

A walk up Adderley Street

- **Adderley Street is considered the main street** of the central business district of Cape Town.
- **The street was originally named *Heerengracht***, after the canal ("*gracht*") which ran down its centre, and which had its origins in the rivers from Table Mountain. At the time the street was more of a wide walkway beside the canal, which was crossed by various stone bridges.
- **For many years the street was residential**, lined with large oak trees, but by 1850 it had become strongly commercial in character.
- **Mayor Hercules Jarvis named it Adderley Street in 1850**, to honour British Parliamentarian Charles Bowyer Adderley (elevated to the peerage as Baron Norton in 1878) who fought successfully against the plan for the British government to make Cape Town into another penal Colony.



Charles Bower Adderley.
British parliamentarian and
Baron of Norton.

Historic Waterfront

- The waterfront is a central part of the very beginning of the settlement of the city of Cape Town. In 1654, two years after his arrival in this relatively safe bay at the foot of Table Mountain, Jan van Riebeeck built a small jetty as part of his task to establish a refreshment station at the Cape. The sea and the harbour lie at the heart of Cape Town's history.

Original Cape Town Waterfront.

Picture postcard showing the
Cape Town waterfront with Signal
hill and Lion's Head in the
background.

Unused. Published by The
Valentine & Sons Publishing Co.
Ltd.

Photographer unknown.



Harbour Jetty

- Despite a number of shipwrecks prior to 1810, especially during the winter when strong north-west and westerly winds and swells drove ships ashore, the only facilities for cargo and passengers were three wooden jetties.



Harbour Jetty.

Dated 29 November 1911 but not postally used.

Published as part of the Spes Bona Series.

Photographer unknown.



The Harbour Jetty at the foot of Adderley Street.

Used picture postcard. Circa 1905.

Published as part of the Spes Bona Series.

Photographer unknown.

Cancelled Grahamstown 17 October 1910. Cape of
Good Hope ½d. King George V postage stamp.

Roggebaai

- To the immediate right of the harbor jetty was a small bay known as Roggebaai where fisherfolk offloaded their catch. The word “rogge” means flat fish, such as a sole or skate.



Picture postcard taken from the “Fish Jetty” looking in an easterly direction. Just beyond the sailing boats on the right is the harbour jetty.

Used. Transvaal King Edward VII ½d postage stamp Elim. Cancelled 25 February 1905. Publisher unknown.

Cleaning Fish

Used picture postcard of women cleaning and drying Snoek on Rogge Baai beach.

Published by Lennon’s Series, photograph by T.D. Ravenscroft.

Post marked 23 December 1901. Transvaal King Edward VII ½d. postage stamp



Fish Jetty

A view from the Fish Jetty looking in a southeasterly direction. Note the steam from the steam engine in the background.

Unused. Published by G.B. & Co., Cape Town.

Photographer unknown



Harbour Pier & Promenade

- In 1910, the Harbour Jetty was replaced by the Harbour Pier and Promenade. The pier was built at the bottom of Adderley Street and included a pavilion where ballets and classical music concerts were hosted. As a result, the Promenade Pier was a major social attraction of Cape Town from 1910 to 1939.
- It was demolished in 1939 giving way to the foreshore, and roads, infrastructure and high-rise buildings that now stand in its place.



Pavilion Café.

A view of the pavilion café and Parisian stairway.
Published by The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co.
Ltd. Photographer unknown. Unused.



Promenade Circus.

Divided picture postcard published by The Valentine
& Sons Publishing Co. Ltd.
Unused.



Harbour Pier

A view of the harbour pier at the end of
Adderley Street. In the foreground is the
pavilion.

Picture postcard published by The
Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd.
Photographer unknown

Esplanade

- The Esplanade was on the eastern side of the Promenade and ran along the waters edge in front of the Castle. Like the Harbour Pier, it was demolished 1939 to make way for the Foreshore and Duncan Docks.



Esplanade

A view of the esplanade looking north towards the Harbour Pier.
Colourised picture postcard, published by The Valentine & Sons
Publishing Co. Ltd.
Photographer unknown. Not used



Promenade Pier.

Picture postcard with view of the Promenade looking
in an easterly direction.
Published The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd.
Photographer unknown. Unused.

Adderley Street

- Until 1939 when the Foreshore was established Adderley Street extended north from the Company Gardens to the Harbour Pier/Promenade.



