State Heritage Areas
of South Australia

Port Adelaide State Heritage Area
Shops, Offices & Warehouses
State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

The area now designated as the Port Adelaide State Heritage Area was associated with the Port's commercial and industrial development during the nineteenth century. Consequently there were many stores, warehouses and other commercial buildings centred within this area near the docks.

Some of the services provided were specific to the maritime trades of a port (for example sailmaking, chandlery or the storage of imported goods), while others related more generally to the needs of any town or settlement.

The old stone warehouses are particularly interesting buildings that played an important role in the Port's early and bustling commercial life. Remnant features, such as the overhanging beams on a side wall in Calton Street, are reminders of the horse-drawn era when block and tackle was used to lift heavy goods.

Of the many former commercial buildings in the Port Adelaide State Heritage Area, five are State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

St Vincent Chambers
255-265 St Vincent Street, Port Adelaide
SAHR 10633 – confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register 12 January 1984

This row of shops, on the corner of St Vincent and Timpson Streets, was constructed in 1883 for the Hon. Alexander Hay MLC, a successful merchant, pastoralist, company director and politician. It was built by contractors Robin and Hack, who had completed the impressive Largs Pier Hotel the previous year. The architect was William Beattie and the original drawings, signed by him, still survive.

St Vincent Chambers is a rare example of a two-storey terrace of shops and residences that, despite the pressures of commerce, has remained largely in original

St Vincent Chambers, 2005

condition. The verandah was not part of the original design, but was added at an unknown date prior to 1901.

The shop fronts show only minor upgrading and are remarkably intact,

Shutters on Timpson Street windows, 2005

with slender half-column frames surrounding the large plate glass windows.

The sliding shutters on the windows are a noteworthy feature not often seen on buildings of any era.

The two-storey timber verandah at the rear has been modified and added to. The interior has been altered, but still retains significant features such as original staircases and joinery work.

Shop frontage, St Vincent Street, 2005

former Lewis & Webb Office
116 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide
SAHR 10925 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 29 May 1981

McLachlan Building, 2005

This two-storey pre-1877 building, now the office of G.G. McLachlan & Co, is a notable example of the early, small mercantile buildings in the Port.

The Bank of Adelaide, which originally leased premises on Queen's Wharf in 1866, possibly moved to this building for a short time in 1884 while the adjacent building (No. 114) was constructed.

former sailmaker's shop & loft, Jane Street, 2005

former Weman's Sailmaker's Shop
117 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide
SAHR 10758 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 26 November 1981
&
former Weman's Warehouse and Sail Loft
10 Jane Street, Port Adelaide
*SAHR 10923 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 29 May 1981*

The significance of these two buildings lies in their associations with the days of sailing ships and the early development of Port Adelaide. Both buildings are simple functional structures in a style common to colonial South Australia, and are a reminder that the Port was once a thriving commercial centre, supplying and servicing the ships that were a vital link for the Colony. They are also amongst a number of buildings in this part of Port Adelaide that provide evidence of the raising of street levels in the 1870s, with subsequent modifications to entrances, basements and building facades.

Henry Weman was one of Port Adelaide's early sailmakers. He arrived in South Australia on the *Challenger* in April 1854, and opened a sailmaking and ships' chandler business in Lipson Street ten years later.

The sailmakers shop and chandlery, built during the 1870s-1880s, is a unique early shop building and remarkably original. The shopfront, with 9-paned windows each side of a recessed doorway, is virtually unchanged from 1887, when Weman was photographed on the front step of these premises. The ground floor walls are brick, while the first floor is timber-framed with corrugated galvanised iron walls.


Weman's Chandlery, 1979
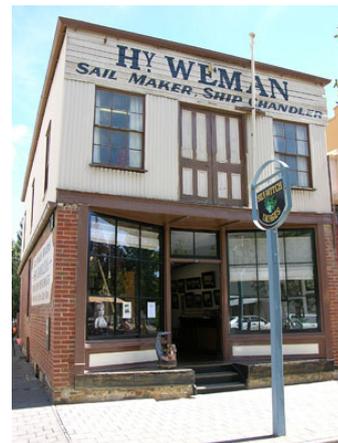
Weman's Building, 2005

This building appears to have been constructed over an earlier stone one, some time after the streets were raised, although an alternate suggestion is that the shopfront of the 1860s building may have been raised at this time. The tops of the basement windows, at ground level in Jane Street, are an indication of the original street levels here. The pattern of the double brick sidewall is known as Colonial Bond, with three rows of stretchers and one of headers.

