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:	Sisalkraft factory complex	
Any other or former name(s):	No	
Is the place already on another heritage list?	No	

2. Location						
Street Address:	356 Torrens Road					
	Suburb / Town: KILKENNY SA			Post Code: 5009		
Local Council Name:	Charles Sturt					
Land Description: (if known)	Title: CTs	Volume: 4160	Folios: 739 to 7 (Five tit	les)	Parcel Type: ALLOTMENTS	Parcel No:
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section	i.	Hundred:	
GPS Location/s: (If known)	Longitude / Ea	sting / X		Latitud	de / Northing / Y (D	Datum =)

3. Ownership			
Name of Owner(s):			
Contact person:	As above		
(if different from owner explain relationship)			
Postal Address:	Street Address:		
Phone Number:			
Ownership History:	Original owner (1956) was Sisalkraft Distributors Pty Ltd. ACI later acquired		
	the buildings. From 1981: the premises of German-owned global earth-		
	moving company, Liebherr-Australia, while they constructed their own		
	premises. There were then other owners (unknown) prior to		
	purchasing the property in 1998.		

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

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Postal Address:		
Email Address:		

B. Description

5. Description of nominated place or object

Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:

The Sisalkraft factory complex is set on an area of 5,141 square metres over five titles. It is located on a prominent corner site, with its frontage to Torrens Road and the rear vehicular entry is off Goodall Avenue. The complex comprises an administration building (offices, showroom and amenities) and a factory building. The building complex is constructed of hollow concrete block (now known as Besser brick) walls, with galvanised iron roofs.

The administration building is highlighted at the front by a distinctive reinforced concrete parabolic arch, supporting a suspended steel-framed concrete entrance canopy, with an underside of timber boards (probably cedar). It has a flat roof, lined with Sisalation. Its double entry doors are timber frame plate glass, and the showroom is located inside the entrance. The large plate glass windows along the southwestern (front) façade of the building are shaded by blades (large metal sheets) suspended by timber posts under a verandah.

The factory building is located at the rear of the complex and is linked to the administration building by a walkway, with offices along one side. The walkway has been closed off to allow for separate tenants in the administration building and the factory. The factory features natural lighting provided by clerestory windows, gabled at the ends, beneath a staggered gable roof, lined with Sisalation. There is a steel roller shutter door at southern elevation.

The buildings are in very good condition, in particular the factory which has been leased for around the last 30 years by the same tenant. The administration building is in good condition externally, but the window glazing has been painted and the interior may need some refurbishment. The original floor tiles remain in the bathrooms. In both the administration building and the factory, the original floor insulation comprised a layer of bitumen over concrete. This has deteriorated badly in both buildings. However, the original Sisalkraft Sisalation insulation in the roofs of both buildings remains in excellent condition.

The original landscaping in the front courtyard includes Mintaro slate paving and hollow concrete block garden walling. At the front is a circular concrete plinth with a steel baseplate, designed especially to hold a tall flagpole that originally

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	Ţ
Are you aware of any modifications or additions	included spiral winding for stability. The plinth has small blue and white tiles around the rim. A circular pond at the rear, inlaid with small blue and white tiles, originally operated as a fountain with a motorised pump. Most garden plantings, including a front hedge (one shrub has died) and two tall palm trees, also remain. The linking walkway between the administration building at the
to the place or object?	front of the complex and the factory at the rear has been closed
Can you provide dates for these changes?	off to allow separate tenants for the two buildings. Factory
Carryou provide dates for triese changes?	tenant, has made the rooms off the walkway into his office.
	has also replaced a row of existing steel-framed
	windows at the rear of the showroom with a new external door.
	This has been designed to blend in with the original building.
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground? Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	No, not to my knowledge.
Date you inspected the place or object:	Saturday 3 April 2021
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	Yes, has been contacted for information for an article in Art Deco Magazine, <i>Spirit of Progress</i> . He has not yet been advised of the complex's nomination to the SA Heritage Register.
Current use of the place or object:	Factory tenanted by who runs the business, Marque Restoration. Office currently vacant.
Original or former use(s):	Distribution of Sisalkraft products by Sisalkraft Distributors Pty Ltd.
Are there any current or long term threats	No immediate threat but the buildings could be altered or sold in
to the nominated place or object?	the future.
Name of Builder:	Wilckens and Burnside
Any other information:	The Manager/lessee of the factory, of Marque Restoration, has been there for 30 years. He is keen to preserve the heritage of the buildings. The owner, also has an interest in the complex's heritage and supplied an early photograph from an architectural magazine for the <i>Spirit of Progress</i> article.