Adderley Street

A view up Adderley Street from the harbour jetty. On the right is a statue of Jan van Riebeeck which was commissioned by Cecil John Rhodes.

Undivided picture postcard sent from Melmoth, Natal to England.

Natal King Edward VII 1d. revenue and postage stamp.
Date stamped 3 July 1903



Adderley Street

Another view of Adderley Street from the Harbour Jetty. Colourised picture postcard published as part of the "Vernon" Series.

Publisher and photographer unknow.

Foreshore

- The Foreshore is situated between the historic city centre and the modern Port of Cape Town.
- It is built on land reclaimed from Table Bay in the 1930's and 1940's in connection with the construction of the Duncan Dock to replace the old harbour. Much of the Foreshore area is occupied by office blocks and transport infrastructure for the port and Cape Town Railway Station.



Foreshore

A view of the fountain on the Foreshore at the foot of Adderley Street.
Circa 1962.

Unused picture postcard. Photograph by Terence J. McNally.

Heerengracht



Adderley Street

Another view of Adderley Street taken from the Sanlam Centre.

Photograph by Terence McNally

Unused

- Until 1850 Adderley Street was known as the Heerengracht. It was so named as it was the route taken on foot by Dutch officials (“Heeren”) from the original fort to the Company Gardens along the canal (“gracht”).
- The Promenade pier was demolished in 1939 to make way for the reclamation of the sea to establish the foreshore and construct the Duncan Dock harbour. Adderley Street was thus extended from Strand Street to the new harbour. This stretch of the street was named Heerengracht

Lower Adderley Street

- Originally Adderley Street started at Strand Street running in a southwesterly direction.



Lower Adderley Street

A view up Adderley Street from the corner with Strand Street. Colourised picture postcard posted from Cape Town to Kimberley on 15 December 1914.

Union of SA King George V postage stamp cancelled at Cape Town Post Office.

