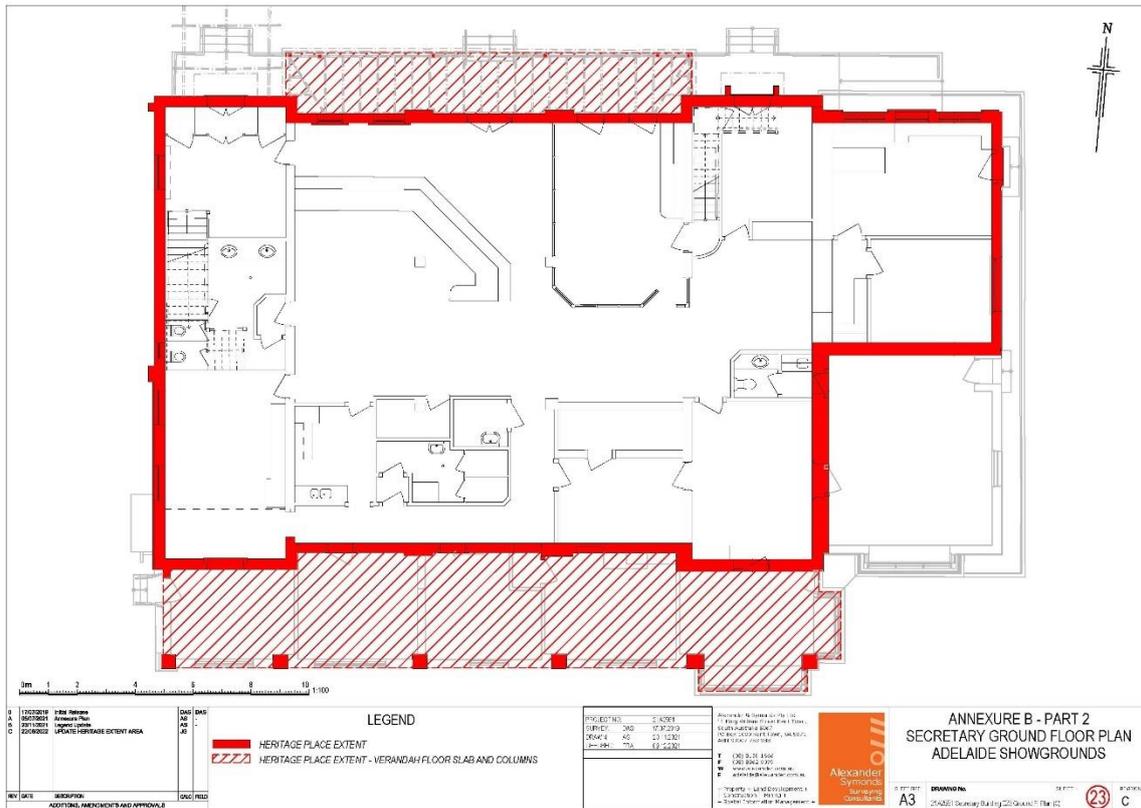
Secretary's Office outline follows roofline

DETAIL SITE PLAN

Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
Karna Country

PLACE NO: 26490

68 Wayville Road, Goodwood, SA, 5034



Ground Floor Plan, Secretary's Office, Adelaide Showground, 68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, CT 6083/257 A506 D86063 Hundred of Adelaide SA, defining the extent of listing.

Legend

N ↑



Extent of State Heritage Place

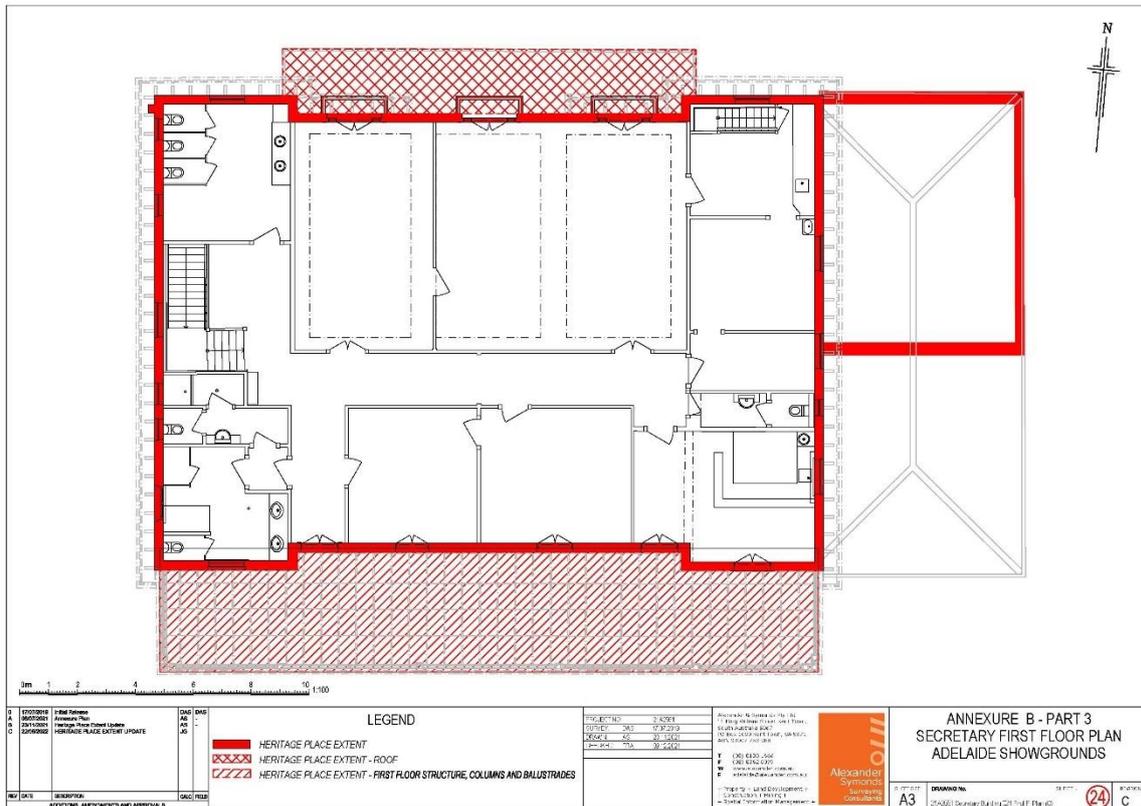


Extent of State Heritage Place - verandah floor slab and columns

DETAIL SITE PLAN

Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Wayville Road, Goodwood, SA, 5034

PLACE NO: 26490



First Floor Plan, Secretary's Office, Adelaide Showground, 68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, CT 6083/257 A506 D86063 Hundred of Adelaide SA, defining the extent of listing.

