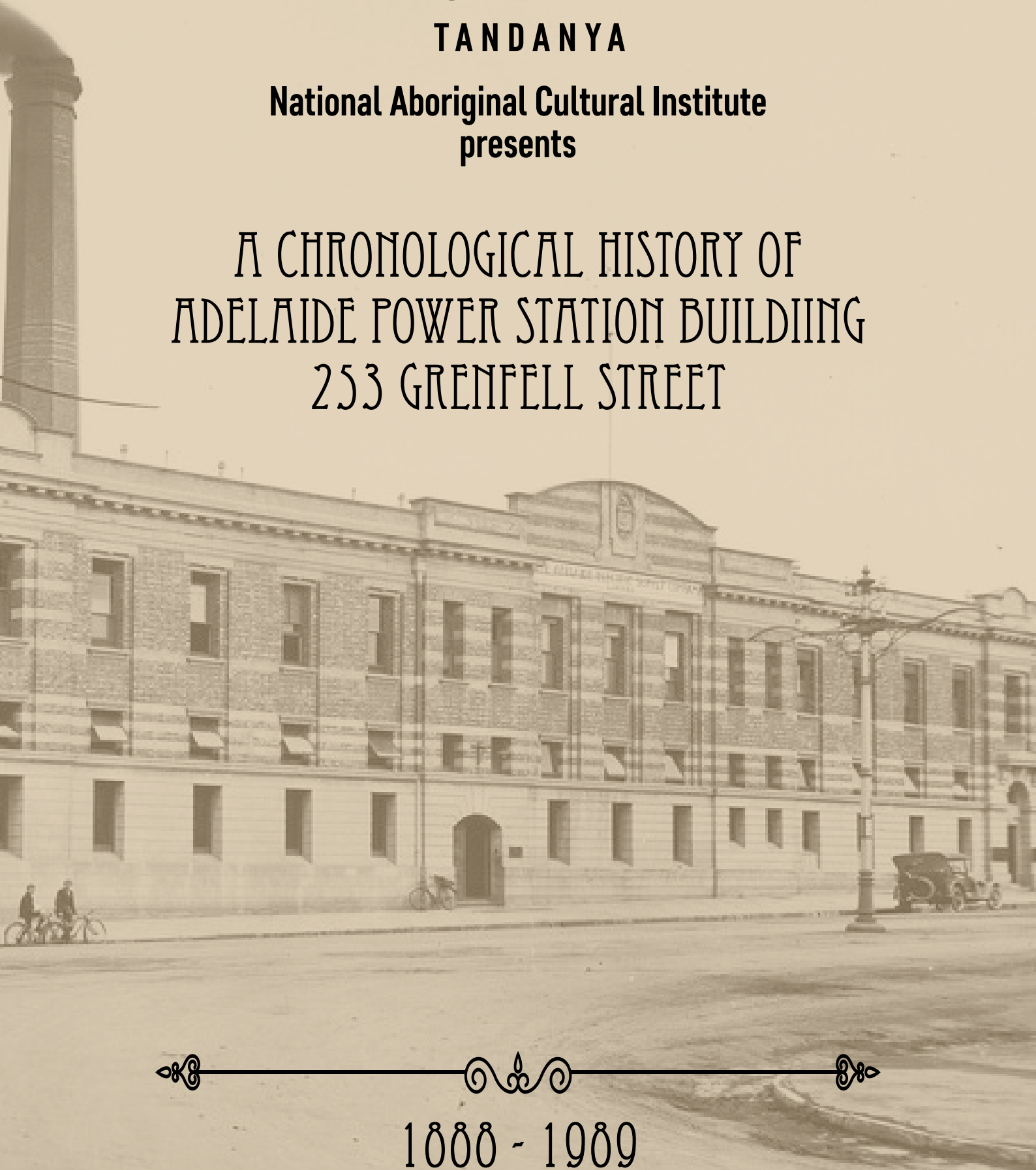


TANDANYA

**National Aboriginal Cultural Institute
presents**

**A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF
ADELAIDE POWER STATION BUILDING
253 GRENFELL STREET**



1888 - 1989





1882

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ELECTRIC LIGHTING COMPANY ACT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GAS COMPANY ACT

The advent of electricity into the city of Adelaide began in 1882 when a Private Member's Bill was passed in the South Australian Parliament giving the South Australian Electric Lighting Company Limited the right 'to supply and convey electricity to corporations and private persons.' However nobody seemed particularly interested and as the company failed to lay the amount of cable required under the Act, the legislation lapsed.