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Start: 1956 Finish: 1956
Name of Designer / Architect:	Keith Neighbour
History of the nominated place or object:	Background Sisalkraft was a United States company whose products included construction chemicals and insulation. Sisalkraft Australia Pty Ltd, part US owned, was established in the 1930s. It produced reinforced bitumen laminated paper that was sold to the packaging and building industries; the latter used it as sarking

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under metal sheet and tiled roofs. In the 1940s, aluminium foil was added to Sisalkraft paper, producing reflective foil laminate with superior insulating properties we now know as 'Sisalation'. Sisalation acts not only as insulation, but also assists in managing condensation in roof spaces. Prior to its manufacture in Australia, the only form of insulation available was rockwool, a fibrous bulk insulation made from blown melted rock.

By 1962 Sisalkraft had established offices in almost all of Australia's capital cities as reflective foil laminate rapidly gained acceptance in the Australian market, both as a cost-efficient and effective insulation and sarking material. In the 1950s, ACI Australia began making glasswool insulation and developed 'insulation batts' (Pink Batts). Insulco, established in 1979, gained market share in the 1980s and 1990s with its own branded products, Fat Batts and Vapa-Chek. From 2003, Fletcher Insulation acquired these companies, including Sisalation products, and continues to produce and sell them.

The factory complex

Kilkenny was first subdivided in 1849 as a township (Section 388) and the land was subdivided into blocks of 10, 5 and 2.5 acres. It was originally planned as an industrial township – 'the Sheffield of South Australia' (the original Sheffield is in Yorkshire, England). It is now an inner north-western suburb of Adelaide and incorporates Challa Gardens, formerly a separate suburb, where the Sisalkraft factory was built.

The factory complex was designed for Sisalkraft Distributors by Keith Neighbour of prominent SA architectural practice Lawson, Cheesman, Doley and Partners. It was constructed by building contractors Wilckens and Burnside in **1956**.

Built on a prominent corner allotment, of hollow concrete block (now known as Besser brick) walls, with galvanised iron roofs, the most distinctive feature is a reinforced concrete parabolic arch at the front, supporting a suspended steel-framed concrete entrance canopy, with an underside of timber boards (probably cedar).

The flat-roofed office and amenities building is lined with Sisalisation. Its double entry doors are timber frame plate glass and the showroom is located inside the entrance. The large plate glass windows along the southwestern (front) façade of the office and showroom are shaded by blades (large metal sheets) suspended by timber posts under a verandah.

The factory building, located at the rear of the complex, is linked to the office building by a walkway and further offices (now closed off at the rear of the main part of the office building to allow for separate tenants). The factory features natural lighting provided by clerestory windows situated beneath an unusual staggered gable roof. The flat roof of the administration building allows a view of the factory roof gables from Torrens Road at the front of

Nomination form

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the complex. The stormwater system was the first of its type in South Australia (, pers. comm.).

The landscaping in the front courtyard was also distinctive. The landscape design included, at the front of the building, a circular concrete plinth with a steel baseplate, designed especially to hold a tall flagpole that originally included spiral winding for stability. Another feature was a circular pond at the rear, inlaid with small blue and white tiles, which originally operated as a fountain with a motorised pump. Most of the original plantings remain (see 'Description').

The factory complex's innovative design was acknowledged in a popular University of Melbourne professional newsletter, *Crosssection*, which published a photograph taken from the entrance arch and described it as 'not only Adelaide's most advanced factory building but an excellent pointer for industry elsewhere' (see references). In Adelaide, it was the 'talk of the town' (pers. comm., 8 July 2022).

The architect

The architect, Keith Neighbour, was a World War 2 RAAF veteran and a POW of the Japanese. After the War, he studied architecture in Adelaide through a Commonwealth scholarship. In his early years, he worked as an articled student for prominent SA practice Hassell & McConnell. He was strongly influenced by Jack McConnell, whose ground-breaking designs, using modernist principles developed in his native Melbourne, influenced a generation of new architects and helped transform Adelaide's architecture from the 1930s.

After working in SA's Architect-in-Chief's Department, Neighbour completed a Master of Architecture in the USA as a Fulbright Scholar and was awarded the Albert Kahn Memorial Fellowship; Khan had transformed industrial building design in his work for the Ford Motor Co. in Detroit, USA. He also worked for an architectural practice in Philadelphia, USA and in London, UK. On his return in 1954, Neighbour joined the practice Lawson, Cheesman & Doley, which became Cheesman, Doley, Brabham & Neighbour in 1959. By the late 1960s, Neighbour was head of the practice (the firm was then Cheesman, Doley, Neighbour & Raffen). This firm designed many distinctive buildings in post-war Adelaide, including the ETA Foods factory (1958) at Renown Park, the Highways Department building (1959) in Walkerville, and the IMFC (1964) and Ligertwood (1965) buildings in Adelaide city. By 1973, with over 100 employees, it had become the largest architectural firm in SA and the third largest in Australia.

Changes over time

ACI later acquired the factory buildings, and from 1981 they became, for a time, the premises of German-owned global earthmoving company, Liebherr-Australia. The current owner, purchased the property in 1998.