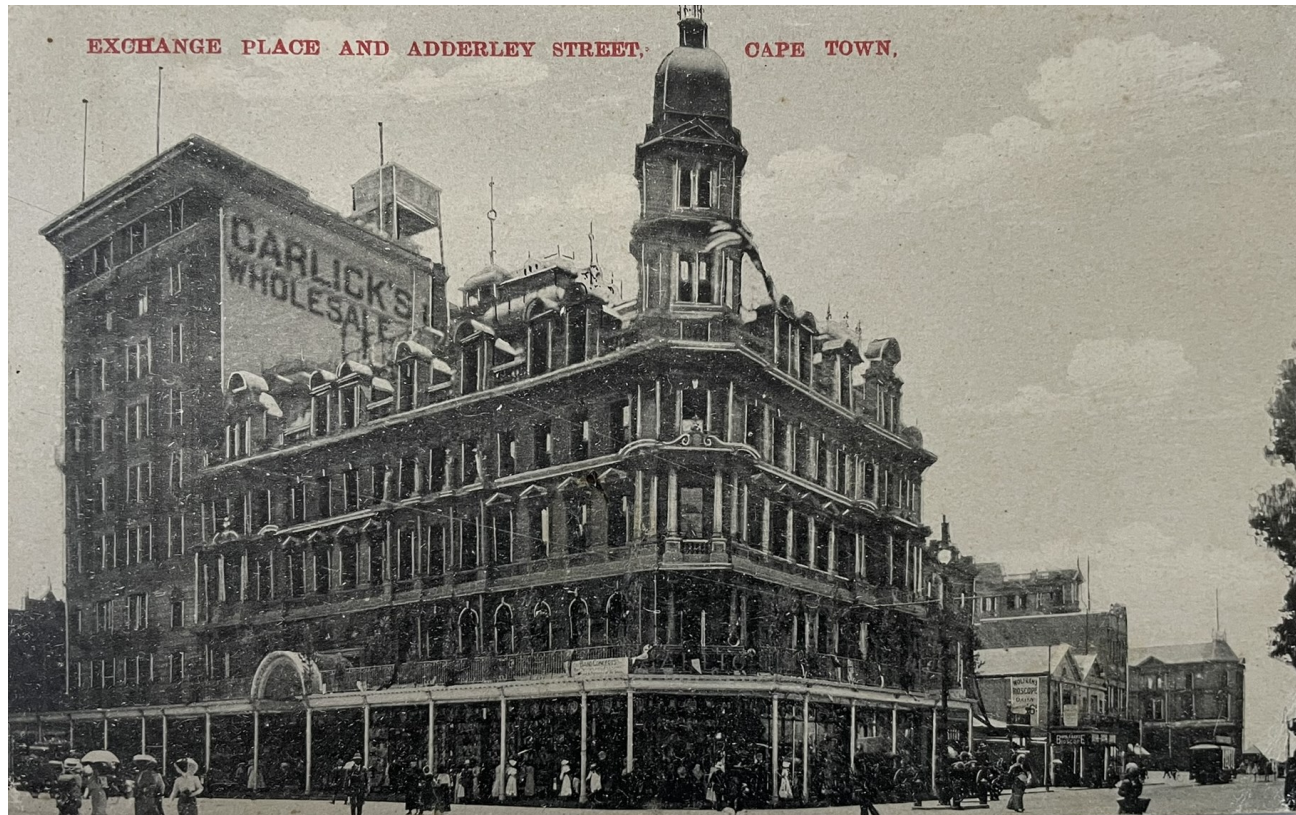


Adderley Street

A view of Adderley Street from the top of the G.P.O. tower.

Prominent centre-right is the Stuttford Store building. Unused divided picture postcard Published by The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd.

Exchange Place



Exchange Place

Used divided picture postcard dated 29 October 1911.

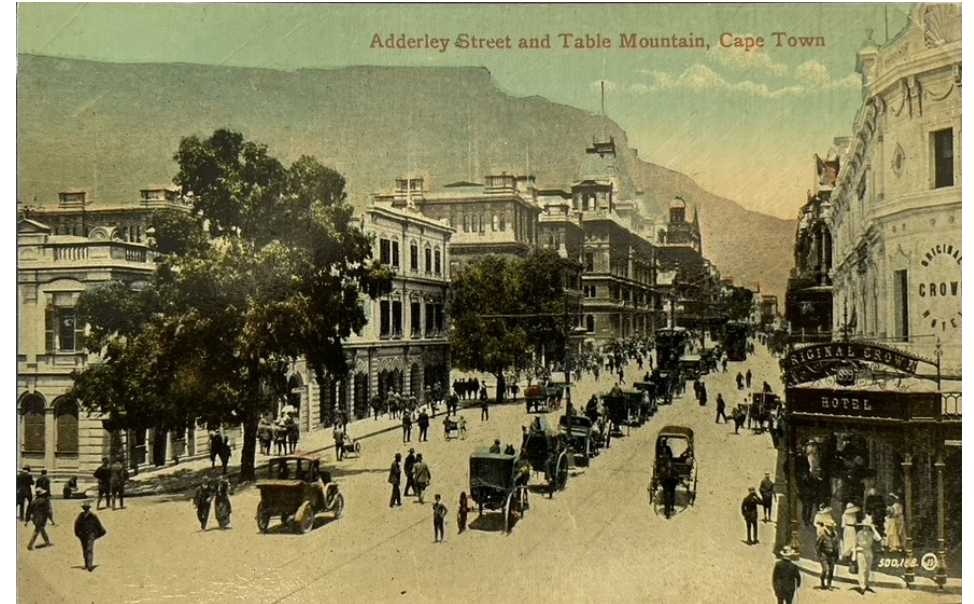
Published by John G. Bain. Photographer unknown

No postage stamp affixed.

- In the 1850's the character of Adderley Street changed from from a residential to commercial centre of the city. Buildings such as the Exchange Place were designed and built in a Gothic Renaissance style of architecture.
- Exchange Place was located on the corner of Adderley and Riebeeck Streets, adjacent to the Garlick's department store

Cape Town Railway Station

- The Cape Town Railway Station was erected on the corner of Adderley and Strand Streets. The first railway station was a rudimentary wooden structure built in 1861.
- In 1875 construction began of a stone complex to serve as the central station to the rapidly-expanding railway network being built.
- Nearly a hundred years later in the 1960's, the historic stone Victorian building was demolished by the government to make way for a modern building that would allow for the racial segregation of all commuters.



Railway Station

Colourised picture postcard of lower Adderley Street with the Railway Station on the left and Original Crown Hotel on the right.