Also in 1882 the S.A. Gas Company was empowered by Parliament to supply electricity as well as gas, but the company did not take up these powers and in 1892 this legislation also lapsed.

1891

GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACT

The Gas and Electric Light Act which gave municipal corporations and district councils the power to supply both commodities was passed in 1891.

1895

The South Australian Electric Light and Motive Power Company Limited applied to Parliament for powers to supply electricity within the colony of South Australia.

Apart from the municipality of Port Adelaide, no-one showed much interest in having their streets lit by electric light and although the company tendered for the work in Port Adelaide, it could not raise the capital to do the job and the legislation was deferred

1897

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ELECTRIC LIGHT AND MOTIVE POWER ACT

By 1897 the position of the company had improved and it managed to increase its capital to 20,000 Pounds and by 1899 to 60,000 pounds. The directors of the company were the Hon. George Brookman MLC and Mr C.H de Rose, an old mining identity.

Another backer of the company was Josiah Symon QC, eventually one of South Australia's best known legal and political figures. The Secretary of the company was F.C. Howard.

1898

PURCHASED LAND GRENFELL STREET

In September 1898 a favourable poll of ratepayers allowed the company to enter into an agreement with the Adelaide City Council to supply lighting for the city for five years. Land in the city, on the banks of the River Torrens was offered to the company by the Council but permission was refused by the Commissioner of Crown Lands and on the 8th December 1898 the company purchased land on the corner of Grenfell Street and East Terrace on portions of Town Acres 154 and 155.

The area had been occupied by Burford's Soap Factory which had burnt down spectacularly some time earlier, leaving a vacant block. The property was approximately .65 acres with frontage to Grenfell Street of 132 feet 11 inches from the corner of Tam O'Shanter Place to within 80 feet of East Terrace and the price was 2,000 pounds.

1899

SUPPLY AT PORT ADELAIDE WORK STARTED AND TEMPORARILY HALTED AT GRENFELL STREET

Plans for the power station were completed in February 1899 and accepted by the Council on the 13th March. Building was commenced but when the front section was almost finished work ceased, probably through lack of finance. During this period an underground cable was laid along the southern side of Grenfell Street to King William Street, northwards to Hindley Street and westwards to a point almost opposite Blyth Street.

In July 1899 F.W.H. Wheadon arrived from England to take up the position as resident engineer for the company. In September of the same year the S.A. Electricity Light and Motive Power Company sold all its interests to the Brush Electrical Engineering Company of England (a company Wheadon had worked for a short time) for 25,493 Pounds.

The first body to take advantage of this new system was the Corporation of Port Adelaide who contracted the company to supply street lighting. Subsequently the first power station was built in Nile Street, Port Adelaide under contract to a Sydney man, W.W. Crawford, and supply commenced on the 1st January 1899.

However Crawford did not keep the plant in good condition and the directors of the company were forced to take over control of the station themselves.

1900

DEVONSHIRE PLACE POWER STATION OPENED

In January 1900 the company again changed hands being sold to the Electric Lighting and Traction Company of Australia Limited for 29,493 Pounds.

This company was registered in England and wholly subscribed there, although in 1902 an issue of 5,000 ordinary 5 Pound shares was made and a small portion of this was subscribed in Australia.

The company had interests in Melbourne, Geelong and Adelaide and its Adelaide directors were Brookman (Chairman) and J.K. Samuel. Wheadon continued as engineer and Howard as Secretary.

To comply with the contract entered into with the City Council in September 1898 by the original company, and to use the cable work already installed, a temporary power station had to be erected. This was housed in a galvanised iron shed on the corner of Devonshire Place and Tam O'Shanter Place and was probably the shed which was included in the portion of the property purchased from Burford's. On the original plans prepared for the power station it was proposed to use the land occupied by the old shed for a workshop, foreman's office and material store.