Legend

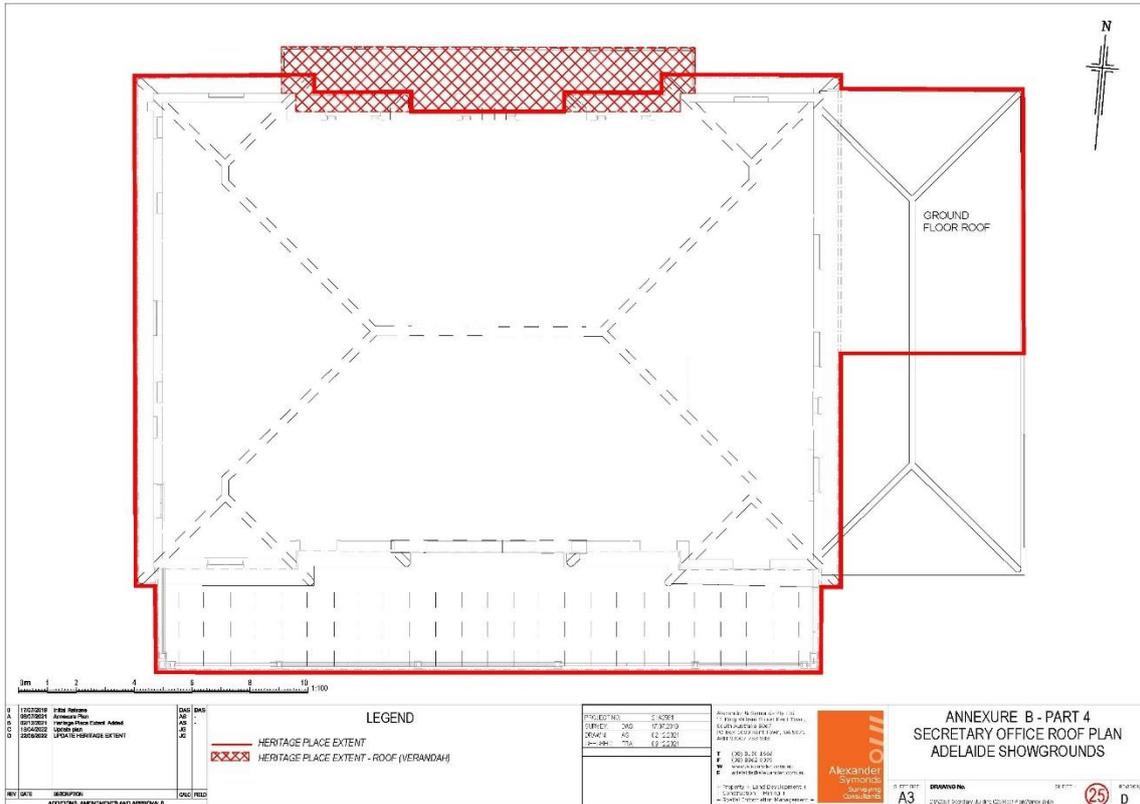
N ↑

-  Extent of State Heritage Place
-  Extent of state Heritage Place – first floor structure, columns, balustrades
-  Extent of State Heritage Place - roof

DETAIL SITE PLAN

Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Wayville Road, Goodwood, SA, 5034

PLACE NO: 26490



Roof Plan, Secretary's Office, Adelaide Showground, 68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, CT 6083/257 A506 D86063 Hundred of Adelaide SA, defining the extent of listing.

Legend

N ↑

-  Extent of State Heritage Place
-  Extent of State Heritage Place – roof (verandah)

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

Physical Description

The Secretary's Office was constructed in 1925 (Figure 2) and was similar in style to the interwar State Bank bungalow buildings built widely across South Australia at that time. The building was constructed of red-brick with a hipped roof clad in corrugated-iron and a verandah on both the northern and southern sides of the building. The Office's main distinguishing feature is the two central pediments; one facing the oval and the other the Kingsway.

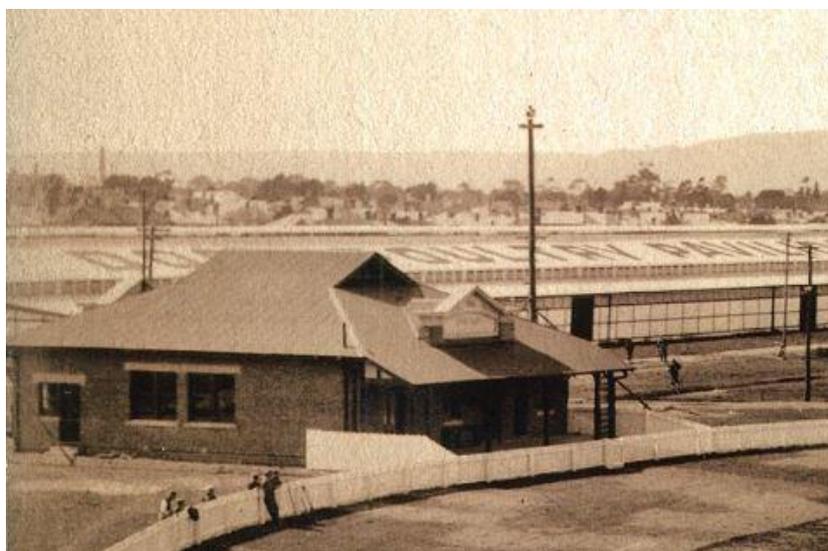


Figure 2. Secretary's Office as originally built, 1925

Source: Rob Linn, *Sharing the Good Earth*, p.127.

The substantial enlargement of the Secretary's Office in 1934 modified the small bungalow into a two-storey Interwar Mediterranean style building (figure 1). A single-storey addition on its eastern façade was added in two phases; the first incorporated the Commonwealth Bank building during the 1950s; the second was an extension added to the south of the Bank building.

