

## HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

---

**NAME:** Epworth Building

**PLACE:** 13389

---

**ADDRESS:** Karna Country  
33/33B Pirie Street, Adelaide

---

This heritage assessment considers that the place meets criterion (g). Refer to Summary of State Heritage Place for final approved wording, including criteria statements.



Northern elevation of Epworth Building, 2024.

Source: DEW Files

### ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

#### Statement of Heritage Significance:

Epworth Building has a special association with the work of the Methodist Church of Australasia, the unified body representing one of the oldest and once-largest Christian denominations in South Australia. Designed in 1924 and completed in late 1927, Epworth Building served as the Methodist Church's South Australian administrative and commercial headquarters between 1927 and 1977. The Connexional Secretary and President had offices in the building, as did departments devoted to social services and it was from here that the major operations of the church were organised and run, including its outreach and welfare services. After the Second World War, Epworth Building became a major source of revenue for the Church, assisting it to fund its works.

## **Relevant South Australian Historical Themes**

### **4. Building Settlements, Towns and Cities**

4.7 Marking significant phases in development of SA's settlements, towns and cities (including key town planning initiatives and architectural styles)

### **5. Developing South Australia's Economies**

5.1 Developing South Australia's Economy

### **6. Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and building communities)**

6.1 Supporting Diverse Religions and Maintaining Spiritual Life (SA Point of Difference)

## **Comparability / Rarity / Representation:**

Epworth Building is associated with the Methodist Church; Adelaide's first wave of tall buildings c.1912-1943; interwar Gothic architecture c.1915-1940; and George Klewitz Soward. Each association is considered in turn.

## **The Methodist Church**

Methodists built Epworth Building in 1927. There are 87 heritage places associated with Methodism in South Australia, with 29 at the State level and 58 at the local. Most entries are for churches and chapels, followed by halls, schoolhouses and cemeteries.

Examples of State Heritage Places associated with Methodism in South Australia include:

- Former Methodist Church Meeting Hall, 1862, 25 Pirie Street, Adelaide (SHP 10654, listed 1982),
- Former Wesleyan Methodist Church Complex (including 1857 Chapel, 1866 Church and 1888 Hall), 1857-1888, Victoria Road, Clare (SHP 14558, listed 1999), criterion (a),
- Moonta Mines Uniting Church, Outbuildings and Front Fence, 1863, 557 Milne Street, Moonta Mines (SHP 10114, listed 1981),
- Wesley Church Complex – Former, 1878, 239 The Parade, Norwood (SHP 10950, listed 1983),
- Former Salisbury Methodist Church, 1961, 59-61 Park Terrace, Salisbury (SHP 26549, listed 2004), criterion (e).



**Former Wesleyan Methodist Church Complex (including 1857 Chapel, 1866 Church and 1888 Hall) (SHP 14558)**

Source: Google Street View, 2023



**Former Salisbury Methodist Church (SHP 26549)**

Source: DEW Files, 2023

### **Adelaide's first wave of tall buildings, c.1912 - 1943**

Architectural historians Julie Collins, Alexander Ibels, Susan Collins and Christine Garnaut define 'tall buildings' as 'those that exceed the general height of buildings in their surroundings'. In the context of Adelaide, the 'first wave' of tall buildings occurred between 1912 and 1943. These buildings range in height from six to ten storeys, average 132 feet (40 metres) tall, have prominent facades, and footprints that typically cover the whole of their land parcels.<sup>1</sup>

Fourteen tall buildings erected during the first wave of construction have been identified.<sup>2</sup> All are State Heritage Places except for Epworth Building (LHP) (subject of this assessment) and Tobin House (LHP).

- Verco Building, c.1912, 178 North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 13363, listed 11 September 1986); South Australia's first 'tall building', designed by E. H. McMichael; only the façade remains;
- Executor Trustee Building, 1922, 22 Grenfell Street, Adelaide (SHP 11704, listed 14 February 1985); designed by Woods Bagot Jory and Laybourne Smith with CEW Parsons;
- Hall – Liberal Club (former), 1925, 175 North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 13362, listed 11 September 1986); designed by F. H. Counsell; only the façade remains;
- T & G Building, 1925, 82 King William Street, Adelaide (SHP 11740, listed 8 November 1984); designed by Henderson, Alsop and Martin;
- Kelvin Building, 1926, 233-236 North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 26573; provisionally entered 14 March 2024), criteria (a), (b) and (e); designed by E. H. McMichael,
- Bank – New Zealand (Alliance Building), 1927, 18 Grenfell Street, Adelaide (SHP 13592, listed 11 September 1986); designed by J. A. Kenthal with Rutt and Lawson;
- Epworth Building, 1927, 31-35 Pirie Street, Adelaide (LHP) (subject of this assessment); designed by English and Soward;
- Lister House (now Tobin House), c.1928, 196 North Terrace, Adelaide (LHP); designed by Barlow, Hawkins and Lawson with F. K. Milne, Evans and Russell;



- Shell House, c.1931, 170 North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 13103, listed 11 September 1986); designed by McMichael and Harris;
- Office – Goldsbrough House, c.1935, 172 North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 13239, listed 11 September 1986); designed by F. K. Milne;
- Colonial Mutual Life Building, c.1936, 41-49 King William Street, Adelaide (SHP 11637, listed 5 April 1984); designed by Hennessy and Hennessy, Sydney;
- Office – C.B.A. (former AMP Building), 1936, 19-23 King William Street, Adelaide (SHP 11574, listed 11 September 1986); designed by Woods, Bagot, Laybourne Smith and Irwin;
- Former Westpac Bank (former Bank of New South Wales), c.1942, 2-8 King William Street, Adelaide (SHP 11753, listed 8 March 2013), criterion (e); designed by P.R. Claridge and Associates;
- Bank – State Bank of South Australia (former Savings Bank of South Australia), c.1943, 97 King William Street, Adelaide, (SHP 13384, listed 11 September 1986); designed by McMichael and Harris.



**Colonial Mutual Life Building (SHP 11637)**

Source: DEW Files, 2024



**T & G Building (SHP 11740)**

Source: DEW Files, 2024



**Left to right: Verco Building (SHP 13363), Hall – Liberal Club (former) (SHP 13362), Goldsbrough House (SHP 13239), and Shell House (SHP 13103), North Terrace, Adelaide.**

Source: DEW Files, 2024

## Interwar Gothic architecture, c.1915-1940

Apperley *et al* define the architectural style Epworth Building is designed in as 'Inter-War Gothic', a style that was used primarily between 1915 to 1940.<sup>3</sup> Gothic Revival or Gothic styles emerged in Europe during the eighteenth century, especially in England. Beginning as a playful, 'picturesque' alternative to classicism, these styles drew from medieval architecture, particularly their 'pointed arches, pinnacles, crenellations [sic], tracery and decorative barge boards'.<sup>4</sup> Gothic styles subsequently spread throughout Western societies during the nineteenth century, including to Australia.<sup>5</sup>

The Gothic Revival underwent several stylistic transformations over time, eventually becoming a serious and dominant form. Initially 'admired for its suggestive quality of melancholy and decay', it was subsequently known for its 'religious piety' during the first half of the nineteenth century and then its 'superb engineering' during the second half.<sup>6</sup>

Despite waning, the Gothic styles persisted into the first half of the twentieth century and was applied to several skyscrapers around the world, including in Australia.<sup>7</sup> By the interwar period, Gothic styles were the default for buildings with 'religious or collegiate associations'.<sup>8</sup> However, the use of these styles became unfashionable in Australia following the Second World War.<sup>9</sup>

Interwar Gothic architecture is characterised by the following key style indicators:

1. Asymmetrical massing
2. Vertical elements on skyline
3. Parapeted gable
4. Tower
5. Spire
6. Lantern or flèche
7. Pinnacle
8. Crenellations
9. Raking arches motif
10. Loggia or porch
11. Free use of semicircular or pointed arch form
12. Tracery
13. Circular or wheel window
14. Stone-mullioned window

Notable examples of interwar Gothic architecture in South Australia include:

- Lister House (now Tobin House), c.1928 (LHP), 196 North Terrace, Adelaide; designed by Barlow, Hawkins and Lawson with F. K. Milne, Evans and Russell,
- St Augustine's Anglican Churches (Old and New), 1870 and 1924, 183 Unley Road, Unley; (SHP 10736, listed 1994), criteria (d), (e), (f) and (g), new church designed by Dean Berry and completed in 1924,
- Bonython Hall, 1936, North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 10878, listed 1980), designed by Walter Harvey Bagot,

- Temple Uniting Church (former Congregational Church), c.1923, 214 Military Road, Henley Beach. (SHP 14634, listed 2000), criterion (b), designed by Charles Walter Rutt,
- Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, 1915, 257 Military Road, Semaphore (LHP), designed by Woods, Bagot and Jory.



**Bonython Hall (SHP 10878)**

Source: Wikimedia Commons (user: 'Paleontour'); reproduced per [CC BY 2.0](#)



**Lister House (Tobin House) (LHP)**

Source: Google Street View, 2021

## George Klewitz Soward

Epworth Building was designed by George Klewitz Soward, an Adelaide-based architect prominent between c.1877 and 1936. With Thomas English, he co-founded the firm English and Soward in 1880 (known as English, Soward and Jackman between 1926 and 1936). He was also a founding member of the South Australian Institute of Architects. Soward specialised in designing large houses, though he and the firm's work included 'commercial premises, churches, theatres and sporting facilities'.<sup>10</sup> Many of his designs were in Gothic styles.

Some notable State Heritage Places associated with Soward include:

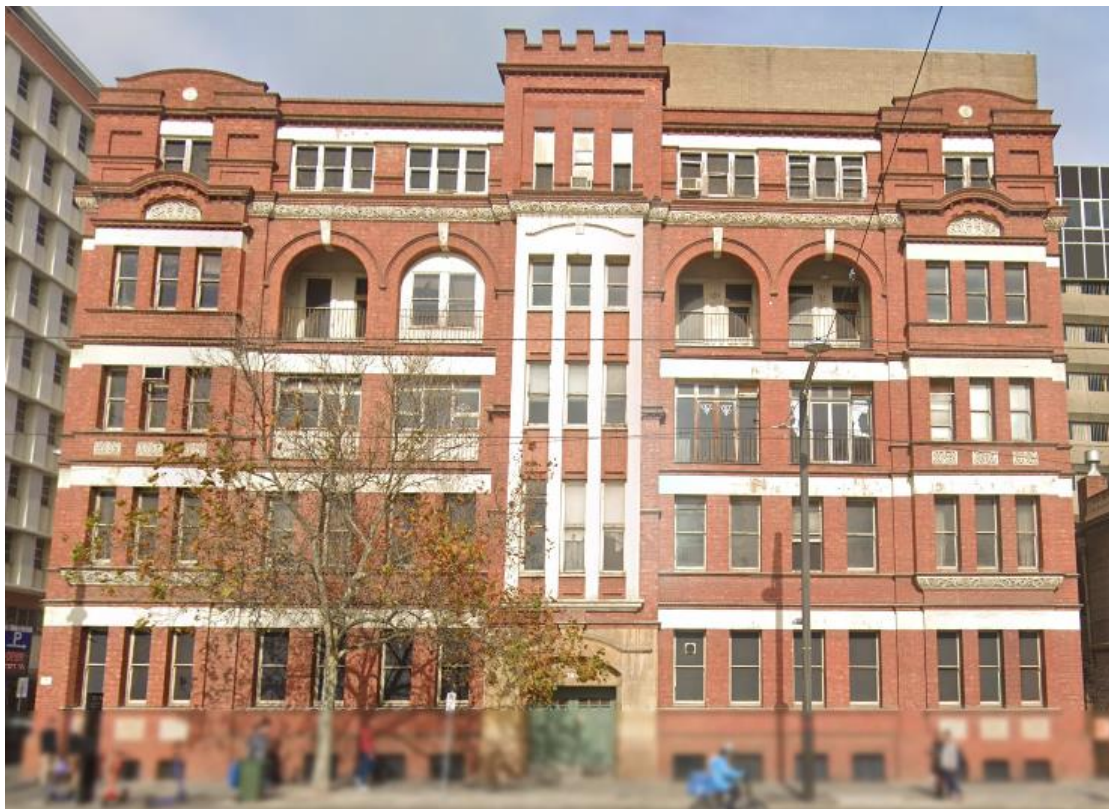
- Beehive Corner, 1896, 32-40 King William Street, Adelaide (SHP 11702, listed 1984),
- Tavistock Building, c.1885, 228-240 Rundle Street, Adelaide (SHP 13379, listed 1986),
- Gawler Chambers, 1914, 188 North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 13104, listed 1991),
- University of Adelaide Grandstand, c.1910, War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide (SHP 26392, listed 2014), criteria (a) and (d).
- Dwelling – 'Boston House', c.1886, 41-57 Lincoln Highway, Boston (SHP 10217, listed 1983).