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The office is currently vacant, although it has been tenanted previously. The factory tenant, has been there for 30 years. His business, Marque Restoration, restores and repairs cars from the era in which the factory was built, a fitting use of the buildings. One of the few changes he made was to replace a row of existing steel-framed windows at the showroom rear with a new external door, designed to blend in with the original building.

The original Sisalkraft Sisalation insulation in the roofs of both buildings remains in excellent condition. It protects the buildings from summer heat and winter cold and is much appreciated by

the factory employees.

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Historical sources used to support your nomination:

Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate. Dr Caroline Cosgrove on behalf of the Art Deco & Modernism Society, Adelaide Chapter, 'Sisalkraft factory, Torrens Road, Adelaide, South Australia' in *Spirit of Progress*, Journal of the Art Deco & Modernism Society of Australia Inc., forthcoming [2022].

'Old advertisement for Sisalation reinforced aluminium foil insulation material for use in the home': https://www.alamy.com/ [1962 magazine] viewed 13 July 2022

Collins, Julie, 'Neighbour, Keith', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008, Architects of SA: https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=49 viewed 13 July 2022

Cosgrove, Caroline, 'Notes of discussion with Keith Neighbour, 13 May 2010', copy held at the Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

'Fletcher Insulation': https://insulation.com.au/our-history/ viewed 29 June 2022

Renouf, Tim, 'WREN INDUSTRIES and the History and Science of Foil Insulation in Australia', June 2012: http://www.concertinafoilbatts.com/wrenhistory.pdf viewed 29 June 2022

Rich, David C., 'Tom's Vision? Playford and industrialisation' in *Playford's South Australia: essays on the history of South Australia*, B. O'Neil, J. Raftery & K. Round (eds), *1933–1968*, Association of Professional Historians Inc., 1996

Symons, Stuart, *Modernist Adelaide: 100 Buildings 1940s-1970s*, Wakefield Press, 2019

Sisalkraft Ltd, *Cross-Section*, no 46, August 1, 1956; *Cross-Section* collection, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne.

<u>Oral</u>	
Rob Tinga,	, pers.
comm. 12 July 2022.	
Gerard Miller,	, pers. comm. 8 July 2022.

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D. Heritage Significance

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

The Sisalkraft factory, Torrens Road, Kilkenny, is of State heritage significance because its innovative design uses a ground-breaking approach to create a factory complex with striking, state-of-the-art features. The most distinctive feature is a reinforced concrete parabolic arch at the front entrance that supports a suspended steel-framed concrete entrance canopy, with an underside of timber boards; this leads through the entry doors to the showroom. Another highlight is the factory building's unusual staggered gable roof, with natural lighting provided by clerestory windows situated beneath them, gabled at the ends. Other features are its long-lasting Sisalation ceiling insulation (Sisalkraft, which was its product), landscape elements and stormwater system.

The factory complex is associated with outstanding Adelaide architect, Keith Neighbour. Neighbour completed a Master of Architecture in the USA as a Fulbright Scholar and was awarded the Albert Kahn Memorial Fellowship. He worked for two prominent South Australian practices, and later became head of the second practice, Cheesman, Doley, Neighbour & Raffen, which became the largest architectural practice in SA in the early 1970s. His design for the Sisalkraft factory is important in representing innovation in factory design and development in Adelaide and in Australia in the post WW II period.

8. S	8. Significance Criteria				
	The South Australian <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> 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.	The Sisalkraft factory, Torrens Road, Kilkenny, is important in representing innovation in factory design and development in Adelaide and in Australia in the post-WW II period. Its design features, including its entrance canopy leading to the showroom, roof designs, floor and Sisalation ceiling insulation (Sisalkraft, the factory's product), landscape elements and stormwater system were state-of-the-art for the period. Its retention in its mostly original state represents the advances that were made at the time to accommodate the needs of workers, while using a striking design.			
	It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.	The Sisalkraft factory, Torrens Road, Kilkenny, is an innovative design that uses a ground-breaking approach to create a factory complex with striking features. When built, it was described in University of Melbourne newsletter, <i>Cross-section</i> , as 'not only Adelaide's most advanced factory building but an excellent pointer for industry elsewhere'. The most distinctive feature is a reinforced concrete parabolic arch at the front entrance that supports a suspended steel-framed concrete entrance canopy, with an underside of timber boards. Another highlight is the unusual, staggered gable roof in the factory building, beneath which are clerestory windows (gabled at the ends) that provide natural lighting. The flat roof of the administration building allows			

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	a view of the factory roof gables from Torrens Road at the front of the complex.
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.	The Sisalkraft factory, Torrens Road, Kilkenny, is associated with outstanding Adelaide architect, Keith Neighbour. Neighbour completed a Master of Architecture in the USA as a Fulbright Scholar and was awarded the Albert Kahn Memorial Fellowship. He gained additional experience, working for an architectural practice in Philadelphia, USA and another one in London, UK. He had worked with prominent SA practice, Hassell & McConnell, and after returning from overseas, with Lawson, Cheesman & Doley, before becoming head of the latter practice. Under his leadership, it became the largest architectural practice in SA in the early 1970s, designing many of the state's prominent mid-20 th century buildings. It was also the third largest practice in Australia at that time.