This station remained in operation until the opening of the Grenfell Street station in 1901. This shed was later replaced with a two storey brick store for cables and as late as 1982 housed an 11kv capacitor bank which assisted in controlling voltage in the east end of the city.

1901

GRENFELL STREET POWER STATION OPENED

The first station was officially opened amid some ceremony on the 19th November 1901. Some 800 of Adelaide's leading citizens and their wives gathered in the red brick building to witness the Lighting of the city.

The front portion of the building along Grenfell Street was occupied by the offices and running parallel behind it was the engine room and boiler house.

Although the rather elegant appearance of the power station fitted into the city scene, it was a somewhat odd position for such an industry to be sited. Power stations require great quantities of cooling water for their condensers and for this reason were usually sited near deep water.

The Grenfell Street station had to draw its water from the mains supply and it was stored in a 25,000 gallon tank on the roof above the coal bunkers. Eventually eight cooling towers were built to facilitate the cooling of water for reuse and with the two tall chimneys dominated the skyline of that part of the city.

1902

FIRST SUBURBAN SUPPLY

By the end of its first nine months of operation the Grenfell Street station was serving an area containing a population of 150,000. The station was supplying 194 consumers and its maximum demand during the year had been 150 kilowatts. Because it was generating only DC the area of distribution was limited to about 1 mile radius of the stations at Grenfell Street.

The Grenfell Street station converted DC to AC and this enabled the first suburban supply to be made to North Adelaide by means of underground cables along Frome Road and O'Connell Street. Supply to Walkerville was completed in May 1903.

1904

ADELAIDE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY

After suffering an initial loss in the Grenfell Street operation, due to the necessity of installing a temporary plant in Devonshire Place, the company began to show a profit. The Directors decided to separate the company's S.A. interests from its other operations and on the 1st. August 1904 the Electric Lighting and Traction Company of Australia Ltd., sold its undertaking in South Australia to The Adelaide Electric Supply Company Ltd., a company incorporated in England in 1905 with a nominal capital of 300,000 Pounds and registered in S.A. as a foreign company.

The Adelaide and Port Adelaide operations were transferred to the new company at the purchase price of 162,000 Pounds. The Adelaide Directors and engineers held their current positions but it was not until 1921 that control and management of the company was transferred to South Australia.

1906

CLOSURE OF THE PORT ADELAIDE STATION MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS ACT

In 1906 the Port Adelaide station was shut down and all electric power was generated from Grenfell Street and as the offices had earlier been moved from Brookman Buildings, the entire operations of the company were centred in the Grenfell Street site.

In December 1906 the S.A. Parliament passed an Act authorising the establishment of the Municipal Tramways Trust to provide an electric tramway system.

1907

MTT CONVERTER STATION BUILT

In May 2007 William Goodman (later Sir) was appointed electrical engineer and the following year general manager of the MTT. From March 1907 the Adelaide Electric Supply Company supplied power for the MTT. To do this the company installed two 1000 h.p. Bellis and Morcom triple expansion engines coupled to 750 kw Brush DC generators and another was added in 1911.

To change the electric power to the proper voltage for their trams the MTT built their No 1 Converter Station on East Terrace adjacent to the Adelaide Electric Supply Company

1909

FIRST ELECTRIC TRAM

On the 9th March 1909 William Goodman accompanied Mrs Price, wife of the Premier, on the first electric tram service from the city to Kensington. Thereafter expansion of the service progressed steadily and by June 1914 all the old horse tram routes were electric.



1911

MTT GENERATED ITS OWN POWER

In June 1911 the MTT began generating its own power at Port Adelaide.

The Converter Station was in use by the Trust until 1963 when it was purchased by ETSA and used for storage.

1912

EXTENSIONS TO GRENFELL STREET

Supply of electric power to the suburbs continued at a steady rate and by 1912 it became necessary to extend the boiler and engine rooms at Grenfell Street and a contract was placed with A.R. Maddern who did the work for 9,619 Pounds. This extension also included the construction of a new two storey office complex along Grenfell Street. This complex, build in two stages starting from East Terrace, contained a Public Office, Show Room, Board Room, General Office, Laboratory, Instrument Test Room Works Entrance and Change Room.