**Beehive Corner (SHP 11702)**

Source: flickr.com (user: 'OZinOH'); reproduced per [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)



**Gawler Chambers (SHP 13104)**

Source: Google Street View, 2023

**Assessment against Criteria under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.  
All Criteria have been assessed using the 2020 Guidelines.**

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

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

*The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases which have played a significant part in South Australian history. Ideally it should demonstrate those associations in its fabric.*

*Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if they are of a class of things that are commonplace, or frequently replicated across the State, places associated with events of interest only to a small number of people, places associated with developments of little significance, or places only reputed to have been the scene of an event which has left no trace or which lacks substantial evidence.*

Epworth Building is associated with three historic themes: Building Settlements, Towns and Cities and its subtheme Marking significant phases in development of SA's settlements, towns and cities; Developing South Australia's Economies, and its subtheme Developing South Australia's Economy; and Developing Social and Cultural Life, and its subtheme Supporting Diverse Religions and Maintaining Spiritual Life.

Epworth Building on Pirie Street, Adelaide, is associated with the first wave of tall buildings to be built in South Australia, c.1912 to 1943, which were high-rise buildings of six or more stories. Although the first wave as a whole demonstrates an important pattern of development in the State's history, as the seventh of fourteen tall buildings built prior to the Second World War, Epworth Building did not introduce key features or innovations, including increased levels and heights (see Comparability/Rarity/Representation). Epworth Building therefore is not considered to demonstrate a strong, noticeable or influential contribution in the evolution of tall buildings in South Australia.

Epworth Building is also associated with Methodism in South Australia. Methodism emerged as a major religious movement in nineteenth-century South Australia, originally comprising four distinct branches, namely the Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists, Bible Christians and New Connexionists. The New Connexionists joined the Bible Christians in 1888 and the remaining three branches united in 1900 to form one national Methodist Church, known as the Methodist Church of Australasia.

By 1901, Methodism formed the second largest denomination in South Australia and its growth continued over the decades that followed. During the 1920s, the Methodist Church in South Australia embarked on a vast building program resulting in the erection of 52 new churches and 49 halls by the end of the decade. It was during this wave of building that the Methodist Church of Australasia built Epworth Building, designed in 1924 and completed in 1927.

Epworth Building is one of many structures erected during this wave of construction activity by the Methodist Church in South Australia and is not considered to not make



a noticeable, strong or influential contribution to the pattern or evolution of South Australian history. However, Epworth Building does demonstrate a special association with the work of the Methodist Church of Australasia as a unified organisation, this relationship is better represented by criterion (g) and is examined below.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (a).

**(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.**

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

*The place should demonstrate a way of life, social custom, industrial process or land use which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest. This encompasses both places which were always rare, and places which have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.*

*Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if their rarity is merely local, or if they appear rare only because research has not been done elsewhere, or if their distinguishing characteristics have been degraded or compromised, or if they are at present common and simply believed to be in danger of becoming rare in the future.*

Epworth Building is associated with South Australia's first wave of tall buildings, high-rise buildings constructed with steel or reinforced concrete frames of six or more stories which appeared in the United States and spread to Australia by the early twentieth century. These tall buildings are culturally significant to South Australia as they demonstrate the commercial growth of the State's capital city and consolidation of Adelaide as South Australia's Central Business District (CBD). They also reaffirmed Adelaide's intended grid-based layout and transformed the city's skyline, in turn reflecting their advocates' desire to convey South Australia as modern and progressive. The construction of new, tall buildings was halted due to the Second World War and the Commonwealth's introduction of building restrictions to conserve resources for the war effort. All fourteen tall buildings remain in some form (see Comparability/Rarity/Representation).

Completed in 1927, Epworth Building is the seventh of the fourteen tall buildings erected in South Australia between 1912 and 1943. While Epworth Building is more intact than some other early tall buildings, such as the Verco Building (SHP 13363) and Liberal Club (SHP 13362), its distinguishing characteristics have been compromised, particularly its once imposing façade. Notably, decorative crenelation, pinnacles, spires and finials along the skyline have been removed. Compared to highly intact examples like Bank – State Bank of South Australia (SHP 13384), Epworth's capacity to demonstrate the cultural significance of the first wave of tall buildings has been diminished.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (b).

**(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.**

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

*The place should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The information should be inherent in the fabric of the place. The place may be a standing structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological site.*

*Places will not normally be considered under this criterion simply because they are believed to contain archaeological or palaeontological deposits. There must be good reasons to suppose the site is of value for research, and that useful information will emerge. A place that will yield the same information as many other places, or information that could be obtained as readily from documentary sources, may not be eligible.*

Epworth Building was built on a portion of Part Town Acre 204 on Pirie Street, Adelaide, previously occupied by a manse belonging to the adjacent Pirie Street Methodist Church (since demolished). Owing to the construction of Epworth Building between 1924 and 1927, including a substantial basement, it is understood that nothing remains of the manse, including its footings.

Epworth Building is well-documented in photographs, architectural drawings and newspaper and journal articles. There is no evidence (documentary, oral history or physical) to suggest that the place may yield information that will contribute meaningfully to an understanding of the State's history beyond what is readily available.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (c).

**(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.**

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

*The place should be capable of providing understanding of the category of places which it represents. It should be typical of a wider range of such places, and in a good state of integrity, that is, still faithfully presenting its historical message.*

*Places will not be considered simply because they are members of a class, they must be both notable examples and well-preserved. Places will be excluded if their characteristics do not clearly typify the class, or if they were very like many other places, or if their representative qualities had been degraded or lost. However, places will not be excluded from the Register merely because other similar places are included.*

Epworth Building is associated with the class of place known as interwar tall office buildings. Interwar tall office buildings are culturally significant to South Australia because they were the first of their kind in South Australia and helped consolidate Adelaide as the state's Central Business District. They also reflected attempts to

convey South Australia as modern and progressive. This class covers structures built during the 'first wave' of high-rise construction in Adelaide, between c.1912 and 1943.

Principal characteristics of an interwar tall office building include:

- a steel or reinforced concrete frame,
- a typical height of between six and ten storeys,
- a maximum height of approximately 132 feet (40 metres), a limitation of the *Building Act 1923*,
- a footprint comprising an entire land parcel,
- an imposing façade,
- a grand foyer,
- open floorplans with partitioned office spaces,
- electric lifts,
- hydraulic water systems,
- a basement,
- a caretaker's quarters.

While Epworth demonstrates several of these features, such as a reinforced concrete frame, six storeys and a basement, it lacks several key characteristics including a grand foyer, imposing façade and its floor plan did not originally encompass the entire land parcel.

In comparison to other tall buildings, notably Bank – State Bank of South Australia (SHP 13384), Epworth Building's foyer is modest in scale and design features. While it once had an imposing façade, notably for its architectural style predominantly focused on the top of the building, several architectural features have been removed diminishing its visual impact. Further, unlike other tall buildings of the era, such as Former Westpac Bank (former Bank of New South Wales) (SHP 11753), Epworth Building did not occupy the entire land parcel until subsequent subdivisions took place and the extension to the rear was constructed in 1964.

Consequently, while Epworth Building demonstrates some of the characteristics typical of the class, it is not considered to display characteristics that are of a higher quality, intactness or historical relevance than are typical of other places in its class. Epworth Building is not considered to be an exceptional, influential or pivotal example of the class of place, interwar tall office buildings.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (d).

**(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.**

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

*The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its times. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments*



*in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.*

*Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement, while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.*

Epworth Building is associated with interwar Gothic architecture, demonstrating several key characteristics of the style, such as parapeted gables and pointed arches (see Comparability/Rarity/Representation). However, changes to Epworth Building's façade, including removal of decorative crenelation, pinnacles, spires and finials along the skyline, which emphasised the verticality of the building, mean that it no longer demonstrates important characteristics of the style. These changes have reduced the integrity of Epworth Building to the extent that it is no longer considered to be an outstanding example of interwar Gothic architecture in South Australia.

In 2011, the Australian Institute of Architects South Australian Chapter recognised Epworth Building as a significant example of twentieth century South Australian architecture. Despite this critical recognition, the reduced integrity of Epworth Building means it can no longer be considered an outstanding representative of interwar Gothic architecture when compared with similar places (see Comparability/Rarity/Representation) which remain substantially intact.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (e).

**(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual association for the community or a group within it.**

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

*The place should be one which the community or a significant cultural group have held in high regard for an extended period. This must be much stronger than people's normal attachment to their surroundings. The association may in some instances be in folklore rather than in reality.*

*Places will not be considered if their associations are commonplace by nature, or of recent origin, or recognised by a small number of people, or not held very strongly, or held by a group not widely recognised, or cannot be demonstrated satisfactorily to others.*

Epworth Building served as headquarters for the former Methodist Church in South Australia from 1927 until 1977. The Methodist Church of Australasia ceased to exist in 1977, when it amalgamated with the Australian branches of the Congregationalist and Presbyterian churches to form the Uniting Church in Australia. After 1977 Epworth Building served as headquarters for the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of South Australia.

While the Uniting Church may be considered a group that resonates broadly across the state, there is no evidence that this group collectively has a strong cultural or spiritual connection with Epworth Building. Members of the Uniting Church and

members of the former Methodist Church are more likely to have strong cultural and spiritual associations with their local places of worship. Epworth Building was sold by the Uniting Church in 2003 and while some members of the Uniting Church may have an attachment to Epworth Building, any subset of the larger group, with such a connection, would not be considered to resonate broadly across the State as a group of significance to South Australia.

Epworth Building also provided office accommodation for several individuals and organisations since 1927. While it is possible that some individuals who have worked in the building may have a strong cultural and/or spiritual attachment to the place, there is no evidence to suggest they form a group that would be broadly recognised by the South Australian community as being integral to the state's identity.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (f).

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

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

*The place must have a close association with a person or group which played a significant part in past events, and that association should be demonstrated in the fabric of the place. The product of a creative person, or the workplace of a person whose contribution was in industry, would be more closely associated with the person's work than would his or her home. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why one place is more significant than others.*

*Places will not generally be considered under this criterion if they have only brief, incidental or distant association, or if they are associated with persons or groups of little significance, or if they are associated with an event which has left no trace, or if a similar association could be claimed for many places, or if the association cannot be demonstrated. Generally the home or the grave of a notable person will not be entered in the Register unless it has some distinctive attribute, or there is no other physical evidence of the person's life or career in existence.*

Epworth Building is associated with architect George Klewitz Soward and the Methodist Church in South Australia. Each is considered in turn.

Epworth Building was designed by prominent South Australian architect George Klewitz Soward (b.1857, d.1941) and his firm Thomas and Soward (later Thomas, Soward and Jackman). Soward designed numerous buildings in South Australia between c.1877 and 1936, many featuring Gothic elements. He specialised in large houses, such as Boston House in Boston, near Port Lincoln (SHP 10217). Soward also designed commercial buildings, including the iconic Beehive Corner on Rundle Mall (SHP 11702). Additionally, his firm designed Gawler Chambers on North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 13184), showing he had early experience in designing larger buildings.