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:

See attachments:

Appendix I - images, image captions & credits

Appendix II - extracts from Cross-Section Newsletter:

No. 46, Sept 1956: Sisalkraft factory, Challa Gardens, SA

No. 102, Apr 1961: ETA Foods, Renown Park, SA

Attachment A - Site and construction plans (captions included as titles)

Attachment B - Sisalkraft factory article: 'Concrete in Modern Architecture', Architecture in SA, 1960

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.

Nomination form

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

We,	nominate The Sisalkraft factory complex, 356 Torrens
Road, Kilkenny, SA, 5009, to be heritage listed.	-
The information we have provided is correct to our knowledge.	
Your Signature/s:	Date: 4 th December 2022
Tour Signature/s.	Date. 4 December 2022
Nomination Form Checklist	
Please check that your nomination includes:	
☐A clear indication of the location of the place or object (
nominated, show the location of each and/or a boundary	
A history of the place or object explaining important as This should generally help support arguments of culture.	•
A clear description of the nominated place or object/s.	rai significance.
☐A statement of significance and indication on how the p	place or object satisfies one or more
of the significance criteria.	
Have you taken the opportunity to discuss the nominal	_
strongly advised you to do so prior to submitting this nom	ination.
I	

Email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au

Post: Executive Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Department for Environment and Water GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

Nomination form

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APPENDIX I

Photos, captions & credits

Sisalkraft Factory, 356 Torrens Road, Kilkenny SA (SA Heritage Register nomination):

All photos can be reproduced & copied

November 2022

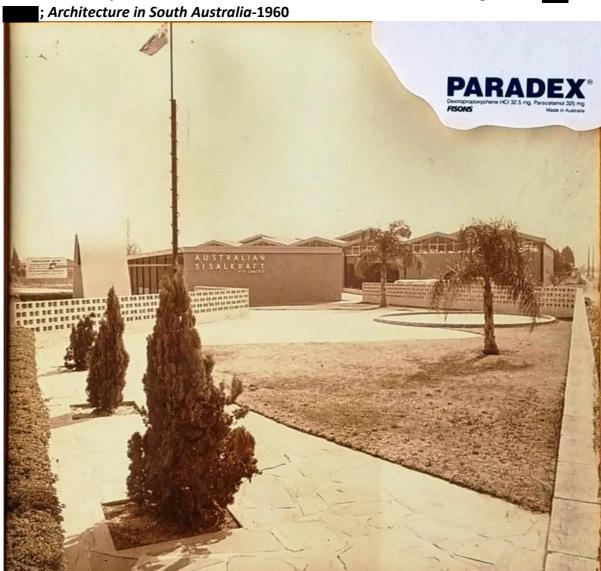
1. Sisalkraft factory Adelaide-Cross Section no. 46-1.8.1956 *Cross Section* no. 46, 1 August 1956. The photography studio (Arnold Studios Ltd.) no longer exists in Adelaide and efforts to find the photographer, or any descendants, have produced no results.



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2. Sisalkraft factory Adelaide-Architecture in South Australia-1960. Building Owner:



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3. Sisalkraft factory Adelaide-Entry arch from office/administration building.



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4. Sisalkraft factory Adelaide-Entry arch from the left side of the office/administration



5. Sisalkraft factory Adelaide-Entry arch from the street (SW).



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6. & 7. Sisalkraft factory Adelaide-Entry arch from front doors.





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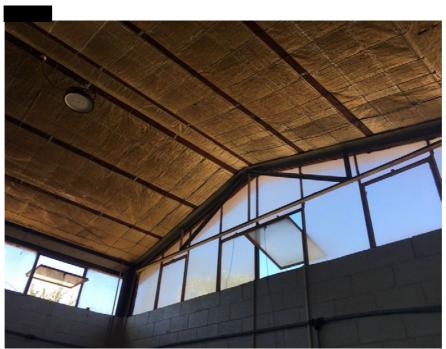
9. Sisalkraft Factory Adelaide-office/administration building: tiles in amenities area



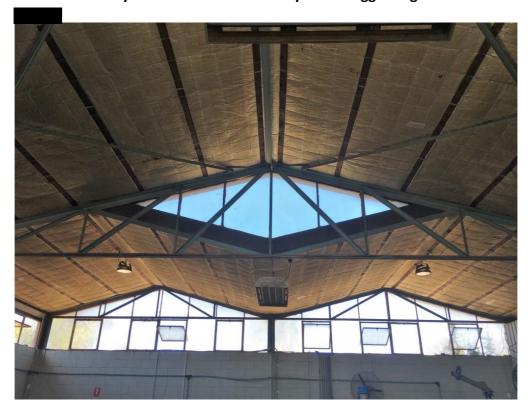
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10. Sisalkraft factory Adelaide- - interior factory roof & clerestory windows.