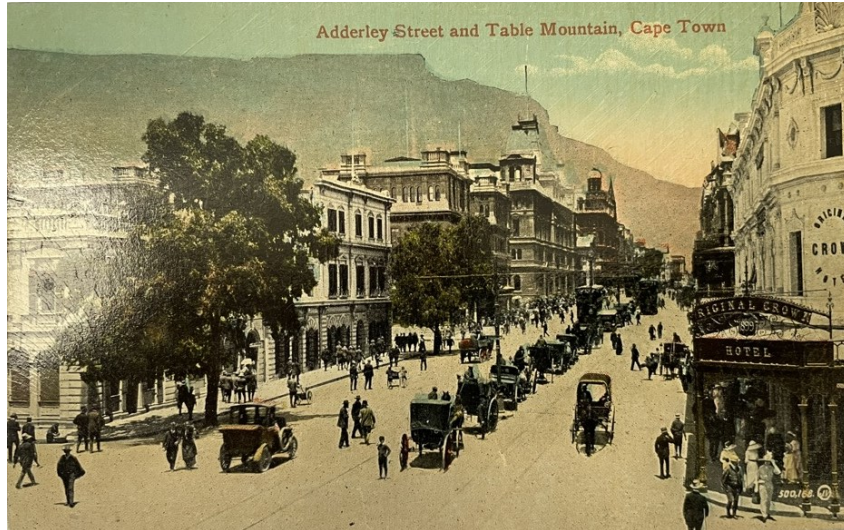
Published by The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd.
Union of SA King George V ½ d. postage stamp cancelled
Cape Town 15 December 1914

Railway Station

Vignette undivided postcard of the Railway Station.
Published by Stewart & Schaefer, Cape Town.
Photographer unknown.

Original Crown Hotel

- The Original Crown Hotel stood on the corner of Adderley Street and Strand Street.
- The Crown Hotel was replaced in 1892 by the Grand Hotel -First.
- In the mid-1970's the Grand Hotel – Second building was demolished and replaced with the Woolworths building.



The Original Crown Hotel

A view up Adderley Street looking south. The Original Crown Hotel is on the right on the corner of Strand and Adderley Streets opposite the railway station.

Colourised picture postcard published by The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd.



Grand Hotel - First

Colourised picture postcard of the the Grand Hotel.
Undivided picture postcard published by John G. Bain, Cape Town

Cape of Good hope 1d. Postage stamp cancelled March 1907

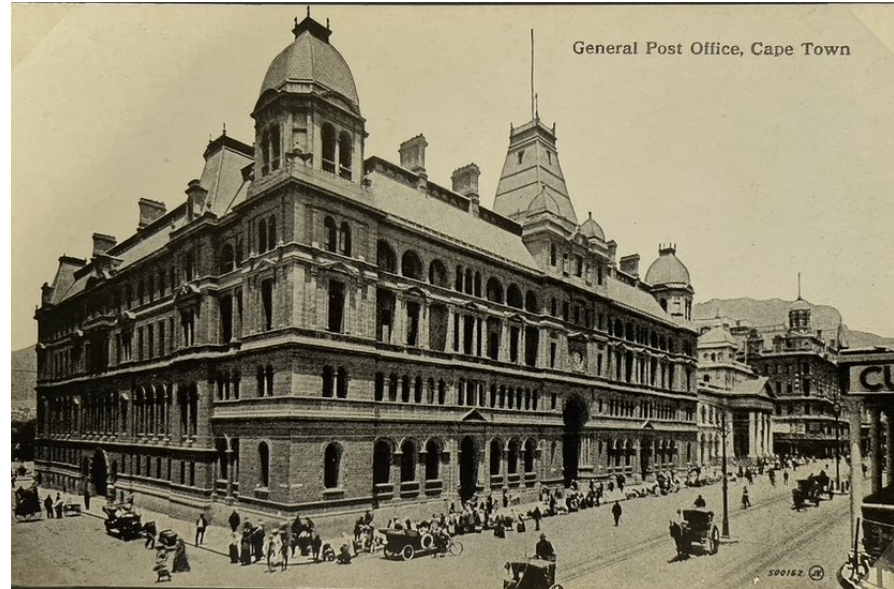


Grand Hotel - Second

The Grand Hotel. Circa 1950
Picture postcard published by Art Publishers (Pty) Ltd.
Unused.