There was also an office for the Station Superintendent and Mains Superintendent, and a room each for the secretary, the engineer, the draughtsman and the typist. The stores department was located in a convenient hole in the engine room basement.

The decorative turret on the East Terrace corner was intended to be functional as well, acting as a vent with a force fan on the ground floor. This new office complex was also designed by Alfred Wells.

1920

COMMENCEMENT OF WORK ON OSBORNE POWER STATION

In 1920 worked commenced on the foundations for Osborne on land leased from the Harbors Board for a period of 84 years.

1921

CONTROL OF COMPANY TO ADELAIDE

It was in this period that control of the company was transferred from London to Adelaide and the London Board was dissolved on the 1st March 1921.

The Adelaide Board still chaired by George Brookman, reported that the company was presently supplying 35,200 customers with electric current and that 558 miles of streets were supplied with light and power.



1922

1897 ACT AMENDED

In December 1922 a Bill amending the company's Private Act of 1897 was passed in Parliament allowing the Adelaide Electric Supply Company to extend its mains to any part of the state where a profitable load is available, including country districts which, under the original Act, it could not previously supply.

For the next three decades the company was also involved in taking over country power stations.



1923

OSBORNE POWER STATION OPERATING

1926

GRENFELL STREET CLOSED DOWN

With Osborne supplying all the power to the city by August 1925, the Grenfell Street station was shut down within a few months. Most of the machinery was sold for scrap as with new developments in power generation it had become obsolete.

The chimneys and other part of the plant were dismantled. With the moving of departments to other sites Grenfell Street became empty and the Board decided the property should be sold.

1937

BUILDING LEASED TO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The remaining buildings were vacant for some years until it was leased to the Education Department in 1937.

The complex then became the Grenfell Street Trades School, one of a number in the State, with the S.A. School of Mines as its headquarters.

1940

THE WAR YEARS

In 1940 the School of Mines was an important part of the war effort when more than 400 RAAF fitters were being trained in machining, fitting, Welding and toolmaking for munitions and aircraft production.

After the war the school was used for the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme (CRTS) which retrained ex-servicemen in trade skills. The school included courses in carpentry, joinery, wood machining, boot repairing, French polishing and electrical work.