Although Soward received praise for Epworth Building, it no longer has a special association with his work. The integrity of the building has been reduced owing to the

removal of key design features, including decorative crenelation, pinnacles, spires and finials along the skyline. Other buildings designed by Soward, such as those mentioned above, are more intact and better demonstrate his skills and oeuvre as an architect.

The Methodist church has been a part of South Australia's 'paradise of dissent' from the beginnings of the colony, with the first service held at Glenelg on 22 January 1837. It quickly emerged as a major non-conformist religious movement in the nineteenth century comprising four distinct branches, namely the Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists, Bible Christians and New Connexionists. The New Connexionists merged with the Bible Christians in 1888, with all remaining branches uniting in 1900 to form one national Methodist Church, known as the Methodist Church of Australasia. At that time the Methodist Church was second only to the Anglican Church in the State with nearly a quarter of the State's population identifying as Methodist in the 1901 census.

In 1924, the Methodists decided to erect a state-of-the-art commercial and office building, designed to reflect the adjacent Wesleyan cathedral church on Pirie Street and named after John Wesley's birthplace. Epworth Building's purpose was to raise revenue for the church and its work via rent, provide headquarters for the church and to house the Methodist Book Depot, later renamed Epworth Book Depot. During the 1920s the Methodists also erected about 100 new churches and halls, established the Memorial Hospital for First World War veterans in 1920 (Hospital – Memorial, SHP 13546), founded the Wesley Theological College, later Parkin College (Office, former Parkin College SHP 14148, relocating to new premises in 1997) and in the 1930s began developing aged care facilities.

While the churches and halls demonstrate the everyday work of the Methodist Church and the college its theological underpinnings, it is Epworth Building that was Methodism's administrative and commercial headquarters for most of the twentieth century. The Connexional Secretary and the President had offices in Epworth Building, as did departments devoted to social services, including for women and children. Foreign and home missions also appear to have been organised from Epworth Building. Accordingly, it was from here that major operations of the church were organised and run, including its outreach and welfare services. During the post-war period, Epworth Building also realised its income generating ability become a major source of revenue for the church, achieved through office and shop rentals.

Epworth Building fulfilled its objectives until the Methodist Church became part of the Uniting Church in 1977, which remained in the building until the early 2000s. Although the Uniting Church of South Australia was associated with Epworth Building between 1977 and around 2003, it inherited this position. While it is clear it did have a historic connection to Epworth Building, this is neither as strong nor clear as its connection to Methodism.

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils** criterion for its association with the Methodist Church in South Australia (g).



## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Epworth Building is a six-storey office building with a structural frame of reinforced concrete with brick infill and a basement. Epworth Building has a dominant, street-facing, symmetrical front elevation with a return at the western end, demonstrating characteristics of interwar Gothic architecture.

Features of the front elevation façade and return include:

- a central frontispiece reaching from footpath to skyline, capped by a gable parapet, resembling a tower,
- Relief lettering 'Epworth Building' near top of frontispiece, with vent opening (covered) and hood mouldings above,
- a main entrance at the base of the frontispiece, set in a large, pointed arch with a shafted jamb,
- timber paired double doors to main entrance, with herringbone matchboard panels,
- bronze quotation plaque to main entrance re-entrant,
- terrazzo steps below main entrance (not original fabric),
- three lancet windows in Palladian configuration above entrance, with hood and sill moulds and decorative relief lettering 'Epworth Building' below,
- two shopfronts, flanking the entrance,
- two cantilevered awnings, one above each shopfront,
- horizontally-proportioned leadlight windows with tracery above entrance doors and shopfront awnings,
- triplet lancet windows to odd floors, with hood mouldings, sills and engaged columns to mullions,
- triplet rectangular windows to even floors with corbelled hoods,
- double-hung sash frames to window openings,
- ashlar detailing,
- pressed cement decoration including small gargoyles, corbels, modillions, crockets, etc.

Other features of the exterior include:

- gable parapets to eastern and western elevations,
- flush-rendered structural concrete frame,
- brick infill (painted),
- undecorated rectangular window openings to western elevation beyond façade return,
- leadlight muntins to some windows with rippled glass panes,
- full-depth light well on eastern side,
- extension to southern side (not significant fabric).

Remaining interior features include:

- timber floorboards, skirtings and architraves,
- timber door and window frames,
- timber doors,
- fibrous plaster ceilings, cornices and wall decoration,
- timber and/or cast-iron stair balustrades and timber handrails,
- decorative timber 'arch' in foyer,
- timber directory board in foyer.

### **Elements of Significance:**

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Epworth Building,
- Original detailing to the northern and western elevations,
- Epworth Building signage on the front elevation (top and bottom),
- Roof and roofline, including gables,
- Shopfronts,
- Cantilevered awnings,
- Any original fixtures and fittings, including timber floorboards, timber door and window frames, timber and/or cast-iron stair balustrades and handrails, textured glass and decorative masonry.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- 1964 extension to southern side,
- Window-mounted air conditioning units,
- Recent service upgrades,
- Internal fitouts of office and retail spaces,
- Dropped ceilings in common hallways.

## HISTORY

### Methodism in South Australia, 1836-1945

South Australia was established at a time of religious ferment in Britain, when the established Church of England had recently lost its effective monopoly over religion.<sup>11</sup> English society was 'deeply divided' between supporters of the established Church of England and Dissenters, comprised of British Protestant denominations that had formed outside of the established Church.<sup>12</sup>

Notable planners of the province of South Australia were Dissenters and other nonconformists who envisaged a 'Paradise of Dissent,' based on the principle of religious freedom.<sup>13</sup> These individuals, such as George Fife Angas, deliberately recruited other nonconformists for migration, including Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, and those from other Dissenting Christian groups.

Founded by Anglican clergyman John Wesley, Methodism began as a network of religious societies within the Church of England but emerged as a distinct denomination a few years after Wesley's death in 1791.<sup>14</sup> Methodism later reached colonial South Australia, with the first service held at Glenelg on 22 January 1837.<sup>15</sup> It quickly became the most 'potent religious movement in nineteenth century South Australia' and by 1870 most communities in South Australia contained at least one Methodist chapel.<sup>16</sup>

Divisions that proliferated within English Methodism were exported to South Australia, and by the mid-1870s there were four Methodist denominations in the colony, namely, Wesleyan Methodists, the Primitive Methodists, the Bible Christians and the Methodist New Connexion. Division remained a characteristic of South Australian Methodism throughout the nineteenth century, leading to duplication of religious effort in many communities as Methodist denominations competed against one another.<sup>17</sup> In 1888, the South Australian branch of the Methodist New Connexion was absorbed into the Bible Christian branch of the church. Subsequently in 1900, the Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist and Bible Christian branches of Methodism amalgamated to create the Methodist Church of Australasia.<sup>18</sup> By 1901, Methodism constituted the second largest Christian denomination in South Australia, comprising close to 25% of the population.<sup>19</sup>

Methodist membership grew steadily during the interwar period from 23,112 in 1920 to 27,823 in 1940. 52 churches and 49 halls were built by Methodist congregations in South Australia during the 1920s.<sup>20</sup> Construction extended to erecting Wesley Theological College (Office, former Parkin College SHP 14148, relocating to new premises in 1997) and the Methodist Memorial Hospital for First World War veterans in 1920 (Hospital – Memorial, SHP 13546). Although age cared facilities were established during the 1930s, building of new churches was slowed first by the Depression and then by building controls during and after the Second World War.<sup>21</sup>



## Adelaide's First 'Tall Buildings'

'Skyscrapers' first emerged in the United States during the 1880s, particularly in Chicago and New York. These buildings typically comprised ten or more storeys and towered over adjacent buildings.<sup>22</sup> Their emergence was spurred by rising land prices and the desire to maximise the use of increasingly limited space, especially for profit.<sup>23</sup> They were enabled by new materials and technological innovations, particularly the use of steel or reinforced concrete to build internal frames, rather than load-bearing external walls which had been the norm until then.<sup>24</sup> The invention of the elevator, hydraulic plumbing systems and advanced fireproofing also facilitated their creation.<sup>25</sup>

Similar buildings were soon erected outside of the United States, including in Australia. Tall buildings up to six storeys began to appear in Australia in the 1860s and reached up to ten storeys by the 1880s in Melbourne and Sydney.<sup>26</sup> Buildings continued to increase in height between the 1890s and early 1910s until state-based height restrictions were implemented, which remained in place until decades later.<sup>27</sup>

South Australia's 'first wave of tall building development' commenced in 1912 with the construction of the Verco Building on North Terrace, Adelaide (SHP 13363), designed by Eric McMichael.<sup>28</sup> After the Verco Building, further construction did not occur until the 1920s,<sup>29</sup> the delay likely caused by the First World War and post-war social and economic adjustments.

Conditions began to settle by the early 1920s and a general sense of progressiveness and prosperity began to pervade South Australia.<sup>30</sup> Reflective of this new outlook, construction of high-rise commercial buildings recommenced. However, in 1923, height restrictions were imposed by the *Building Act* preventing the construction of skyscrapers. This resulted in a suite of tall buildings between five and ten stories high which emerged on the Adelaide skyline over the following twenty years.<sup>31</sup>

By the middle of the 1920s, the *Australian Home and Builder* noted that '[n]ever in the history of Adelaide has there been in progress such a costly and important programme of commercial buildings'.<sup>32</sup> These buildings were concentrated on the southern side of North Terrace, with several others built nearby along King William Street and a few on Grenfell and Pirie Streets.<sup>33</sup>

Observers considered these buildings to be symbols of the state's progress and modernity.<sup>34</sup> Much of this enthusiasm was buoyed by a desire to 'keep up' with developments occurring in other states, especially Victoria and New South Wales.<sup>35</sup> Although there 'had been no pressing necessity to build upwards in twentieth century Adelaide',<sup>36</sup> and while critics rejected tall buildings outright due to practical, medical or aesthetic concerns, the desire for Adelaide to be a 'real city' on par with its eastern counterparts was palpable.<sup>37</sup>



**Three of Adelaide's earliest 'tall buildings' on North Terrace, Adelaide, c.1935 (left to right): Liberal Club, Goldsbrough House, and Shell House**

Source: SLISA B7092

Along with transforming the skyline, Adelaide's first 'tall buildings introduced a rectilinear edge of facades' to the streets, which 'helped to redefine and reinforce the order of the original City of Adelaide plan'.<sup>38</sup> During the nineteenth century, building in the city had developed erratically, in turn partially compromising the city's grid-based design. The tall buildings typically covered entire land parcels and conformed to strict street-frontage requirements, thereby instating orderliness and reaffirming Adelaide's intended rectilinear layout.<sup>39</sup>

Furthermore, tall buildings 'cooperated rather than competed in the process of transforming the capital from a city of mixed uses – administration, industry, manufacture, commerce, trade and housing – to one of commercial specialisation'.<sup>40</sup> As most of these buildings were erected for large business enterprises, they helped consolidate Adelaide as South Australia's Central Business District (CBD). Together, they conveyed the commercial maturation of the city and secured its distinctiveness from its suburbs.<sup>41</sup>

Though interrupted by the Great Depression in the late 1920s and early 1930s,<sup>42</sup> construction continued afterwards until around 1943, when Commonwealth building restrictions enforced during the Second World War halted construction.<sup>43</sup> Including the

Verco Building (1912), fourteen of these buildings were erected during this first wave of development.<sup>44</sup>

### Origins of Epworth Building<sup>1</sup>

Wesleyan Methodists erected a cathedral church on Pirie Street in 1851. By 1862, they had built a hall towards its rear, Former Methodist Church Meeting Hall (SHP 10654).<sup>45</sup> That year, the Pirie Street Church Trust (hereafter the Trust) purchased Part Town Acre 204 for £1,212, located immediately to the east of the church. The Trust subsequently built a two-storey manse on the property, along with stables and sheds. The minister of the Pirie Street Methodist Church moved into the manse in early 1863.<sup>46</sup>