The Office is a painted, stucco-faced masonry structure with a Marseille terracotta-tile-clad, hipped roof with exposed end rafters. The central portion of the Office's northern and southern elevations are slightly recessed. The recess on the northern façade is spanned by a verandah, while on the southern side the width of the two-storey building is spanned by a verandah and balcony. The Society's crest and the

building's name feature on a small section of parapet wall on the northern elevation, and similarly, a clock and the building's name can be found on the southern elevation. Ramp and stair access to the front (north) of the Secretary's Office is provided by a relatively new concrete slab laid along the front of the building.

The double doors and multi-paned windows are symmetrically arranged across the northern elevation. In the central recessed section of the façade there is a central double door with windows on either side on the ground floor, and three double doors on the first storey, each sited above the ground floor openings. The double doors on the first floor each open onto a small balcony enclosed with decorative wrought ironwork and have a course of red brickwork above them.

Located at either end of the northern façade in the wing walls is a double door on the ground level, and a window above on the first floor. The two sets of doors are both surmounted by a small rectangular cover that projects from the wall and is supported by decorative scroll mounts. The windows above have painted timber louvre shutters and a course of red brickwork above them.

Terracotta vents are positioned across the wall both directly under the roofline and below the first-storey floor. Two plaques are fixed to the front of the building on either side of the western-most door. One is in memory of Tom Mayfield Hardy, Sidney Hill Smith and Louis Hugo Gramp 1938; while the other indicates that the entrance is for members and guests only. Four horizontal metal poles fixed to the front of the building enable the Society to hang two banners.

A number of different sized multi-paned windows feature on both the western and eastern façades. Each opening has a course of red brick above it. Both the verandah and balcony on the southern elevation were enclosed to provide the society with additional space. The verandah is used as office space and is enclosed with stucco-faced masonry. A single door provides access from the western elevation, while four multi-paned windows across the southern façade provide views across the oval. The southern side of the enclosed verandah is, with the exception of the windows, entirely covered by neatly clipped plants. The verandah above is also enclosed and features three timber posts at the corners and single posts at intervals along its front. Large windows wrap around the three sides of the verandah and enclose much of the structure. The remaining fill appears to be painted board (figure 3).



Figure 3. Southern elevation of the Secretary's Office showing enclosed verandah and balcony

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

The single-storey addition that incorporates the 1926 Commonwealth Bank branch also has stucco-faced masonry walls, a terracotta-tile-clad hipped roof with a painted, timber-slat, eave-soffit. The three exposed façades feature two strips of decorative moulding under the roofline to create a cornice, as well as a narrow cement-rendered plinth.

The northern elevation has pilasters at the corners and three multi-paned windows including a central sash window flanked by casement windows either side. Each window is framed by decorative moulding. The wall below the windows and above the plinth is slightly expressed (Figure 4). Similarly, the portion of the wall on the eastern elevation that corresponds with the Commonwealth Bank building is also slightly expressed. That portion of the façade also features a single door with fanlight above. The fanlight has two panels of Roman lattice, and both the door and fanlight are surrounded with heavy decorative moulding. The façade associated with the new portion of the building (southern half), has a single door recessed into the wall and a multi-paned window. The southern elevation of the addition has a bay window.



Figure 4. Northern elevation showing the Commonwealth Bank branch that was incorporated into the single storey addition

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

There is a small garden at the front of the building (northern façade) comprised of raised brick garden beds planted with annuals that flank a central brick path and enclose the front of the garden. A further ground level garden bed runs along the front of the concrete slab that provides stair and ramp access to the building. A panel of lawn is located on both sides of the path and is planted with an ornamental tree that is under planted with shrubs. Large rectangular hedges enclose the eastern and western sides of the garden. Rectangular and round clipped shrubs and cycads are planted in the garden bed at the base of the concrete plinth. On the western side of the garden, a timber pergola covered in grape vines creates a shady walk to the members' entrance. Wisteria grows along the verandah at the front of the building.

The interior of the Secretary's Office's has been reconfigured and refitted on numerous occasions to provide the Society's staff with access to modern office facilities and conveniences. In particular, the ground floor has been extensively altered and few original internal features remain. However, there are still some notable original interior features in the building, including the internal timber doors and associated panelling at the members' entrance, and the timber stairway (currently carpeted), balustrade and wall panelling that connects the two floors and the honour board (Figures 5-7).



Figure 5. Secretary's Office showing balustrade and honour board, 2017

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Figure 6. Showing the staircase and timber wall-panelling, 2017

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Figure 7. Members' Entrance, timber doors and associated panelling

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

The configuration of the rooms on the first floor is largely the same as devised in the 1934 addition, although some room uses have changed. A number of rooms retain their original ceilings, picture rails, skirting boards, internal doors and window and

door frame; (although not all windows were framed). All of these elements are now painted. A false ceiling and internal partitioning has been added to the afternoon tea room (now a large meeting room), and the kitchen and bar facilities, mens' and ladies' toilets and lounges have been extensively modified. In the case of the latter, the toilets and lounges are now combined to provide larger toilet facilities. The meeting room has become part of the suite of rooms that provide food and beverages on the eastern side of the building. The original plaster ceilings are divided by strips of rectangular moulding with chamfered edges. The skirting boards and door and window frames, where they were included or still remain, are wide pieces of timber simply decorated with chamfered edges.

Elements of Significance:

The elements with heritage significance include:

- All building fabric to 1934 two-storey building and adjoining single-storey addition (former Commonwealth Bank Branch, built 1926) including exterior and interior walls, roof, ceiling, windows, verandahs and balconies.
- Interior features 1934 building including timber staircase, balustrading and wall panelling, skirting boards, picture rails, doors and hardware, framing around internal and exterior doors and windows, original window hardware, and ceilings.

The elements excluded from heritage listing are:

- Infill enclosing the verandah and balcony on the southern elevation 1934 building.
- Pergola adjacent to members' entrance.
- All garden elements and exterior fencing.
- Concrete stairs on the western elevation, and slab on the northern façade of the building providing stair and ramp access to the building.
- Single-storey addition on southern side of former 1926 Commonwealth Bank building.
- Modern office fit-out comprising walling, services, suspended ceilings and built-in desks and office furniture.