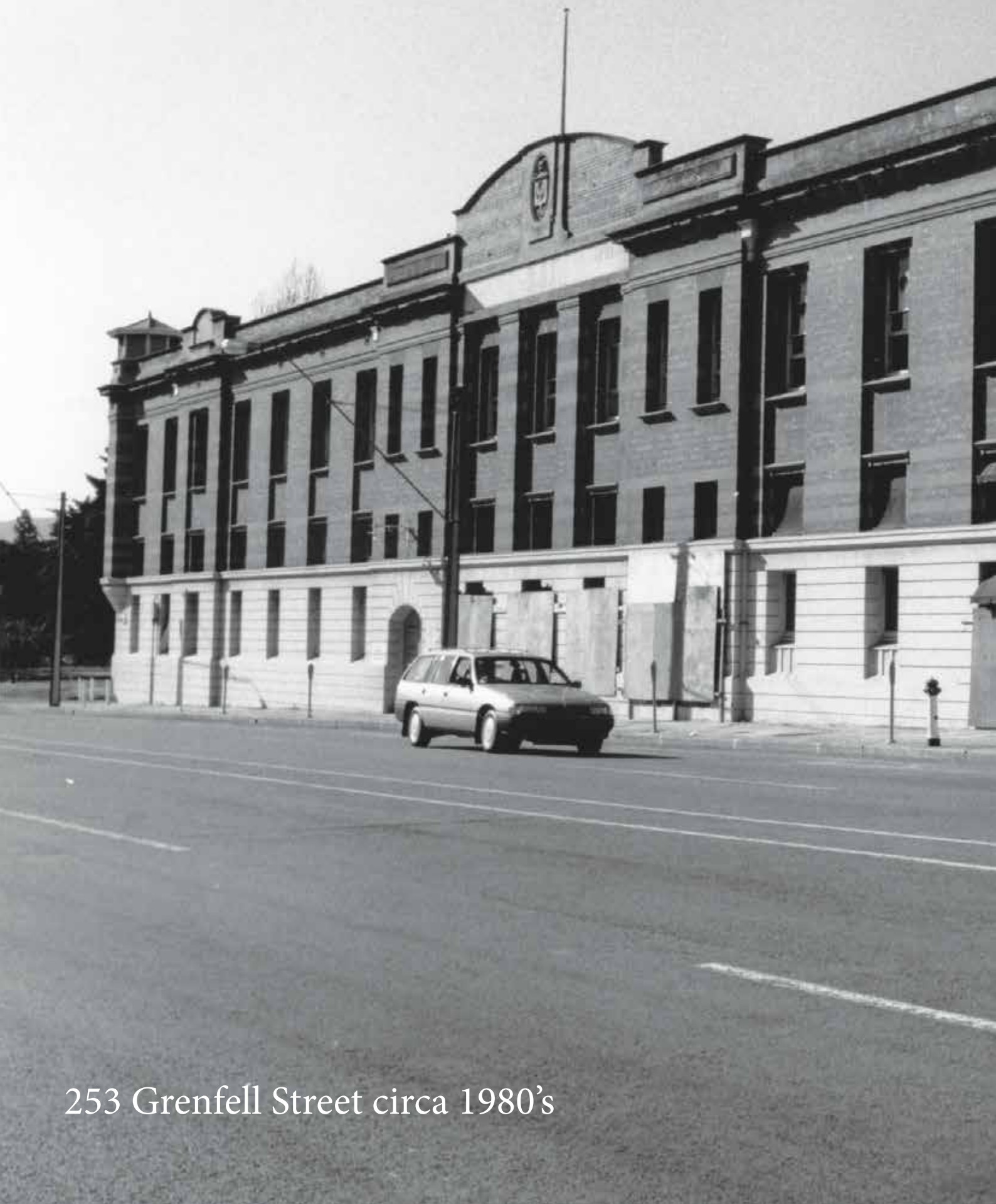
At the end of 1950 there were only full time classes in boot repairing and clerical work being held. By 1951 with the reduction in numbers in the CRTS it was decided that the building and furnishing trades be incorporated with the woodworkers.

1950

PROPERTY BOUGHT FROM ETSA BY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