**Pirie Street Methodist manse (left) and Church (right), c.1905.**

Source: SLSA PRG 631/2/1292

About a decade later, the Trust began to profit from the property. In 1875, it sold portions of Part Town Acre 204 for £1,100. In late 1878, the Trust decided to lease the Pirie Street manse to a commercial tenant for £1,000 per annum and the minister relocated to a residence in Hutt Street.<sup>47</sup> The Trust also erected a two-storey caretaker's cottage towards the rear.<sup>48</sup>

The Trust considered selling the property in 1914 and again in 1923. However, neither proposal progressed further. The latter failed as the Trust was denied permission from the South Australian Methodist Conference, the Church's post-unification authority.<sup>49</sup>

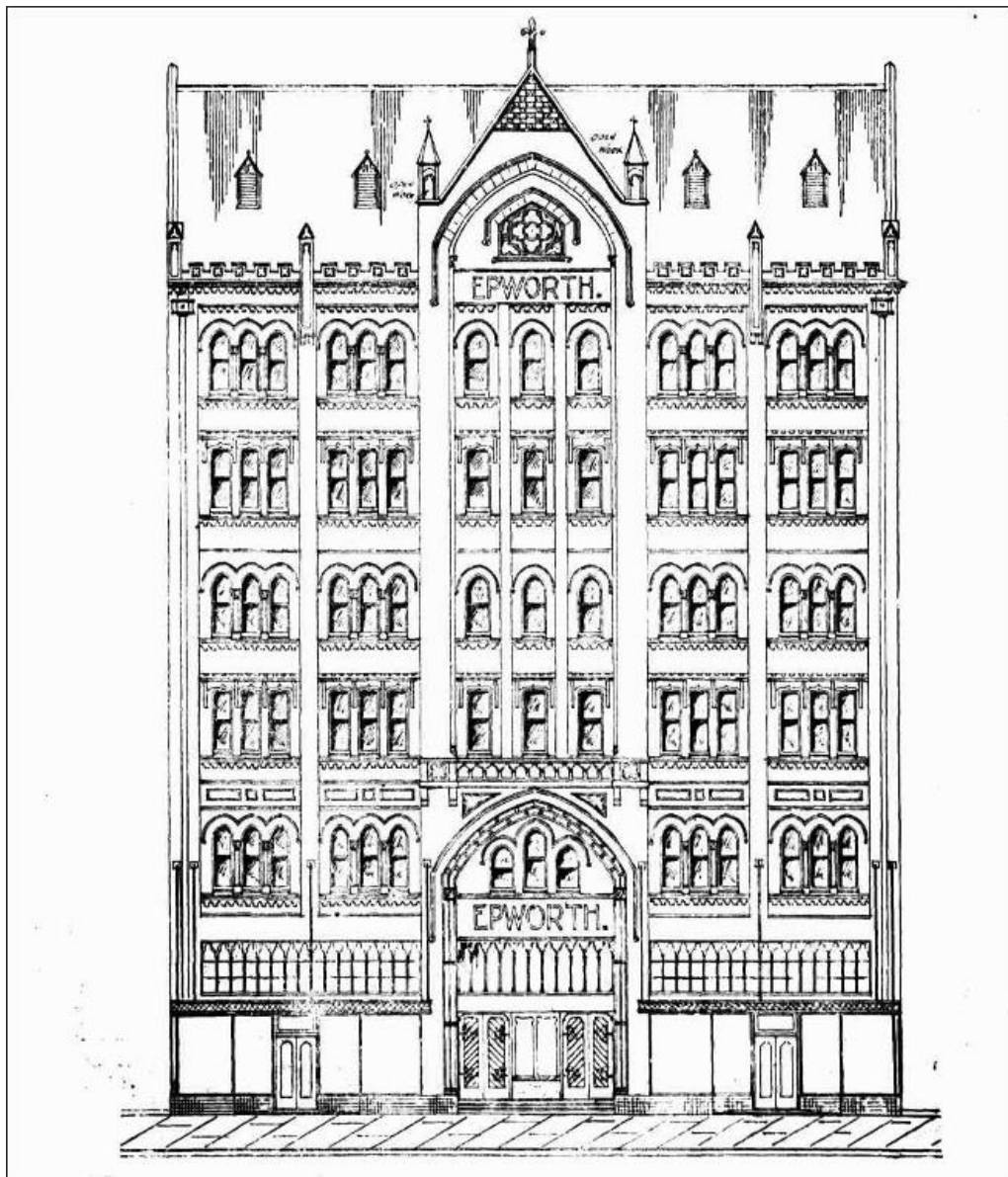
Well-known Methodist J. W. Gillingham proposed to redevelop the site in 1922 but went unheard.<sup>50</sup> Beginning in 1923, influential figures within the Church, especially Reverend William Hutchinson Robinson, began to push seriously for a new building, intended to house the Methodist Book Depot, provide a headquarters for the Church and to raise revenue. Towards this end, in 1923 Robinson began corresponding with

---

<sup>1</sup> This section draws from James D. Everett, *The History of the Epworth Building* (Unley: MediaCom Education Inc., 2006).

architect George Klewitz Soward, hoping to engage him on such a project. By late October, the Trust entered negotiations with Robinson and his fellow advocates on a potential lease agreement.<sup>51</sup>

On 17 January 1924, the Pirie Street Building Board (hereafter the Board) met officially for the first time to prepare resolutions to be approved during the Methodist Conference in February. The resolutions sought to establish the terms of the Board and instate its authority to erect, finance and manage a building on Pirie Street.<sup>52</sup> Resolution (v) was for the 'name of the building to be Epworth Building' after John Wesley's home town, frequently adopted for Methodist buildings and organisations.<sup>53</sup> The resolutions were accepted during the February conference and the Board met again on 27 March to begin planning the building,<sup>54</sup> by which time it was established that Epworth Building would have six storeys.<sup>55</sup> Soward's firm, English and Soward, was commissioned to develop the design and lodged working drawings with the City of Adelaide on 22 May, which were in turn approved on 15 June.<sup>56</sup>



**Soward's design for Epworth Building's façade, 1925.**

Source: *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 1 May 1925, p.3; [trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au)

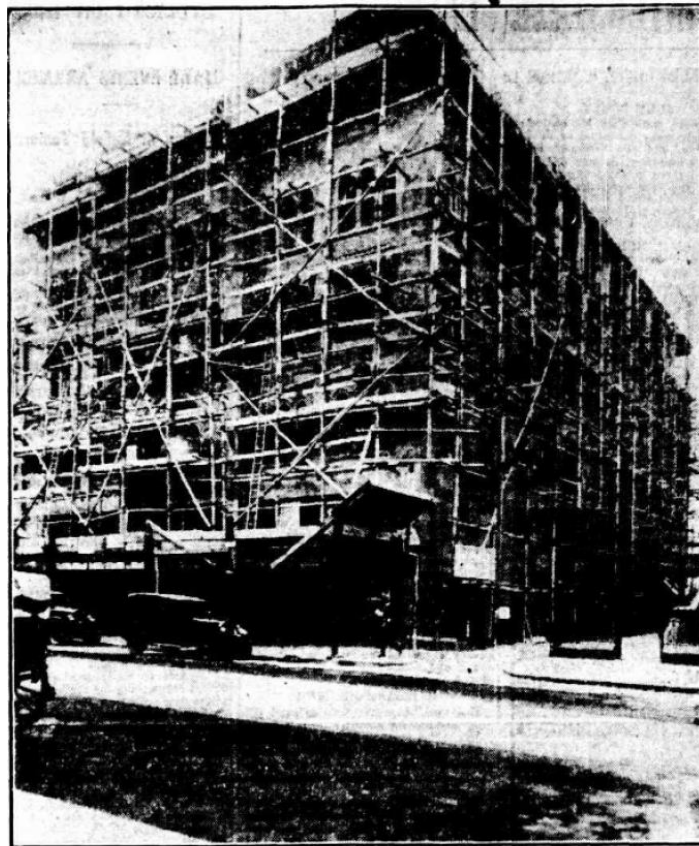


In November 1924, the Board accepted Soward's final design for Epworth Building and permitted him to solicit tenders to demolish the manse, eventually settling on W. J. Hinton's offer of £80.<sup>57</sup> The Board also requested a formal estimate for the building's construction. On 17 December, Soward advised the following:

My figures for the building, inclusive of the strong rooms and their doors, electric light and power, a new cast iron drain from the south of [the] new building to the sewer, basins in the offices, in addition to the lavatories provided, stairs, galleries, shop fronts, suspended verandah, drainage wells, underpinning and two passenger lifts, sum to: £64,745.<sup>58</sup>

Roughly around the same time, the Board asked the Trust to begin preparing a lease agreement for the land.<sup>59</sup>

Major decisions about the use of the building were made in early 1925. Following discussions between the Board, Trust and Methodist Book Depot, it was agreed that the Methodist Conference's headquarters would operate in the building and the Book Depot would be located on the ground floor, with access to one of the shopfronts.<sup>60</sup> The latter organisation would contribute financially to Epworth Building's construction.<sup>61</sup> A committee was also established to determine rents and identify prospective tenants. Already by March, the committee reported that the Bank of Adelaide had signed on to lease office space for £1,100 per annum.<sup>62</sup>



Epworth Building, Pirie street, new rallying point for South Australian Methodism  
**Epworth Building under construction, July 1926.**

Source: News, 9 July 1926, p.9; trove.nla.gov.au

Important financial and procedural progress was also made throughout 1925. In April, the Australian Mutual Providence Society (AMP) loaned £50,000 to the Board, set at 7% interest over a five-year term.<sup>63</sup> Also in April, the Board accepted C. H. Martin Ltd.'s offer to construct Epworth Building for £55,995, although the contract was not signed until 9 October.<sup>64</sup> The manse was demolished in May and the Board had raised additional funds from investors by the middle of the year.<sup>65</sup>

Work on the foundations commenced thereafter and a clerk of works was employed in August. On 28 September 1925, the *News* reported that Epworth Building was 'beginning to take shape'.<sup>66</sup> In November, the lease agreement between the Board and the Trust was finalised.<sup>67</sup> Major construction continued over the next two years and was fully completed by December 1927.<sup>68</sup> The total cost was £68,469.<sup>69</sup>

### **Opening and operating a Methodist office building**

Epworth Building was well received, even prior to its completion. Before the scaffolding was removed, the *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, a Methodist newspaper, commented in July 1926 that Epworth Building would be among Adelaide's 'handsomest'.<sup>70</sup> Once the scaffolding started coming down in December, it described the building as a 'great pile' and added there were 'few buildings in the city that are equal [to] this one for grace and beauty'.<sup>71</sup> The popular press also paid close attention to the building, treating it as notable architecture. In March 1929, about fourteen months after its completion, the *News* praised Soward and Epworth Building, describing the latter as a 'stately pile' and a 'thing of beauty'.<sup>72</sup>



**A completed Epworth Building, c.1927.**

Source: City of Adelaide Archives LS0740

Important Methodist organisations soon occupied Epworth Building. The Methodist Book Depot, renamed Epworth Book Depot in 1929, may have been operating there as early as May 1926.<sup>73</sup> Level two was reserved for the Methodist Conference.<sup>74</sup> Over time, the Connexional Secretary and President both maintained offices in the building, as did departments for social services and welfare, including for women and children.<sup>75</sup> Foreign and home missions also appear to have been organised from Epworth Building.<sup>76</sup> Accordingly, major operations of the church were organised and run from Epworth Building, including outreach and welfare services.

