

SA Heritage Register

Nomination form

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

To help your nomination be successful, please fill out this form with as much information as possible.
Feel free to expand the answer fields as much as you require or append information to the form.

Please note that places which have been nominated during past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council unless you can provide significant new information not provided through the previous nomination and assessment.

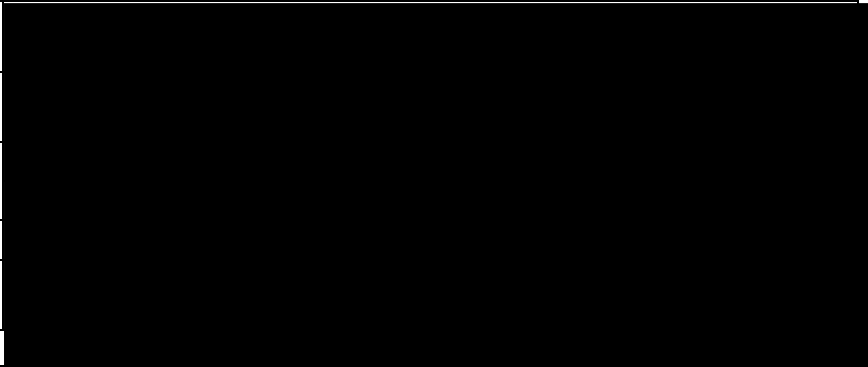
For assistance with this form you may contact:

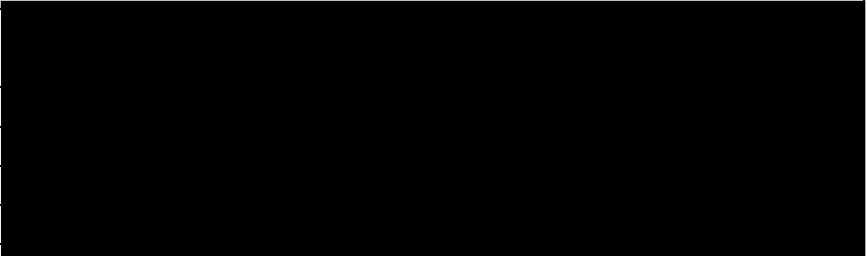
Your local historical society or heritage adviser may be of assistance OR you may telephone an assessment officer in Heritage South Australia on (08) 8124 4960.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of Place / Object:	92 BROUGHAM PLACE
Any other or former name(s):	
Is the place already on another heritage list?	Local Heritage Place

2. Location						
Street Address:	92 BROUGHAM PLACE					
	Suburb / Town:	NORTH ADELAIDE			Post Code:	5006
Local Council Name:	Adelaide City Council					
Land Description: (if known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:	
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section:	Hundred:		
GPS Location/s: (If known)	Longitude / Easting / X			Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum =)		

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	
Postal Address:	
Phone Number:	
Ownership History:	

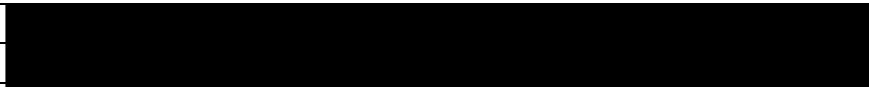
4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	
Organisation/Position:	
Daytime Phone:	
Fax:	
Postal Address:	

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Email Address:



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B. Description

5. Description of nominated place or object	
Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:	It is currently a dwelling in good condition
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place or object? Can you provide dates for these changes?	1938 converted from factory to dwelling with Georgian façade. 1942 minor conversion to two flats, one upstairs other downstairs. 1962 single residence again, addition to rear.
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground? Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	No
Date you inspected the place or object:	Have never been inside. Observe from outside frequently
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	Not on this subject
Current use of the place or object:	Dwelling
Original or former use(s):	Factory for Royal Society for the Blind
Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated place or object?	There is a Development Application to demolish it under consideration by SCAP DA 21033028
Name of Builder:	Unknown
Any other information:	Attached

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Start: 1893 Finish: 1894
Name of Designer / Architect:	Garlick, Jackman & Garlick
History of the nominated place or object:	Built by the Industrial School for the Blind (now Royal Society for the Blind) as a factory with workshops to train blind factory workers. Operational from 1894 to 1917.
Historical sources used to support your nomination: Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.	Trove, ACC City Archives, Architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au

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D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?

It is of State heritage significance because it has a strong association with the early development of the Royal Society for the Blind and with its founder Andre Whyte Hendry.

8. Significance Criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which places are assessed as 'State significant.' Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.

It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.

It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.

It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.

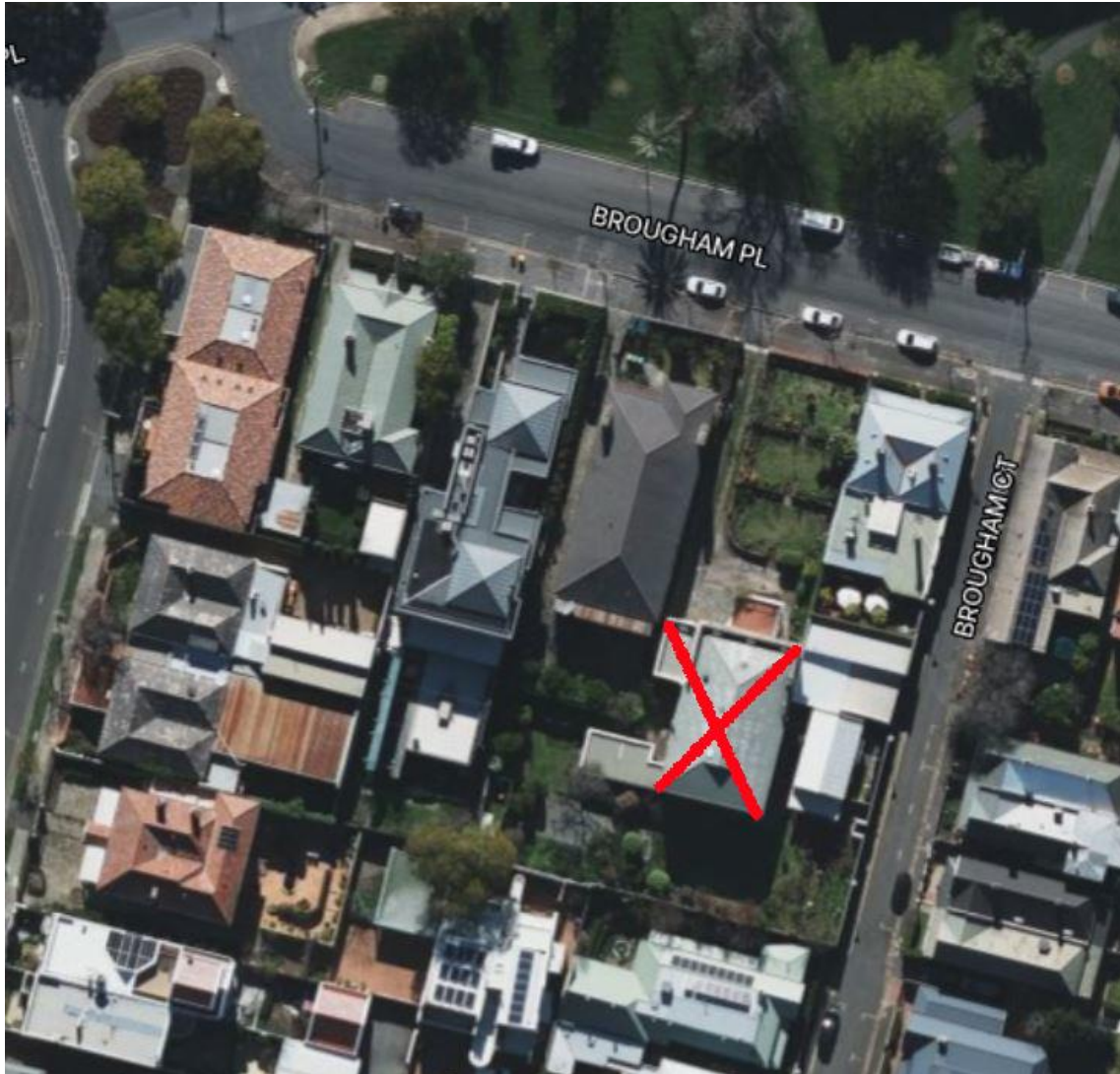
It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance. See below