General Post Office

- The Commercial Exchange in Cape Town was founded in 1819, and built on the site later occupied by the GPO.
- It was demolished 1893 to make way for the Post Office building in 1895. This magnificent structure, when completed, was the largest building in South Africa. It is constructed of Saldana Bay stone, and stands on the site of the old Commercial Exchange.
- The GPO building was demolished in the 1950's to make way for the OK Bazaars building, now the Grand Central shopping centre.



General Post Office
The GPO building erected in 1895. Published by The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd. Unused divided picture postcard



General Post Office
View of the GPO building in Adderley Street. Publisher unknown. Unused divided picture postcard.

OK Bazaars

- The General Post Office building was demolished and replaced with the OK Bazaars building. It has a distinct Art décor architectural design.
- In 1990 the building was converted to the Grand Central shopping centre adjacent to the Golden Acre



OK Bazaars Building

The OK Bazaars building located between the railway station and Standard Bank building on the eastern side of Adderley Street.

Picture postcard with Union of SA 3d. Postage stamp cancelled 16 February 1953



Another view of the OK Bazaars building.

Circa 1949

Divided picture postcard published by Art Publishers (Pty) Ltd., Durban.

Unused.

Flower Sellers

- The Adderley Street flower sellers are synonymous with Cape Town. Based at Trafalgar Place, located between Grand Parade Centre (old OK Bazaars) and the Standard Bank building in Adderley Street. Flowers have been sold from this location for over 150 years and is a major tourist attraction.



Adderley Flower Sellers

Flower sellers in Adderley Street. Circa 1910.

Divided picture postcard published by Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd.
Unused

→
“Central Series”
picture postcard
published by
C.N.A. Ltd.
Cape of Good
Hope King
George V ½d.
postage stamp
cancelled 16
July 1908



→
Colourised
picture postcard.
One of the Spes
Bona Series.
Transvaal King
Edward VII ½d.
postage stamp
cancelled 12
August 1912.



Flower Sellers

- The Adderley Street flower sellers were provided with a dedicated area between the GPO and Standard Bank buildings. Known as Trafalgar Place they continue to operate from this location.



Adderley Flower Sellers

Flower sellers in Trafalgar Place. Circa 1910.

Divided picture postcard published by The Newman Art Publishing
Co. Ltd.
Unused



Flower sellers
outside the
Standard Bank
building in
Adderley Street.
Picture postcard
published by
G.B. & Co., Cape
Town.
Unused

The “Queen of Adderley Street”

- "The Queen of Adderley Street" was built in 1881 and occupied by Standard Bank four years later. It remained that bank's headquarters for almost 70 years and operated as a branch with offices until 2011. Since then, the iconic building has remained vacant despite plans to use the premises as the Cape Town Museum.



The Standard Bank building on the corner of Adderley and Darling Streets.

Colourised picture postcard. Part of the “Camera” Series.
Photographer T.D. Ravenscroft. Unused divided.



The Standard Bank building with Cartwrights Corner in the background.

Published by P.S. & Co., Cape Town.
Undivided picture postcard with Transvaal King Edward VII postage stamp cancelled Klerksdorp 27 December 1905

Explosion in Adderley Street



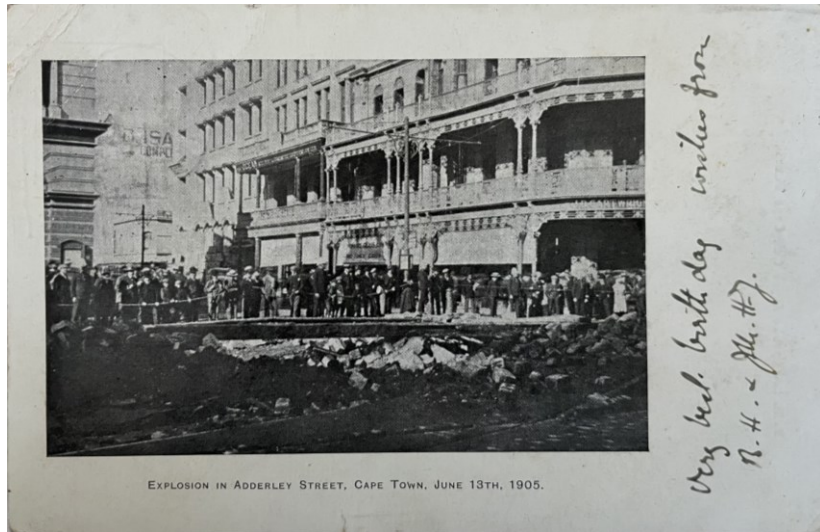
Explosion

Picture postcard of the damage of the explosion in Adderley Street.