With space provided for the church, Epworth's management sought to acquire external tenants. As observed by the Bank of Adelaide, this process began as early as 1925 and the building appears to have been occupied before it was finished. In 1926, the Board made enquiries that year about the possibility of tenant occupancy prior to completion.<sup>77</sup> Lawyer Dorothy Summerville, one of Epworth Building's first and longest-running tenants, signed a rental agreement in August 1927, several months before its official completion.<sup>78</sup>

Although the building featured a Gothic appearance, the Board promoted Epworth Building as thoroughly modern and progressive. A promotional pamphlet featured floor plans detailing the building's office spaces and amenities. A short description stressed its 'modern conveniences', including:

Electric Light and Power in every Office. Where Concrete Fireproof Floors are specified by the New Building Act, these floors are covered again with Wood Flooring. Two Modern Lifts. Wash Basins in every Office. Lavatories on each floor, alternate floors being for Ladies.<sup>79</sup>

Evidently, the Gothic exterior was designed to complement the neighbouring church while the structure, layout and latest facilities were to appeal to commercial and professional clients. The Board sought to demonstrate that Epworth Building was one of Adelaide's premier tall buildings.<sup>80</sup>

Despite initial enthusiasm, Epworth Building was less successful than the Board had hoped. South Australia's economy entered a recession in 1927, which was worsened by the global Great Depression in the 1930s. Consequently, the Board was faced with vacancies and reduced rental income throughout the decade.<sup>81</sup> It survived by instating various measures, including taking collateral for overdue payments, reducing rents and lowering wages.<sup>82</sup> The Board also sought to reduce the ground rent it paid to the Pirie Street Methodist Trust, culminating in a dispute between the two bodies. After mediation, the amount was reduced, and it was agreed rent would be renegotiated annually.<sup>83</sup> Epworth again experienced difficulties during the Second World War, owing in part to enlistments and wartime restrictions.<sup>84</sup>

Conditions improved markedly following the war. Rents were restored to their earlier extent and Epworth Building was fully tenanted by 1948.<sup>85</sup> Importantly, the building became profitable during the post-war period.<sup>86</sup> In 1955, it was decided that the Board would pay half its net annual profits to organisations associated with the

Church.<sup>87</sup> Funds were also used to finance various repairs and upgrades to the building during this period.<sup>88</sup>

In 1963, the Board decided to extend Epworth Building to increase office space and, in turn, revenue. Architectural firm Brown and Davies prepared drawings that year and Emmett & Co. were hired to construct the extension. The extension was located at the rear of the building, which required the demolition of the two-storey caretaker's cottage. The extension was completed in 1964 at a cost of £155,735 and added about 40% more office space to the building, as well as car parking.<sup>89</sup>

In 1974, the City of Adelaide acquired the land containing the Pirie Street Methodist Church as part of its plan to redevelop the Pirie Street and Flinders Street area. It demolished the church in 1977 to build the Colonel Light Centre, a structure taller than Epworth Building.<sup>90</sup>

Occurring also that year, the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches merged to form the Uniting Church of Australia, following twenty years of negotiation.<sup>91</sup> In response, a new constitution to govern the Board was enacted the following year.<sup>92</sup>

### **Subsequent History**

Following union, the Uniting Church operated its Synod and church departments from the first floor of Epworth Building, which it leased from the Board at a concessional rate.<sup>93</sup> On 22 September 1987, the land was vested in the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust.<sup>94</sup>

The Board and the Church began to seriously consider their future at Epworth Building during the late 1980s, including the future of the building itself. Changing legislative and economic conditions during the 1990s, as well as structural changes within the Uniting Church intensified this discussion and led to the sale of the property from the Church to the Board in October 1993 for \$1,150,000.<sup>95</sup> Major updates to the aging building were commenced that year, including upgraded fireproofing.<sup>96</sup> Further improvements were implemented throughout the decade, including the addition of accessibility features.<sup>97</sup>

Despite these upgrades, Epworth Building faced financial challenges during the 1990s, reflected by an average vacancy rate of 10%.<sup>98</sup> Major organisations associated with the Church also began to vacate Epworth Building during the decade. Epworth Book Depot ceased trading in 1990 and the Synod relocated to elsewhere in the city in 2000.<sup>99</sup>

Due to these complications, the Board commenced discussions with the Synod to sell the building during the early 2000s. In 2002, the Synod permitted the Board to explore this prospect.<sup>100</sup> After determining that it made more financial sense to disinvest from Epworth Building, the Board sold the property in 2003, with the settlement occurring in October. The board held its final meeting in April 2004 and wound up as a legal entity

during the year.<sup>101</sup> The proceeds from the sale were held by the newly-created Epworth Trust, created to fund church endeavours.<sup>102</sup>

Epworth Building has since been owned privately and continues to be occupied by various tenants. Renew SA has assisted with filling vacancies, leading to the presence of various creative startups in the building.<sup>103</sup>

## Chronology

Year	Event
1836	First Methodists arrive in South Australia.
1862	June: The Pirie Street Church Trust purchases Part Town Acre 24 from the Anglican Bishop of Adelaide. 28 September: Edmund Wright's plans for a manse on Part Town Acre 24 are approved, leading to its construction.
1870s	Four Methodist denominations exist in South Australia and most communities possess at least one Methodist chapel.
<b>1879</b>	<b>October: the Pirie Street Trustees decide to lease the manse adjacent to the church as commercial premises.</b> A caretaker's cottage is erected towards the southern end of Part Town Acre 24.
1900	Methodist union leads to the amalgamation of the Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist and Bible Christian branches of Methodism.
1914	The Pirie Street Trustees reject a proposal to sell Part Town Acre 24.
1920	The Methodist Church opens the Memorial Hospital in North Adelaide.
1920s	52 churches and 49 halls are built by Methodist congregations during the decade. <b>Discussions commence regarding the future use and development of Part Town Acre 24.</b>
1922	The Board of the Methodist Book Depot determines that new premises is required.
1923	The Pirie Street Trustees seek the Methodist Conference's permission to sell Part Town Acre 24 but are denied by Shirley Jeffries, a high-ranking church official. <b>Rev. William Hutchinson Robinson, then belonging to the Alberton Parish, begins corresponding with architect George Klewitz Soward, hoping to engage his services.</b> <b>22 October: the Pirie Street Trustees enter negotiations with interested parties within the Church to lease Part Town Acre 24.</b>
<b>1924</b>	<b>17 January: the Pirie Street Building Board (the Board) is established.</b>

- February: the annual Methodist Conference takes place throughout the month. The Conference approves the establishment of a new Board tasked with erecting and operating a new building on Part Town Acre 24.**
- 7 November: the Board approves Soward's design for a tall building and calls for tenders to demolish the manse. The Board accepts W. J. Hinton's tender of £80.**
- A lease agreement between the Trustees and the Board is prepared.**
- 1924-1925** Discussions are held between the Board, Trustees and Book Depot Board regarding the use of the building. It is agreed that the Methodist Depot will operate from part of the ground floor, have a shop front and contribute financially to the building's construction. It is further agreed that the Methodist headquarters will operate from part of the first floor.
- 1925** A rent committee is established to identify prospective tenants and determine rents. By March, the committee reports that the Bank of Adelaide agreed to lease the front offices located on the eastern side for £1,100 per annum.
- The Board acquires a £50,000 loan from AMP at 7% interest over a five-year period.
- Tenders are sought for the construction of a new building, which are due by 20 April.**
- 28 April: The Board and Soward agree to accept C. H. Martin Ltd's tender to construct the building for £55,995. The Reinforced Concrete and Engineering Co. are responsible for the masonry.**
- 24 July: The Board approves Soward's proposal to include hardwood flooring.
- 9 October: The contract between the Board and C. H. Martin is signed.**
- 10 November: The lease agreement between the Trustees and the Board is signed.**
- 1925-1926** The Board accepts Newton and McLaren's tender to install two lifts and Gerrard and Goodman's tender to install electric lights and power.
- 1926** Although the building is incomplete, the Methodist Book Depot relocates to Epworth Building. A temporary roof is installed for this purpose.
- 1927** The Board approves Soward's proposal to erect two cantilevered awnings on the front elevation.
- April and May: The Board begins hiring staff to assist with administering and operating the building.
- December: Construction of Epworth Building is complete.**
- 1928** After utilising external agencies, the Board assumes responsibility for acquiring and managing tenancies.
- 1930s** The Great Depression during the early 1930s results in reduced income from struggling tenants and vacancies in Epworth Building.



- Fewer Methodist churches are built due to the Depression.
- 1934 Economic conditions improve and Epworth Building is fully tenanted.
- 1939- Several tenants and staff of Epworth Building enlist to serve in the Second  
1945 World War.
- 1945 The Board's loan from AMP is paid off.
- 1947 A plaque is attached to the front of Epworth Building, donated by tenants W. R. Hambridge and J. W. Gellert, both accountants.
- 1948 Epworth Building is fully tenanted and maintenance work including repainting is undertaken.
- 1950 Masonry features on the front elevation including crenelation and finials are removed due to natural decay.**
- c.1950 Timber directory board installed in foyer.
- 1950- Epworth Building prospers financially.  
1960
- 1962 Brown and Davies prepare drawings for a new lift and alterations to the motor room of Epworth Building.**
- 1964 Brown and Davies prepare drawings for a proposed extension to Epworth Building.**  
**The caretaker's cottage towards the rear of Epworth Building is demolished to make way for the extension.**
- 1965 May: extension to the rear of Epworth Building is completed.**
- 1967 Further repairs to Epworth Building are undertaken, including repainting.
- 1970 The Adelaide City Council announce plans to redevelop the Pirie Street and Flinders Street area.
- 1974 The redevelopment of Pirie Street and Flinders Street commences. Adelaide City Council purchases the adjacent property containing the Pirie Street Church.  
Light courts within Epworth Building are painted.
- 1977 The Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches agree to merge, forming the Uniting Church.  
The Pirie Street Church is demolished by the City of Adelaide as part of the Pirie and Flinders Street redevelopment.
- 1978 A new constitution is enacted to govern the Board following the establishment of the Uniting Church. Epworth Building effectively transforms from a Methodist to Uniting Church-owned building.**
- 1979 Front and western elevations are repainted.
- 1980 Another tall building is erected on the eastern side of Epworth Building. Due to partial exposure of the eastern wall due to demolition of the previously

- adjoining building, the Board pay \$10,000 to have newly exposed wall rendered.
- 1986 Since its opening, Epworth Building has raised \$620,000 in revenue for the Methodist and Uniting Churches.
- 1988 The Brown Falconer Group prepare drawings for office refurbishments on the first floor of Epworth Building.
- 1990s The Board struggles with high vacancy rates throughout the 1990s, averaging around 10%.
- 1990 30 April: the former Methodist Book Depot, by then known as Epworth Books, ceases to trade.**
- 1993 Woodhead Australia prepare drawings for fire safety upgrading at Epworth Building.  
October: Epworth Building acquires the land from the Uniting Church for \$1,150,000.  
The Board hire Kennett Pty Ltd to undertake mandated fireproofing updates.
1994. Woodhead Firth Lee prepare drawings for external painting and repairs to Epworth Building.
- 2000 April: responsibility for acquiring and maintaining tenancies within Epworth Building is outsourced.**  
**The Uniting Church relocates its central offices and Synod from Epworth Building to another location in the city.**
- 2001 1 November: The City of Adelaide lists Epworth Building as a Local Heritage Place.
- 2002 The Board enters discussions with the Synod to sell Epworth Building.**
- 2003 28 September: a farewell function for former Board members and staff is held.**  
**Epworth building is sold.**
- 2004 12 February: the Board, incorporated as Epworth Building Inc., begins the process of winding up.  
15 April: the Board gathers for its final meeting.

## References

### Books and Chapters

- Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert, and Reynolds, Peter. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*. North Ryde: Angus and Robertson, 1989.
- Burns, Chris. *Liturgy, Community, Modernity: Postwar Places of Worship in South Australia 1945-1990*. Adelaide: Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2020.
- Everett, James D. *The History of the Epworth Building*. Unley: MediaCom Education Inc., 2006.
- Hunt, Arnold D. *This Side of Heaven: A History of Methodism in South Australia*. Adelaide: Lutheran Publishing House, 1985.
- 'Epworth Building' in *Heritage of the City of Adelaide: An Illustrated Guide*, second edition, eds. Marsden, Susan, Stark, Paul, Sumerling, Patricia. Adelaide: Corporation of the City of Adelaide, 1996. Available via 'Epworth Building', Heritage Places of Adelaide, Adelaide Economic Development Agency, 2024.