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Map of 92 Brougham Place. The subject Place marked with a red X Map prepared on 4/12/2021.



Question G1: Who/what is the person, organisation or event associated with the place?

This Place has a special association with the Royal Society for the Blind.

It also has a special association with Andrew Whyte Hendry, the founder in 1884 of the Industrial School for the Blind which is now the Royal Society for the Blind.

Threshold Test G1: To what extent has the person, organisation or event made a strong, notable or influential contribution to the course of South Australia's history?

Note: The Royal Society for the Blind started life as the Industrial School for the Blind in 1884, was renamed by Royal assent in 1903 to "The Royal Institute for the Blind" and again in 1972 when its name was changed to "The Royal Society for the Blind". For simplicity it will be called the **RSB** throughout this document.

The **RSB** was established in December 1884 at the suggestion of Mr. Andrew Whyte Hendry, himself almost blind as the result of a boyhood accident. He was supported in this endeavour by a local merchant, philanthropist and MP Mr. Charles Goode (later Sir Charles Goode). The stated objectives were:

- **To train blind people to become financially self-supporting factory workers.**

At that time blind people were known as inmates and were housed in institutions where there was nothing rewarding to do also very few were capable of reading the small number books which were available in Braille. This was a particularly cruel existence for people who were largely able-bodied and of normal intelligence.

- **To translate popular books into Braille, establish a Braille library and teach students Braille both on the premises and via an outreach programme, throughout the Colony.**
- **To operate its own factory employing blind workers who would be paid a normal wage then to sell the products produced on the open market.**

It was recognised that the production costs would be higher than competitors so operating costs would be subsidised by donations from the general public and benefactors.

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The **RSB** has made a notable contribution to South Australia's history by providing education and training to people disabled by blindness, in demonstrating that severely handicapped people are worthwhile members of society able to work and play just like anybody else, and are capable of productive employment.

The significance of the RSB to the State was recognised in 1934 when it was incorporated by an Act of the South Australian Parliament.

Andrew Whyte Hendry was the founder of the RSB and guided it successfully for the first 30 years of its existence by which time it was firmly established in this State.

Question G2: To what extent is the place considered to have special and direct associations with the life or work of the person/organisation or event?

This building was the very first building built by the RSB. It was built in 1894 for the express purpose of training blind factory workers. In the report of the opening in the Advertiser of March 10 1894 it says: *"An amount of £1,750 has been expended and now the accommodation at the School is second to that of no similar institution in the colonies"* ie: it was the best such facility in Australia.



PRG 631/2/323

The new building shortly after completion in 1894.

This building and the work that went on in it were fundamental to the survival and growth of the RSB until 1917 by which time it was outgrown and replaced by a new, bigger building in King William Street, North Adelaide opposite the Women and Children's Hospital.

Threshold Test G2: How well does the place represent those associations compared to other places with similar associations?

There is no other place surviving which has similar associations. The other similar, purpose-built building in King William Street was sold in 1972 and demolished to make way for two high rise office buildings.

The Early History of the RSB

The new RSB took in its first trainees on 26th January 1885 while its official opening was on the 10th March 1885.

From the beginning it had the support of the already established Brighton Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institute which agreed to send some of their inmates to the school to learn trades and to pay for all their living expenses. The Destitute Institute also sent some inmates to the school.

Mr Hendry visited country towns around the colony, recruiting candidates for training in the workshops and reading instruction as well as displaying goods produced by the blind workers and establishing local committees to help distribute the good in their towns and also raise donations. He also visited blind students in their home to teach them to read.

It very quickly became one of the most widely known and respected institutions in the Colony. Quite soon after its inception, the RSB established a choir and an orchestra of blind people which performed in Adelaide and many country towns raising funds for the Institute.

Perhaps the major contribution made to South Australia, however, was in demonstrating that seriously disabled people could work and support themselves and need not be a financial burden on the State.

While Mr. Charles Goode and the Committee raised the funds to make this possible, it was Mr. Hendry who made it a success. For the first two years he acted as the reading teacher and, in today's terms, the Marketing Manager. Early in 1887 he was appointed manager of the Institute and remained in that role until his death at age 53 in 1918. During those years as manager he was instrumental in running the school as a successful business, building its first purpose built factory in 1894 and again, its new and much larger headquarters in King William Street opposite the Women's and Children's Hospital in 1917.

The RSB leased the property at 92 Brougham Place in 1884. At that stage there were two buildings on the property. An unused church on the North of the block close to Brougham Place and the Ebenezer Chapel also unused situated with its frontage 54 yards South of Brougham Place and the East side approximately 4 yards west of Bower Street (now Brougham Court)

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The unused Church on the North of the block was used as the Braille library and school.