History of the Place

Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia

The South Australian Agricultural Society was formed on 28 October 1839 to further the agricultural potential of the new colony and was modelled on the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland. A few years later, in early 1842 a permanent

agricultural and horticultural society was proposed and on 24 January 1842 became the South Australian Agricultural and Horticultural Society. While the two organisations ran concurrently for a few years they had merged by February 1846. However as Linn argues, the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia believed that the merger had taken place prior to 1844.²

Initially the Agricultural Society struggled, however, through the dedication of early members such as Charles Berkeley and David McLaren (manager of the South Australian Company), the fledgling Society was revitalised and began to flourish. The first display or exhibition of agricultural produce took place during a Society dinner at Fordham's Hotel, Grenfell Street on 8 December 1840. Further exhibitions or displays continued in a similar format until 18 February 1842, when the two Societies held the first Agricultural and Horticultural Show (Show) in the large school room on North Terrace.³ Mary Thomas, one of South Australia's original colonists from 1836, listed in her diary the wide range of grains, vegetables, fruit and dairy products displayed, and commented that the room 'was crowded, even too much so for my comfort.'⁴

Further Shows were held in various locations around the city until 1844, when Botanic Park became the Show's first official home. In its early years, the exhibits were accommodated in large tents and marquees, until 1860 when the 'Exhibition Building' opened (Figure 8). This purpose-built pavilion was designed by Colonial Architect Edward Angus Hamilton and constructed over the summer of 1859 and 1860 ready for the Show held in March that year, and was located near Frome Road behind the Adelaide Hospital.⁵



Figure 8. Exhibition Building near Frome Road, 1867

Source: SLSA B8006

In January 1888, the Society began negotiating with the South Australian Government to take over the 'management and use'⁶ of the Jubilee Exhibition Building and grounds located on North Terrace between the University of Adelaide and Frome Road. However, it wasn't until August 1894 that permission was officially granted. The Society moved swiftly and the Autumn Show held there in March 1895 was touted a great success (figure 9).⁷



Figure 9. Spring Show held at the Jubilee Exhibition Building and grounds, 1901

Source: SLSA B9090

By the early 1900s, the Society became increasingly aware of the tenuous nature of their lease arrangement with the Government for the Jubilee Exhibition site. The University of Adelaide, located on the western boundary, had begun negotiating with the Government to take over the Exhibition building and grounds on North Terrace to alleviate its chronic lack of space. At a meeting between Premier Verran and the Society's president William Rounsevell in December 1910, Rounsevell advised the Premier that the Society would consider moving to another location if it was necessary to do so for 'State reasons', and fair compensation was received for the improvements made to the Jubilee Exhibition site. The Society heard little more about the situation until the September 1911 Show, when Premier Verran announced in his toast at the Show's official luncheon that the Government had purchased 50 acres in Wayville with the intent of moving the Society there. The Government offered the Society a 99-year peppercorn lease as well as contributing up to £30,000 for relocation costs and a loan of £40,000 to assist with relocation and buildings. The Society signed the lease on 26 November 1913.⁸

Adelaide Showground (Wayville)

The development of the Adelaide Showground at Wayville began with an architectural competition. Twenty-six entries were received from England, New Zealand and every Australian State. First place was won by Melbourne-based architect Charles Heath, who received £500 for his efforts. Although Heath's plan has been modified over time, it still partly underpins the site layout.⁹

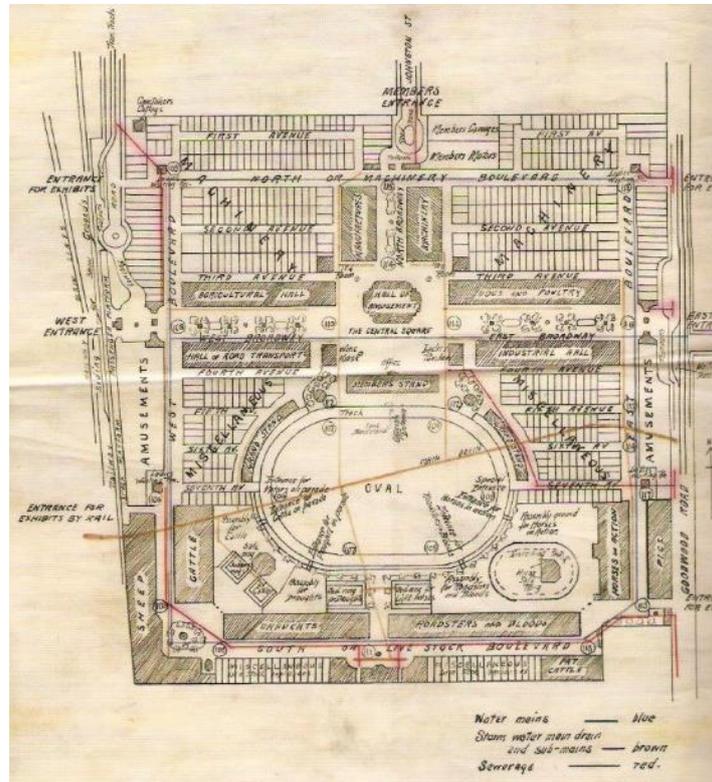


Figure 10. Plan showing Heath's Layout for the Wayville Showground

Source: RAHSSA Archive

Heath estimated the cost of developing the Wayville site at £180,000. Site works commenced in 1914 and included relocating Keswick Creek (that ran diagonally across the site) into an underground drain, and earthworks to level the main arena and provide mounds for spectators. The declaration of war in August 1914 and the ensuing years of warfare slowed the development of the Wayville Showground. In 1915, Adelaide-based architectural firm English and Soward was appointed as site architects and engineers, and by the end of the year ongoing earthworks and the construction of the exterior of the Heavy Horse Pavilion (now Cattle Pavilion/Dairy Cattle Pavilion) was completed. The exterior of the Stud Sheep Pavilion was also finished in 1917 just before a complete halt on all works at the site due to the First World War. Prior to the recommencement of work on site in 1920, the two pavilions were used firstly as stores for wheat and wool, and then as a location for the vocational training of returned soldiers.¹⁰

While development of the site recommenced in 1920, the Society's limited funds curtailed the extent of works they could undertake, especially given the costs of preparing the site to hold a Show were estimated at £100,000. As a result, the Society considered abandoning Wayville and staying at the Jubilee Exhibition site on North Terrace a prospect the Government and University of Adelaide were greatly concerned by. It was only after negotiations with the Government and an additional grant of £30,000 that the Society committed fully to the Wayville site, and a period of intense building followed.¹¹ Between 1922 and 1925 the Secretary's Office, Members' Grandstand, Department of Agriculture, Lever Brothers, Cattle, Pig, Dog and Poultry Pavilions, Hall of Industries and Motor Hall were built. During the same period, some of the light-weight structures from the Jubilee Exhibition site were also moved to Wayville.¹²