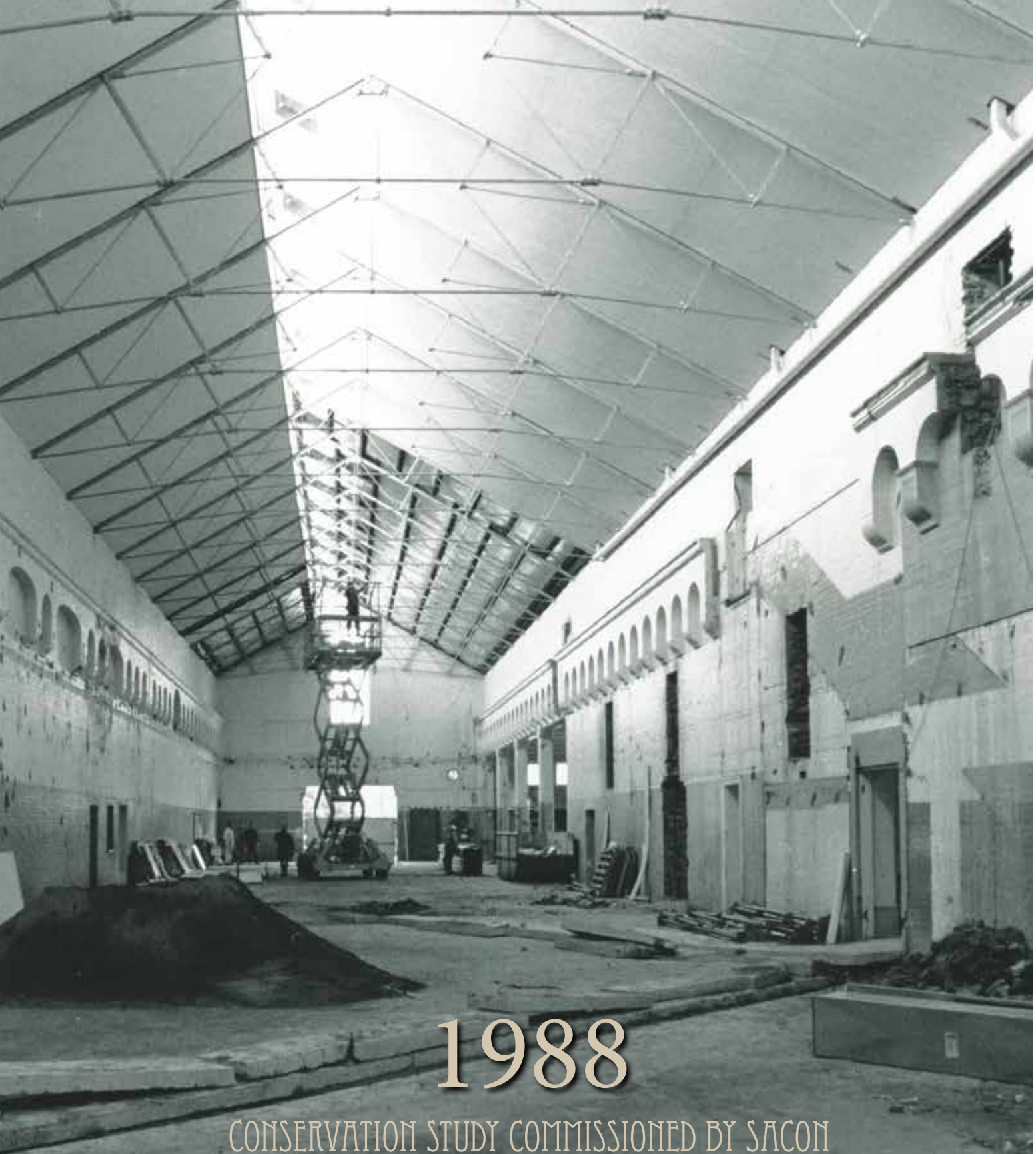
In 1950 the Education Department purchased the building from ETSA and it continued as a trade school under the Technical Division of the Department until 1972 when this became the Department of Further Education and later Technical and Further Education (TAFE)

Over the years the technical trades were gradually moved to other schools and since 1984, when the School of Plumbing was moved to Regency Park, the building has been used for Employment Bridging Courses as well as a technical workshop facility for the School of Aboriginal Education.