Published by E. Peters,
Cape Town

Cape of Good Hope 1d.
King Edward VII postage
stamp cancelled Cape
Town 13 August 1905

- On the 13th June 1905 an explosion concurred in the street close to the entrance to Standard Bank. It caused severe damage to the sewerage works and street leaving a large crater in the road.



Damage to Adderley Street

Picture postcard of the damage caused by the explosion in Adderley Street.

Published by The Argus
Co., Cape Town.

Undivided postcard
date stamped London
W.G. on 8 May 1907

Midday Pause



Crowd Gathering

Real photo card showing a crowd observing the Midday Pause.
Unused picture postcard.

- To commemorate the lives of soldiers killed and injured in the 1st World War a 3-minute period of silence was observed by all City residents at the firing of the noon gun. Many congregated in Adderley Street opposite Cartwright's Corner where a trumpeter, standing on the balcony played the Last Post after which the 3 minutes of silence was held.
- After the three minutes of silence, the trumpeter sounded Reveille, and the City returned to its normal.
- First gathering was held on the 14th May 1918 and continued daily until the 14th December of the same year.
- This was the first time the Noon Gun was fired and continues to be fired at noon to this day

Cartwrights Corner

- Cartwright's Warehouse was the original of three successive buildings on the corner of Darling and Adderley Streets which carried the name Cartwrights. Today, the Cartwrights Corner stands on the site of the previous Fletcher and Cartwrights (The Mansion House) and the next door Heynes Mathews building, both circa 1900 buildings. The current Cartwrights Corner was completed in 1968



Cartwrights Corner Building

Colourised picture postcard of Cartwrights Corner.

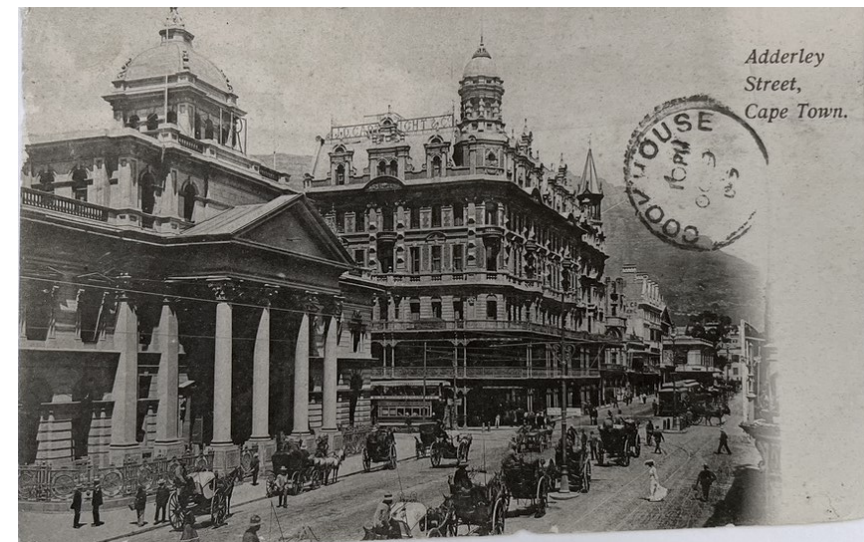
Undivided postcard with Cape of Good Hope King Edward VII cancelled 12 July 1904



Mansion House Chambers

Undivided picture postcard.

Unused.