The first Show at Wayville opened on 8 September 1925 and was a huge success with record numbers of exhibits. The range of exhibits provided the public with an engaging and practical demonstration of the importance of primary industry to the State's economy. At the time, agriculture and grazing was worth around £10 million of the State's total £13.5 million in exports.¹³ Indeed, primary production (excluding mining) between 1840 and 1939 accounted for between 20 and 30 percent of South Australia's gross domestic product.¹⁴

In the following year, the 1926 Spring Show achieved record visitor numbers of over 200,000 people, and inspired the following comments in the Society's Annual report regarding the enduring significance of the Show to South Australia:

To the farmer the Show means an admirable opportunity to meet old friends and to make new, but it means much more. It is his chance to see the best in all lines, it enables him to establish a standard of competition...

To the city dweller the Show brings an opportunity to appreciate the part which the rural areas play in the well-being and prosperity of the State. It forces onto them a realisation that beyond the smoke haze of the city lies an industry productive of wealth, health and happiness in greater measure than any other.

From the point of view of the businessman – be he machinery merchant, motor salesman, manure distributor or land agent – the Show provides a means for him to bring his wares before his prospective purchases.¹⁵

The record numbers of exhibitors and visitors also highlighted the urgent need for additional facilities, including a second grandstand, extensions to the Hall of Industries and Secretary's Office, and several new pavilions and buildings.

In October 1925, the Society's longstanding Secretary JA Riley resigned. Riley had been instrumental in the Society's smooth relocation from North Terrace to Wayville as well as initial site development. His replacement, Harrold Jack Finnis, was appointed first permanent Secretary and heralded a new period of development at Wayville. This began in 1926 with the construction of a number of new buildings and site improvements, including: a new public grandstand that also provided retail space, refreshment rooms and facilities for the press and first aid staff as well; the wine kiosk; a bandstand; and a branch of the Commonwealth Bank. At the same time, the Motor pavilion and horse stables were extended, and landscaping improvements included the planting of lawns and trees. Wayville also became a venue for a variety of events such as trotting and speedway racing, and the home ground for the West Adelaide Football Club (1927 and 1939).¹⁶

A number of further additions and improvements followed in ensuing years until development was halted by the Second World War. The works undertaken up until the end of 1939 included upgrades and extension of the roadways and drainage system, power and lighting, public telephones, and the addition of a President's Room in the Members' Grandstand; extensions to the Industrial Hall, Stud Sheep Pavilion and the Secretary's Office; the construction of Side Show facilities, pavilion (now known as David Roche Pavilion 1928), pavilion (now known as Technology Centre Pavilion 1929), Home Industries Hall, Dairy Foods Hall (c1931), Beef Cattle Pavilion (1932), Centennial Hall (1936), Dairy Cattle Shed, Elder Smith's Ram Sales Buildings (now known as Old Ram Shed 1933), Derby Stand, Savings Bank of SA, and Elder Pavilion (now known as the Archives 1936). In addition, the clock in the Secretary's Office was donated by Robert Melrose, and a drinking fountain by the Roche families' Adelaide Development Company. Three sets of decorative entrance gates were installed during this period and included the Bonython Gate (1927), Ridley Gate (1933) and Kidman Gate (1937), respectively donated by Sir Langdon Bonython, Ridley Foundation and the Kidman family – the Society also contributed to the cost of the last two (figure 11).¹⁷



Figure 11. Aerial of the Wayville Showground, 1936.

Source: RAHSSA Archive

Shortly after the 1939 Show, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) occupied the Showground and turned the site into a military base. As a consequence, no Shows were held between 1940 and 1946. The number of military personnel billeted at Wayville was initially 4,000, but as other sites became operational the number dropped to around 3,000 for the duration of the war. Collectively, over one million military personnel passed through the Wayville base.

The Showground was primarily used as a Recruit Reception Depot and provided basic training to new army recruits. A number of overseas units were formed there, including the 2/10th, 2/27th, 2/43rd and 2/48th Infantry Battalions, 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion and 2/8th Field Ambulance. In addition, Wayville was also used as a Leave and Transit Depot and for evacuees from the Darwin bombings. During the Army's occupation of the site, the pavilions and other buildings were used for accommodation, communications, detention barracks, hospital, records and pay offices, ordnance store, mechanical engineers workshop, transport section and guard room.¹⁸

After the Army left in 1947, the Society began the slow process of repairing the damage done to the buildings – a process that was hindered by post-war building restrictions due to a lack of building materials. However, despite these obstacles the Society decided to run the Show in 1947. It was a huge success with the 'show

hungry'¹⁹ public, and a new attendance record was set, with over half a million people passing through the turnstiles.²⁰

In the decades after the war the South Australian Government, under the leadership of Premier Tomas Playford, pursued an industrialisation agenda that transformed the State's economy.²¹ Agricultural and horticultural production continued to grow, however, the way it operated changed profoundly. Mechanisation and agricultural science replaced labour in a 'silent revolution'²². Farmers found they needed to become businessmen and to adopt new management and business practices to make a viable living.

By the end of the 1960s, these changes had also transformed where South Australian's lived. Prior to the Second World War about half of the population was based outside of Adelaide – by the end of the 1960s about two thirds of South Australians lived in metropolitan Adelaide, and only a sixth in rural areas.²³ The Society, and in particular the Show, remained a vital connection that linked the city and country. The strength of the connection provided by the Show was demonstrated by the ever increasing numbers of exhibitors and visitors to it each year.