253 Grenfell Street circa 1980's





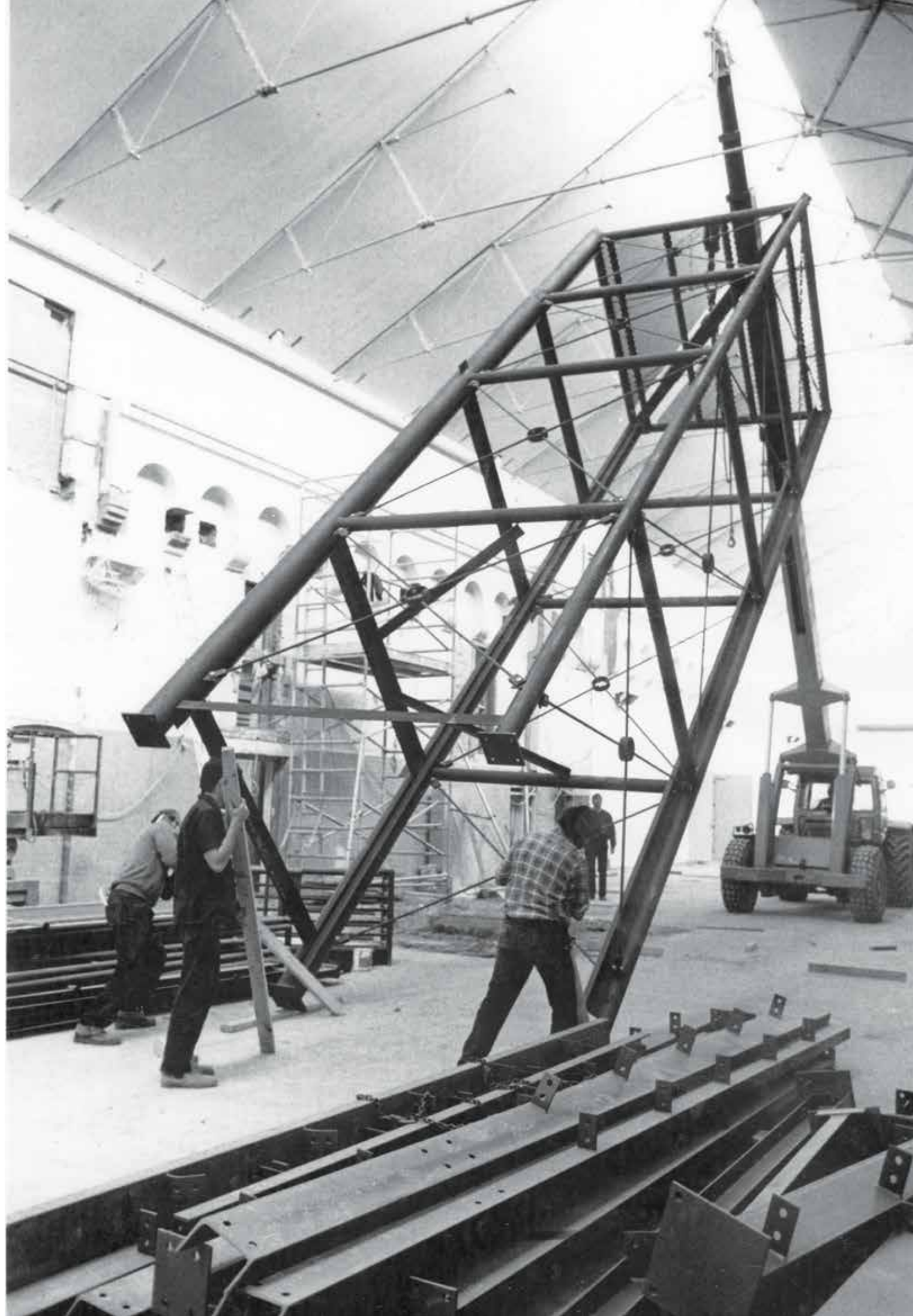
1988

CONSERVATION STUDY COMMISSIONED BY SACON

A portion of the former Electric Lighting and Traction Company site was earmarked to become the South Australian Centre for Aboriginal Art and Culture, with an emphasis on research, history and heritage. Furthermore, the building is to become the venue for the Aboriginal performing and visual arts.

A conservation study was commission in May 1988 by SACON. The brief required that a Statement of Significance be prepared by the analysis of physical and documentary evidence, and that a close liaison be maintained with the project architect Steve Grieve.

This rather incompatible adaption of a former power house into Aboriginal heritage centre demanded that a design solution be found which would address both its heritage value and future use.





HMD SCAFFOLD
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1989

TANDANYA NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CULTURAL INSTITUTE
OFFICIALLY OPENED SUNDAY OCTOBER 1ST 1989