11. Sisalkraft Factory Adelaide- interior factory roof: staggered gables & windows.



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12. Sisalkraft Factory Adelaide - inside, roof showing Sisalation Courtyard.



13. Sisalkraft Factory Adelaide - Courtyard showing paving & pool.



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APPENDIX II

Sisalkraft factory, 356 Torrens Road, Kilkenny SA (SA Heritage Register nomination)

The inaugural *Cross-Section* newsletter was published in November 1952 by the then University of Melbourne Department of Architecture. The collection comprises 219 issues of *Cross-Section* published from 1952-1971. The publication was sent to architects and master builders throughout Australia to provide updates on Australian building projects. Architects, builders and planners would send in photographs and records with the aim of having them published in the newsletter.



Sisalkraft factory, Challa Gardens, SA

One black and white print of the entrance to the Sisalkraft factory, Challa Gardens, SA. Architect: Lawson Cheesman & Doley, builder: Wilckens & Burnside Ltd and photographer: Arnold Studios Ltd. The photograph was published in *Cross-Section*, no 46, Sept 1956.

Creator Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne [current custodian of the *Cross-Section* collection]

Control Folder 8

Date range 1956

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Inventory Identifier CSEC00700 Series 24

Cross-Section, University of Melbourne Department of Architecture, Issue No 46, August 1, 1956.

This bold entrance is to new premises for Sisalkraft Ltd in Torrens-rd Challa Gardens, Adelaide. The factory & offices are placed in carefully landscaped surroundings where the arch'ts, Messrs Lawson, Cheeseman, Doley & partners, have used a reflecting pool & other pleasantries rare in an industrial works. It is thus not only Adelaide's most advanced factory bldg but an excellent pointer for industry elsewhere. (Wilckens & Burnside Ltd, bldrs; £40,000; 12,800 sq ft)

ETA Foods, Renown Park, SA

Architect: Cheesman Doley Brabham & Neighbour. Cross-Section, no 102, Apr 1961.

Creator: Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne

Control Folder 8 Date range 1961

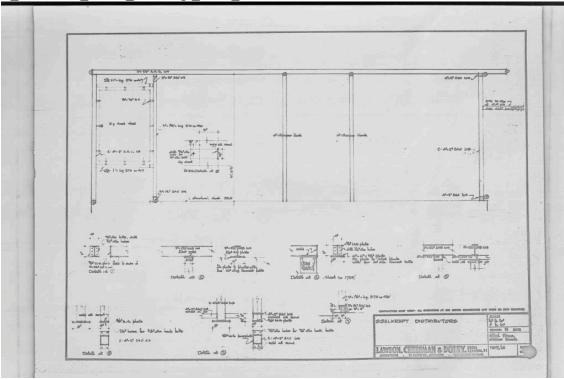
Inventory Identifier CSEC00710 Series 24

Photos: Ingerson-Arnold

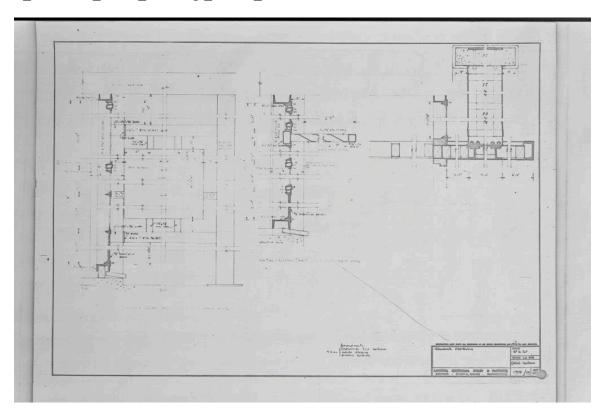


Attachment A – Site and construction plans (captions included as titles)

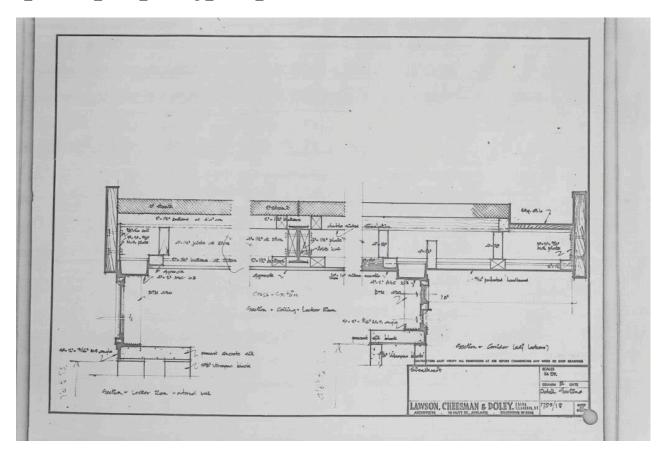
A_Sisalkraft_office_building,_steel_frame