### Journal Articles

- Collins, Julie, Ibels, Alexander, Collins, Susan, and Garnaut, Christine. 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain: Perspectives on the Emergence of Tall Buildings in South Australia's Capital City'. *Australian Planner* 43:3 (2006): pp.24-33.

### Unpublished Material

- Brown, Gordon C. *An Historical Review of Epworth Building Inc., From 1923 to 1986*. December 1986.

### Archival

State Library of South Australia

Business Records Group - BRG 377 Box 8:

*Epworth Building, Pirie Street, Adelaide*. Promotional pamphlet prepared by Epworth Building Board, c.1926.

Lease agreement between Dorothy Christine Somerville and Epworth Building Board, 15 August 1927. State Library of South Australia, Business Record Group, BRG 377, Box 8.

Letter from George Klewitz Soward to Reverend William Hutchinson Robinson, 17 December 1924. Business Records Group, State Library of South Australia, BRG 377, Box 8.

City of Adelaide Archives

'May 1925'. No.346: Methodist Conference in City of Adelaide, Register of Plans, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1924 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1935, City of Adelaide Archives, Number 1170, Item 1, 14.

### Newspapers

'Adelaide Architecture. Some City Buildings'. *Adelaide Chronicle*, 7 July 1928, p.39.

'Busy Building Year. Resume of Operations. Fireproof Structures Save Money'. *Observer*, 8 January 1927, p.49.

'Church Extravagance'. *Advertiser*, 19 December 1929, p.22.

'Church as Landlord. Epworth Building Progress'. *News*, 18 June 1926, p.7.

'Connexional Offices'. *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 22 July 1927, p.3.

'Epworth Building'. *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 1 May 1925, p.5.

'Epworth Building'. *Advertiser*, 23 May 1925, p.13.

'Epworth Building'. *News*, 28 September 1925, p.7.

'Epworth Building'. *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 2 July 1926, p.3.

'Epworth Building'. *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 December 1926, p.3.

'Epworth Building. Six-Storied Structure. Erection to Begin Soon'. *News*, 29 April 1925, p.10.

'Epworth Building, Pirie Street, new rallying point for South Australian Methodism'. *News*, 9 July 1926, p.9.

'Epworth Buildings'. *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 April 1925, p.9.

'Home and Inland Missions'. *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 7 February 1936, p.12.

'Methodism. Boom in Building'. *Recorder*, 3 June 1924, p.2.

'Methodism and the Name Epworth'. *Register News – Pictorial*, 24 April 1929, p.8.

'Methodist Enterprise. Building Projects. New Headquarters'. *News*, 2 June 1924, p.7.

'Methodist Headquarters, Adelaide'. *Adelaide Chronicle*, 22 January 1927, p.40.

'Methodist Offices. A Six Story Building'. *Recorder*, 3 March 1924, p.4.

'Methodist Women's and Girls' Welfare Department'. *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 15 January 1937, p.15.

'Metropolitan Buildings. Twelve Months' Progress. New Records Created'. *Register*, 4 December 1926, p.10.

'New Tea Rooms in Epworth Building, Pirie Street, Adelaide'. *News*, 23 November 1928, p.13.

'Pirie Street Methodist Church. A View from the East'. *Adelaide Chronicle*, 27 June 1925, p.37.

'Progressive Methodists. Big Building for Pirie Street'. *Daily Herald*, 3 March 1924, p.3.

'Structure Designers. 5 – Mr. G. K. Soward. Epworth Building'. *News*, 20 March 1929, p.12.

'Young People's Department'. *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 September 1937, p.9.

### **Land Titles**

Certificate of Title Vol. 220, Folio 219.

Certificate of Title Vol. 1411, Folio 106.

Certificate of Title 3262, Folio 31.

Certificate of Title 3752, Folio 40.

Certificate of Title 5152, Folio 951.

Certificate of Title 6119, Folio 44.

Certificate of Title 6132, Folio 476.

### **Websites**

'ACOLAB: nurturing growth and collaboration in Adelaide's gaming and animation industry', Renew Adelaide, 27 June 2023. <https://renewadelaide.com.au/renew-story/acolab/> Accessed 30 July 2024.

Epworth Building Pty Ltd, 'Building History', Epworth Building, 2024. <https://www.epworthbuilding.com.au/building-history/> Accessed 15 July 2024.

Hunt, Arnold D. 'Methodist Church', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia.

<https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/organisations/methodist-church> Accessed 19 August 2024.

Marsh, Walter. 'Epworth Building: Gothic Icon gets a Colourful Revival', *Adelaide Review*, 21 November 2016

<https://www.adelaidereview.com.au/latest/news/2016/11/21/epworth-building-gothic-icon-gets-colourful-revival/> Accessed 30 July 2024.

Siebert, Benison, 'Renew Adelaide Expands into CBD Office Market', *InDaily*, 22 August 2016.

<https://www.indaily.com.au/news/2016/08/22/renew-adelaide-expands-into-cbd-office-market> Accessed. 30 July 2024.

Epworth Building, Heritage Buildings of Adelaide, Adelaide Economic Development Agency, City of Adelaide.

<https://www.experienceadelaide.com.au/heritage-places/epworth-building-31-35-pirie-street-adelaide/> Accessed 15 July 2024.

## SITE RECORD

<b>NAME:</b>		Epworth Building	<b>PLACE NO.:</b>	13389
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:</b>		Six-storey office building featuring Gothic-style design elements.		
<b>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:</b>		1925 - 1927		
<b>REGISTER STATUS:</b>		Identified: 20 March 1985 Provisionally entered: 12 September 1985 Rejected: 1 November 2001 Identified: 14 May 2020 Provisionally entered: 5 September 2024		
<b>LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS:</b>		LHP, authorised 1 November 2001		
<b>CURRENT USE:</b>		Office Building 1927 – present		
<b>PREVIOUS USE(S):</b>		Methodist Church headquarters 1927 – 1977 Uniting Church headquarters 1977 – 2003		
<b>ARCHITECT:</b>		George Klewitz Soward, 1924		
<b>BUILDER:</b>		C. H. Martin Ltd., 1925-1927		
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:</b>		City of Adelaide		
<b>LOCATION:</b>		<b>Street No.:</b>	33/33B	
		<b>Street Name:</b>	Pirie Street	
		<b>Town/Suburb:</b>	Adelaide	
		<b>Post Code:</b>	5000	
<b>LAND DESCRIPTION:</b>		<b>Title</b>	CT 6132/476 F104979 A9	
		<b>Reference:</b>		
		<b>Hundred:</b>	Adelaide	
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>		-34.92590459704983, 138.60108101303626		



## PHOTOS

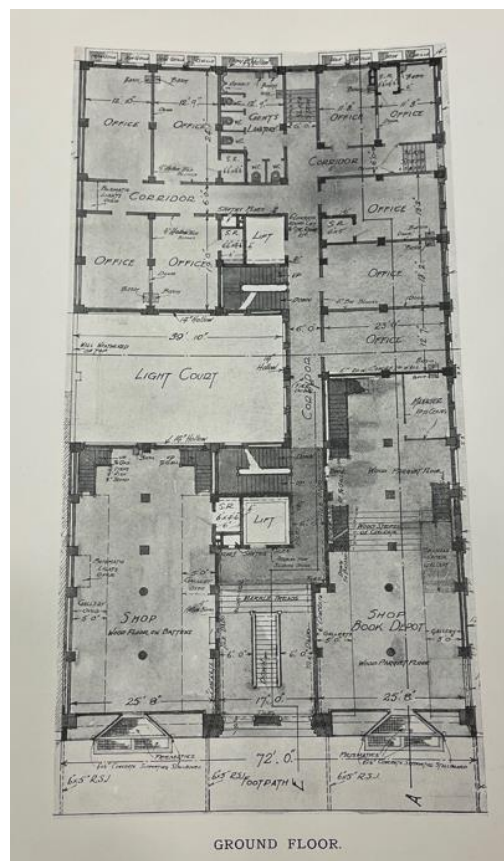
NAME: Epworth Building

PLACE NO.: 13389



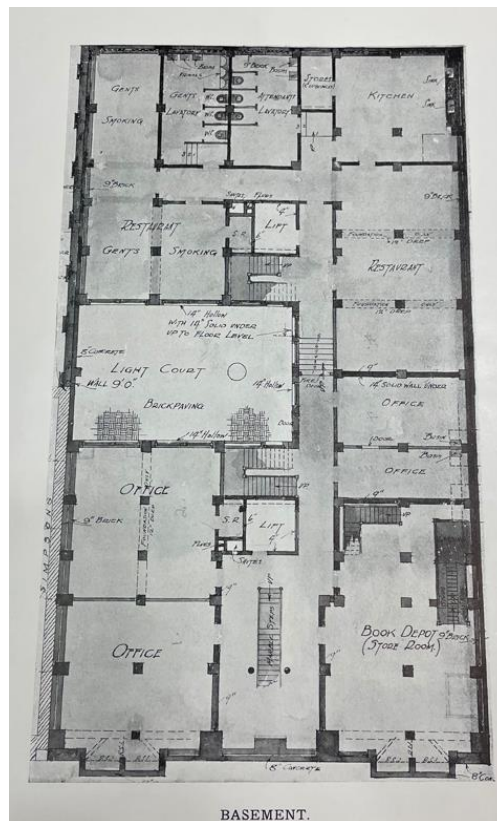
Epworth Building (right of centre) next to the Pirie Street Methodist Church (bottom right), c.1927.

Source: SLSA B4361



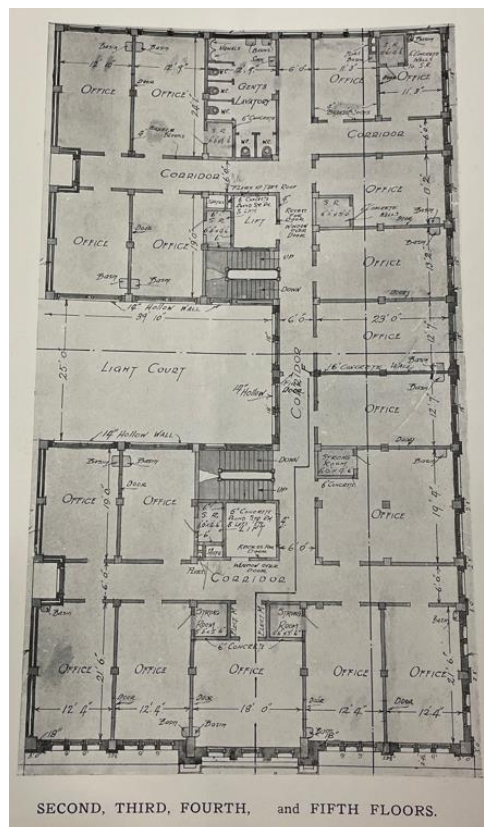
Ground floor plan, c.1927.

Source: SLSA BRG 377, Box 8



Basement plan, c.1927.

Source: SLSA BRG 377, Box 8



Upper floors, c.1927.