B 5601 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

Ebenezer Chapel was used as a factory for training blind workers.



B 2058

By 1893 the RSB had become so successful it had outgrown the Ebenezer Chapel and it was resolved to construct a two-storey factory building housing workshops alongside the Ebenezer chapel. It was estimated £2,000 would be required to both purchase the freehold of the property and construct the building. On Wednesday 9th February 1893 a meeting was convened by Mrs. C. H. Goode to consider forming a committee to *“assist at the forthcoming fair in connection with the Industrial School for the Blind to be held in the Jubilee Exhibition Building in August next. Mr. Hendry, the secretary of the fair committee, explained that the object of the fair was to raise the sum of £2,000 for the purpose of purchasing a freehold property and for the erection of Additional workshops for*

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the blind workers, as the present accommodation was totally insufficient.” Source The Advertiser Thu 9 Feb 1893.

At the Monthly Meeting of the committee for the Industrial School for the Blind it was recorded “Fair Committee: Mr. Hendry reported that good progress was being made; that several committees had already been formed; and that numbers of ladies and gentlemen had already offered generous help. **Mr. D. Garlick, architect, was authorized to prepare plans for the new workshops.**”

The new building was completed in early 1884 and officially opened on March 10, 1894. In the report of that opening in the Advertiser of March 10 1894 it says: “*An amount of £1,750 has been expended and now the accommodation at the School is second to that of no similar institution in the colonies*” ie: it was the best such facility in Australia.



PRG 631/2/323

Photograph taken in 1894 from the South showing the new factory alongside the Ebenezer Chapel. Note the shed at the rear of the Chapel. This is the engine room where a gas engine is used to drive equipment on both storeys of the new building.

By 1913 the demand for the services of the RSB had become so great that it was decided a new, much larger building was required. The site chosen was in King William Street, North Adelaide opposite the Women's and Children's Hospital at a cost of just over £8,000. A "BLIND FAIR" was organised for May 15th 1914 to raise funds. Over £10,000 was raised including a £4,000 grant from the State Government. Building commenced in 1915 with the laying of a foundation stone.



PRG 280/1/10/19

Foundation Stone laid by Sir Charles Goode for new Royal Institute for the Blind building in King William Street North Adelaide 1915

The new building was completed in 1917. From that time the buildings at 92 Brougham Place were no longer used by the Royal Society for the Blind

Conversion to a Residence in 1938

In 1938 the property was owned by Sir Thomas and Lady Francis Coombe who engaged the prominent firm of architects, Evans, Bruer & Hall to convert the building into a residence. Accordingly, the old Church building which had been used by the Royal Society for the Blind as a Braille library was demolished and replaced by a landscaped, terraced garden while a Regency style façade was added to the front of the factory and internal partitions added to divide the largely open areas into rooms. This conversion has been criticised as being poorly done and out of keeping with surrounding buildings. Yet the architects who carried it out were highly regarded and performed well in architectural competitions during the 1930's. They were responsible for the design of a number of significant buildings: the Piccadilly Cinema North Adelaide, West's Olympia theatre on Hindley Street which is now used as the headquarters of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Burnside Civic Ballroom and the remodelling of the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, to name a few. They also

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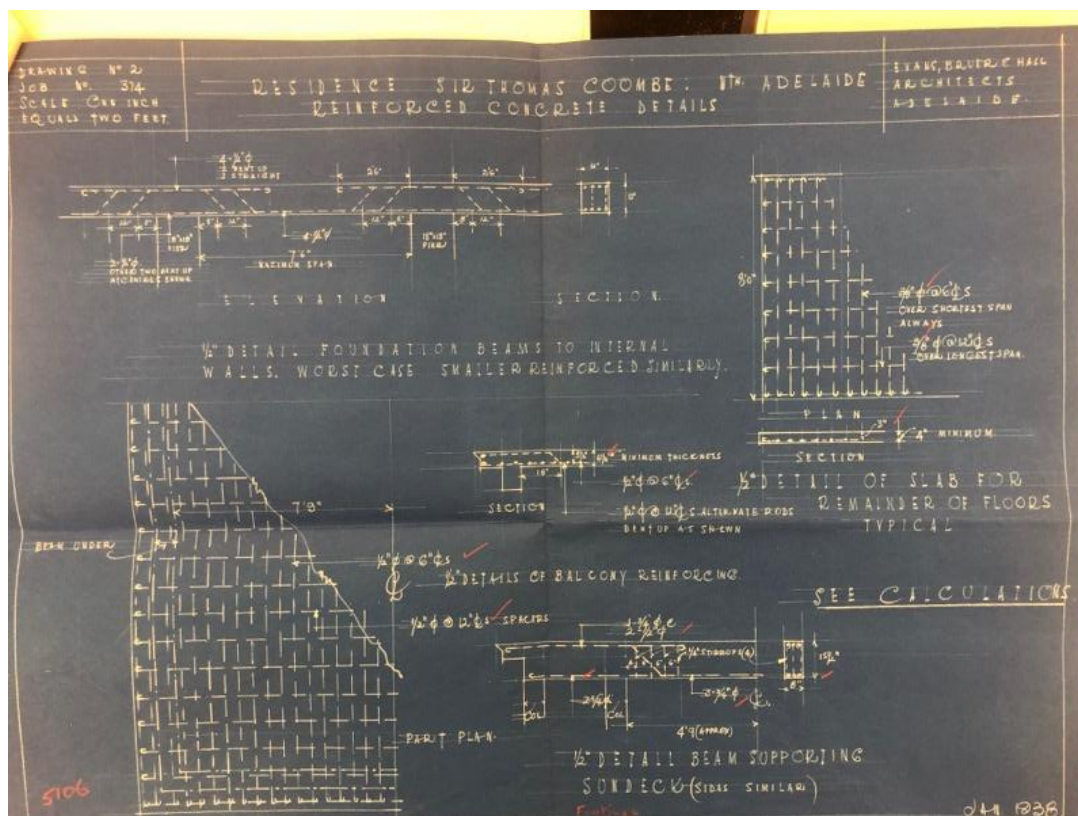
designed a number of Georgian and Regency residences. It is a brave architect today who criticises the work of such an accomplished firm carried out when at its peak. There can be no doubt that the “adaptive reuse” of the original factory building into a residence was carried out to the highest standards by one of the best architectural firms available.