To meet the needs of exhibitors and attendees, the Society continued to improve existing facilities as well as to construct a number of new pavilions and buildings. These included: Stirling Hall (1954); Rothmans Theatrette (1964 – now known as the Royal Show Theatre); CWA Café (1966); Angas Pavilion (1967); refurbishment of the Hall of Industries and its renaming as Hamilton Hall (1973, demolished 2001); Animal Nursery (1981); Jubilee Pavilion (1987); replacement of the Pig Pavilion with the Leader Pavilion (1988); and the construction of the Woodcutting Stand (1988). In 1974, several Showground pavilions were used by various Government Departments, the Salvation Army and Red Cross as a distribution centre for food and clothing sent to evacuees from Cyclone Tracey.²⁴

Redevelopment of Wayville during the 1990s included the construction of the atrium over the Kingsway (1992), Venue and Management Offices and Workshops (1994), Ridley Pavilion (1995), Dog/Basketball Pavilion (1998) and Goat and Alpaca Pavilion (1999). In 1998, the Society's 99-year lease, due to expire in 2012, was also extended until 2062. In the early years of the twenty-first century the Kingsway was redeveloped again. However, the biggest change was the demolition of Centennial Hall due to concrete cancer, and the subsequent demolition of Duncan Hall and the International Pavilion to make way for the new Goyder Pavilion and Duncan Gallery that opened in 2008. As it has since 1915, the Showground with its many buildings and spaces continues to provide accommodation for numerous events and activities that happen throughout the year ranging from the weekly Sunday Farmers

Market to annual events such as university examinations, craft fairs and home shows.²⁵

Over the years, many different types of events and entertainments have come and gone, including the 140 children Scottish Dancing on top of horse back, and the Flying Devils brought over from Europe for the Show circuit around Australia. Similarly, the rides in sideshow alley have been modernised and provide thrill seekers with seemingly ever more death-defying experiences. The show bags that once offered the public free samples in a bid to entice them to buy a company's wares are now sold and contain a myriad of foodstuffs, toys and other goods. Yet despite these changes, the Show remains a vital point of contact between the city and country and a means to educate the public about the importance of rural industries and the people who make their livelihood from them.²⁶

Secretary's Office

Heath's winning 1914 master plan for the Adelaide Showground located at Wayville sited the proposed administrative office at the centre of the Showground, and this is where the Secretary's Office was constructed in 1925.²⁷ The Society had planned to construct the building within the first phase of development at Wayville, however World War One delayed most building activities at the Showgrounds until the 1920s. The Secretary's Office was one of nine buildings to be completed between 1922 and 1925 at the site, after the Horse and Sheep pavilions. The building was completed in time for the Society's first Show to be held at Wayville (September 1925, figure 2). The position of Secretary was an important and busy one with the role entailing numerous responsibilities including the organisation of the Show and oversight of the development of the Showground, amongst others. The building is located in the middle of the showground facing the Kingsway and adjacent to the oval. From 1925 it has been the administrative heart of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia.²⁸

The initial building was far smaller than the current one, being a single-storey brick structure that provided space for the Secretary and Committee rooms, press, post and telegraph offices and a casualty room. In 1926, John Melrose, a prominent South Australian pastoralist from Uooloo, presented the Society with a clock²⁹ 'for installation above the secretary's office'.³⁰ In the same year a small building adjacent to the Secretary's Office was built for a branch of the Commonwealth Bank.³¹

The small size of the Secretary's Office was soon found to be inadequate to accommodate the administrative needs and social functions of the Society, and a substantial addition was built in 1934. The addition was designed by Adelaide architect E Caradoc Ashton. Ashton had begun to develop a relationship with the

Society in 1927, and designed a number of buildings at the Adelaide Showground. Ashton added new wings on both the eastern and western sides of the Secretary's Office and a second storey. The internal spaces of the earlier building were also reconfigured at this time.³²

The addition included larger rooms for the press and administrative spaces for the Society's staff on the ground floor, and first floor rooms including new offices for the Society's Secretary and President, a meeting room, bar and servery, a large afternoon tea room, and mens' and ladies' lounges and toilets. A new verandah with a balcony above was also added to the southern façade of the building to create external spaces from which to watch the events taking place on the oval.³³ The addition on the eastern side filled the gap between the Secretary's Office and the Commonwealth Bank branch pavilion.

During World War Two when the Adelaide Showground was occupied by the AIF and turned into a military base, the Secretary's Office became the Camp Headquarters building. Later during the 1950s, the Commonwealth Bank building became a part of the Office. The verandah was enclosed to create a new press room in 1969. The building was further extended in 1990 when a single-storey addition was built to the south of what had been the Commonwealth Bank branch.³⁴ The interiors have been updated and modernised on a number of occasions, including during the past decade.³⁵

Chronology

- 1839 Agricultural Society of South Australia formed and modelled on the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland.
- 1840 The Society's first display of agricultural products at Fordham's Hotel. Regular displays follow.
- 1842 South Australian Agricultural and Horticultural Society forms.
The first Agricultural Show is held in the large school room on North Terrace, Mary Thomas notes that the event was very crowded.
- 1844 The two societies merge becoming the Agricultural and Horticultural Society.
The Society holds its first Show in Botanic Park and marquees and tents provide shelter for the exhibits.
- 1860 The 'Exhibition Building' designed by Colonial Architect Edward Angus Hamilton is completed ready for the Show held in March that year.
- 1888 The Society begin negotiations with the Colonial Government to lease the Jubilee Exhibition building and grounds, located on North Terrace between the University of Adelaide and Frome Road, as their Showground.
- 1894 Permission is granted by the Government for the Society to use the Jubilee Exhibition Building and grounds.
- 1895 The first Show is held at the Jubilee Exhibition site.
- c1900 The Society become aware of the tenuous nature of their lease for the Jubilee Exhibition site as the University of Adelaide pursues more space.
- 1910 Society President William Rounsevell advises Premier Verran that the Society would consider relocating to another site if necessary, and the Society is fairly compensated for the improvements to the Jubilee Exhibition site.
- 1911 Premier Verran announces that the State Government have purchased 50 acres at Wayville with the intention that the Society move there.
- 1913 The Society signs a 99 year peppercorn lease for the Wayville site.
- 1914 Design competition for the layout of the Wayville Showground is won by Melbourne-based architect Charles Heath.
- 1915 Adelaide firm English and Soward are appointed as the architects and engineers for the development of the Wayville site.
- 1915 Heavy Horse Pavilion (now the Brick Cattle/Dairy Cattle Pavilion) is built.