Source: SLSA BRG 377, Box 8



\*All subsequent photographs taken by DEW staff on 1 August 2024



**Shafted jamb entrance on front elevation.**



**Signage, leadlight and lancet windows and hood moulding around shafted jamb entrance.**



---

**NAME:** Epworth Building

**PLACE NO.:** 13389

---



**Parapeted gable and original signage on front elevation.**



**View of eastern elevation.**



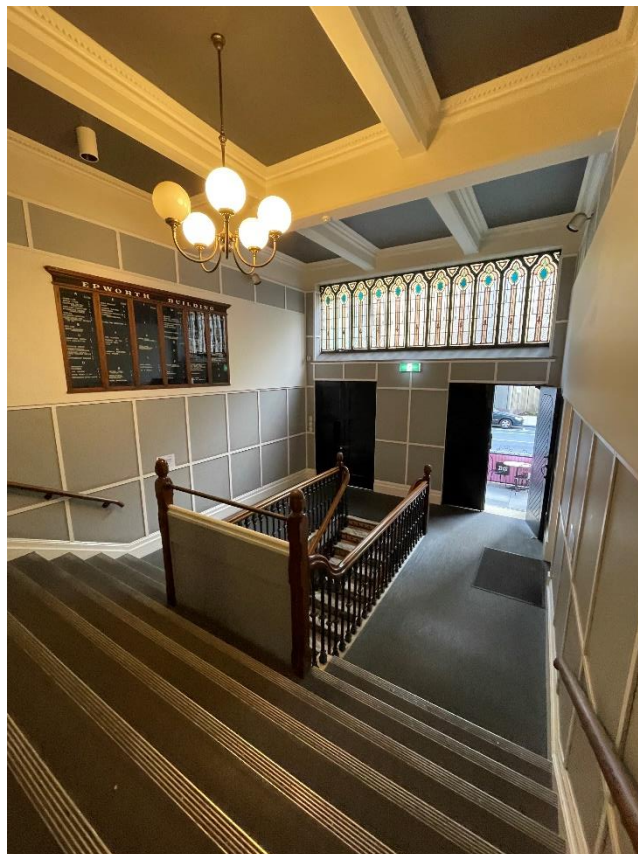
**View of western elevation showing 1964 addition on the right.**







**Foyer showing stairway to the basement.**



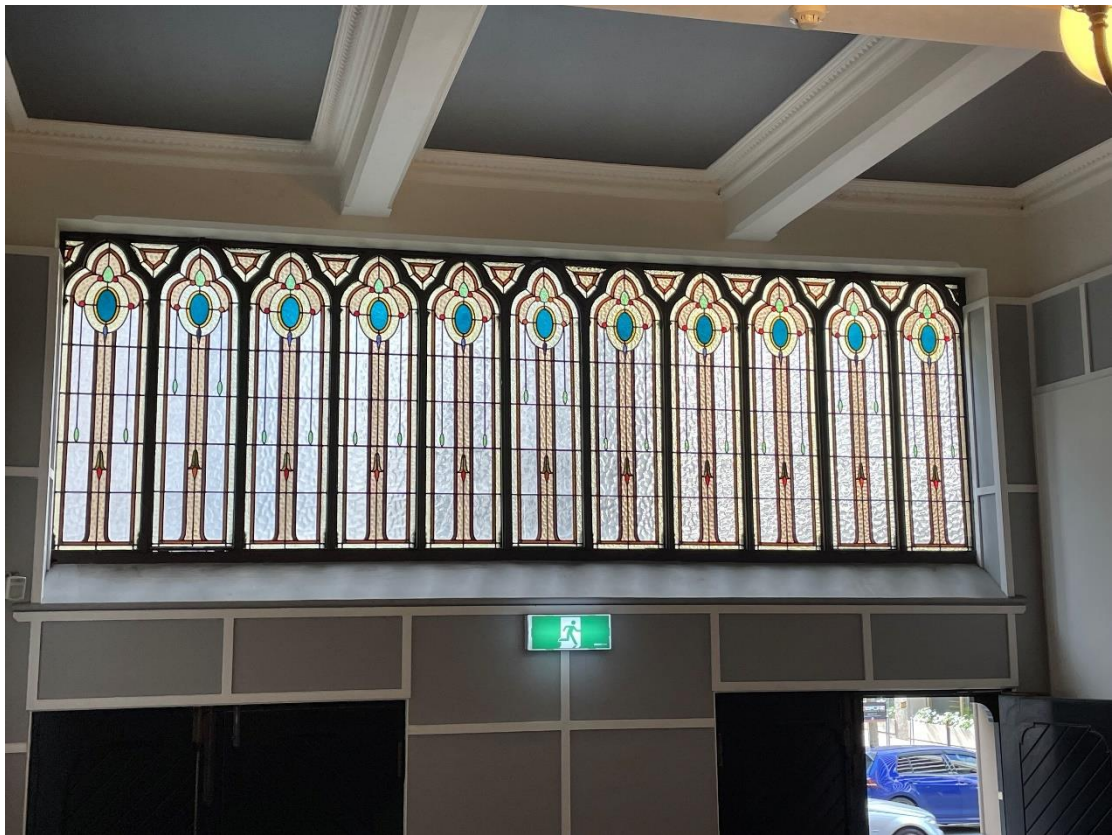
**Foyer facing street entrance.**

---

**NAME:** Epworth Building

**PLACE NO.:** 13389

---



**Leadlight window viewed from foyer.**



**Basement staircase heading to foyer.**



**Indicative view of basement lobby.**

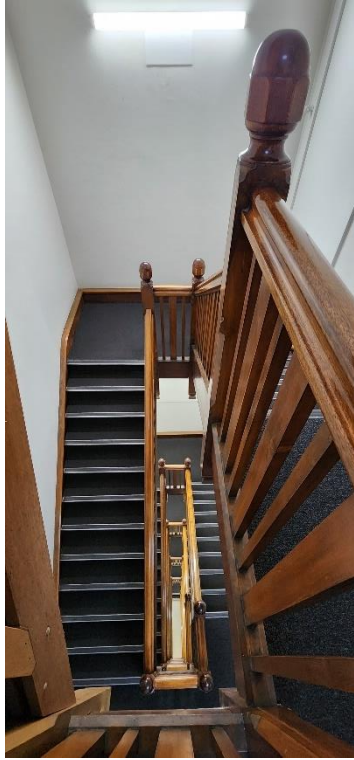


---

**NAME:** Epworth Building

**PLACE NO.:** 13389

---



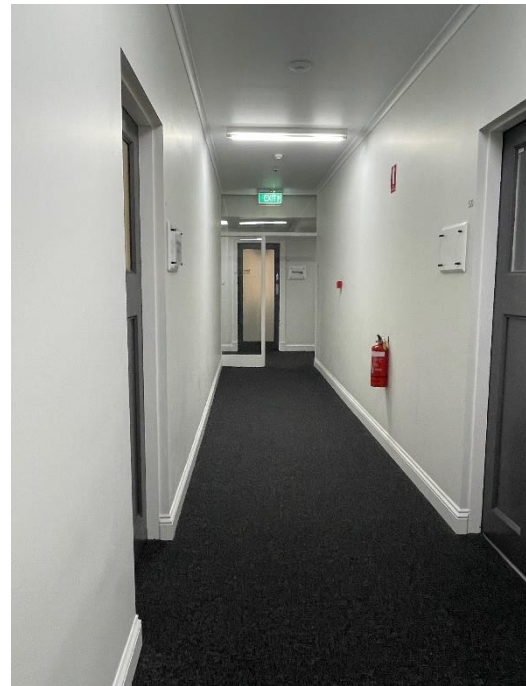
One of two original stairwells showing timber balustrading.



One of two original entrances to roof space.



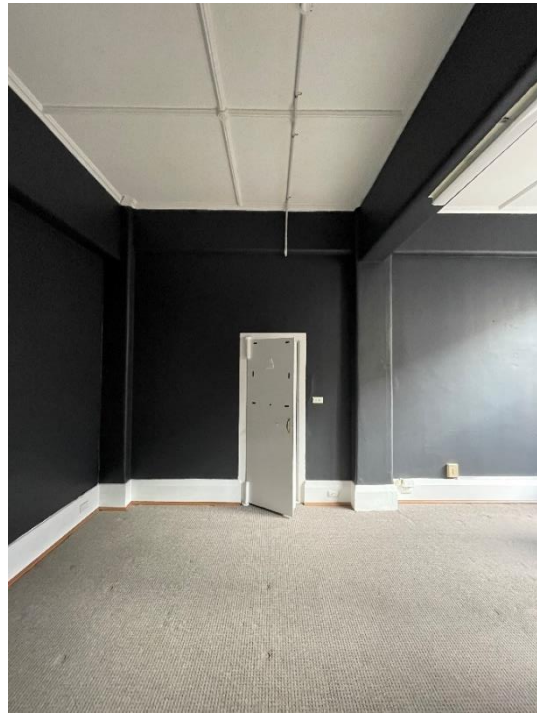
Rippled glass in main corridor windows.



Typical corridor view.



**Indicative office space.**



**Firesafe door in office.**



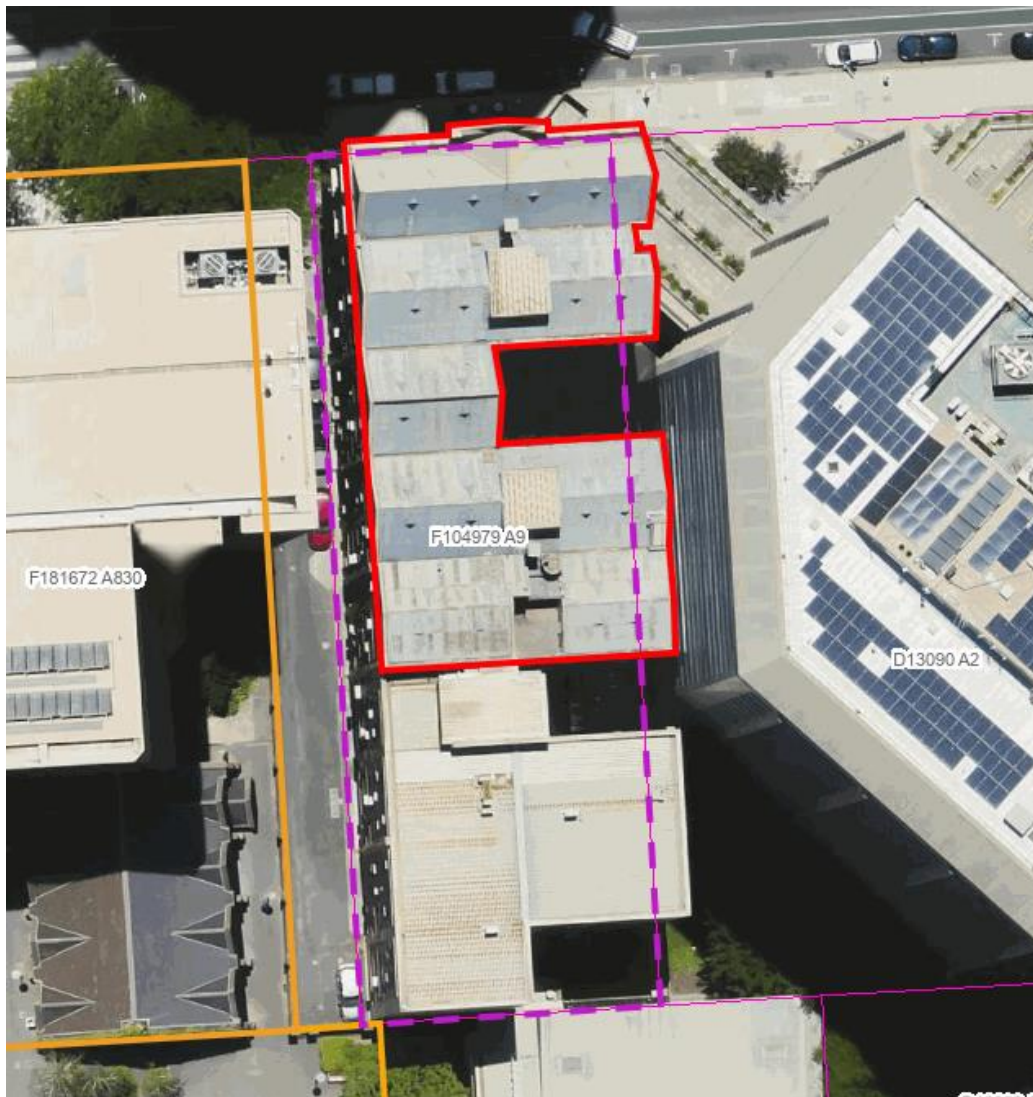
**Inside original main lightwell facing west.**



## SITE PLAN

**NAME:** Epworth Building




**PLACE NO.:** 13389



Epworth Building, 33/33B Pirie Street, Adelaide, CT 6132/476 F104979 A9, Hundred of Adelaide. Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre.