B 8215

The Adelaide

City Archives have only one of at least two of the drawings submitted for approval in 1938:

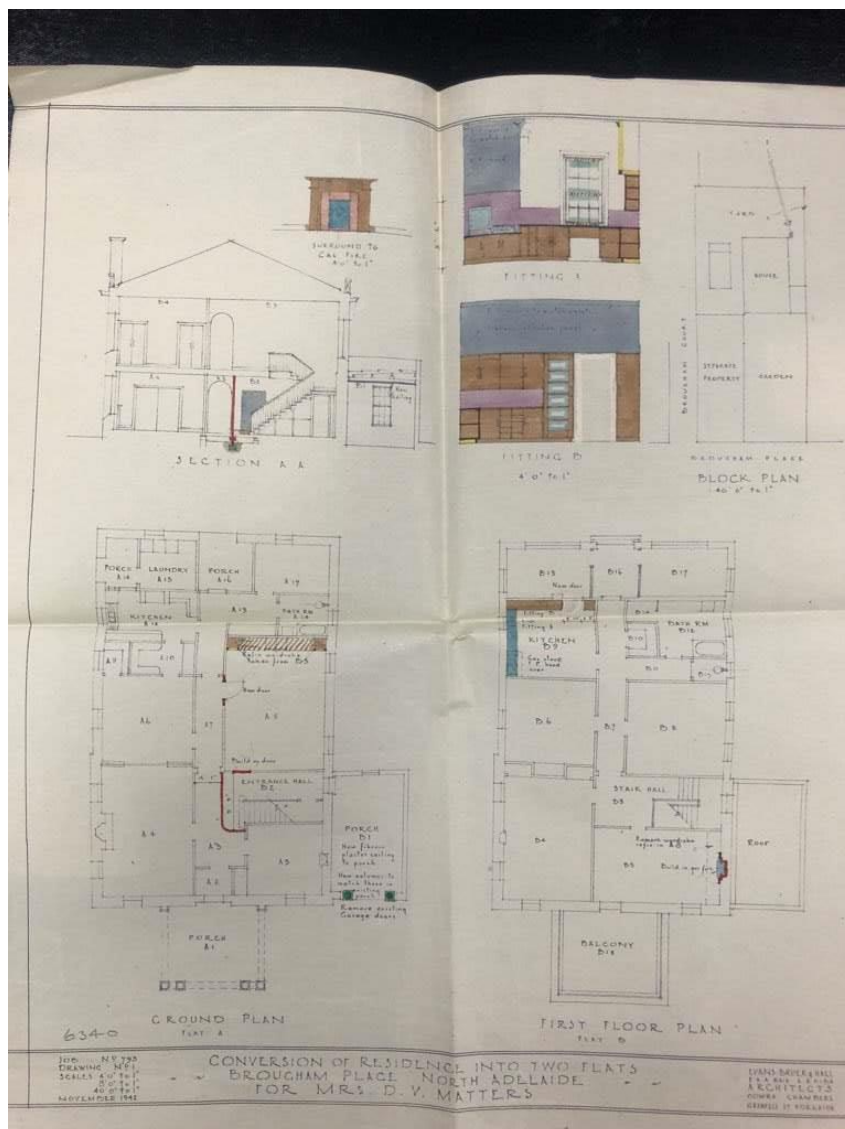


Conversion into Two Flats - 1942

In 1942 the building was converted for use as two flats, one occupying the first floor, the other occupying the second floor. Changes were minor. They included:

- An upstairs room converted to a kitchen
- Conversion of the garage on the west side of the building into another porch for access to the upstairs flat. There was already a doorway from the garage into the stair-well lobby.
- A small partition blocking the downstairs passage from access to the stairwell.
- Installation of a gas fire upstairs.

This conversion was also carried out by Evans, Bruer & Hall Architects for a different owner, Mrs D. V. Matters



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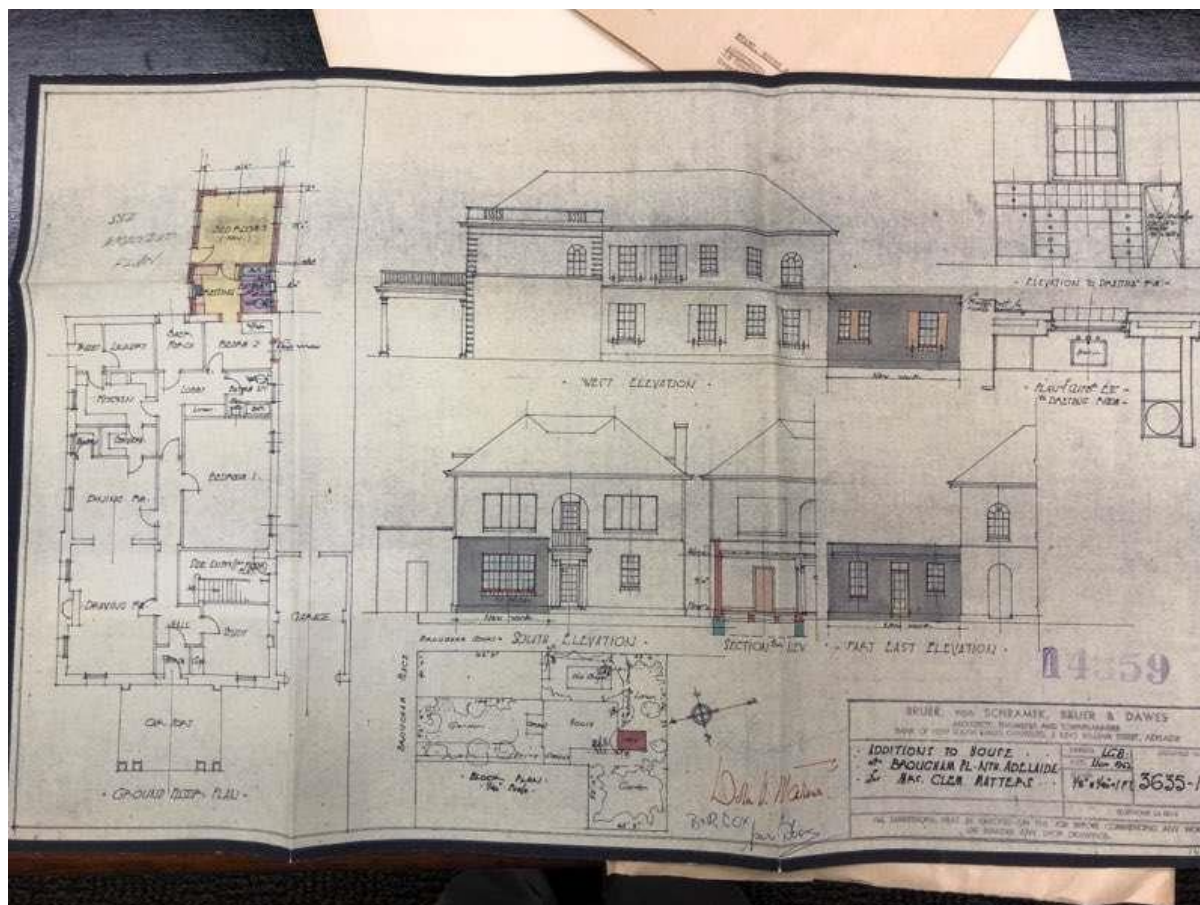
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Additions - 1962