- 1915-1920 First World War and aftermath prevents the development of the Showground at Wayville with the exception of the already started Sheep Pavilion.
- 1915-1917 The Stud Sheep Pavilion is constructed and the building is used to store bales of wool and bags of wheat.
- 1919 Pavilions are used to support vocational training for returned soldiers.
- 1920 Redevelopment of the Showground at Wayville recommences.
- 1921 The Society considers abandoning the Wayville site and staying on at the Jubilee Exhibition site. The Government offers additional funding to assist with the move to Wayville.
- 1922-1925 Members' Grandstand; Department of Agriculture, Lever Brothers, Pig Dog, Poultry and Stock Sales Pavilions; Hall of Industries and Motor Hall are constructed. Some of the light-weight structures are also moved from North Terrace to Wayville.
- 1925 Secretary's Office is built. The first Show is held at Adelaide Showground, Wayville and is a huge success with record numbers of exhibits.**
- 1925-1927 New pens are installed in the Stud Sheep Pavilion each year, lockers in 1926 and judging rings in 1927.
- 1925 The Society's longstanding secretary JA Riley resigns. Riley played a pivotal role in the relocation to Wayville. He is replaced by the Society's first permanent secretary Harold Jack Finnis. Finnis heralds a new era a development for the Showground.
- 1926 Clock donated by John Melrose and installed above the Secretary's Office.**
- Commonwealth Bank Branch constructed adjacent Secretary's Office.**
- Public Grandstand, Wine Kiosk and Horse Stables built.
- 1927 Bonython Gates built.
- 1928 David Roche Centre built, Hall of Industries extended.
- 1929 Technology Centre built.
- 1930 Home Industries Hall built.
- c1931 Dairy Foods Hall built.
- 1932 Beef Cattle Pavilion built.
- 1933 Ridley Gates and Elder Smith Ram Sales building constructed.
- 1934 Secretary's office is extended including addition of a second storey.**

- 1936 Centennial Hall, corrugated iron Dairy Cattle shed, Derby Stand, Savings Bank of South Australia and Elder Pavilion constructed.
- 1937 Kidman Gates built.
- 1939-1947** Last Show held (1939) before the AIF occupies the Showground.
Secretary's Office becomes the camp Headquarters building during the War.
- 1947 First Show held since 1939.
- 1950s** **Commonwealth Bank building is incorporated into the Secretary's Office.**
- 1954 Stirling Hall built.
- 1964 Heavy Horse Memorial and Rothmans Theatre built.
- 1966 CWA café built.
- 1967 Angus Pavilion constructed.
- 1969** **Southern verandah of Secretary's Office enclosed.**
- 1973 Hall of industries is refurbished and renamed Hamilton Hall.
- 1980 Wayville Pavilion built.
- 1981 Animal Nursery constructed.
- 1982 Hamilton Hall is damaged by fire and rebuilt
- 1987 Jubilee Pavilion constructed.
- 1988 Woodcutters Stand and Leader Pavilion constructed.
- 1989 Bonython entrance is demolished
- 1990** **Single-storey extension added to southern side of Secretary's Office.**
- 1992 Atrium constructed on the Kingsway.
- 1994 Venue Management Offices and Workshops built.
- 1995 Ridley Pavilion constructed.
- 1998 State Government extends the Society's lease until 2062.
 Dog/Basketball Pavilion is built.
- 1999 Goat and Alpaca Pavilion constructed.
- 2001 Hamilton Hall demolished.
- 2002 Hamilton Boulevard developed, and Jubilee Pavilion is extended.
- 2005 Kingsway developed.
- 2007 Centennial Hall and Department of Agriculture Pavilion demolished.
- 2008 Goyder Pavilion and Duncan Gallery constructed.
- 2009 Kidman Gates moved to Rose Terrace.

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SITE DETAILS

Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, SA, 5034

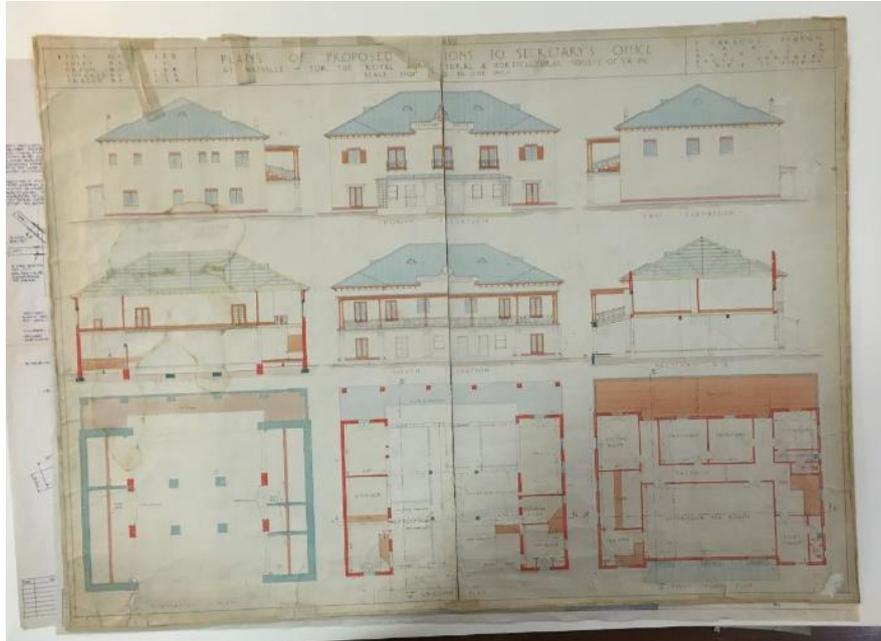
PLACE NO: 26490

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Masonry building with stucco facing and Marseilles terracotta roof tiles in the Interwar Mediterranean style.
DATE OF COMPLETION:	1925, substantially enlarged 1934, additions 1950s, 1960s, 1990
SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:	Description: SA Heritage Council nomination based on recommendation from Twentieth Century Heritage Survey (2008) Date: 30 August 2017
CURRENT USE:	Description: Administrative office, members rooms Dates: 1925-ongoing
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Description: Army Headquarters Dates: 1940-c1947
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	Name: 1925 building unknown, 1934 enlargement E Caradoc Ashton, other additions Caradoc Ashton, Fisher, Woodhead and Beaumont Smith, 1990 Ian Campbell
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Description: Unley
LOCATION:	Street Name: 68 Goodwood Road Town/Suburb: Wayville Post Code: 5034
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Details: CT 6083/257 A506 D86063 Hundred: Adelaide

PHOTOS

Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, SA, 5034

PLACE NO: 26490



Architectural Plan for the proposed additions to the Secretary's Office 1934

Source: RAHSSA Archive



Secretary's Office western elevation

Summary of State Heritage Place: 26490

33 of 43

Confirmed by the South Australian Heritage Council on 11 April 2019

Amended by the South Australian Heritage Council on 14 March 2023

PHOTOS

**Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, SA, 5034**

PLACE NO: 26490



Secretary's Office view to the north-east showing the enclosed verandah and balcony



Secretary's Office view to the north showing the 1990 single storey addition that incorporates the 1926 former Commonwealth Bank branch.