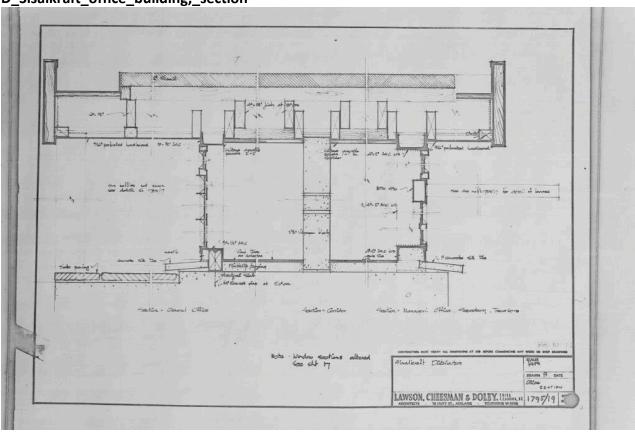
B_Sisalkraft_office_building,_detail,_section



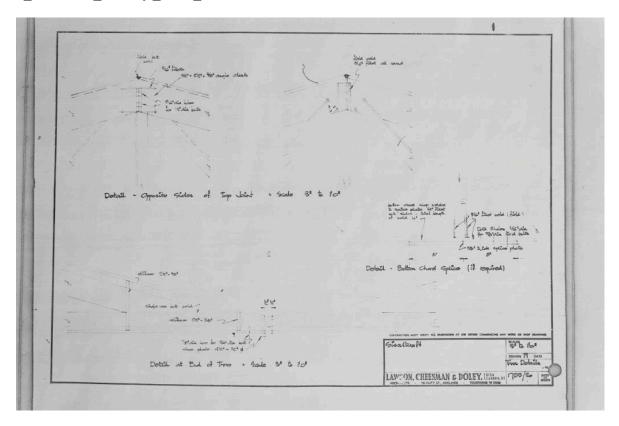
C_Sisalkraft_office_building,_detail,_sections



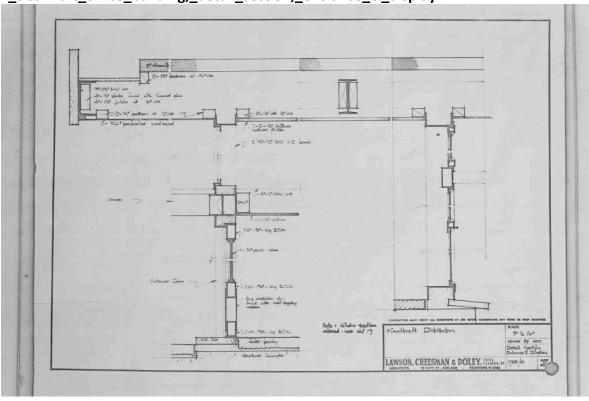
D_Sisalkraft_office_building,_section



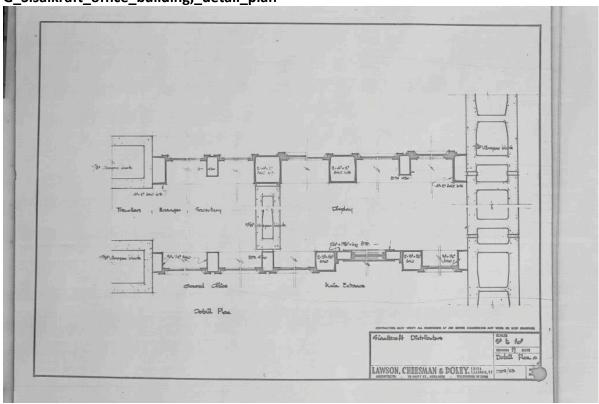
E_Sisalkraft_factory,_truss_details



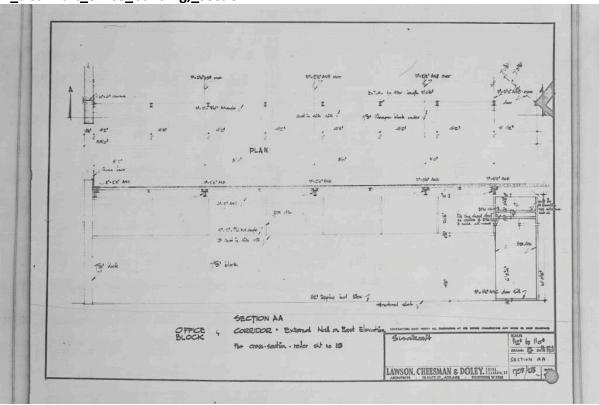
F_Sisalkraft_office_building,_detail_section,_entrance_&_display