In 1962 an addition was made to the back of the building for Mrs Clem. Matters. This time the Architects were Bruer, von Schramek, Bruer & Dawes. Bruer started a new firm with von Schramek & Dawes in 1960. It is thought that the second Bruer might have been Bruer's son.

It also appears from the drawing that the 1942 conversion into two had been reversed at some time earlier so that the building was once again a single residence.

The consistent involvement of Bruer from the 1938 residential conversion through to the 1962 additions by three different owners indicate that the quality of the original conversion was valued and maintained.



REPORT ON THE OPENING OF THE NEW FACTORY ALONGSIDE EBENZER
CHAPEL AND ACQUISITION OF THE LAND FOR 92 BROUGHAM PLACE

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

ADDITIONS TO THE BUILDING.

This afternoon his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor will formally open the additions which have been made to the Industrial School for the Blind in North Adelaide. At the same time he will be able to announce that the institution has acquired the freehold of the property, which has for some years been leased by the committee. About 12 months ago the energetic manager of the school, Mr. H. W. Hendry, conceived the idea of holding a fair on a large scale in the Jubilee Exhibition Building to raise £2,000 with which to purchase the property and increase the accommodation. The suggestion was cordially received, and as the institution is open to those afflicted with blindness in all parts of the colony it was considered desirable to invite provincial districts to contribute. Steps were taken without delay to form committees in the more important towns, and Mr. Hendry personally explained the objects of the fair to meetings in different parts of the colony. The result of

his travels and hard work was that 50 committees consisting in the aggregate of about 1,000 ladies were organised, and for months before the opening of the great bazaar these ladies were busy preparing goods for sale, and collecting subscriptions. Before Lord Kintore performed the inaugural ceremony on August 15 last, a sum of £322 was handed to the treasurer, being cash subscriptions gathered towards making up the total of £2,000. The net result of the fair was £1,964 2s., and with as little delay as possible the committee made preparation for its investment in the fee-simple to the property, in erecting new workshops, and effecting alterations in the existing accommodation.

An amount of £1,750 has been expended, and now the accommodation at the school is second to that of no similar institution in the colonies. The land has a frontage of 50 ft. to Brougham-place and a depth of 210 ft., the back block being 90 ft. in width. Alterations have been made in the old building, on the ground floor of which there are rooms for, amongst other things, the comfort of the female workers. The southern end of the first floor has been divided into four compartments, an office, a packing room, the manager's private apartment, and the library, the balance being reserved for stocking goods and for conducting ordinary business transactions. In the library there are over 600 volumes, and the value of this branch of the school is almost incalculable because the

the home teacher travels all over the colony imparting lessons in reading and writing to blind persons in their own homes, and when his pupils have attained a certain degree of proficiency they are permitted to borrow books from the library. By this means their lives are made happier and their store of knowledge is increased, so that not alone do scholars in attendance at Brougham-place daily derive a benefit from the college. It stretches out a helping hand to every colonist who suffers from blindness. Thus the value of the Industrial School cannot be over-estimated.

To return to the premises it may be mentioned that Messrs. Garlick, Jackman, and Garlick were the architects and Mr. W. Rogers the contractor for the new portion, which is built of stone and brick, and stands about 20 ft. south of the old edifice. The two are connected by a covered passage-way. From end to end the structure just completed measures 60 ft., and it is 35 ft. wide. On the ground floor basket and mat makers are already quartered, whilst on the first floor males and females are at work manufacturing brushes, brooms, chair seats, and other articles—the females occupying the northern end, which is partitioned off. The sexes are not allowed to associate with each other during their working hours. Immediately under the library and private office there is a large room which will be used as a dining department for the females, and another of the smaller compartments will be set aside for the pupils who seek to be instructed in the art of piano-tuning.

The new building is exceedingly cool, about a foot of the space between the ceiling and the roof being occupied by seaweed. On the lower floor asphalt has been laid. In a small room adjoining the ground floor several men who earn a decent livelihood by engaging in mat making have been given places, and a 3½-horsepower gas engine, which is situated at the southern end, drives weaving and planing machines in the matting chamber as well as three boring machines on the upper flat. At the present time the trades taught in the school are brushmaking of all classes, basket and mat making, hair-curling and drafting, chaircaning, and haltermaking, but before the year closes Mr. Hendry anticipates having classes in American broom-making, and coconut mat weaving. Last year the goods made at the school and disposed of realised £2,801 15s., and the wages paid to the blind artisans amounted to £1,572 10s. 7d. (exclusive of the manager's salary). There are 35 pupils in the school, and every fortnight over £90 is paid in wages. The expenses of the committee every year amount to over £3,000, and contributions to the extent of £650 are required annually in addition to the ordinary revenue to meet all liabilities.

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E. Additional Information

9. Images/Maps/Diagrams/Site Plans

A full range of images including maps, site plans, and photographs will help your nomination.

Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place or object being nominated within any maps or plans provided
- high quality images of the place or object (please list the total number of images being provided)
- the subject of each image
- the date each image was created
- the author of each image, and
- the copyright holder of each image (if known)

Paste images here:

The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

I/we, [REDACTED] nominate 92 Brougham Place North Adelaide to be heritage listed.

The information I/we have provided is correct to my/our knowledge.

Your signature/s: [REDACTED]

Date: 21/12/2021

Nomination Form Checklist

Please check that your nomination includes:

- A clear indication of the location of the place or object (including map/s). Where a number of features are nominated, show the location of each and/or a boundary surrounding the significant elements of the site.
- A history of the place or object explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination. This should generally help support arguments of cultural significance.
- A clear description of the nominated place or object/s.
- A statement of significance and indication on how the place or object satisfies one or more of the significance criteria.
- Have you taken the opportunity to discuss the nomination with a heritage assessment officer? It is strongly advised you to do so prior to submitting this nomination.