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

PHOTOS

**Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, SA, 5034**

PLACE NO: 26490



Secretary's Office eastern elevation showing 1990 addition

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Secretary's Office eastern elevation showing modifications to former Commonwealth Bank branch

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Secretary's Office northern elevation detail showing the first floor double door and balcony

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

PHOTOS

**Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, SA, 5034**

PLACE NO: 26490



Secretary's Office northern elevation, detail showing cover over the ground floor door

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Secretary's Office view of first floor showing internal partitioning and false ceilings in what was the afternoon tea room

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

PHOTOS

**Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, SA, 5034**

PLACE NO: 26490



Secretary's Office view of interior detail showing the original ceilings

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Secretary's Office view of the enclosed balcony

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

PHOTOS

**Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, SA, 5034**

PLACE NO: 26490

Summary of State Heritage Place: 26490

38 of 43

Confirmed by the South Australian Heritage Council on 11 April 2019

Amended by the South Australian Heritage Council on 14 March 2023



Secretary's Office view of first floor interior showing doors and framing, skirting boards and picture rail

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Secretary's Office view of first floor interior showing original windows

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

PHOTOS



Secretary's Office view of first floor interior showing the staircase balustrade

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Secretary's Office view of ground floor showing new ceiling and office fit-out

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017

PHOTOS

Secretary's Office, RA&HS SA, Adelaide Showground
68 Goodwood Road, Wayville, SA, 5034

PLACE NO: 26490



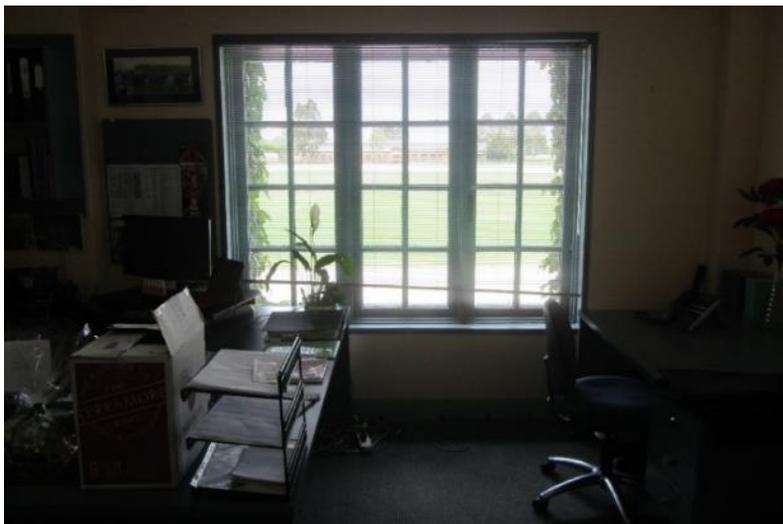
Secretary's Office view of ground floor interior showing modern office fit-out

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Secretary's Office view of ground floor interior showing modern office fit-out

Source: Heritage South Australia, 2017



Secretary's Office view of ground floor showing modern office fit-out in enclosed verandah

- ¹ Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia Inc 'Charter' <http://rahs.com.au/about-us/constitution-charter/> [accessed 26 October 2017].
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- ³ Linn, pp.2-22. Colin Kerr and Margaret Kerr (1983), *Royal Show*, (Adelaide: Stock Journal), pp.9-16.
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- ⁶ Linn, p.78
- ⁷ Linn, p.80.
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- ⁹ Kerr, p.69.
- ¹⁰ Kerr, p.69. 'New Show Grounds', *Observer* 3 May 1919, p.29. Grieve Gillett Anderson (2016) DRAFT 'Royal Adelaide Showground Conservation Management Plan', pp.13-15.
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- ¹² Grieve Gillett Anderson, pp15-16.
- ¹³ Linn, p.120. Kerr, p.79.
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- ¹⁹ Linn, p.151.
- ²⁰ Kerr, p.86
- ²¹ David C Rich (1996), 'Tom's Vision? Playford and Restructuring' in Bernard O'Neil, Judith Raftery and Kerrie Round, eds., *Playford's South Australia Essays on the history of South Australia*, (Adelaide: Assoc. Professional Historians), p.111.
- ²² Michael Williams quoted in Graeme Hugo (1996), 'Playford's people Population Change in South Australia', in Bernard O'Neil, Judith Raftery and Kerrie Round, eds., *Playford's South Australia Essays on the history of South Australia*, (Adelaide: Assoc. Professional Historians), p.43.
- ²³ Hugo, pp.42-43. Kerr, p102.
- ²⁴ Grieve Gillett Anderson, p.27. Kerr, p.122.
- ²⁵ Linn, pp.207-209, 211, Grieve Gillett Anderson, p.27.
- ²⁶ Linn, p.211 Kerr, p.95.
- ²⁷ Rob Linn (2014), *Sharing the Good Earth*, (Adelaide: Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia), p.108.
- ²⁸ Linn, pp.112-117. 'The New Showgrounds A Hive of Industry', *Observer* 23 May 1925, p.8. 'White City of Wayville New Home of the Royal Agricultural Society Finest Showgrounds in Commonwealth', *News* 8 September 1925, p.14.

²⁹ While there is a clock affixed to the roof of the Secretary's Office it is not clear if it is the same clock presented to the Society by John Melrose that was relocated after the extension of the Secretary's Office in 1934 or if it is a newer clock.

³⁰ 'White City of Wayville New Home of the Royal Agricultural Society Finest Showgrounds in Commonwealth', *News* 8 September 1925, p.14. 'Showgrounds, Wayville', Pictorial Collection State Library of South Australia, B2928.

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³³ E Caradoc Ashton 'Plans of Proposed Alterations to Secretary's Office', Architectural Drawing, Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia Archive.

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