The sail loft and warehouse building at the rear, facing into Jane Street, is visible in an 1879 lithograph and was possibly built in 1872. It is of simple unpainted brick construction, with 6-paned windows and rough, heavy timber doors. The substantial posts, designed to protect the walls from unloading vehicles, and the early hoist over the second floor entrance are notable features.

Weman's Sail Loft, 1980
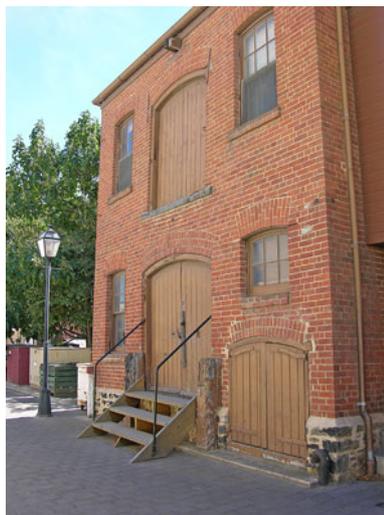
Weman's Sail loft, 2005

Henry Weman & Co. traded as sailmakers, ships' chandlers, riggers, grocers and general storekeepers from this site until 1906, when the buildings were occupied by L.E. Small, French Polishers and Furniture Repairers. In the early 1980s the dilapidated and unused buildings were purchased by the South Australian Government. They were stabilised and restored for community use, but the original character and features were carefully maintained. Painting and sign-writing, for example, reflect the look of the shopfront in the 1887 photograph. The Weman's buildings are now part of the South Australian Maritime Museum's Lipson Street complex, providing leased space for small business as well as a meetings room and accommodation for staff and the museum's library.

South Australian Maritime Museum – former Elders Bond & Free Stores
126 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide
SAHR 10759 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 24 July 1980

These Victorian warehouses, which now house the exhibitions of the South Australian Maritime Museum, were constructed in two stages, but there is some confusion about the order in which they were built.

Plaques at the museum's entrance, based on earlier research, suggest that the southern building is dated at 1854, with the northern (corner) building completed in 1857. However, more recent research (the 1991 *Maritime Museum Conservation Study* by Lothar Brasse) suggests that, of the two buildings on the site today, the corner (1857) building, designed by George S. Kingston, is the earlier. While sources all agree that Elders had buildings on the southern section from 1854 (with the corner allotment vacant), it seems that these were timber and iron structures, which were damaged in 1858. Thus the southern stone 'extension', designed by Edmund Wright, was constructed after that time, most probably c1863.

South Australian Maritime Museum, 2005

Bond & Free Stores, 1981

The linked buildings are an impressive example of early bluestone warehouses, with elaborate brick cornice treatment that differs on both sections. They were built as Bonded and Free Stores *(see below)* for Elder & Co (predecessor to Elder Smith & Company) and sold in 1886 to George Ferguson & Sons.

In the early twentieth century Ferguson & Sons leased the warehouse to H. Muecke & Co, who eventually purchased the property in 1959, reselling it in 1973. In the 1970s the building was well-known in Port Adelaide as the Port Auction Mart. It remained unused for a short time prior to 1980, when it was purchased by the State Government, as part of the Port Adelaide Redevelopment Program.

Entrance to 'Port Auction Mart', late 1970s

Bondstore interior, 1981

The building was extensively restored, and converted for its current use as South Australia's award-winning Maritime Museum. Today the museum's 'Bondstore', as it is known, is a well-maintained heritage place and one of the State's most enduring (1986) Jubilee 150 projects.

* A Bonded Store is one in which imported goods can be stored duty free until sold. This is an important concession for importers. Unlike conventional storage facilities, bonded warehouses are authorised by the local customs agency, which defers the payment of taxes until the goods are actually purchased. For customs' purposes, the goods effectively remain 'off-shore' and the costs associated with legally landing them are put off until the importer has found a buyer. Once the goods are sold, and the taxes paid, they become 'free' goods and can be removed from the warehouse.

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Heritage