Email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au

Post: Executive Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Department for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

**ADDENDUM TO
Nomination of 92 Brougham Place, North Adelaide as a State Heritage Place**

Ref: 26538

23/12/2021

Since making this application some new information has come to light which I believe should be considered in assessing this Application.

Before commencing, let me correct two minor oversights in the original application:

1. All photographs used in the original application and this addendum unless shown otherwise, were taken from the SA State Library Archives and have no copyright restrictions. If required, I can supply their reference numbers.
2. The extract shown on pages 15-18 in the original application was from a report of the opening ceremony for the new factory building in the Advertiser of March 10th, 1894

This Addendum addresses whether later modifications to the building might have been so considerable that they have destroyed its Heritage value.

My contention is that they have not.

The original application detailed changes made in 1938 when the building was converted to a dwelling by the well-respected architects Evans, Bruer & Hall. Prior to that time the only views of the building were from Bower Street (now Brougham Place). There was no view from Brougham Place because the Braille Library was there.

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FURTHER INFORMATION FOR

Nomination of 92 Brougham Place, North Adelaide as a State Heritage Place

Ref: 26538

07/01/2022

Andrew Whyte Hendry – An important South Australian

In the original Application, Andrew Whyte Hendry was identified as the founder and Manager of the RSB. However, there is much more to the man than that as this document will show. It is true that he spent more than half his life managing the Industrial School for the Blind and raising funds which ensured its survival and development in its early years. In fact, there would probably not be an RSB today had not been for him. But he also achieved more both in his personal life and for the blind of South Australia. He gained both Government and international recognition for his expertise in the education and training of the blind and in his time was admired throughout South Australia for his work in teaching and training the blind to lead productive lives. Being blind himself, he proved to both sighted and blind people that the blind could achieve remarkable success in a sighted world.

Apart from a shared headstone on his family grave there seems to be no other memorial to the life of this important man. It would be fitting for 92 Brougham Place to be preserved not only as the first building ever built by the Royal society of the Blind but also a monument to its founder Andrew Whyte Hendry.

Highlights in the life of A. W. Hendry

September 1859	Andrew Whyte Hendry is born in Mt. Barker SA. His father was Mr. Alex Hendry, builder.
1870	Lost his sight as the result of an accident and became completely blind within a year.
1874	After several years of depression, he decided he needed to do something useful so hired a sighted man to guide him and went hawking drapery around the North of the State
1877	Introduced the Braille system to South Australia
1879-1880	Trained as an educator at Brighton Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institute.
1880 on	Taught the Braille system to about 30 students in their own homes.
September 1884	Having failed to obtain trade training for a blind worker, suggested to Mr. Charles Goode that a School for training blind workers should be started. https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/35971500
December 1884	The Industrial School for the Blind is started at 92 Brougham Place, North Adelaide with workshops in Ebenezer Chapel and a Braille library in the Chapel on Brougham Place. https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/199132266
1885	Becomes the Manager of the Industrial School for the Blind. He remains in this position for the rest of his life.
1890	Organises the "Worlds Fancy Fair" to raise funds for the "Building Fund" and working capital. £2,551 was raised.

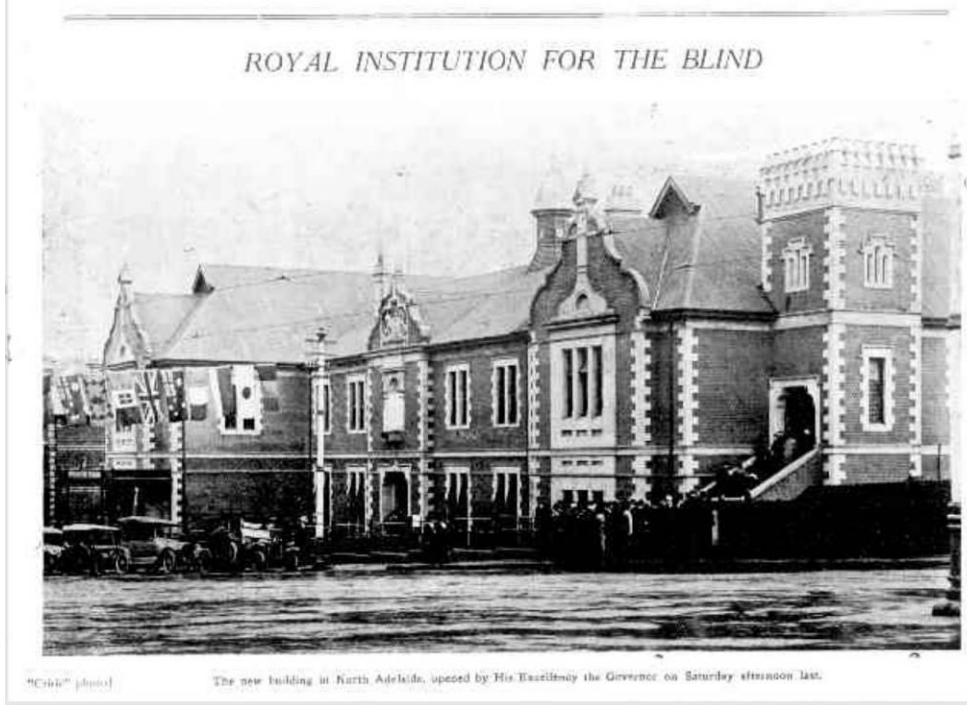
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	https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/224816110
August 1893	Organises “Australia” Fair to raise funds for the new building. https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/25661659
1893	Construction begins on a new, much larger factory alongside the Ebenezer Chapel.
March 10, 1894	New factory building opened. https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/25680580
1902	The land for a future new building in King William Street, North Adelaide is purchased.
January 1915	The foundation stone for the new building is laid by Sir. Charles Goode. Sir Charles Goode refuses to have his name on the foundation stone unless A. W. Hendry also allows his name to be there which he reluctantly does. See section “Mr. Hendry’s Good Work”. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article124917462
May 1915	The new building is virtually completed but offered to the Military to be used as a hospital for soldiers until the end of the War. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article134412066
April 1917	New building to be handed back to the Royal Institute for Blind by the Military. https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/209756171
26 May 1917	The Opening ceremony for the new building opposite the Children’s Hospital. It was held to coincide with Sir Charles Goode’s 90 th birthday. See Section “Give us Work”. https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/208046135
26 April 1918	Andrew Whyte Hendry died after a short illness. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article60342327
27 April 1918	A. W. Hendry’s funeral. He is buried at the North Road Cemetery, Nailsworth, Path 2 North, Plot 1788. This shared headstone shown below appears to be the only memorial to his life which exists.