N ↑

### LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Existing State Heritage Place(s)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Julie Collins, Alexander Ibels, Susan Collins and Christine Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain: Perspectives on the Emergence of Tall Buildings in South Australia's Capital City', *Australian Planner* 43:3 (2006): p.24.
- <sup>2</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.29 and p.31.
- <sup>3</sup> Richard Apperly, Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present* (North Ryde: Angus and Robertson, 1989), pp.198-201.
- <sup>4</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide*, p.39.
- <sup>5</sup> 'Epworth Building', *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 December 1926, p.3.
- <sup>6</sup> Michael Lewis, *The Gothic Revival* (London: Thomas and Hudson, 2002), p.7.
- <sup>7</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide*, pp.192-193.
- <sup>8</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide*, p.198.
- <sup>9</sup> See Chris Burns, *Liturgy, Community, Modernity: Postwar Places of Worship in South Australia 1945-1990* (Adelaide: Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2020), esp. pp.20-21.
- <sup>10</sup> Alison McDougall, 'Soward, George Klewitz', Architects of South Australia, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia.  
[https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch\\_full.asp?Arch\\_ID=66](https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=66) Accessed 12 August 2024.
- <sup>11</sup> Barry Rowney, 'Type Profile of Churches', report to the Australian Heritage Commission (1991) p. 3
- <sup>12</sup> David Hilliard and Arnold D. Hunt, 'Religion' in Eric Richards (ed), *The Flinders History of South Australia: Social History* (Netley: Wakefield Press, 1986), p. 195.
- <sup>13</sup> Douglas Pike, *Paradise of Dissent: South Australia 1829 – 1857*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1967).
- <sup>14</sup> Arnold D. Hunt, *This Side of Heaven* (Adelaide SA: Lutheran Publishing House, 1985), pp. 1-4.
- <sup>15</sup> Arnold D. Hunt, 'Methodism', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia.  
<https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/organisations/methodist-church> Accessed 19 August 2024.
- <sup>16</sup> Hilliard and Hunt, 'Religion', p. 204.
- <sup>17</sup> Hunt, *This Side of Heaven*, p. 22.
- <sup>18</sup> Hunt, *This Side of Heaven*, p. 15.
- <sup>19</sup> 'David Hilliard and Arnold D. Hunt', 'Religion' in *The Flinders History of South Australia: Social History*, Richard, Eric (ed.) (Netley, SA: Wakefield Press, 1986), p.229; Hunt, 'Methodism', SA History Hub.
- <sup>20</sup> Hunt, *This Side of Heaven* p. 303.
- <sup>21</sup> Hunt, *This Side of Heaven* p. 303.
- <sup>22</sup> See Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', pp.24-25; Charles Sheppard, *Skyscrapers: Masterpieces of Architecture* (London: Bracken Books, 1996), pp.18-49; Lynn Curlee, *Skyscraper* (New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007), pp.2-20; The Editors of the Encyclopedia of Britannica, 'Skyscraper', Britannica, 8 January 2024.  
<https://www.britannica.com/technology/skyscraper> Accessed 23 January 2024.
- <sup>23</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', pp.24-25.
- <sup>24</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', pp.24-25; Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide*, p.168.
- <sup>25</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', pp.24-25; Sarah Bradford Landau, *Rise of the New York Skyscraper, 1865-1913* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996), pp.19-61.
- <sup>26</sup> Davina Jackson, *Australian Architecture: A History* (Crows Nest, NSW: Allen and Unwin, 2022), pp.131-133 and pp.173-175.
- <sup>27</sup> Jackson, *Australian Architecture*, p.132 and p.173.
- <sup>28</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.27 and p.29.
- <sup>29</sup> The next 'tall building', the Executor Trustee Building on Grenfell Street, was constructed in 1922. Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.28.
- <sup>30</sup> Michael Page, *Sculptors in Space: South Australian Architects 1836-1986* (Adelaide: Royal Australian Institute of Architects, 1986), pp. 133-134.
- <sup>31</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', pp.28-31; *Building Act, 1923*, No. 1600 (SA).

- 
- <sup>32</sup> 'New Commercial Edifices in Adelaide: Some Striking Additions to City Architecture', *Australian Home and Builder* No. 8 (September 1924), p.24.
- <sup>33</sup> See Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.29.
- <sup>34</sup> See 'Adelaide Growing Up; Remarkable Progress in Metropolis', *Mail* (Adelaide), 15 May 1926, p.1 and 'Altering Adelaide's Skyline; Million Pounds' Worth of New Buildings; Modern Structures for a Progressive City', *News* (Adelaide), 10 June 1925, p.8. Skyscrapers and 'tall buildings' were generally conveyed by their advocates to be beacons of progress and modernity. See Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.25-26.
- <sup>35</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.26.
- <sup>36</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.26.
- <sup>37</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.26.
- <sup>38</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.31.
- <sup>39</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', pp.31-32.
- <sup>40</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.32.
- <sup>41</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.32.
- <sup>42</sup> Except for Shell House (SHP 13103), constructed around 1931, there is a noticeable chronological gap between tall buildings erected during the 1920s and the 1930s/40s. The 'first wave' could thus be subdivided into two periods: one between 1922-1928 and the other between 1935 and 1943. The Great Depression almost certainly explains this division. Although the Wall Street Crash did not take place until October 1929 and the Great Depression swept much of the world thereafter, economic conditions had been declining in South Australia since 1927. Conditions only began to improve around 1934.
- <sup>43</sup> Commonwealth Government of Australia, Statutory Rules 1941, No. 131, *National Security Act, 1939-1940*.
- <sup>44</sup> Collins, Ibels, Collins and Garnaut, 'Adelaide Rises from the Plain', p.29 and p.31.
- <sup>45</sup> Jude Elton, 'Pirie Street Methodist Church', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia. <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/places/pirie-street-methodist-church> Accessed 30 July 2024.
- <sup>46</sup> James D. Everett, *The History of the Epworth Building* (Unley: MediaCom Education Inc., 2006), p.11.
- <sup>47</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.11.
- <sup>48</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.11.
- <sup>49</sup> Gordon C. Brown, *An Historical Review of Epworth Building Inc., From 1923 to 1986*, December 1986, p.2.
- <sup>50</sup> 'Methodist Offices', *Recorder*, 3 March 1924, p.4.
- <sup>51</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.14-17.
- <sup>52</sup> Pirie Street Building Board, 'Pirie Street Connexional Buildings', 1924 in Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.16-17.
- <sup>53</sup> Pirie Street Building Board, 'Pirie Street Connexional Buildings', in Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.16; 'Methodism and the Name Epworth', *Register News*, 24 April 1929, p.8.
- <sup>54</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.17-18; Brown, *Historical Review*, pp.2-3.
- <sup>55</sup> 'Methodist Offices', 3 March 1924, p.4.
- <sup>56</sup> 'May 1925'. No.346: Methodist Conference in City of Adelaide, Register of Plans, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1924 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1935, City of Adelaide Archives, Number 1170, Item 1, 14.
- <sup>57</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.22.
- <sup>58</sup> Letter from George Klewitz Soward to Reverend William Hutchinson Robinson, 17 December 1924. Business Records Group, State Library of South Australia, BRG 377, Box 8.
- <sup>59</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.18.
- <sup>60</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.22.
- <sup>61</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.22.
- <sup>62</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.22.
- <sup>63</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.22.
- <sup>64</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.25.
- <sup>65</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.22-23; Brown, *Historical Review*, p.3.
- <sup>66</sup> 'Epworth Building', *News*, 28 September 1925, p.7.
- <sup>67</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.25.
-

- <sup>68</sup> 'Epworth Building', *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 December 1926, p.3; Brown, *Historical Review*, p.3.
- <sup>69</sup> Brown, *Historical Review*, p.3.
- <sup>70</sup> 'Epworth Building', *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 2 July 1926, p.3.
- <sup>71</sup> 'Epworth Building', 24 December 1926, p.3.
- <sup>72</sup> 'Structure Designers. 5 – Mr. G. K. Soward. Epworth Building', *News*, 20 March 1929, p.12.
- <sup>73</sup> 'Epworth Book Depot', *Advertiser*, 24 April 1929, p.10.
- Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.25; Brown, *Historical Review*, p.3.
- <sup>74</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.31.
- <sup>75</sup> See 'Connexional Offices', *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 22 July 1927, p.3; 'Young People's Department', *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 24 September 1937, p.9; 'Methodist Women's and Girls' Welfare Department', *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 15 January 1937, p.15.
- <sup>76</sup> 'Home and Inland Missions', *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 7 February 1936, p.12.
- <sup>77</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.25; Brown, *Historical Review*, p.3.
- <sup>78</sup> Lease agreement between Dorothy Christine Somerville and Epworth Building Board, 15 August 1927. State Library of South Australia, Business Record Group, BRG 377, Box 8.
- <sup>79</sup> *Epworth Building, Pirie Street, Adelaide*. Promotional pamphlet prepared by Epworth Building Board, c.1926. State Library of South Australia, Business Record Group, BRG 377, Box 8.
- <sup>80</sup> It is clear the Board had intended to convey the building's modern and progressive features from the outset. The *Australian Christian Commonwealth* commented in May 1925 that Epworth Building would have 'all modern conveniences for offices' and would 'be among the most up-to-date commercial chambers in the city'. 'Epworth Building', *Australian Christian Commonwealth*, 1 May 1925, p.5.
- <sup>81</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.36-40; Brown, *Historical Review*, p.4.
- <sup>82</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.36-40; Brown, *Historical Review*, p.4.
- <sup>83</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.39.
- <sup>84</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.40-42.
- <sup>85</sup> Brown, *Historical Review*, p.5.
- <sup>86</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.42-46; Brown, *Historical Review*, p.5.
- <sup>87</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.44-45.
- <sup>88</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.42-46; Brown, *Historical Review*, pp.5-6.
- <sup>89</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.47-51; Brown, *Historical Review*, p.5.
- <sup>90</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.54-56; Brown, *Historical Review*, p.6.
- <sup>91</sup> David Hilliard, 'Uniting Church' in *The Wakefield Companion* p. 562
- <sup>92</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.56.
- <sup>93</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.57; Certificate of Title Vol. 3752, Folio 40, Lease no. 4387470.
- <sup>94</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 3752, Folio 40, Application no. 6414889.
- <sup>95</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.60-61.
- <sup>96</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.62.
- <sup>97</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp. 62.
- <sup>98</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.62.
- <sup>99</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.63.
- <sup>100</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.63.
- <sup>101</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, pp.64-66.
- <sup>102</sup> Everett, *Epworth Building*, p.68.
- <sup>103</sup> Walter Marsh, 'Epworth Building: Gothic Icon gets a Colourful Revival', *Adelaide Review*, 21 November 2016. <https://www.adelaidereview.com.au/latest/news/2016/11/21/epworth-building-gothic-icon-gets-colourful-revival/> Accessed 30 July 2024; 'ACOLAB: nurturing growth and collaboration in Adelaide's gaming and animation industry', *Renew Adelaide*, 27 June 2023. <https://renewadelaide.com.au/renew-story/acolab/> Accessed 30 July 2024; Benison Siebert, 'Renew Adelaide Expands into CBD Office Market', *InDaily*, 22 August 2016. <https://www.indaily.com.au/news/2016/08/22/renew-adelaide-expands-into-cbd-office-market> Accessed. 30 July 2024.