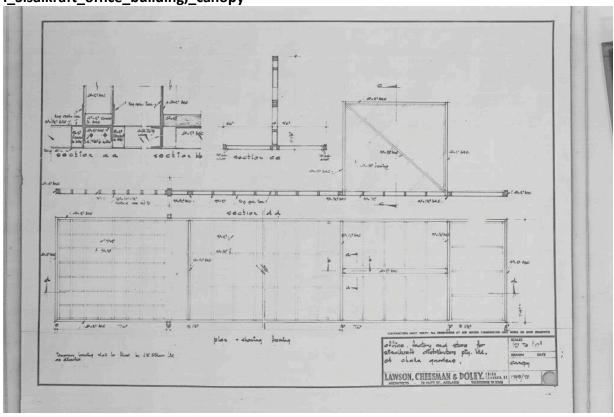
G_Sisalkraft_office_building,_detail_plan



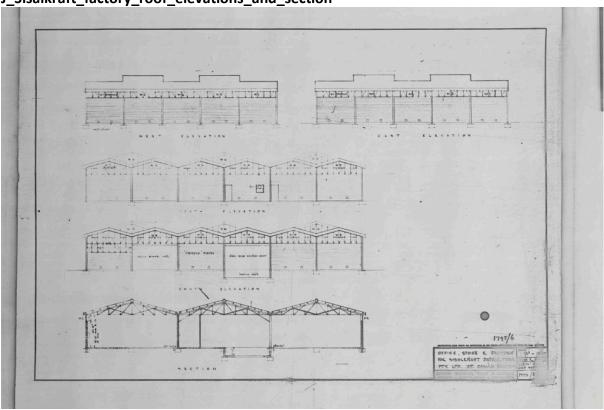
H_Sisalkraft_office_building,_section

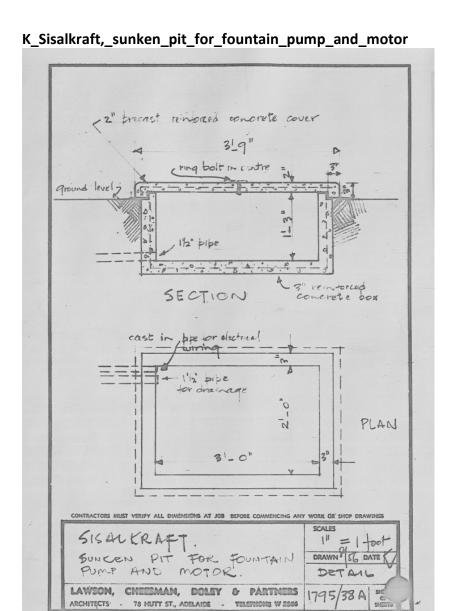


I_Sisalkraft_office_building,_canopy



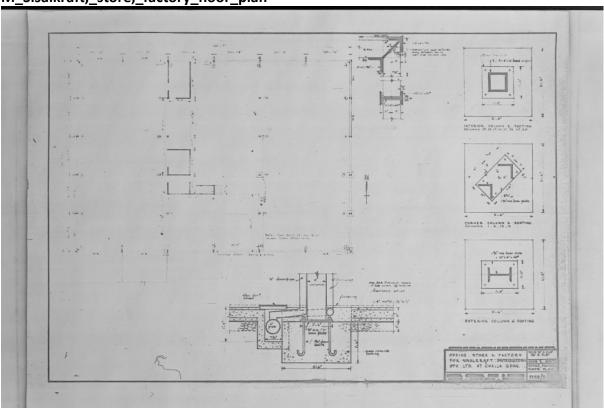
J_Sisalkraft_factory_roof_elevations_and_section



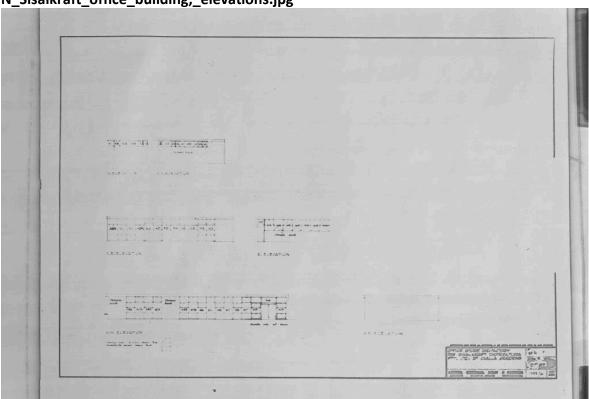


L_Sisalkraft_floor_plan,_office_block

M_Sisalkraft,_store,_factory_floor_plan



N_Sisalkraft_office_building,_elevations.jpg



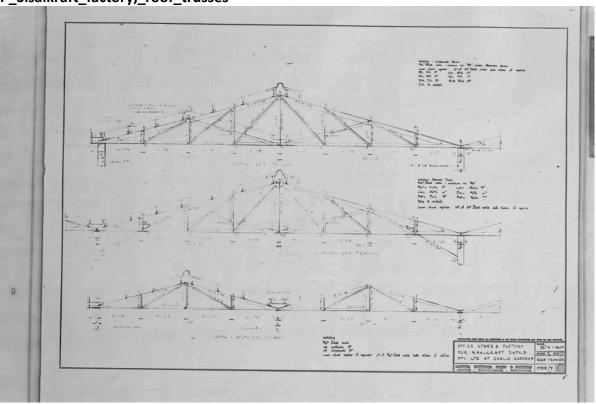
O_Sisalkraft_factory,_office_block_footings

FORE OF ENGINEER

FORE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

LAWSON, CHEESMAN & DOLEY, USA.