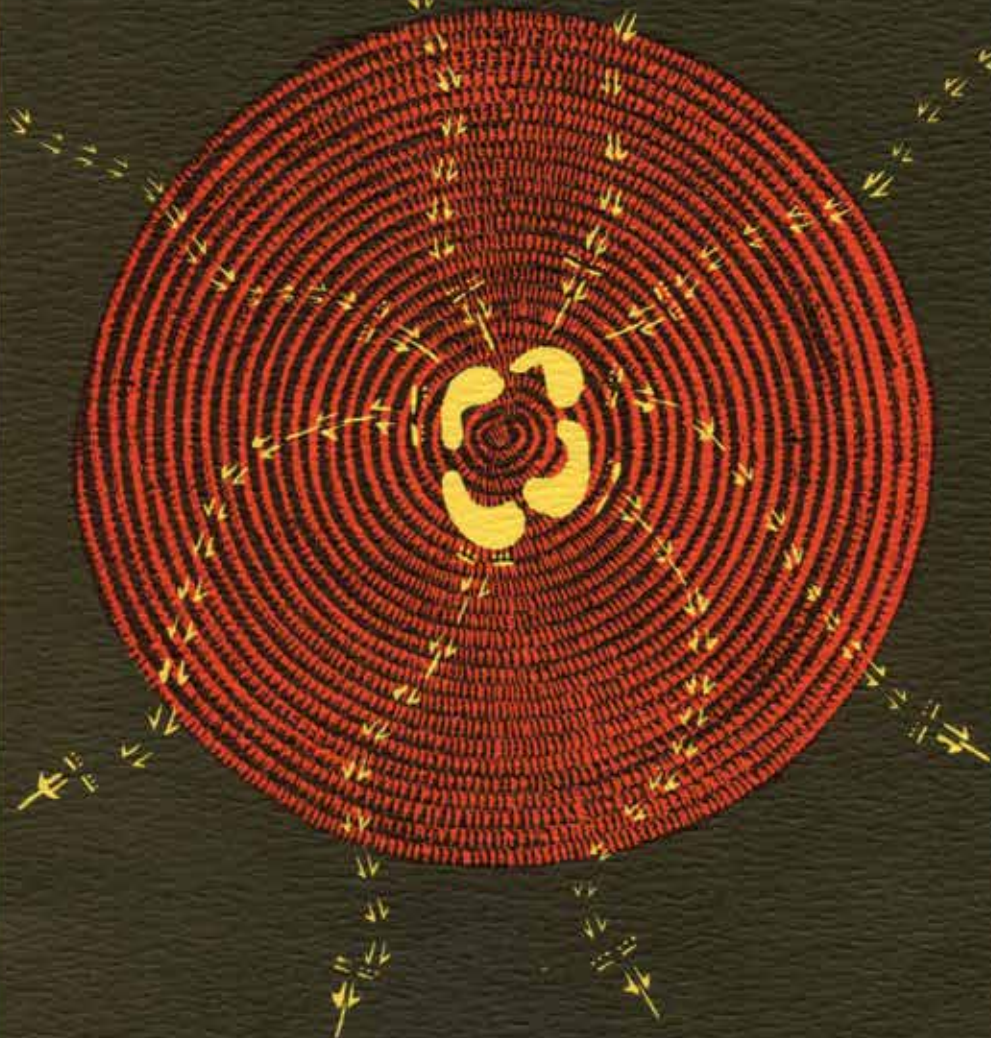
Tandanya opened its doors on Sunday 1 October 1989 amidst much fanfare. Grenfell Street East was closed off, women from Ernabella performed and Yothu Yindi gave a concert.

Opening exhibitions were
'Utopia – A Picture Story"
and
"Look at Us Now: South Australian Aboriginal Artists".

TANDANYA



African Cultural Institute



OCTOBER 1, 1989

OPENING DAY

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

PRICE - DONATION

Program

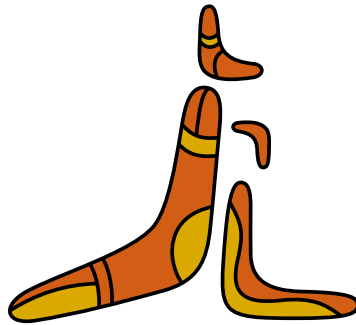
October 1, 1989

- 12 noon Performance by students from the Centre for
Aboriginal Studies in Music.
- 12.30 p.m. Ernabella Inma performance.
- 12.45 p.m. Official opening ceremony by Kaurna descendants in
the presence of John Bannon, Premier; Peter
Duncan, Minister for Employment and Education;
Steve Condous, Adelaide Lord Mayor; Greg Crafter,
Minister for Education; Terry Hemmings Minister for
Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Housing and
Construction; Anne Levy, Minister for the Arts; Janine
Haines, Leader of the Democrats; John Olsen,
Leader of the SA Opposition; and James Porter, on
behalf of Andrew Peacock, leader of the Federal
Opposition.
- Building open for public viewing.
- 1.45 p.m. Ernabella Inma performance.
- 2.15 p.m. Performance by Nunga Tjina dance group
- 2.30 p.m. Music by Croydon Park High School Band
- 3 to 5 p.m. Yothu Yindi concert



FANDORA





TANDANYA
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CULTURAL
INSTITUTE

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