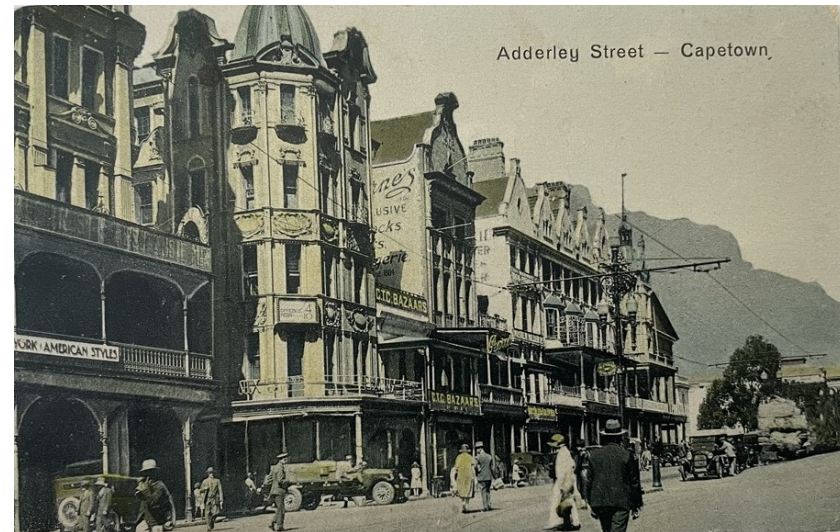
Cartwrights Corner

A view of Cartwrights Corner to the right of the Standard Bank building.

Divided picture postcard with Cape of Good Hope King Edward VII. Posted from Glenlynden, Cook House on 9 October 1905

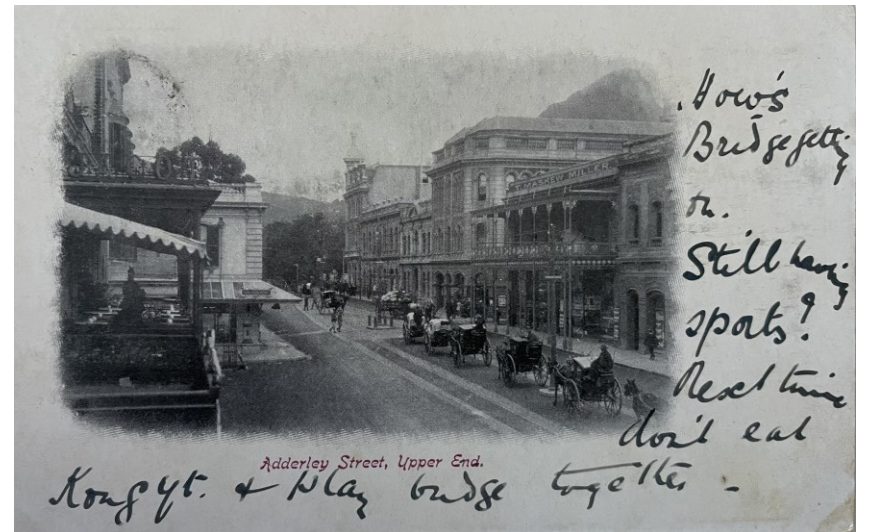
Upper Adderley Street

- The upper reaches of Adderley Street beyond Cartwrights Corner was lined by smaller buildings occupied by small small retailers.



Upper Adderley Street

Picture postcards of upper Adderley Street.



Groote Kerk



- The Groote Kerk is a Dutch Reformed church and the oldest place of Christian worship. The current building was built by Herman Schuette in 1841.
- The original church was the first Christian church built in the Cape, soon after the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck in 1678. Willem Adriaan van der Stel laid the cornerstone for the church.

Groote Kerk

A view up Adderley Street looking in a northeasterly direction with the Groote Kerk on the right.

Slave Lodge

- The Slave Lodge is one of the oldest buildings in Cape Town. It has answered to many names over the last three centuries, namely the Slave Lodge, Government Offices Building, Old Supreme Court, and South African Cultural History Museum. All these names reflect the long and rich history of the building.
- The Slave Lodge is located at the top of Adderley Street. Slaves working in the Company Gardens were housed here. The building is close to Church Square where slaves were traded until 1811 when slavery was abolished by the British government. It is also close to the Company Gardens.



Slave Lodge

A sketched postcard of the Slave Lodge at the time that it was the Supreme Court. Circa 1950

Photographer and publisher unknown. Unused.

Company Gardens

- The Company Gardens were established soon after the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck in 1652.



Company Gardens

The entrance to the Company Gardens at the top of Adderley Street. Circa 1930. The Gardens are located at the top of Adderley Street

Published by

J.G.B., Cape Town

Used. No date stamp.