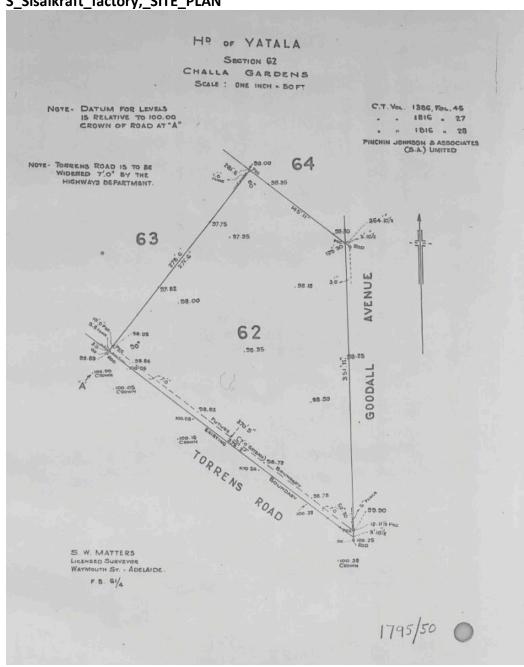
P_Sisalkraft_factory,_roof_trusses



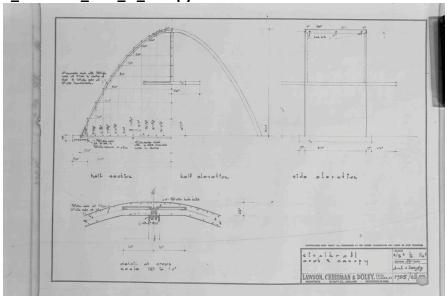
Q_Sisalkraft_factory,_window_details

the to the state of the same o

S_Sisalkraft_factory,_SITE_PLAN



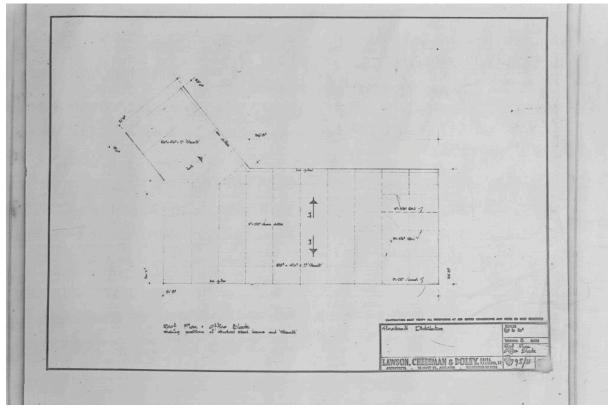
T_Sisalkraft_arch_&_canopy



u_Sisalkraft_factory,_clerestory_window_details

fulls to the first transfer to the second to

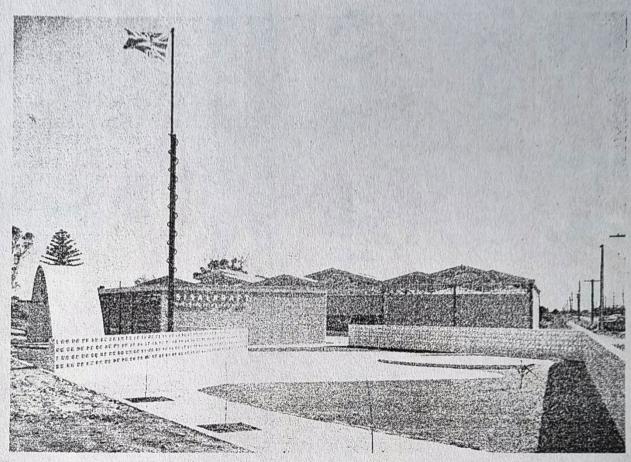
W_Sisalkraft_factory_roof_plan,_office_block



CONCRETE IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE

Factory, Warehouse and Offices, Adelaide, for Sisalkraft Distributors (S.A.) Pty. Ltd.)

Architects: Lawson, Cheesman, Doley and Partners, Contractors: Wilckens and Burnside.



View from outdoor conference area, showing hollow concrete block screen walls. The shell concrete parabolic arch at the entrance to the office block was erected without the use of a top form.

CEMENT AND CONCRETE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

14 SPRING STREET, SYDNEY
37A HAVELOCK STREET, WEST PERTH.

A national organisation to extend and improve the uses of cement and concrete.