The New Building in King William Street opposite Children's Hospital – 1917



[\[back\]](#)

Hendry Family Headstone [\[back\]](#)



Article published in the Mail (Adelaide) on Saturday 2 May, 1914

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/59641161>

THE LIFE STORY OF A. W. HENDRY.

A MAN WHO FOUND BLINDNESS NO HANDICAP SAYS HE CAN SEE EVERY HOLE AND CORNER OF BIG NEW BUILDING HE HAS PLANNED

The blind leading the blind is usually a subject for political caricature, but in some cases the sightless, are real leaders of men. Such a one is Andrew Hendry, the white-haired manager of the Royal Institution for the Blind, who has practically built up that enterprise to the dimension it occupies to-day. Knowing the man, one wonders if its operations would be so extensive in this year of grace 1914 if an actually blind man had not been guiding its destinies. Only the blind can know and feel the necessities of the blind, can measure his thoughts by their thoughts, and so alleviate in some degree the sense of an affliction that is one of the most pathetic in all the world. It is hardly a pathetic affliction, however, to Andrew Hendry. He does not mis-estimate the value of sight, but he knows that happiness is not wholly denied to those who cannot see. The light went out with him nearly 40 years ago, when he was a school boy at Mount Barker, and it is not likely that the veil will ever be lifted. A sensitive soul, Andrew Hendry retired into the darkness too. When beings of the seeing world came to his home Andrew crept off to the furthest corners and hid there till they had gone. Alleviation of the distress of blindness was almost unknown then, and it was left to the shy Mount Barker boy to establish the remedy. At 16, when time had softened the edge of suffering. Andrew, without eyes to see the beauties of the world around him, and minus all the pleasures that sight affords, drifted into the battle of life as if he had no handicap at all. He got a man to accompany him on a hawking trip up north, and found it satisfactory enough to continue in that line for two, or three years. Then he became interested in the education of the sightless, and introducing the Braille system of embossed types set out as a kind of blind missionary to the blind. He was particularly interested in those who had been stricken at manhood or approaching manhood, and soon discovered that education, while essential, since the blind require to learn all things all over again, was not enough. There was something more required to restore happiness, and he found it in the establishment of trades for the blind. To make the blind realise their own usefulness was his mission, and he has succeeded beyond all expectations.

On another page the story of the rise of the Industrial Institution for the Blind is told, and that success is due to the institution, sympathy, and ability of the man who for 30 odd years has looked after its affairs.

To raise funds for the erection of a new building the Universal Carnival and Garden Fair was opened to-day, the whole of the arrangements and planning of which were left to Andrew Hendry, the man who cannot see. It is the biggest fair of its kind ever held in Adelaide, and is, after all, only one of many that he has successfully conducted. The Brougham Place headquarters of the institution are not nearly big enough to carry on the work and it is the manager's ambition to remove it to a newer and larger sphere. He needs £8,000, and has set out with every confidence of getting it. Mr. J. B. Anderson, a former secretary of the institution, gives Mr. Hendry the credit for putting forward the

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idea, about a dozen years ago that the fine North Adelaide site opposite the Children's Hospital should be secured, and having managed it Mr. Hendry has ever had in mind the day when a new building will tower up in that locality. The late Mr. J. H. Angas not only sold them the block at a ridiculously cheap price, but also advanced the money to buy it at an almost nominal rate of interest. Mr. Hendry found out before that the land was to be cut up and sold, and one Sunday night went off to Sir Charles Goode, the president of the institution, and told him of his intention to approach Mr. Angas the next day and try and secure it. Mr. Hendry secured it, and since then all his energies have been directed towards utilising that site not only as a means of helping the work, but to acquire for the institution a wider appeal. There was something inspiring in the way Mr. Hendry spoke of all the place hoped to do, and especially of the nature of the proposed building and its suitability for the purpose. I reminded him that his eyes would never actually see it. *"Never see it," he replied. "I will see it more than anyone else in this city. I can see it now. There isn't a hole or a corner that I do not know. I am familiar with it from top to bottom."* I have no doubt whatever that through his sixth sense Andrew Hendry will see that place rise, stone by stone, and brick by brick, and appreciate its looming outlines as plain as will the ordinary man in the street. Perhaps more so, for after speaking with him your own sixth sense comes to life and suggests it was no fool who wrote that there are none so blind as those that really see.

"I was eleven years old when I lost my sight," explained Mr. Hendry. when asked to speak of his early days. *"It came about in a simple way and one which I might as well tell, as it may teach others the value of being careful. One night I took an ordinary household fork to untie a knot in my bootlace. The knot came undone all right but a prong of the fork just touched my eye, and the injury thus caused sympathetically affected the other eye, bringing on total blindness. I put the fork down, thinking the eye had only just been touched. The next morning it was inflamed, but still I did not think anything of it. A doctor, however, examined it, and remarked that he thought something must have touched it. I then remembered about the fork, and told them how it must have occurred."* [\[back\]](#)

"Was there no hope of retaining your sight?"

"None whatever. It disappeared altogether within about 12 months."

"You were ' attending school at the time?"

"Yes. I went to two or three schools at Mount Barker, one of them that was conducted by the late Mr. Dumas. A fine old gentleman He was, too."

"What were your feelings when sight ceased altogether; when the light went out, as it were?"

"I got into a very peculiar condition of mind. I would not meet any one, I would not. go out in the daylight or into anyone else's house. When people came to our place I got out of the way and to meet another blind person was the most painful thing I could think of. However, when I got older I viewed things differently, and at 16 realised it was time for me to do something. I knew little or nothing then about the opportunities that existed for the education of the blind. Not that they were very great, however, while as for occupations they did not exist at all - in South. Australia, at any rate. The result of the determination to do something was the engagement of a man to help me in hawking drapery in the far north. I remember one night camping the flinders Range in the gorge between Wirrabara and Fort Germein. and being cajoled by a native to sell him a gun. I had doubts about him being able to pay and did not take him on."

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“Was the hawking profitable?” [\[back\]](#)

“I managed to make a livelihood out of it for two or three years, then I came down to Adelaide to investigate the Braille types introduced for the assistance of the blind. The idea came to me that something more could be done for such people, and partly influenced by the late Rev. Allen Webb, the father of Mr. Noel Webb, I decided to take up the work, and eventually started a circulating library, including also home teaching work. I wrote to Dr. Armitage in London, and from him, and also from Mr. Prescott, I obtained certain books. Soon afterwards I had the privilege of introducing the Braille type system into South Australia. [\[back\]](#) It was the authorised Braille, not the revised Braille we have to-day. Prior to that there was Braille of a limited character, but very few people knew about it. Through Dr. Armitage, the founder of the British and Foreign Blind Association, a man who has done an immense amount of work, I really introduced the system into South Australia.”

“How did you manage prior to the introduction of the new system?”

“I used to have books read to me. I was always passionately fond of that; it was one of the greatest pleasures of my life, and I do not know that it is not one of my greatest life pleasures still. After that I went down to the Brighton Institution before Mr. S. Johnson took charge, when there was not so much known about the education of the blind. Eventually I fitted myself for educative work, and during that time, as a matter of fact, visited about 30 pupils in their own homes, teaching them to read and write by the embossed system. You must understand that all this while I was merely a teacher. [\[back\]](#) It was not till some time afterwards that I seriously thought of the possibility of providing occupations for people who had been bereft of their sight after a certain age, due to accident and other causes. The loss of sight after having once had it is a very serious thing to men and women, and it is such that the Royal Institution of to-day seeks to help. The formation of that institution really happened this way. There was a blind man I knew who was anxious to learn a trade, and I interviewed Sir Charles Goode to see if something could not be done for him, as he keenly desired to earn his own livelihood. Sir Charles (then Mr.) Goode interviewed several manufacturers, and even offered to pay a premium for him to be taught a trade, but none of them would take it on. That failure was one of the best things that could have happened. Most failures turn out to be the biggest things in this life. Sir Charles said to me, ‘Well what can be done?’ and I replied, ‘If we can manage to start an institution in South Australia that will enable the blind to follow industrial pursuits, it will be a great thing.’ He asked if I was prepared to interview certain gentlemen, among whom were Bishop Kennion and the late G. W. Hawkes, and interest them in the matter. That was in August or September, 1884, and in October of that year we held a meeting in the boardroom of the Children's Hospital. Bishop Kennion and Sir Charles Goode were the principal speakers and I made my own maiden speech on that occasion. The result was the institution was started, and buildings were secured in Brougham place. My idea was that we should have a circulating library independent of the industrial work, but at a meeting in December, 1884, it was thought it would be a pity to multiply the different works, and the two branches therefore worked together. There were two committees being formed, one for the circulating library and one for the other work. I thought my life's work was teaching and went on with that for a couple of months when they asked me to take the management of the whole place for three months. I did not wish to seek it; I took it reluctantly; it has been with me ever since. How it has all steadily grown is a matter of history. We have not reached all the blind of the State yet,

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but, seeing that the teaching costs nothing, and the works are within their reach, it makes it possible for every blind person in the State to learn to read and to learn a trade if he or she desires to do so.” [\[back\]](#)

“All this work could not have been performed without worry or trouble.”

“It was not. We have had some pretty hard times during the last 30 years. People are inclined to think that because this is largely an industrial institution there is not the same necessity’ for funds as if it were purely charitable. They forget the fact that if it takes a seeing person a long time to learn a trade, it must take a blind one ever so much longer still, and during the time when they are learning how to make a livelihood they have to be assisted in many ways. The fact is sometimes overlooked that people who become blind on reaching manhood or womanhood really require teaching all over again. They even have to be trained to learn their alphabet, and all that sort of thing is not accomplished at once. To do it requires money and no one can accuse the Royal Institution for the Blind of spending money on things ornamental, much less on luxuries. It means, therefore, that it is expensive to carry on the institution, for, if the blind are to be properly taught they must be properly educated. There must be this foundation work if they are to be a success in life afterwards. In order to raise money, the institution has conducted, I suppose, the biggest fairs ever held in South Australia. It has fallen to my lot to organise these, and the one we open on Friday is the fifth I have planned.”

“What are you going to do with the thousands you hope to raise?”

“Well, some of us have an immense amount of faith, and we bought a property about 12 years ago opposite to the Children’s Hospital, on which we propose to erect premises on a larger scale and more suited to our needs. We are unable to take more blind people into the institution owing .to the lack of accommodation. It is intended to erect factory and administrative buildings on this fine block, and thus permit more economical and efficient management. There will be many fine features about the place, which will be an architectural adornment to that part of the city. Preparations are being made to carry on the work on a much greater scale.” [\[back\]](#)

The schemes and ideals outlined by Mr. Hendry -were altogether too many to encompass within the limited space available here, therefore suffice it to say that the institution will be one of the most up-to-date of its kind in the world. And all this Mr. Hendry has virtually worked-out himself.

Talking of the feelings of blind people he was asked if the public’s idea that their perceptions were somewhat abnormal were true. Mr. Hendry replied: -

“I think it can be explained in this way. I do not go in for theorising, but there is, I believe, such a thing as “blind craft.” It is not abnormal, but the acquisition of it enables people to recognise, to perceive, to identify things out of range of the ordinary senses.”

“Give an example.”

“I take it this way. There is such a thing as a suggested sixth sense, but it takes some extraordinary condition to bring this sixth sense, dormant in most people, into actual being. Now, I know that some blind people have this sixth, developed to such a degree that walking along the street with a man who can see they will tell you exactly what objects they are walking past. I have in mind one man whom you can go along with, and he will say “that is an iron fence,” “that is a hedge,” “we are passing a telegraph pole,” a stone wall, or whatever it might be. Such people do not see, they do not feel; but there is something borne in on their perceptions. In the development of this blind craft, it seems

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to me that this other sense plays an important part.”

“It is some compensation, at any rate, for the loss of vision that other faculties are keener.”

“Yes. But life to any man or to any woman is only life when the mind and the hand are educated so that they are able to take a part in the various activities of it, and in order that they may do this they must be educated and trained. The blind can be educated to all this. It is really astonishing what they can do. We have a blind man who can prune the most delicate rose tree, and a blind girl who can typewrite at 84 words a minute without a single mistake. Examples of that kind could be multiplied almost ad infinitum. They only serve to show the value and necessity of our work.”

Ten years ago Mr. Hendry visited England and the Continent, holding a commission from the South. Australian Government to enquire into matters affecting the training and education of the blind, and the leaders of. these movements are very anxious that he should attend the great conference to held shortly in England, which promises to be the biggest gathering of its kind ever held in the world.

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